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**REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE CHALLENGES OF MONITORING
AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Meeting on the challenges of monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago on 28 and 29 August 2014, in the framework of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC. The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Government of Peru, by virtue of resolution 687(XXXV) adopted by ECLAC and bearing in mind the need to identify instruments and modalities for follow-up and future evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, and Uruguay.

3. The Secretariat of the United Nations was represented by officers from the Regional Commissions New York Office and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Special Adviser on Interregional Policy Cooperation also participated, as did the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, via videoconference.

4. The following United Nations bodies were represented at the Meeting: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

5. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Representatives of civil society, the private sector, the labour sector and the development financing sector were also present.

Chair

7. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by the Officers elected at the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, as follows: Chair, Peru; Vice Chairs, El Salvador, Jamaica and Mexico; and Rapporteur, Ecuador.

¹ See annex 1 for a complete list of the participants.

B. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. At the opening session statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Jessica Faieta, Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; and Luis Fernando Llanos, Director General of Follow-up and Evaluation of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru.

9. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the delegations and said that the Committee of the Whole was a forum for dialogue and reflection. She expressed the hope that the perspective of the Latin American and Caribbean region would contribute to the global discussions that would take place up to September 2015 as part of the process of negotiating the post-2015 development agenda. She thanked the chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC for attending and stressed that those bodies were accountability forums for the region and could, therefore, operate as a forums for monitoring the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

10. The Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), thanked ECLAC for organizing the meeting. She said that UNDP had worked actively with the countries, supporting Governments in the process of meeting the MDGs, and referred to three lessons learned in that process. First, global targets did not guarantee the development of the most vulnerable social groups, especially in a region with high levels of inequality. Second, she emphasized the need to adapt global development agreements to each country and at the subnational and local levels, with ample opportunities for citizen participation, explicit mechanisms to promote inclusion and the analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age at the national and subnational levels. Third, she stressed the desirability of avoiding fragmented or overly sector-specific approaches to development agendas, which should instead be based on holistic, multisectoral and multidimensional strategies.

11. The Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, speaking via videoconference, emphasized the key role that would be played by Latin America and the Caribbean in shaping a universal and transformative sustainability agenda. She stressed the importance of regional consultation, and welcomed the proposal of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) as the basis for further negotiations into 2015. She said that existing mechanisms should be reviewed and, where appropriate, harnessed to develop an accountability framework with the power to ensure that promises were kept. She also underscored the importance of closing statistical gaps, noting that reliable data were essential for dealing with inequality. A further challenge was to ensure that the array of stakeholders, including the private sector, came together to ensure benefits for the vulnerable.

12. Lastly, the Director General of Follow-up and Evaluation of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, said the meeting was intended to generate dialogue at a critical juncture: the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, particularly with regard to accountability and participatory monitoring involving civil society. The MDG targets had focused on country averages, which could hide internal social inequalities. He therefore suggested that it was necessary to set targets to reduce the gaps within countries, to ensure that these targets were feasible and to determine the ability of countries to measure the corresponding subnational realities. Lastly, he recalled the need to maintain an interactive dialogue on accountability and monitoring mechanisms for the sustainable development goals that took a bottom-up as well as a top-down approach.

C. AGENDA

13. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Methodology and institutional framework of ECLAC for evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.
 3. Experiences, contributions and proposals of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) regarding national-level evaluation and follow-up of development in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.
 4. Contributions by civil society to the process of evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development on the basis of regional experiences.
 5. Contributions of the private sector, the labour sector and the development financing sector to the process of evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development on the basis of regional experiences.
 6. General reflections.
 7. Comments and statements by delegations.

D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Methodology and institutional framework of ECLAC for evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda (agenda item 2)

14. In her presentation, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the institutional architecture already existed in the region to enable the States members to take ownership of the post-2015 development agenda, and that the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC were ideal forums for the States members to discuss the content and monitoring of the agenda. The post-2015 development agenda offered an opportunity to bring about great changes and should contribute to exploring new strategies, with each region having a contribution to make. The great distinction of the post-2015 development agenda with respect to the MDGs was that now the States members were the owners of the process, which was much more participatory. Accordingly, it was imperative to take advantage of the existing governance structures and the various intergovernmental forums, in order to agree upon indicators and to open spaces up to other stakeholders, including civil society. This agenda called for a change in paradigm with a rights-based approach and equality at its centre.

