



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of
the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

ITEM 28: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Our delegations thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted to the General Assembly under this agenda item.

The members of CELAC reiterate their strong commitment to attaining social inclusion and integration as one of the three basic and interdependent dimensions of social development. States in the region commit to take all appropriate measures to guarantee the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, as we consider eradication of hunger and poverty an ethical, social and economic challenge that should be adequately addressed.

We are certain that full social inclusion and integration require a renewed commitment of governments and societies, as a sine qua non requirement for attaining the goal of equitable, inclusive, democratic, multiethnic and multicultural societies, based on the universal recognition of all human rights, including the right to development, and effective civil, political, social, cultural and economical participation at national and international levels, in an environment of freedom, inclusiveness, tolerance and respect for diversity.

We are deeply concerned on the uneven progress achieved, inequality has increased and 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty, the total number of persons living in extreme poverty remains unacceptably high and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns.

Mr. Chair,

Today, a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries have adopted different policies that give preferential treatment or set quotas for the inclusion of groups who are marginalized, face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and persons in vulnerable situations.

CELAC expresses strong support to the reinvigoration of the global partnership for development, with the contribution of all countries, based on their capacities and allocation of resources, including financial resources and technology as well as knowledge transfer through North-South, South-south and Triangular Cooperation, building upon Monterrey, Doha, Addis as well as Rio+20 and other relevant outcomes,



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which integrates all the development agenda issues in a holistic and balanced manner.

In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to promote the inclusive economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development of our States by designing and implementing national plans, policies and programs with timetables and quantifiable targets, aimed at the universal enjoyment and exercise of all human, civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, according priority to persons living in extreme poverty, women and girls and persons in vulnerable situations, such as indigenous peoples, persons of African-descent, women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and migrants.

Bearing in mind that, in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and vulnerability, promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and address the feminization of poverty, positive action needs to be taken, including in the form of policies at the national and international levels that address existing inequalities in the distribution of services, resources and infrastructure, as well as access to food, health care, education and decent work in cities and other human settlements.

Mr. Chair,

One of the most alarming aspects of the situation facing the region's youth is the high percentage of young people who are neither obtaining an education nor being engaged in decent and productive work. Young people account for a large segment of our populations and must therefore be given adequate educational opportunities and training so that they can be fully included into our societies and be able to find dignified and decent work.

We are committed to providing greater opportunities, and equipping young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their desired goals and facilitate their full participation in decision-making processes in the sustainable development of our Societies.

The members of CELAC are also actively promoting the full social, political, economic and cultural inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities and recognize that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a fundamental human rights and development instrument.

It is estimated that about 12% of the Latin American and Caribbean population lives with at least one disability; which represents about 66 million people.



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This situation reveals the great challenges we face, and the importance of integrating into all our public policies and programs, especially in our strategies for sustainable development, reduction of poverty and eradication of extreme poverty, the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

CELAC is concerned that, globally, the number of older persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 56 per cent, in 2050. And that the increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world.

In this regard, we encourage all Member States to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies; as well as consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including, but not limited to, strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age.

We acknowledge the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and we urge it to consider the feasibility of an International Convention for the protection and promotion of the Rights of Older Persons.

CELAC recognize that families play a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened. In this regard, if we want to eliminate discrimination and exclusion, achieve social development, sustainable development and improve the living conditions of our population, we must address the specific needs and challenges faced by all families.

Mr. Chair,

The commitment of the international community as a whole to address challenges is an equally important expression of the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which should ensure also the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people in order not to leave anyone behind.

Thank you,