


Montevideo
Consensus:
Sexual and
Reproductive Rights
are Human Rights





Montevideo Consensus: Sexual and Reproductive Rights are Human Rights

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ICPD+20 Latin American
and Caribbean Regional Alliance
of Civil Society Organizations

Regional Articulation of Organizations of
Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society
towards Cairo+20

TASK FORCE:

Ana Cristina González Vélez

Nayeli Yoval

COORDINATION:

Secretariat of the Regional Articulation of
Organizations of Latin America and Caribbean
Civil Society towards Cairo +20

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Introduction

The Cairo+20 process, aimed at reviewing the level of advancement towards the agreements established by 179 countries 20 years ago in the Cairo Programme of Action, culminated in August 2014 with a series of frameworks that constitute the new references for advancing the population and development agenda, and particularly the agenda for sexual and reproductive rights, both around the world and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Of these frameworks, the Montevideo Consensus constitutes, without a doubt, the most strategic of them for our region. It reflects both the agreements reached at the regional level for generating the conditions to guarantee the full exercise of rights, while containing advances without precedent in this field.

For this reason, the Cairo +20 Latin American and Caribbean Regional Alliance of Civil Society Organizations, which accompanied the entire process



at all levels, has developed this material, summarizing the agreements relative to sexual and reproductive rights contained in the Montevideo Consensus. This publication has the objective of providing the groups that comprise the Alliance, and others that fight for these rights in diverse spaces and from within multiple organizational structures, with a tool to engage in advocacy and to hold governments in the region accountable.

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This «pocket» consensus compiles agreements following the order established within the Consensus itself, and includes both the principles as well as the general mechanisms that are necessary to advance sexual and reproductive rights. Likewise, it includes agreements that are related to different areas of the Consensus, while not losing sight of the centrality of these rights.

Preamble

The representatives of the countries participating in the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013,

Bearing in mind that the main focus of this first session has been the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014, the aim being to review the progress achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past 20 years, and to identify key measures for furthering its implementation with emphasis on emerging issues at the regional level relating to population and development, human well-being and dignity, and to their sustainability,

Recalling the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993; and the Latin American



and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, adopted in 1994 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in resolution 536(XXV),

Taking into account resolution 65/234, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 December 2010, in which it decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and called for an operational review of its implementation in order to respond to the important new challenges that are relevant to population and development and to strengthen the integration of population and development issues in global development processes,

Taking into account also its decision in that resolution that the Commission on Population and Development, should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action as well as its decision in resolution 67/250 of 2013 to hold the special session



of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on 22 September 2014 in New York.

Reiterating the earlier agreements of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the agreements adopted at its last meeting, held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012, which were ratified at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,


Bearing in mind resolution 60/265, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006, wherein Member States are urged to achieve the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, established at the International Conference on Population and Development,

Keeping in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World



Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995, the Quito Consensus, adopted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito in August 2007, the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010, and the conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, agreed in 2013 at the fifty seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

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Bearing in mind also the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols and resolution 2012/1, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development in April 2012 at its forty-fifth session, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of boys, girls, adolescents and youth,

Bearing in mind further the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Third Regional

Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2012 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing of 2002,

Recognizing the progress achieved by the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and welcoming resolution 67/139 of the United Nations General Assembly establishing that the Group shall, as part of its mandate and starting from its fourth session, to be held in 2013, consider proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons,

Considering the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo in March 2006, and General Assembly resolution 67/219 of 21 December 2012 on international migration and development, which acknowledges the important



and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination,

Underscoring the importance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held in September 2013 in New York, and in particular the need for Governments to negotiate and adopt a document for presentation at that meeting,

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Taking into account resolution 61/295 of 10 December 2007, wherein the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 42 of which states that the United Nations and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and shall follow up on its effectiveness,

Keeping in mind the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination,

Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, and resolution 67/155, in which the General Assembly decided to launch a preparatory process with a view to the proclamation in 2013 of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Bearing in mind also the important contribution of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in incorporating disability-related issues as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies, from a human rights perspective, with equality and without discrimination,

Keeping in mind resolution 2012/1 adopted in April 2012 by the United Nations Commission on Population



and Development at its forty-fifth session and the Bali Declaration adopted in December 2012 by the Global Youth Forum, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth to enable them to take control of their sexual health and reproductive health and decide freely and responsibly on such matters, free from coercion, discrimination or violence and to provide them with comprehensive education on sexuality, human rights and gender equality,

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Highlighting the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception, and the promotion, at the recent sessions of the Commission, of equality as the overarching normative ethical principle and the ultimate objective of development, and recognizing the work of the United Nations Population Fund with respect to adolescents, young people and gender equity,

Having considered the documentation prepared by the secretariat, with support from the United