15. The Executive Secretary said that the region was at an extraordinary juncture for poverty eradication, with stable democracies and greater resilience, as well as greater macroeconomic prudence. However, it was facing a more difficult external context and growth was slower. She added that the

agencies had made great efforts to unify criteria in monitoring the progress made by the countries towards achievement of the MDGs, and that these methodological contributions were then useful at the national level. The region needed an inclusive agenda, in which the multilateral space represented mutuality of interests and a culture of collective action for development, with new indicators for measuring inequalities and in which inclusion was a fundamental principle for closing structural gaps. Equality should be the aim, structural change the path and politics and policymaking the instrument. A new equation was needed between the State, the market and society, as well as political accords for a new social and intergenerational contract. At the regional level, the sessions of ECLAC and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies were the ideal space in which to discuss these new development paradigms, and at the subregional level were bodies such as CELAC, UNASUR, SICA and CARICOM. This was the institutionality that should be leveraged in benefit of the countries.

16. Statements were then made by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC.

17. The Minister of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, in his capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), drew attention to the challenges faced by Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) as upper-middle income countries with heavy debt burdens, substantial structural challenges and limited access to external markets. In this regard, the international community and financial institutions should rethink the classification of middle-income countries (MICs) in tandem with debt sustainability issues, perhaps considering a facility for highly indebted MICs. He referred to triangular, South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation as useful means of moving forward on several challenges in the Caribbean and mentioned that ECLAC was the ideal forum to share best practices for raising resources, including through fiscal incentives and private sector collaboration, in all cases with the engagement of civil society. CDCC was of the view that compacts for development proposed by ECLAC were worthy of consideration as part of the accountability and monitoring framework and that the post-2015 monitoring structure for the Caribbean should be coordinated through the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

18. The Vice Minister of the Environment of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers 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, referred to the meetings of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries. The outcome of those meetings was an action plan aimed at strengthening dialogue and regional cooperation and developing a regional instrument on the rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, which opened up forums for civil society participation. According to the signatory countries, that was the way to improve environmental protection and, therefore, human rights, on the basis of the principles and values of equality, inclusion, transparency, proactivity, collaboration, progressiveness and non-regression. He explained that the process had been supported in declarations by several international bodies and that 18 countries of the region had signed up to the Declaration. He stressed that the adoption of a regional instrument would facilitate concerted action, dialogue and cooperation, the application of access rights at the national level, environmental governance and the creation of a regional agenda on access rights grounded in sustainability and equality.

19. The Under-Secretary for Public Health of Uruguay, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the Montevideo Consensus represented the best possible synthesis of the region's progressive vision on population and development issues. The challenge of implementing the Consensus at the local level corresponded to the countries, while it fell to the regional level to transmit the lessons learned in each country and their successful experiences, in order to generate mechanisms of regional cooperation and

dissemination. At the global level, the region needed to be positioned as a platform for South-South cooperation, recognizing that it was at the vanguard of the population and development agenda, especially in respect of sexual and reproductive rights. The accountability framework was a political and technical process, and at the political level it was easier to mobilize for targets perceived as possible to achieve. In this regard, it was important to achieve convergence of agendas under the common denominator of improving people's lives, and thus convene the greatest possible participation of the countries in the respective processes. Another challenge was to ensure that work done within the countries on the global agenda would last, for which the role of civil society was essential. He proposed creating a figure, such as a commissioner, at the country level, to serve as a nexus with the global agenda. Lastly, he said that it was necessary to organize, institutionalize and mobilize the existing agenda and, given the region's heterogeneity, it was advisable to devise goals that were few in number, but good in content.

