



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
**Inter-American Council for Integral Development**  
**(CIDI)**



**FIFTH MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL  
AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**INTER-AMERICAN DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

**“Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation towards Resilient Reconstruction and Sustainable Social Development in the Americas”**

(Approved during the fourth plenary session held November 18, 2022, subject to review by the Style Committee)

WE, THE MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in the City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on November 17 and 18, 2022, on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

BEARING IN MIND the commitments assumed by the States in the OAS Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other universal and regional documents, as well as the Social Charter of the Americas ([AG/doc.5242/12 rev.2](#)) and its Plan of Action [[AG/RES.2878 \(XLV-O/15\)](#)], resolution [[AG/RES. 2967 \(LI-O/21\)](#)] “Promoting Hemispheric Initiatives in the Area of Integral Development: Promotion of Resilience” and the Declaration “Equity and Social Inclusion: Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Closing Social Equity Gaps: Towards an Inter-American Agenda for Social Development”([CIDI/REMDES/DEC.1/19](#));

RECOGNIZING that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and deepened structural inequalities in the region while generating new problems that pose unavoidable global challenges for States and the international community; considering the long-term social and economic repercussions that the health crisis will have, in a differential way on the well-being of all women and girls and groups that have been historically marginalized, discriminated and/or in situations of vulnerability;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda as a global framework to advance priority issues for the region, such as the eradication of poverty and hunger, the reduction of inequality in all its dimensions, enjoyment of good health and well-being, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, promoting inclusive economic growth and resilience with decent work for all persons, among others;

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1. The Republic of Guatemala disassociates itself from all provisions, usages, or terms in this Declaration that are not expressly provided for in the international commitments to which it is a party and which ...
  2. The Republic of Paraguay expresses its reservation with respect to the expression “women and girls in all their diversity,” stating that it will be interpreted in accordance with its domestic legal system.

CONCERNED OVER the negative impact on labor and employment in the hemisphere during the COVID-19 pandemic, undermining the economic advancement of all persons, in particular for economically and socially vulnerable groups;

UNDERLINING the need to continue advancing effective promotion and enforcement of fundamental worker rights, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, eradicating child labor and forced labor, and ending discrimination in employment; as well as supporting the classification of occupational safety and health as a fundamental principle and right at work;

EMPHASIZING the importance of building capacity in Member States, through increasingly effective policies, strategies, and actions to address the problems that most severely affect populations in situations of vulnerability, conceiving such populations not as mere recipients of support and/or programs and services but as holders of human rights and agents capable of contributing to their own development and to the development of our countries by guaranteeing equitable opportunities;

WARNING that international irregular migration and forced displacement migration may pose enormous challenges for inclusive social development, being a reality of multiple dimensions that affects the development of countries of origin, transit, destination and return; recognizing, in this context, that international mixed population movements as an intersectoral issue should be addressed in a comprehensive, coherent and balanced way, addressing and analyzing their structural causes and consequences in a preventive manner and reducing the risks associated with irregular migration, through the implementation of public policies aimed at migratory regularization and the integration of migrants for the benefit of host communities, within a framework of respect for the rule of law and the recognition of the human rights of all migrants and refugees, including women, girls and their families;

AWARE that the impact of the pandemic and its contribution to the fall in regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the increase in unemployment and its consequent increase in poverty and extreme poverty and deepening inequalities have put at risk important advances that the region had achieved after decades of combating poverty and inequalities, seriously compromising the possibilities for the countries of the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

NOTING the importance of strengthening national social protection systems, as an essential element for social cohesion, by including measures to prevent or alleviate poverty, reduce risks and promote the exercise of economic, social, and cultural and environmental rights, enabling the construction of more just and inclusive societies that “**leave no one behind**”;

CONSIDERING that the health crisis and the emergency measures adopted during the pandemic represent an unprecedented opportunity for the governments of the region to review, expand and innovate their social protection policies to move towards more comprehensive inclusive and adaptive systems, which allow not only to confront the severe consequences of COVID-19, but to be better prepared to confront future crises and to promote a new path towards development for well-being;

EMPHASIZING that the reactivation of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) has been a fundamental step for the effective follow-up of the commitments adopted at the ministerial meetings on social development held within the framework of the OAS and for advancing in the articulation of work on social development at the regional level;

RECOGNIZING that the OAS, through CIDI, has a fundamental role in strengthening the inter-American dialogue on social development, in particular by promoting dialogue and regional cooperation actions to combat poverty and discrimination in the Hemisphere;