Nations Population Fund, for the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the lessons drawn from the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region over the past 20 years¹,

Noting that, notwithstanding the progress towards fulfillment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action, considerable deficiencies persist in its execution many of which are linked to the structural inequality characteristic of the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Taking note of the recommendations from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development contained in «The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014», which was endorsed by the Monitoring

1 LC/L.3640(CRPD.1/3).

Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its sixteenth meeting, held in Georgetown on 11 July 2013,

Taking into account the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, established by resolution 47/189 of the United Nations General Assembly, and reaffirming the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which reinforced the principles of sustainable development and the relevant commitments embodied in Agenda 21, and recalling the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005, pursuant to resolution 57/262 of the United Nations General Assembly, and which served as the culmination of a ten year comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of

Action, and looking forward to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in 2014,

Stressing the fact that this agreement reaffirms, complements and expands on the Cairo Programme of Action and the earlier agreements adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Recognizing the important linkages existing between the Cairo Programme of Action, human rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda, Considering resolution 66/288 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 11 September 2012, which endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled «The future we want», and reaffirming the relevance of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in respect of all issues pertaining to sustainable development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,



Considering also the Final Declaration of the International Forum on Afro-descendent Youth, which contains recommendations on policies for young people in the areas of health, education, decent work, rights, sexuality and social participation,

Underscoring the findings, conclusions and lessons learned at the global and regional levels from the operational review of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014,

Recognizing the region's progress in designing policies and programmes, establishing institutional structures and allocating the resources necessary and the budgets required for the full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals in terms of promoting health and protecting human rights,

Emphasizing that, notwithstanding the progress towards the fulfilment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action and of the Millennium Development Goals, significant gaps persist in the policies and programmes and institutional and financial capacity in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and in the attainment of the Goals, in particular Goal 5, and that these gaps must be taken into account in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and in the post-2015 development agenda,

Underscoring the important contributions made by civil society, other non-governmental stakeholders, women's and youth organizations, and social movements to the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the significant advances achieved in the region in promoting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights over the past 20 years, these advances have not reached the entire population and that, while economic and



social inclusion policies have enhanced opportunities and well-being, many people still live in extreme poverty and face inequalities as a result of historically entrenched patterns and new forms of discrimination, and, as such, are unable to exercise their rights fully,

Underscoring the fact that the inclusion of alternative and participatory development models and approaches in the region, such as «good living», reconciles economic development with human development, human rights and respect for the environment and that these are enriched by the energy, dynamism and creativity of those persons who traditionally were discriminated against,

Recognizing that the Earth and its ecosystems are important for achieving a proper balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations,

Affirming that freedom, capacities and the right to take informed decisions, empower persons to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and



social spheres; that the realization of human potential and innovation depend on guaranteed human rights, physical integrity and protection against violence and that the right to health, education, housing and a livelihood ensures full empowerment and inclusion of all,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of sexual rights and reproductive rights are essential for the achievement of social justice and the national, regional and global commitments to the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

Recognizing that population dynamics—growth and decline, changes in the age structure, urbanization, migration and changing household and family structures— influence the opportunities for human development, are shaped by the decisions that people take and are essential for planning economic and social growth as well as for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,



Reaffirming that poverty, in all its manifestations, is essentially a denial of rights and that poverty eradication is a moral imperative for the region, which Governments must address,

Underscoring that the preparation of public statistics by State agencies must be consistent with an inclusive approach which encompasses the broad range of rights under public policy and that the information generated on Afro-descendent populations, indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, gender, social inequalities and gaps, ageing and other issues constitutes a basic input for public policy formulation and is vital for monitoring the objectives established in national and regional agendas.

General principles

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Reaffirming also the principles of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,

Reaffirming further that every country has the sovereign right to decide whether or not to apply the recommendations contained in the Cairo Programme of Action and in the present document, subject to its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with universally agreed international human rights;

Decide, by virtue of these general principles, to:

1. Reaffirm that the agreements contained herein, the outcome of a series of discussions over time since the International Conference on Population



and Development, are an essential point of reference for each country's resolutions;

2. 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;
3. Reaffirm that a secular State is one of the elements fundamental to the full exercise of human rights, the deepening of democracy and the elimination of all forms of discrimination;
4. Reaffirm also the importance of strengthening participatory forms of government as a guarantee for the effective exercise of democracy;

5. Strengthen the role of the State and enhance its capacity for strategic management from a long-term and national development perspective;
6. Recognize that enabling the voices and interests of all men and women is essential in order to advance towards sustainable development and that responsible governance and robust institutions are fundamental for social and economic inclusion and sustainability;
7. Recognize also that population and development issues are closely linked to the economic, social and environmental realities and that, in order to address them, steps must be taken to strengthen international cooperation and forge global, regional and subregional partnerships and to establish agreements between countries as well as innovative approaches, including private initiatives;
8. Reaffirm the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-



