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Seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America  
and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Santiago, 15–18 April 2024

**INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*We, the ministers and high-level representatives gathered in Santiago, at the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, from 15 to 18 April 2024, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 70/1, adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 74/4, which marks the beginning of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,*

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind, including its Goals and targets, which are universal, integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental—, and stress that it is people-centred, universal and transformative and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, reaching the furthest behind first and empowering those in vulnerable situations to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda that supports and complements it, and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions to achieve its targets, and recognize the synergies of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with relevant instruments, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;



3. *Further reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof;

4. *Welcome* the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and recognize the importance of the respect, promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

5. *Look forward* to the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council that will be convened under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”, which will review in depth Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), while recognizing the integrated, indivisible, interlinked and universally applicable nature of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Welcome* the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) adopted in September 2023,<sup>1</sup> and call for its urgent implementation;

7. *Recall* further the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held on 20 September 2023, and look forward to the ninth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, which will be held from 22 to 25 April 2024;

8. *Welcome* the decision to convene a fourth international conference on financing for development in 2025, to, inter alia, assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to support reform of the international financial architecture;

9. *Note with concern* that the Sustainable Development Goal targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved, and in this regard call upon the international community to reinforce actions to address those specific challenges, including to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage youth, and enhance financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

10. *Note* the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, to foster strategic long-term investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, including through innovative financing involving the public and private sectors, and recognize the emergence and importance of dedicated Sustainable Development Goal bonds;

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 78/1.

11. *Also note* that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, will be held from 22 to 24 April 2024 in Santiago;

12. *Reaffirm* our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing impacts and consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and its consequences, and emphasize that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity as we continue to recover and build back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world through reinvigorated global action and by building on the progress achieved in the last 78 years since the creation of the United Nations;

13. *Take note of* the decision to hold the Summit of the Future: multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow on 22 and 23 September 2024, in New York, preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting to be held on 18 September 2023;

14. *Recognize* that, inequalities, or even a rise in inequalities, remain pervasive in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, which have been further exacerbated within and among countries, perpetuating all multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion in the region, especially for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, and that tackling inequality requires, inter alia, further investment in social services, including social protection services, and economic opportunities in global, regional and national partnerships, national and local authorities, the private sector, the international financial system, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders working together, in accordance with national plans and policies, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Express* profound concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a devastating impact on health, including mental health and well-being, loss of life, external debt economic growth and employment, resulting in the decimation of jobs and entrepreneurs, and the extended deterioration of public services, which, in the context of increased poverty in all its forms and dimensions and widening digital divides, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, desertification, ecosystem and biodiversity loss—including land degradation and deterioration of oceans—, pollution, and vulnerability to climate change and human-made and natural disasters, result in a critical incidence on the fulfilment of sustainable development and humanitarian needs and the enjoyment of human rights across all spheres of society and risk slowing down the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including on food security and nutrition, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities made over the past decades;

16. *Reaffirm* in this regard the commitment to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, guaranteeing universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, including increasing the share of renewable energy, developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries, and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

17. *Also reaffirm*, in that regard, our renewed commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger everywhere, to further promote sustainable development, including inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social and financial inclusion, to combat

inequalities within and among countries as well as to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course, and peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations;

18. *Further reaffirm* the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, reiterate our determination to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, stress the need to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, food supply-chains, maintain functioning food systems, avoid food shortage, reduce food loss and waste and safeguard food safety, and encourage actions to enable access to safe, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for all and to support the role of family farming, pastoralism and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition in line with the rules of the multilateral trading system, reaffirm the commitment to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, reiterate the commitment for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work, promote equal pay for work of equal value, analyse paid and unpaid care work and their relationship to the changing world of work, reduce gaps of participation and entry in the labour market, and strive for universal access to social protection, recall the pledge to reduce inequality within and among countries, reiterate the commitment to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and that people in our region have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, stress the strong commitment to effective climate action, recommit to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, as well as to substantially reduce corruption in all its forms, and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;

19. *Reaffirm* that infant and young child mortality can be reduced through the improved nutritional status of women of reproductive age, especially during pregnancy, and allow exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, for the promotion of health and cognitive development, and continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age and beyond, combined with appropriate complementary feeding, and stress the importance to the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