RECALLING that the Social Charter of the Americas, its Plan of Action and the Inter-American Business Charter -as mechanisms of the inter-American system-, recognize the importance of promoting integral development, including building resilience, as one of the essential purposes of the OAS, also contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

BEARING IN MIND that to effectively address the critical issues for the development of the Americas requires strategic inter-institutional efforts; it is imperative to strengthen partnership cooperation and work synergies between international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and the public and private sectors, which play a key role in the promotion of social welfare,

WE DECLARE THAT WE, THE MINISTERS, AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OAS, WILL:

1. Continue to strengthen policies and programs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in particular those related to SDG 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” and SDG 10 “Reduce inequality within and among countries” seeking to improve the scope and effectiveness of measures to alleviate poverty and expand people's well-being, leaving no one behind, such as conditional and unconditional cash transfers and, in the contexts where feasible, consider the implementation of measures such as targeted social programs and adequate social protection that can be implemented to prevent the increase and intensification of deprivation and conditions of poverty in which people live, in particular all women and girls, and groups that have been historically marginalized, discriminated against and/or in situations of vulnerability in the face of emergency situations and/or unexpected events.

2. Continue to strengthen the methodologies to measure multidimensional poverty, by including criteria and indicators in accordance with each national context, promoting the exploration of new sources of information, such as the statistical use of administrative records for the design, implementation and evaluation of effective programs and public policies that contribute to the eradication of poverty and the expansion of well-being in all its dimensions; emphasize the importance of promoting the exchange of best practices among Member States, as well as with international organizations and agencies specialized in this area.

3. Recognize value in expanding coverage and improve the design and operability of programs for the eradication of hunger and child malnutrition, in line with SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, in the Americas, strengthening intersectoral coordination among the national institutions responsible for implementing them, and continue to promote the exchange of experiences and technical cooperation in this area among OAS member states.

4. Advance the implementation of comprehensive social protection systems that are inclusive and adaptable to risks that may arise expanding coverage and access, with a focus on the life cycle, and in line with the International Labor Organization (ILO) Recommendation on **Social Protection Floors (No. 202-2012)**. To the extent possible, move progressively towards universal social

protection, as one of the most effective measures to reduce poverty and inequalities, increase social cohesion and well-being, as well as guarantee fundamental human rights.

5. Contribute to the development and sustainability of programs and initiatives that enhance and complement the impact of social protection policies through labor, productive, and financial inclusion, such as employability and income generation programs, promotion of formality and access to social security, development of productive enterprises and exploration of alternatives from the perspective of the social and solidarity economy and access to sources of financing, as tools to reduce poverty and inequality, with emphasis on the economic autonomy especially of women and of persons in situations of vulnerability.

6. Advance in the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and incorporate a disability inclusive approach in social policies and programs, considering the specific impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused on the lives of all women and girls and the disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities and the consequent overload suffered in the care economy; continue efforts to close gender gaps and address inequalities in labor force outcomes in earnings, access to employment, and coverage and access to social protection, bearing in mind the intersecting risk factors that affect women and girls in all their diversity, and groups historically marginalized, discriminated against, and/or in situations of vulnerability.<sup>3/</sup>

7. Reaffirm our commitment to advance the construction of social protection policies that take into account the value of domestic work and unpaid care that women disproportionately assume, and the need to promote greater co-responsibility, both within households and from the States, making their empowerment and economic autonomy viable to eliminate inequalities and promote the full exercise of their rights.

8. Move towards a society of care that recognizes that:

- care, both paid and unpaid, is a fundamental component of society and guarantees the human rights and labor rights of those who need and provide care;
- alternatives are proposed for effective public policies to address the precariousness of jobs linked to the care sector and to make visible the contribution of the care economy to the common welfare;
- care is considered a key social investment for the sustainable recovery of our countries and supports individuals and communities in vulnerable situations through the adoption of comprehensive care policies/systems capable of protecting the population throughout its life cycle, as a key element of Social Protection Systems.

9. Urge the countries to increase efforts to improve the production, quality, use, and interoperability of official statistics and data, as well as to strengthen capacities for the statistical use of periodic administrative records. Likewise, to the extent possible and according to the national context, record disaggregated data on different population groups, especially those in situations of poverty and vulnerability, as a means of formulating public policies based on evidence, improving the monitoring of social programs and the impact of social protection policies.

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3. The phrase “women and girls in all their diversity” is not consensus language, particularly within REMDES. These terms are not accepted by several member states under their constitutional ...