20. The Executive Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, said that it was essential to set out a common position in relation to accountability and monitoring mechanisms, for which statistics were an essential public good required to develop information-based public policies. It was important, he stressed, that statistical institutes participate actively in forums for reflection, in defining targets and indicators, and in the processes leading to the establishment of the monitoring framework for the post-2015 development agenda, so that planning could be adapted in accordance with the information needed. He pointed out that it was necessary to obtain the commitment of Governments to strengthening national statistical systems, and proposed that this be an objective in the agenda, since without such a commitment, it might not be possible to implement certain accountability exercises. Lastly, he suggested that it be made a compulsory requirement that the global statistical architecture use the official statistics produced by the national statistical offices. Coordination among agencies and respect for official statistics was vital to any monitoring effort, and the production of indicators must be done in conformity with international standards and with the technical requirements set forth in the basic principles of official statistics.

21. The Under-Secretary for Planning of the Office of the President of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES, said that the new agenda should take into account the lessons learned from the MDGs and include issues these did not, with an emphasis on priorities for the region. Central America's challenges included economic growth, environmental sustainability, migration and trafficking of minors, which should figure on the post-2015 development agenda, together with risk management and adaptation to climate change, consistent urban policy, institution-building and the role of the State as a guarantor of human rights and of the continuity of public policies with results-based management. The agenda was an ambitious one and should include a global partnership for development to achieve sustainable and inclusive goals. In this regard, Guatemala offered its 20-year national development plan as a model technical and political road map. The accountability framework should have built-in institution-building mechanisms. He referred to the weakness of data production and affirmed that achievement of goals needed to be sustainable over time and in keeping with the reality of each country.

22. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean and ICTs of the Office of Energy, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC, referred to the first meeting of the Conference and explained that they were working to propose specific actions within the lines of work established in the plan of action: cooperation, training, collaboration and innovation, as well as on the institutional framework for regional cooperation on ICTs. She mentioned the need to coordinate a number of authorities, and the efforts made to integrate agendas and secure financing at the Latin American level.

23. The Director of Intersector Coordination of the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, referred to the Santo Domingo Consensus as an important turning point for women's rights in the region. She said that the Consensus should be a reference for the post-2015 development agenda and requested that it be treated as an official document from Latin America and the Caribbean in the sessions of the Commission of the Status of Women. The Consensus needed to be positioned at the global level, by securing the backing of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its meeting in April 2015, and the women's agenda needed to be linked with that of the other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, to ensure that the contents would be coordinated sustainably. It was also essential to strengthen national institutions and their position in national agendas after 2015. The accountability framework should include financing for gender agendas, which had been a constraint in achieving the MDGs. She affirmed that gender equality should be mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda, with indicators on public spending for women's advancement, wage gaps and access to ICTs.

24. Statements were then given by the delegations, who indicated that the means of accountability and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda should be based on respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and on a new commitment by industrialized countries. They stressed the importance of including key concepts, such as the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in which the commitments of all actors would be defined, especially those of developed countries and trade and financial institutions. The training of experts would be one way in which a significant number of countries could develop their own monitoring tools, given that the State would be responsible for implementing the respective framework. They also maintained that potential accountability and monitoring models should include all actors, and be flexible in responding to regional and national situations and priorities without becoming an onerous financial burden for developing countries. The delegations also acknowledged the work carried out by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and agreed that the proposed indicators were the outcome of a transparent and thorough process.

25. The delegations emphasized that, as on other occasions, what needed to be clearly transmitted to the Secretary-General as input for his report was the position of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, they attached great value to the work of ECLAC as the voice and presence of the United Nations in the region, and said that it added value to the work of the Organization thanks to its statistical and planning capacities and its experience and understanding of the realities of the region. Its work in analysis and the preparation and presentation of documents and publications was also invaluable in this connection. In addition, the Commission would also play a central role as a forum for preparations for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and could thus make a decisive contribution to improving the coordination of Latin American and Caribbean countries in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The representatives agreed on the need to ensure the participation of various sectors of society in this debate.