20. *Reiterate* the urgency to promote decent work for all, as well as social protection policies aimed at avoiding unemployment, reducing labour informality and the failure of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhancing income support mechanisms to better assist the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in times of multiple and interlinked crises and challenges in order to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, while striving for fair and equal growth for all sectors of the economy;

21. *Acknowledge* the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty and rural and remote areas, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations, children of African descent and of Indigenous origin and children in vulnerable situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognize the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes, recognizing that the provision of equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services are also crucial in enabling women to enter and remain in the labour market;

22. *Recognize* that, in general, women and girls, including adolescent girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and that women spend less time in paid work, and that this unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work contributes to greater time burdens on women and substantially limits their participation in the social, political and economic spheres, and

acknowledge the need to implement concrete measures to recognize, reduce and equitably redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work done by women, including through the promotion of the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and by prioritizing, inter alia, social protection policies, and resilient infrastructure development, as well as rewarding and representing paid care workers, including through improved wages and working conditions;

23. *Welcome* the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the three high-level meetings, held during the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on universal health coverage, the fight against tuberculosis and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and recall the political declarations adopted therein;

24. *Stress* that recovery from the pandemic should enhance and support the development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, foster investment in science, technology, innovation, research and development, as well as renewed regional solidarity and cooperation, including for the strengthening of public health systems, and on epidemiological control, while strengthening democracy and fulfilling all human rights for all, and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including by empowering and engaging all women, adolescents and girls, with the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, local authorities, academia and the private sector;

25. *Urge* member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role of digital technologies, Internet access, connectivity and digital inclusion in improving lifelong learning and inclusive, equitable and quality education, health, communication, commerce and economic recovery, as well as to ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address all digital divides within and among countries and regions;

26. *Reaffirm* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasize that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

27. *Emphasize* with deep concern the particular adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in all countries of the region dependent on commodities, remittances or tourism, as well as the impact of limited fiscal space and high debt levels on countries' abilities to withstand the consequences of the COVID-19 shock and to invest in a sustainable recovery and reconstruction of their economies and welfare;

28. *Call for* a global coordinated multilateral response to address the current impacts on sustainable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies necessary to address the current economic downturn, reinforce economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, welcome global, regional national and local initiatives seeking international solidarity in the face of the economic and social downturn exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the specific circumstances of each country, aimed at laying the foundations for a strong sustainable and inclusive global recovery, and encourage Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and international financial institutions, to mobilize a large-scale comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences amounting to at least 10% of global gross domestic product;

29. *Call upon* Member States of the United Nations and international financial institutions to provide more liquidity in the financial system, especially in all developing countries, including by the implementation of instruments such as a Liquidity and Sustainability Facility and the broader use of special

drawing rights, and emphasize the need to increase access to concessional finance for the countries of the region, especially in the context of the recovery from the global pandemic and multiple and interlinked crises, including by the creation of new financial mechanisms or funds to support countries facing fiscal pressures and by considering offering low-interest loans to open up fiscal space and, in this regard, welcome regional and global proposals and continue to call for the operationalization of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE);

30. *Underscore* the need to grant special dispensation to the vulnerable countries of the region, with regard to the actions of credit rating agencies and the measures necessary to achieve debt sustainability and reduce the indebtedness of developing countries and, in this regard, welcome innovative financing mechanisms such as the steps by the Group of 20 to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries, the institution of the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative for the Caribbean, the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund, and the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses as part of new borrowing arrangements;

31. *Recognize* the need to enhance the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through Sustainable Development Goal 17, as well as the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorate the global partnership for sustainable development to secure our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

32. *Stress* the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by all developing countries, including countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in situation of conflict and post-conflict;

33. *Reiterate* that national averages based on criteria such as gross national income (GNI) per capita are not aligned with the multidimensional scope of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and do not reflect all the particularities, development needs and challenges of developing countries, recall that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measures of progress in sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, taking advantage of the existing initiatives, as appropriate, and recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic production and structural gaps at all levels;

34. *Also reiterate* the call to address further the specific development needs of middle-income countries through, inter alia, innovative financing for development as stated in the Monterrey Consensus, an accurate response to their requirements, taking into account variables that go beyond per capita income criteria, and eliminate increasing difficulties and conditionalities faced to access financial and non-financial resources, as appropriate, and recall that 62% of the world's poor population is concentrated in these countries, where cooperation can have a multiplier effect on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;