10. Highlight the value of the Protocol of San Salvador and encourage its States Parties to continue to present evaluation reports on the main advances in the field of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (DESCA), contemplated in this inter-American instrument, considering its usefulness to measure gaps in access to the DESCAs and to enhance the design and monitoring of public policies from a human rights perspective.

11. Reaffirm our commitment to develop policies and actions aimed at meeting the particular needs of groups historically marginalized, discriminated and/or in situations of vulnerability, in accordance with international human rights instruments and the national legislation, seeking that these contribute to closing the gaps of social inequality, as well as improving information campaigns about social programs, rights and duties of their beneficiaries, seeking to provide timely and accessible information.

12. Strengthen social protection and to promote programs aimed at reducing the situation of vulnerability and risk in which migrants and refugees, particularly including women and girls and their families, displaced persons, and survivors of human trafficking may find themselves, considering that their return to their country of origin or residence does not put their lives at risk, consistent with the legislation, policies and priorities of States, as well as with international obligations and human rights law as applicable; seeking to generate safe environments and safety nets that facilitate their socio-productive integration and access to opportunities to contribute to the development of host countries.

13. Take note of the “Regional Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Survivors of Trafficking in Persons in the Americas,” developed jointly by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as a non-binding guide for the actions and areas of intervention that should be present in the planning and execution of strategies to facilitate the social inclusion of survivors of human trafficking and their active participation in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the communities in which they reside.

14. Promote initiatives and programs aimed at closing the digital access and coverage gap in vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly and residents of rural areas, without racial or ethnic discrimination, and promoting the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) capable of promoting more efficient, effective and inclusive approaches to current social problems by promoting alliances with the private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations.

15. Intensify efforts to highlight the key role played by the Ministries of Social Development and institutions responsible for the matter in each member state, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social policies, recognizing that social protection programs and policies are fundamental for development.

16. To renew our commitment and support for the reactivation of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (RIPSO) and its relaunch with new authorities who assume the important responsibility of strengthening it and positioning it as the main mechanism for hemispheric technical cooperation, available to the institutions responsible for promoting social development in the countries of the region, supporting mechanisms to obtain the necessary resources for its operation and maintenance.

17. To recommend the RIPSO Technical Secretariat, in close coordination with its new authorities, to continue to promote regional cooperation in its various forms; dissemination of

knowledge, exchange of experiences and technical cooperation among peers, among other initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of the institutions responsible for national social protection strategies in accordance with the priorities defined in the Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development.

18. To thank the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES), chaired by Mexico, with Paraguay and Guatemala (vice-chairs), and Canada, Costa Rica, as well as Mexico and the Dominican Republic, who chaired the working groups for their leadership, which has been key to strengthening the inter-American dialogue on social development in recent years and the commendable work of the countries that make up the Working Groups to achieve effective implementation of the Plan of Action of Guatemala and to continue strengthening inter-American cooperation in the field of social development.

19. To encourage OAS member states to actively participate in the working groups that will be implementing the Plan of Action agreed at this meeting, making visible the value of this work as a key tool to promote partnership cooperation at the regional level and the achievement of the commitments agreed upon in this Declaration.

20. To encourage CIDES and the Working Groups, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the ministerial process, to continue promoting initiatives of collaboration and articulation with other organizations and institutions that work to promote social development in the region, such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), EUROsociAL, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others highlighting the important contributions they can make by supporting the implementation of the activities defined in the Plan of Action adopted in this meeting.

21. To reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Plan of Action based on this Declaration, highlighting the instrumental role of CIDES, the Working Groups, and the support of the Technical Secretariat of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) and of the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) in the execution of the programmed initiatives and, in accordance with the availability of each country, seek to guarantee the necessary resources for this important agenda, by supporting existing mechanisms, such as the specific fund for voluntary contributions to implement social development initiatives in the Americas.

22. To thank the people and the Government of the Dominican Republic for organizing the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the framework of CIDI and the warmth provided since our arrival. We express our appreciation for the leadership and efforts of the Cabinet for the Coordination of Social Policies in the preparation of this process that revitalizes political dialogue, cooperation, and inter-American integration in the field of social development in a context of social, economic, and environmental emergency.

23. To thank the OAS General Secretariat for its continued support, through the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity/Department for Social Inclusion, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the hemispheric dialogue on social development and the RIPSO (Inter-American Social Protection

Network), highlighting the importance of this work in the search for regional consensus and the promotion of hemispheric cooperation.

FOOTNOTES

1. ...including, but not limited to, the interpretation and/or legal recognition of “women and girls in all their diversity.” Guatemala reaffirms its commitment to promoting the development of women and their full participation in all spheres of society.

3. ...framework and domestic laws.