26. The delegations considered that fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance (ODA) should form an integral part of accountability and that disaggregation of data was essential to capture differences between regions and countries in monitoring the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Indicators should not be used as some sort of "efficiency certificate" aligned with certain development models or with priorities established by the developed countries, nor should they be used to condition the access of the region's countries to international trade. In sum, the positive spirit of the goals should be preserved. It was also necessary to ensure that the process recognized the heterogeneous nature of the countries of the region and that due consideration be afforded to middle-income countries.

27. It was also noted that there was no single development model and satisfaction was expressed at the inclusion of the concept of Mother Earth in the sustainable development objectives proposal. Appreciation was expressed for the use of the term environmental functions, rather than environmental services. The representatives further noted that it was crucial to respect all the commitments undertaken by numerous developed countries under the Monterrey Consensus to meet the target of devoting 0.7% of gross national income to official development assistance by 2015.

28. Summing up the points raised in earlier statements, the Chair said that the idea was to focus on understanding monitoring as a strategy for approaching the SDGs. Regional integration did not exempt the countries from the responsibility of building progressivity or of generating forums for social inclusion, development and rights in general and women's rights and minority rights in particular. The major issues included the environment and social impacts, the need for monitoring and for solid and independent information systems that did not rely on international cooperation, the need for appropriate technology for advancing development and the urgency of generating networks, and not creating competing forums but seeking regional complementarities to boost technological development in the countries. To achieve the SDGs, two key elements were needed: equity and equality in all areas.

Experiences, contributions and proposals of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) regarding national-level evaluation and follow-up of development in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda (agenda item 3)

29. The Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), presented experiences and best practices regarding national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and measurement procedures for the MDGs. She said that the mandate of the agencies, funds and programmes comprising UNDG LAC was to support governments and contribute technical experience in the formulation of policies and programmes, as well as to strengthen national capacities, with the achievement of the MDGs as a guide. Latin America and the Caribbean, more than in any other region, had incorporated the MDGs into national development plans and built up experience in this area. Lastly, the meeting represented a great opportunity to contribute lessons learned for the preparation of a new development agenda.

30. Next, the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that monitoring progress towards achievement of the MDGs and the accountability of member States had guided the work of the United Nations system over the past 15 years and was highly relevant to the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda. Many countries, including some in Latin America and the Caribbean, would not achieve certain Goals: despite the progress made, gaps remained between and within countries.

31. The fifth Goal (improving maternal health) was the one showing the greatest lag. The Fund's work aimed to achieve a world in which every pregnancy was wanted and every birth safe, and in which each young person could reach their full potential. Its efforts were concentrated on targets 5A and 5B and three main lessons had been learned. First, improvements in basic indicators did not necessarily guarantee the achievement of the targets. Second, there were huge differences between different population groups within countries, and maternal mortality had improved little among young women with a low level of education, as well as among rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women. Third, it was crucial to analyse population dynamics to promote changes in public policies. The speaker also emphasized the importance of ensuring that goals and performance indicators for the post-2015 development agenda reflected inequality, especially in relation to gender, ethnicity and age.

32. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme (WFP) said that in the area of food and nutrition security the sustainable development goals project went beyond eradicating hunger and poverty, since it also encompassed issues such as hidden hunger, shortage of micronutrients and obesity, which required quantifiable indicators to determine goals at the national, regional and global levels. After commending the progress achieved in defining indicators for the sustainable development agenda, he drew attention to the need for the competent agencies to work in a coordinated manner, taking into account the different national situations and avoiding duplication of efforts, while strengthening the impact of programmes and the relevance of fieldwork. Lastly, it was essential to ensure accountability to beneficiaries, which required the commitment to convene civil society to participate directly in the process.

33. The Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, after recognizing the progress achieved in education in recent years, referred to persistent shortfalls in quality at all levels of education. He explained that, as well as developing new indicators and a framework for accountability and the assessment and monitoring of objectives in this area, it was important to examine the repercussions of education deficits on economic and social inequality, adopting a cross-cutting perspective that would include the spheres of work, health and the environment, among others.

34. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that holistic monitoring of development goals was needed, which would require a transparent monitoring and accountability framework engaging government, civil society, the private sector and the agencies of the United Nations system. She also explained that to determine progress on the various targets, it was necessary to have robust, well-grounded, coherent and complementary indicators, which would enable comparability at the regional and national levels. She also called for making good use of experiences and of the environmental data already built up at the regional level.