South and triangular cooperation, for the implementation of the Programme of Action on Population and Development beyond 2014 and of a future regional agenda on population and development;

9. Recognize the importance of including issues relating to population in the sustainable development goals and in the post-2015 development agenda;

10. Reaffirm the political will and commitment to adopt immediate measures in response to the expectations of the populations of the region and eliminate existing inequalities, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and those that are subject to discrimination;

11. Recognize that a favourable economic environment where peace and governance prevail at all levels is indispensable for solving population and development problems;

12. Recognize also the adverse impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on the development of countries targeted by such measures and on their populations;
13. Recognize further that effective governance is based on accountability, broad-based participation, transparency and the enforcement of the rule of law, and that strengthening national and local governments is key for achieving the objectives of development, peace and security;
14. Ensure that the support of the United Nations system reflects the priorities contained in the present document and that these are embodied in the strategic plans of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in the agreements to be adopted by these bodies through their respective executive boards and governing bodies for the period 2014-2017, in particular concerning the presence of these entities in the countries of the region.



Priority actions

Decide to adopt the following priority actions identified in the Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014² in order to reinforce the application and further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and its follow-up.

B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth

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Considering that the 15-29 age group in the region now numbers some 160 million persons—in other words, young people account for one quarter of the population—and that the demographic dividend offers a unique opportunity for social investment in adolescence and youth, based on intergenerational solidarity, an investment which is essential for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

Reiterating the objective of addressing the specific needs of adolescents and youth, and concerned at the high and unequal levels of adolescent pregnancy in the region, which, especially in the case of girls under the age of 15, is usually associated with forced marriage, abuse or sexual violence,

Agree to:

- Implement comprehensive, timely, good-quality sexual health and reproductive health programmes for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human rights, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, which guarantee access to safe and effective modern contraceptive methods, respecting the principles of confidentiality and privacy, to enable adolescents and young people to exercise their sexual rights and reproductive rights, to have a responsible, pleasurable and healthy sex life, avoid early and unwanted pregnancies, the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and to take free, informed and responsible



decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive life and the exercise of their sexual orientation; (*Priority action 12 Section B*).

- Prioritize the prevention of pregnancy among adolescents and eliminate unsafe abortion through comprehensive education on emotional development and sexuality, and timely and confidential access to good-quality information, counselling, technologies and services, including emergency oral contraception without a prescription and male and female condoms; (*Priority action 14, Section B*).

D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services

Considering that sexual rights and reproductive rights are embraced by human rights and that their exercise is essential for the enjoyment of other fundamental rights and for achieving the international development targets and poverty eradication,

Taking into account the fact that progress towards achieving the target of universal access to sexual and

reproductive health has been insufficient and uneven, and that education and the quality of health care are fundamental factors for achieving the ultimate objective of improving sexual and reproductive health,

Concerned at the high rates of maternal mortality, due largely to difficulties in obtaining access to proper sexual health and reproductive health services or due to unsafe abortions, and aware that some experiences in the region have demonstrated that the penalization of abortion leads to higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity and does not reduce the number of abortions, and that this holds the region back in its efforts to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals,

Agree to:

- Promote, protect and guarantee sexual health and rights and reproductive rights in order to contribute to the fulfilment of persons and to social justice in a society free from all forms of discrimination and violence; (*Priority action 33, Section D*).





- Promote policies that enable persons to exercise their sexual rights, which embrace the right to a safe and full sex life, as well as the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for their sexual health and reproductive health; (*Priority action 34, Section D*).
- Review legislation, standards and practices that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the provision of comprehensive user-friendly services for adolescents and youth, and guarantee access to full information on all of the service options available to all persons, without any form of discrimination, in order to ensure that the highest international standards of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are met in the region; (*Priority action 35, Section D*).
- Design policies and programmes to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and

gender identity in the exercise of sexual rights and the manifestations thereof; (*Priority action 36, Section D*).

- Guarantee universal access to good-quality sexual health and reproductive health services, bearing in mind the specific needs of men and women, adolescents and Young people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, older persons and persons with disabilities, with special attention to vulnerable persons, persons living in rural and remote areas and to the promotion of citizen participation in the follow-up to commitments, (*Priority action 37, Section D*).
- 38. Promote the prevention and timely detection of and guarantee universal access to comprehensive treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and eliminate the stigma and discrimination to which persons living with the virus are often subjected; (*Priority action 38, Section D*).
- 39. Strengthen measures for detection of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women and for prevention of the



vertical transmission of the virus; (*Priority action 39, Section D*).