35. *Stress* the importance of addressing the particular and diverse needs and challenges, which include international cooperation for development and access to official development assistance and concessional finance, faced by countries that are close to surpassing or have recently crossed the upper-middle-income threshold but still have structural gaps and vulnerabilities, considering the multidimensional scope of sustainable development and the limits of criteria such as gross national income for measuring development;

36. *Recall* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and look forward to the implementation of the calls made in that political declaration;

37. *Reiterate* the call for immediate and substantial actions to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well the unprecedented health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and underline the urgency of finding additional solutions to major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum achieved in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Samoa Pathway and in this regard, welcome the decision to convene a fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

38. *Look forward* to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, under the overarching theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”, and encourage member States to participate at the highest possible level;

39. *Recall* the United Nations Secretary-General’s recommendations and guiding principles on the development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing states, including on its finalization and potential uses, and welcome the work of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard, take note of the final report of the Panel and the recommendations contained therein;

40. *Welcome* the progress on the development of a monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, spearheaded by the United Nations Secretariat, and look forward to its finalization and adoption, and encourage small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist in this regard;

41. *Recall* the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and the adoption on 5 December 2019 of its Political Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and collectively committed to strengthened cooperation in the context of sustainable development for landlocked developing countries, and look forward to the implementation of the calls made in that political declaration;

42. *Also recall* the convening of the high-level Latin America regional review meeting on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in Asunción on 27 and 28 July 2023 and its “Asunción call for action” outcome document, and express appreciation to the Government of Paraguay for organizing and hosting this meeting;

43. *Look forward* to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries to be held in Kigali from 18 to 21 June 2024, under the overarching theme “Driving partnerships for progress”, with the mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and to strengthen partnerships between the landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners, and encourage Member States to participate at the highest possible level;

44. *Emphasize* the need to strengthen international development cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to official development assistance and concessional finance for countries in the region, including middle-income countries, and call upon the developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance targets, and further recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including national and local efforts, as well as international and regional cooperation that support policies and programmes to increase investment in sustainable development;

45. *Reaffirm* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors and, recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, encourage alignment of private sector incentives with national public goals towards long-term investment according to national realities and capacities, including innovative financing instruments and approaches, and further encourage the consideration of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to bridge the region’s structural inequality gaps and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

46. *Also reaffirm*, in order to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance for our region of accessing and mobilizing additional, sufficient, adequate and well-directed financial and non-financial resources and capacity-building for the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and further recommend increasing international and regional cooperation, inter alia, to support domestic science and technology research and innovation;

47. *Further reaffirm* the outcome document of the second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) and commit to its implementation, reiterate the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaffirm that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and is an important element of international cooperation for development, acknowledge the need to enhance development effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation, and welcome the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development;

48. *Recognize* that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access a greater and broader range of resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to strengthen national capabilities, and support States’ efforts to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals, and stress the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise;



49. *Take note* of the outcome of the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>2</sup> held on 30 and 31 May 2023, at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago;

50. *Commit* to continuing to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization and welcome the outcomes of its Thirteenth Ministerial Conference held from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, while we reaffirm the importance of the continuous reform of agricultural trade, in accordance with long-standing and pending mandates, and emphasize, in addition, that trade, with appropriate supporting policies, can, inter alia, contribute to promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities within and among countries and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

51. *Take note of* the progress made in the negotiations on Investment Facilitation for Development since the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Buenos Aires in 2017;

52. *Welcome* the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Bridgetown, from 3 to 7 October 2021, under the theme “From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all”, and also welcome the adoption of its outcome document entitled “Bridgetown Covenant”, and commit to work through the three pillars —research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation— to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

53. *Reaffirm* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

54. *Recommend* redoubling efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, including by combating tax evasion and corruption and increased international cooperation as well as reducing opportunities for tax avoidance to make sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, as well as that the value created is distributed in a way that reinforces economic and social equality and inclusion, particularly in favour of the most vulnerable, to achieve sustainable development, according to national legislations, and further recall that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity;

55. *Express concern* that the region continues to experience a decline in correspondent banking relationships, impacting the ability to send and receive international payments, with potential consequences for the cost of remittances, financial inclusion and international trade, among other areas, and thus for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

56. *Recognize* the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination and stress that remittances are a form of private capital that cannot be equated to other international financial flows such as foreign direct investment, official development assistance, or other public sources of financing for development, and encourage concrete measures, inter alia, to ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrants and their families in both origin and destination countries, and to reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% of the amount transferred, while promoting conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries;

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<sup>2</sup> LC/CCSS.1/4.