35. The Director of the Regional Support Team for the Caribbean of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) stressed the importance of identifying the gaps in access to resources and prevention and protection measures. He said that a limited number of statistical indicators should be used to ensure that the analysis was practicable, and that an inclusive agenda required methodologies that could be applied regionwide, including in the small island States of the Caribbean. The fact that many of the region's countries were considered to be in the middle-income category was in practice an obstacle to securing financing and trade, which was why the issue needed to be addressed at the regional level.

36. The Chief Economist of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reflected on the need for agencies in the United Nations system to take a less standardized approach and to consider the particularities of individual countries. Innovations in statistics introduced at the national level, including new indicators on safety, well-being, multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, should be taken into account. Continuing to tackle poverty and extreme poverty was an imperative and it would be impossible to achieve sustainable development on the basis of existing consumption patterns. Lastly, given the diversity of challenges that faced the region, it was crucial to ensure that efforts were channelled wisely.

37. The delegations expressed thanks for the opportunity which ECLAC had provided to discuss the challenges of monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, and agreed that there were two main dimensions in this regard: political and technical. They noted that the region could feel proud that it had many points of agreement on the political front, which could support progress in different areas of the agenda. In addition, several delegations referred to

successful national-level experiences in monitoring the MDGs. The representative of the Office of the President of Mexico spoke of his country's experience in creating a specialized technical committee to serve as a coordination mechanism between government departments. This enabled monitoring of the Goals with a view to standardizing information, institutionalizing processes and carrying out a systematic analysis of national efforts to achieve the targets established.

38. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) referred to the need to establish new review mechanisms, such as regular voluntary reviews, as a central component of the accountability process. He also underscored the importance of providing assistance to developing countries in building up solid information systems, tools and methods for accountability, in order to ensure that the data obtained would be comparable between countries. Finally, he highlighted the need to integrate the agenda into national development planning.

39. Recapping the preceding statements, the Chair referred to the main issues raised. In this context, he emphasized the need to build countries with fewer inequities, for which public policies had to translate into commitments with participation by the various stakeholders. He also signalled the importance of including the contributions of civil society.

Contributions by civil society to the process of evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development on the basis of regional experiences (agenda item 4)

40. Under this agenda item, the secretariat invited civil society networks and representatives with experience in monitoring achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the regional level to share best practices and experiences as input to the discussion on the regional dimension and global challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

41. First, the Executive Director of the Environment and National Resources Foundation of Argentina championed the role that civil society could play in monitoring environmental concerns, considering the relative weakness of the environmental agenda in the region, in contrast to the economic progress recorded in recent decades. Social mobilization was one of the drivers of the environmental agenda, whose legitimacy was strengthened by initiatives to expand public participation. Such initiatives also provided an excellent opportunity to reduce the divide that had opened up between the State and society in the wake of the many environmental conflicts of recent times. He called for monitoring mechanisms to be consolidated and urged that the environment should not be sacrificed in pursuit of a particular model of development.

42. The President of the Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru-CHIRAPAQ expressed her concern over the absence of indigenous rights from processes promoting sustainable and equitable development. She added that ECLAC was a fitting stage for the region to discuss the type of development it wanted, and indicated that development could not be limited to the economic sphere, but that culture, living conditions and the central importance of human beings must also be taken into account. Lastly, she warned of the dangers of a development based on the exploitation of nature and on the creation of dependencies.

43. The representative of the Fundação Grupo Esquel Brasil (FGEB) spoke on his organization's experience of overcoming fragmentation and recalled the need to take a historical perspective on the process of promoting development in the nearly 70 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While he recognized the need for a distilled set of development goals, it was important not to give up on the dream of a transformation agenda with real structural changes, and for this it was necessary to monitor the aspects of development that were not included in the goals. He also stressed the value of consistency between local development activities and global and regional objectives and the

importance of having mechanisms underscoring shared responsibility in the field of development. Lastly, he raised the possibility of creating a regional high commission for future generations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

44. The Researcher at the Centre of Documentation and Studies of Paraguay said that it was just as important to monitor the impact of certain topics that were not included in the post-2015 agenda as it was to monitor those that were included, particularly in relation to maternal mortality and sexual and reproductive rights. Drawing attention to the vision of development based on the exploitation of nature, she said that GDP growth was a perverse measure of progress and that a less fragmented approach was needed. It was important to build on the rights enshrined in other instruments and ensure that the gender perspective was mainstreamed in all elements of the post-2015 agenda.