- Eliminate preventable cases of maternal morbidity and mortality, including, within the set of integrated benefits of sexual health and reproductive health services, measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortion, including sexual health and reproductive health education, access to modern and effective contraceptive methods, counselling and comprehensive care in cases of unwanted and unaccepted pregnancy, as well as comprehensive post-abortion care, where necessary, on the basis of a risk- and harm-reduction strategy; (*Priority action 40, Section D*).
- Ensure, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under the relevant national legislation, the availability of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies, and urge all other States to consider amending their laws, regulations, strategies and public policies relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy in order to protect the lives and health of women and

adolescent girls, improve their quality of life, and reduce the number of abortions; (*Priority action 42, Section D*).

- Guarantee sufficient financial, human and technological resources in order to provide universal access to sexual health care and reproductive health care for all women, men, adolescents, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities without any form of discrimination. (*Priority action 46, Section D*).

E. Gender equality

Reiterating that protecting the rights and autonomy of women, promoting the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights, gender equality and the elimination of the multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including gender-based forms of such acts, are fundamental to Governments' commitment to advance towards development with equality,

Considering that discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity



places lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in a vulnerable position, preventing their access to equality and to the full exercise of citizenship,

F. International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants

Considering that the full exercise by migrants of their human rights and access by them to basic public services, in particular education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, should not depend on their migration status,

Protect decisively the human rights of all migrants, avoiding any form of criminalization of migration, and guarantee migrants access to basic social services in education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, where appropriate, regardless of their migration status, with special attention to highly vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, displaced persons in an irregular situation, women who are victims of violence, victims of trafficking,

returnees and forcibly displaced asylum-seekers;
(Priority action 72, Section F).

H. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights

Considering that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous individuals are entitled, without discrimination, to all human rights enshrined in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Concerned at the high levels of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples, particularly among women, girls and adolescents living in rural areas,

Guarantee indigenous peoples' right to health, including sexual rights and reproductive rights, and their right to their own traditional medicines



and health practices, especially as regards reducing maternal and child mortality considering their socio territorial and cultural specificities as well as the structural factors that hinder the exercise of this right; (*Priority action 87, Section H*).

I. Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, economic status, birth or other situation,

Underscoring the contribution that Afro-descendent populations make to the development and well-being of humanity as a whole and that cultural diversity should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and

embraced as a permanent feature which enriches societies,

Agree to:

- Ensure that policies and programmes are in place to raise the living standards of Afrodescendent women, by fully enforcing their rights, in particular their sexual rights and reproductive rights; (*Priority action 97, Section I*).

J. Frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development

Reaffirming the strategic role that the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is called upon to play in the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the definition of priorities for its implementation beyond 2014,



Underscoring the need for operational instruments, monitoring systems and resources for action in the area of population and development in the region to address the emerging challenges in this sphere,

Agree to:

- Reiterate the appeal to establish or strengthen a national coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to act as a permanent liaison with the Regional Conference; (*Priority action 99, Section J*).
- Adopt a regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean fully respecting the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014; (*Priority action 100, Section J*).
- Generate regional and national machineries to oversee the fulfilment of this regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 and ensure its accountability; (*Priority action 101, Section J*).

- Ensure sufficient financial resources and the mobilization of international cooperation resources for Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to expedite the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and the measures agreed upon herein, putting in place at the same time clear and effective transparency and accountability mechanisms; (*Priority action 105, Section J*).
- Guarantee the effective participation of civil society and social movements in the implementation, oversight and appraisal of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014, incorporating the measures agreed upon herein; (*Priority action 107, Section J*).
- Submit a proposal to the Statistical Conference of the Americas, at its next meeting, on the harmonization of health indicators, in particular sexual health and reproductive health, for the region, including small island developing States, in order to facilitate the comparison and analysis of regional trends. (*Priority action 108, Section J*).

K. Follow-up recommendations

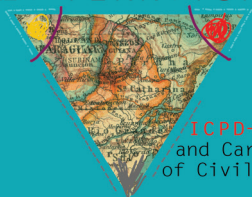
- Requests the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Population Fund, to include in their strategic plans for 2014-2017 the priority areas of the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to allocate funds according to the indicators of need as required in each of the priority issues proposed by this Conference; (*Priority action 119, Section Follow-up recommendations*).
- Ask the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to lend technical assistance, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to provide technical support to State machineries and regional forums for the advancement of women in the management of

cooperation and technical assistance resources with a view to enabling the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action and these agreements; (*Priority action 121, Section Follow-up recommendations*).

- Also ask the United Nations Population Fund to strengthen cooperation activities with the Governments of the region in the framework of their commitment to strengthen investment in youth and, in particular, to intensify efforts to coordinate actions relating to access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education, gender equality, decent work for youth and their access to quality health care, including sexual health and reproductive health services, in conjunction with other cooperation agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system; (*Priority action 122, Section Follow-up recommendations*).



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