57. *Recall* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, and in this regard take note of the endorsement by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries<sup>3</sup> of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

58. *Also recall* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach;

59. *Reaffirm*, inter alia, the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law, including international human rights law;

60. *Call upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, children and adolescents, and to address international migration through scaling up international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

61. *Recognize* the importance of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 in order to reinforce the application and further implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and as a complementary tool for the integration of population issues into sustainable development, and take note of the report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean headquarters in Santiago, on 14 and 15 November 2023 and its outcome;

62. *Also recognize* the importance of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, adopted during the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico in 2019, for promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tackling the current multidimensional crises and moving towards a transformative, inclusive and resilient recovery with equality, and take note of the outcome of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 3 to 5 October 2023 under the chairship of Chile;

63. *Reaffirm* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights, including the right to development, are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and further reaffirm the commitment to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the achievement

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<sup>3</sup> Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and within the three dimensions of sustainable development to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and at all levels and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms;

64. *Welcome* the ongoing regional efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls throughout their life course, and recall the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and note the Santiago Commitment, adopted at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the sixty-third, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, and underscore that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the protection and full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in this regard recommend further mainstreaming of a gender-responsive approach and transformative approaches in national sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies;

65. *Note* the Buenos Aires Commitment, adopted at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires in November 2022 and recognize the importance of advancing recovery plans with proactive measures to achieve substantive equality that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full, significant and equal participation of women in positions of leadership in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

66. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 77/317 proclaiming 29 October as the International Day of Care and Support;

67. *Note* the convening of the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Santiago from 13 to 15 December 2022, and further note the Santiago Declaration "Human rights and participation of older persons: towards an inclusive and resilient care society";

68. *Note with appreciation* the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons;

69. *Recall* General Assembly resolution 68/237 in which it proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected, and note that 2021 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the commemoration on 31 August of the first International Day for People of African Descent, as mandated by resolution 75/170, which represents an important opportunity for the region to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

70. *Commit* to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity;

71. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 75/314 establishing the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent to contribute to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind and contribute to ensuring equal enjoyment of all human rights and in this regard welcome the elaboration of a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

72. *Reaffirm* the importance of protecting and enhancing Indigenous and traditional knowledge as well as cultural, social and environmental practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and their contribution to global efforts and initiatives, in accordance with national legislation, to enable sustainable livelihoods, sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices, and food security in harmony with nature;

73. *Welcome* the multiple environmental and sustainable development events that took place during 2023, such as the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, and look forward to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in 2024, and in this regard call for the enhancement of synergies among these events, considering regional intergovernmental priorities as established by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate;

74. *Also welcome* the UAE consensus adopted at the twenty-eighth session of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits to accelerating climate action in this critical decade on the basis of the best available science, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and affirm full support to the Presidencies of the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference in their role of guiding the “Roadmap to Mission 1.5” to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment with a view to strengthening action and implementation over this critical decade and keeping 1.5°C within reach;

75. *Recognize* that the region is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change owing to its geography, climate, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard note with concern the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land*, and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, all of which represent the best available science and underscore the need to urgently increase ambition for climate action in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and encourage all Parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement it;

76. *Take note with concern* of the findings of the latest report of the World Meteorological Organization, the *State of the Global Climate 2023*, which informed, inter alia, that 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year instrumental record in each of the six data sets, and highlighted that the past nine years—2015 to 2023—were the nine warmest years on record;

77. *Take note* with appreciation of the outcomes of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the outcome of the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement and, in particular, the decisions adopted that will enable the full implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted under that Convention in a manner consistent with its long-term goals and environmental integrity, and further welcome the historic decisions on the establishment and the operationalization of the fund for responding to loss and damage taken at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference (COP 27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and the twenty-eighth session (COP 28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, respectively, and the commitments totalling \$US 792 million for the initial capitalization of the Fund undertaken at the twenty-eighth session;