45. The Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) of Colombia suggested that a holistic approach to development was advisable to encompass the multitude of stakeholders, with common but differentiated responsibilities. He also said that it was necessary to go beyond simply setting sustainable development goals and to seek a paradigm shift, with shared responsibilities and leaving no one out. Lastly, he underscored the role of civil society in development planning and monitoring and the opportunities created in this area by the technology revolution and megadata.

46. In the ensuing discussion, it was recalled that inequality was a key issue and that eradicating poverty was of the utmost urgency. It was also pointed out that measuring the progress of the post-2015 development agenda would require that the different national and subnational realities of the region's countries be taken into account. Statistics would play an important part in this process, though it was also stated that these did not always reflect the true situation of the countries. In this regard, the Caribbean countries faced limitations in obtaining reliable statistical data; for example, the lack of data for certain periods, the absence of up-to-date information, and the need to modernize methodologies.

47. Furthermore, the critical situation in which developing countries found themselves as a result of the financing crisis was noted, and the need to foster new financing arrangements to ensure the region's sustainable development was stressed. Certain other key issues concerning the development agenda were also revisited, such as the problems arising from migration, climate change and the situation of indigenous peoples. Other specific issues could not be included in the sustainable development goals, but were nevertheless important and directly affected their fulfilment, examples being the economic embargo against Cuba, the situation of Argentina with regard to vulture funds and the claim brought by Chevron against Ecuador. The delegates agreed that these issues should be covered in the report that was to be forwarded to the Secretary-General.

48. The civil society representatives and the country delegations agreed that civil society participation was vital to the accountability and monitoring process of the post-2015 development agenda, although it needed to be ascertained how this participation would be put into practice. One suggestion was that ECLAC, in its capacity as the region's foremost forum for dialogue, could set up institutional mechanisms for this purpose. It was also emphasized that social participation was important not only in accountability, but also in planning.

49. Region-specific concerns were also raised in relation to the development agenda—for example, issues relating to migration, interculturality and Afro-descendants, and serious problems such as the trafficking of women and children, including into the sex trade—and it was stated that a human face had to be conferred on the SDGs. It was also emphasized that the purpose of the agenda was to achieve equality

and equity and reduce gaps. In relation to monitoring, it was necessary to create real instruments for the purpose, with the participation of civil society.

50. Lastly, it was stressed that the discussion around accountability and the monitoring of the agenda should be inclusive, and that the summary of the meeting should reflect the consensus among the countries of the region.

51. Concluding, the Chair referred to the importance of discussing the “what” and the “how” of accountability. It was necessary to reflect on who should be accountable and how a forum for that purpose could be consolidated at the national, regional and global levels.

Contributions of the private sector, the labour sector and the development financing sector to the process of evaluation and follow-up of the regional dimension and global challenges of development on the basis of regional experiences (agenda item 5)

52. The secretariat invited representatives of the Global Compact of the United Nations to share best practices and experiences from the spheres of trade unions and financing for development as input to the discussion on the regional dimension and global challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

53. The first statement was made by the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Global Compact Regional Center, who discussed how the private sector could be involved in the post-2015 development agenda, recalling that under the United Nations Global Compact, businesses and other participants undertook efforts in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and accounted for their performance annually. She drew attention to positive trends in reporting by participants from Latin America and the Caribbean and said that the MDGs had provided valuable lessons on data measurement and work with States, firms and civil society. She underscored the need for consistent development and targeted actions. Lastly, the future sustainability agenda should be implemented through a cross-cutting approach that defined the role of the private sector, assigned rights and obligations and established specific, measurable and achievable targets with set time frames, underpinned by inclusive dialogue and trust-building between stakeholders.

54. The Technical Director of the Inter-Union Department for Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies (DIEESE) of Brazil noted that the global financial crisis of 2008 had shown that inequality continued to be a structural principle of the international system. In this context, he affirmed that the trilogy of equality proposed by ECLAC was the most appropriate reference for looking to the future and building a fairer situation. He also stated the need for active subjects —not only beneficiaries— capable of becoming protagonists of development, proposing and supporting the necessary changes. Lastly, the indicators used should consider and shed light on the relationship between growth and exploitation of natural resources, between growth and inequality, and between development and democracy.

55. The Researcher at the Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights (LATINDADD) described his organization’s experience in proposing policies and alternatives to the existing economic system and in monitoring development at the national and regional levels. Despite the differences between countries in the region, there were common problems to be overcome, including the welfarist approach to poverty issues. He went on to suggest several possible reforms to transform the economic system, such as tackling exchange-rate vulnerability, regulation of the financial system to combat speculation, the creation of new mechanisms for external debt resolution, changes to regressive tax systems and quantitative and qualitative improvements in official development assistance. He also affirmed that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean should have their own architecture for strengthening South-South cooperation.

56. The country representatives drew attention to the fact that the process was just beginning and that lessons could be learned from the experience of the MDGs in order to ensure that all sectors would feel a sense of ownership in relation to the new agenda. The idea was to recognize the diversity of approaches at the national level, not to impose a one-size-fits-all model. The post-2015 agenda was to provide a global framework for countries to make changes at the national and subnational levels. New mechanisms were needed for measuring new concepts, such as the principle of good living being applied in some countries. The representatives emphasized the importance of evaluating processes as well as outcomes: the “how” as well as the “what”. In addition, measuring negative phenomena, such as capital flight, was just as important as evaluating positive outcomes with a view to mitigating or eliminating certain adverse effects. It was important to recall that the post-2015 agenda was aspirational and non-binding and any monitoring system introduced had to encourage countries to generate and share information on a voluntary and transparent basis.

57. The post-2015 development agenda offered a unique opportunity to reflect on new challenges and to address topics that had previously been left behind— as well, now, as sustainability. While it was positive that greater attention had been drawn to the issues of vulnerable populations, some of those groups had in fact reported a worsening of their situation. Certain reservations were expressed regarding the definition of the monitoring process, with fears that it might restrict initiatives based on national interests. In that connection, the speakers highlighted the need to identify which elements should be assessed and the important role that civil society should play in accountability. The region should seek to build a common position on certain key issues and recognize that shared responsibility and the commitment of institutions, civil society and the private sector were essential to furthering the post-2015 development agenda. It was generally agreed that the process of defining the agenda should be inclusive and participatory, but it also had to be simple and geared to the advancement of human rights, with a special focus on minorities.

General reflections (agenda item 6)

58. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the participants and said that the meeting had fulfilled its purpose of initiating discussions between Latin American and Caribbean countries on possible regional approaches to monitoring, review and accountability in the new development agenda. As such, the report that would subsequently be presented to the Secretary-General would reflect the position of the region and give Latin American and Caribbean countries a voice that must be heard in global negotiations. She emphasized that the goals were universal but should not be conditional or standardized. They would be shared goals, with diverse implementation mechanisms. The agencies of the United Nations had a fundamental role to play in the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda at national level, and civil society should be included from the outset in a more formal manner, both within the countries and in the region as a whole.

59. The Executive Secretary said that ECLAC greatly appreciates the commitment demonstrated by the member States and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that work in the sphere of development, as well as that of civil-society actors, since it was thanks to their efforts that the meeting could be said to have achieved a positive outcome. This in turn provided grounds for optimism about the region’s participation in the post-2015 development agenda, despite the complexity of the process.

60. Having expressed special appreciation for the work done by the Chair, she reiterated that the main difference between the post-2015 development agenda and the MDGs was that the member States were now in control of the process, which was much more participatory. She also recalled the words of the Chair of UNDG LAC, who had stated that this development agenda should not be fragmented or sectorized, but should be underpinned by holistic, multisectoral and multidimensional strategies.