78. *Stress* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of ensuring that its allocation of resources allows the effective implementation of its mandate, emphasizing, in that sense, the need to reinforce our efforts to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and ensure enhanced access to international climate finance in order to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States in order to leave no one behind;

79. *Emphasize* the need to significantly increase climate finance, which is additional to official development assistance, to support action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and enhance access to international climate financial flows with a special focus on increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable, and in this regard aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

80. *Reaffirm* support for the adoption of a new collective quantified goal under the presidency of Azerbaijan of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2024, from a floor of US\$ 100 billion per year and prior to 2025, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, and recall that the decision adopted at the twenty-eighth session on the global stock take recognized the growing gap between the needs of developing country Parties and the support provided and mobilized for their efforts to implement their nationally determined contributions, highlighting that such needs are currently estimated at US\$ 5.8 trillion – US\$ 5.9 trillion for the pre-2030 period;

81. *Underscore* the need, in view of the high vulnerability of the region to climate change, to urgently promote the adoption of policies and planning that effectively contribute to increasing resilience to climate-induced disasters and achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the long-term goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, inter alia and where applicable, by taking climate change into account in macroeconomic policy, fiscal planning, budgeting, credit risk, public investment management and procurement practices;

82. *Welcome* the updated nationally determined contributions submitted in 2023 and call for the nationally determined contributions that will be updated and submitted in 2024 to reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in line with the principles of progression and non-regression and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;

83. *Also welcome* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030, at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada and, look forward to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which will be held in Colombia from 21 October to 1 November 2024;

84. *Recognize* the United Nations General Assembly proclamation on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and welcome the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” adopted at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the overarching theme, “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”, held from 27 June to 1 July 2022;

85. *Welcome* the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held from 22 to 24 March 2023, and look forward for the implementation of the voluntary commitments, pledges and actions contained in the Water Action Agenda;

86. *Also welcome* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and call upon countries to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement for its early entry into force;

87. *Reiterate* the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Ocean Conferences, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, with a particular focus on its targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6, which matured in 2020, and look forward to accelerating urgent action at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, which will be co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, and to cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay;

88. *Note with appreciation* the convening of the high-level event on ocean action “Immersed in change” to take place on 7 and 8 June 2024 in San José, to exchange good practices and successful experiences on topics related to the governance and health of the ocean and contribute to harnessing action and implementation towards the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2025;

89. *Welcome* Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 and recall General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as important for the enjoyment of human rights;

90. *Recognize* the importance of human rights and gender equality, as well as Indigenous Peoples’ participation in delivering substantial environmental, cultural and social contributions and offering effective solutions to current environmental challenges;

91. *Encourage* and support the use of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, as the United Nations reference framework to monitor urban development, to improve reporting on the New Urban Agenda and the localisation of the 2030 Agenda;

92. *Recognize* that improving the environmental quality in our cities is one of the challenges we have ahead of us to achieve sustainable development, which will require efforts from member States and other relevant stakeholders in a multitude of areas, such as air, soil and water pollution, water scarcity, sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency, including clean energy sources, sustainable management of chemicals and waste, and decreasing food loss and waste, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, which promotes the full realization of the right to adequate housing and the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, welcome the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session<sup>4</sup> held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi and look forward to the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum under the theme, “It all starts at home: local action for sustainable cities and communities”;

93. *Welcome* the Declaration of Buenos Aires on instruments, policies and institutions for inclusive and sustainable urban development, adopted at the thirty-second General Assembly of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), held in Buenos Aires on 9 and 10 November 2023 and the ministerial meeting entitled Funding for Climate Change Mitigation in Urban Settlements, held in Buenos Aires on 10 and 11 April 2023;

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<sup>4</sup> HSP/HA.2/HLS.1.