61. The Executive Secretary said that the meeting reaffirmed the full validity of the region's existing institutional architecture to take ownership of the post-2015 development agenda, and that it was imperative to make good use of governance structures, subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and various intergovernmental forums to agree indicators and create opportunities for other actors, such as those of civil society. Within this regional architecture, regional consensus —achieved in the framework of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC— could take on greater significance as the region's road map in global debates.

62. The Executive Secretary underscored that official statistics were an indispensable public good for information-based policymaking, for which purpose national statistical systems needed to be strengthened. She stated that the fulfilment of official development assistance (ODA) commitments should be an important part of accountability and that the disaggregation of data was essential for taking into account regional and country differences in the follow-up of sustainable development goals. Indicators and accountability mechanisms must not be used as a new type of certification; instead the positive spirit of the goals must be preserved in order to create opportunities for countries to cooperate and complement each other, on the basis of collective action.

63. The meeting had noted the existence of various circumstances which, should they persist, would limit the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. These included the non-fulfilment of ODA commitments and unilateral and illegal actions. It had also become clear that one of the factors detrimental to the implementation of the agenda, and which needed to be decided upon at global level, was the absence of clear and transparent international mechanisms for the resolution of financial disputes.

64. The post-2015 development agenda called for a paradigm shift with a rights-based approach and equality placed front and centre. As the countries had indicated, the follow-up of SDG indicators should reflect the structural change demanded by the region in order to achieve sustainable development with equality: a postulate that ECLAC had expressed in its equality trilogy and that many of the region's countries had adopted as their own. It had been stressed that achieving development in the region and closing structural gaps required a change in consumption and production patterns in the context of a genuine technological revolution with environmental sustainability, which in turn entailed the need for technology transfer.

65. The countries understood that there was no single model for development and that following up the post-2015 development agenda would present the challenge of respecting the sovereign choices made by the countries in relation to how they would progress towards this objective. For example, they welcomed the inclusion of the concept of Mother Earth among the sustainable development goals, and expressed their hope that the region's diversity would be reflected in the SDGs.

66. Lastly, the Executive Secretary said that this preliminary meeting had represented the first step towards requiring growing commitment from the stakeholders, and that turning enthusiasm into results would take conviction, persistence and ongoing dialogue to build trust and to achieve sustainable development with equality. In this regard, ECLAC was there to provide assistance to the countries, with a view to moving forward jointly on all the issues.

Comments and statements by delegations (agenda item 7)

67. The representatives proposed that national statistics should be the tool used for accountability purposes. In this regard, improved coordination was needed between national statistical systems and international statistical agencies. Differences in data between the two sources undermined credibility; accordingly, coordination protocols should be reviewed on the basis of respect for statistics produced by the countries.

68. The representatives drew attention to the capacity of ECLAC and the contribution it could make to the process of defining a monitoring and accountability system at the national, regional and global levels, and to evaluate statistical capacity in the region. They said that it was essential to strengthen regional cooperation to ensure that the sustainable development goals were in keeping with the reality of the situation in the countries.

69. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Interregional Policy Cooperation said that if the sustainable development goals were universal, then accountability should be universal, as well. The countries had multiple forms of development and diverse policies, but shared goals. Accountability was not to be practised against a model, a notion that represented a radical departure from the modus operandi of the United Nations system in the past. The only parameter should be the national level, and global and national development processes should share certain characteristics even as they applied different policies. Lastly, accountability should be approached in the framework of participatory democracy.

70. The representatives of civil society expressed concern over certain matters which gave rise to conflict, such as the increasing occurrence of land and water grabbing in the region, the lack of governance evident in situations where corporate megaprojects went ahead on indigenous land despite the protests of the population, and the lack of protection for seeds and patents.

Close of the meeting

71. Finally, the Chair of the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC thanked all the participants for their comments and said that the secretariat would prepare a report of the meeting, which would be circulated to the delegations for their comments before being sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the input from Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was then declared closed.

Annex

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