94. *Recall* the need to renew and enhance efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda, including its relevant Goals and targets, recognize the Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste Management, adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, that aims, inter alia, to support the implementation of the chemicals and waste-related international agreements in the countries of the region, and encourage the implementation of the decisions adopted at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Barbados on 1 and 2 February 2021 and at the XXIII Meeting of the Forum, held in Panama City, from 24 to 26 October 2023;

95. *Welcome* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, underscore the importance of securing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, while acknowledging that some legal obligations arising out of a new instrument will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and welcome the commitment made by ministers during the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development to actively follow up on the decision by engaging in the intergovernmental negotiating committee with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

96. *Applaud* the “Caribbean first” initiative advanced by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its thirty-seventh session, held in Havana in May 2018, and the peer learning sessions on challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, held in the framework of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh meetings of this Forum;

97. *Recognize* the impact of disasters on sustainable development, the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and the reduction of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean, acknowledge the need to adopt a broader and more people-centred and inclusive preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and realign disaster financing to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, commit to integrating disaster risk reduction into plans, policies and strategies at all levels, highlighting the importance of generating environmental and territorial data and information for decision-making by governments and policymakers, in line with national priorities, considering multidisciplinary and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms, underscore the urgent need for new conceptual and analytical approaches to improve understanding and management of risk dynamics and complex, interconnected risk drivers and cascading consequences, welcome the outcome of the Eighth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 February to 2 March 2023, and recognize that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, including its core provision to “build back better”, provides guidance for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also for identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner;

98. *Note with concern* that the human and financial cost of disasters is rapidly rising, trapping countries in a continuous cycle of emergency response and curtailing governments in their capacity to achieve sustainable development, therefore reinforcing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and enhance risk governance through multisectoral engagement at national and local levels, putting disaster risk reduction at the core of sustainable development and climate change efforts, as well as the New Urban Agenda;

99. *Reaffirm* the importance of strengthening international cooperation, in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related hazards, those driven by natural climate cycles, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and La Niña, while expressing deep concern over developing 2023/24 El Niño phenomenon conditions setting the stage for a likely surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns, which could have far-reaching and profound environmental, economic and social impacts across the globe, particularly in developing countries, and call for developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at the local, national and regional levels;

100. *Welcome* the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges, and accelerate the path to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030, note its political declaration adopted in 2023,<sup>5</sup> and encourage States to assess and report on progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

101. *Note with appreciation* the continued support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to member countries in the conduct of damage and loss assessments following disasters, most recently the assessments done in Honduras and Guatemala following the passage of Tropical Storm Julia in 2022, while conveying our solidarity for the recent impacts of hurricanes and other hydro-climatic events in other countries of the region, including Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay, and recognize that sustainable development objectives, including economic growth, the reduction of poverty and inequality, and the promotion of sustainable cities and settlements, are inextricably linked to the achievements of disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction;

102. *Reiterate* that the region, in particular small island developing States, continues to face the adverse effects of climate change and disasters and, in this regard, recognize the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the need to build creative and innovative partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean for sustainable development with regard to environment, climate resilience and post-pandemic recovery;

103. *Call on* Member States and all stakeholders to promote bioeconomy strategies to contribute to enabling sustainable development in its three dimensions, and to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

104. *Recognize* that each country has primary responsibility for its own sustainable development in the three dimensions, as well as for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local, national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing its Goals and targets, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities, and that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development;

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<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 77/289.



105. *Welcome* the continuous efforts of countries from our region to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda through their mainstreaming in public policies, institutional arrangements, and national and local follow-up and review as well as by strengthening the involvement of local and other actors at the national level, as appropriate, in the achievement of sustainable development, encourage these countries to further deepen their national efforts in that endeavour and to engage in in-depth knowledge-sharing with peers and partners throughout the region, and highlight in that regard the 28 national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the increase in the number of national and subnational initiatives promoting articulation between development priorities, plans, budgets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the efforts of raising awareness and training to disseminate the Agenda and its relationship with national development objectives;

106. *Also welcome* the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations development system at the regional level, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterate the need that their activities be carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities;

107. *Further welcome* the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to better support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including through an empowered and independent Resident Coordinator system, supported by the Development Coordination Office, including its regional presence, and reiterate our commitment and support to the Secretary-General in advancing, implementing and conducting respective follow-up of his actions in this regard;

108. *Welcome* the efforts of the Secretary-General in formulating the recommendations to harness the regional assets of the United Nations development system, recognizing the steps taken to better position the regional assets to support countries and accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region;

109. *Take note* of the presentations of the 2023 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean and take note also of the practice of convening the United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform and the Resident Coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean during the meetings of the Forum, the latter upon previous consultation with their respective national public counterparts, as an opportunity to interact with the regional mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the member States of the Forum and strengthen the nexus among analytical, policy and operational work of the United Nations development system at the regional level;

110. *Welcome* the detailed commitments and actions of the Secretary-General to improve the United Nations development system's offer in countries serviced by multi-country offices to ensure more tailored technical and policy support, enhanced and aligned capacities and physical presence, strengthened policy support with regard to financing for development, data systems, disaggregated data collection and data use for informed decision-making, as well as better integration and participation of States in intergovernmental forums and processes and fostering South-South and triangular cooperation and cross-regional learning, and commend the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting its member States and associate members covered by the multi-country offices in the region;

111. *Reaffirm* the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue, (ii) its ability to act as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations, and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commission;

112. *Commend* the implementation of the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) developed through a regional inter-agency effort of the United Nations system under the leadership of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as a key tool for supporting the capacities of countries and other stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encourage the countries to use it to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and further invite the countries of the region to disseminate their statistical information relating to the Sustainable Development Goals via online platforms that can be integrated with the SDG Gateway;

113. *Take note* of the seventh report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled “The Challenge of Accelerating the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Transitions towards Sustainability”,<sup>6</sup> prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

114. *Commend* the 31 countries of the region<sup>7</sup> that have already presented voluntary national reviews at the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and the 8 countries<sup>8</sup> preparing to do so in 2024, all of which are presenting either a second, third or fourth review, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating it into their national strategies and adjusting institutional arrangements;

115. *Note* the efforts of subnational and local governments who have conducted local voluntary reviews, showing the increasing political will and commitment of their cities and regions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as their interest in actively supporting the follow-up and review processes;

116. *Encourage* countries to conduct regular and inclusive reviews, which are country-led and country-driven, of progress at the national and local levels;

117. *Recognize* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in preparation for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

118. *Highlight* the commitment of the countries of the region to address statistical challenges and advance in the generation of quality data for the Sustainable Development Goals, in a timely manner, including through the strengthening of statistical systems that guarantee reliable and disaggregated data, to allow a detailed analysis of the progress in the Goals, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, and acknowledge the contribution made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to the indicators of the region, recommend that

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<sup>6</sup> LC/FDS.7/3.

<sup>7</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

<sup>8</sup> Belize (second review), Brazil (second review), Colombia (fourth review), Costa Rica (third review), Ecuador (third review), Honduras (third review), Mexico (fourth review) and Peru (third review).

such contribution continue on a regional framework of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourage the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data;

119. *Commend* the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development for providing useful opportunities for sharing of best practices and lessons learned among multiple stakeholders in the peer learning sessions on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities, challenges in the Caribbean, participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda, implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local levels, statistical capacities, and measurement and georeferencing, and voluntary local reviews, held during the seven meetings of the Forum convened thus far, and recommend continuing to include peer learning sessions in its meetings on other emerging issues of interest, upon request and as identified by the Forum;

120. *Welcome* the participation and contributions of the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Forum, recognize their specific political and economic constraints and their vulnerabilities in their pursuit of sustainable development, and encourage their continued inclusion, where appropriate, in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

121. *Reaffirm* the role of civil society as a driving force in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region, welcoming their work to strengthen its engagement in the Forum, including through the Forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, adopted by civil society at the margins of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the participation in the third, fourth and fifth meetings and their declarations, and look forward to the meaningful participation and contribution of civil society in the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

122. *Welcome* the contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, and the participation, according to resolution 700(XXXVI) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia in the seventh meeting of the Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind;

123. *Recommend* that the Chair of the thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean submit the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair as regional contributions to the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, along with the 2023 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their due consideration, as well as to make them available for other relevant regional and international events and processes;

124. *Request* that this regional contribution, which reflects the commitment of the countries of the region to the 2030 Agenda and highlights the challenges, priorities and progress achieved in the region on the implementation of the Agenda, be considered an input to the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the Ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum by its facilitators;

125. *Request* the President of the Economic and Social Council that the contribution of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development be mainstreamed in the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to enrich its debates, highlight the region's expectations in this global platform and ensure coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels (national, regional and global);

126. *Commit* to actively participate in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in relation to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to benefit from lessons learned;

127. *Express* our deepest appreciation to Argentina as the Chair of the Forum, and to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their leadership in convening the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

128. *Welcome* the convening of the fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Peru from 9 to 11 October 2024.