

Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Lima, Peru. 2018



Walking down the path of rights

The Third Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will be held on August 7-9 2018 in the city of Lima, Peru. In this edition, Latin American and Caribbean countries will present their national reports on the implementation of the **Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development**, the most important intergovernmental agreement regarding these issues in the region. The first preliminary regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development will also be presented, and the different countries will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue between them and with other stakeholders regarding their experiences and forms of cooperation to advance the implementation of the Consensus in the region as a whole.

The **Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development** was approved by the official representatives of 38 countries participating in the First Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development held in Uruguay in August 2013. The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of ECLAC's subsidiary bodies responsible for the follow-up and review of population and development issues in the region. For that reason, its agreements provide important guidelines for the design of public policies for the wellbeing of populations, both at the national and regional levels.

The **Consensus** is the regional expression of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, adapting it to the region's realities and needs. It is aligned, and its follow-up includes synergies with, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also contributes to achievements sought by other international instruments such as the regional conferences on women, aging, migration and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

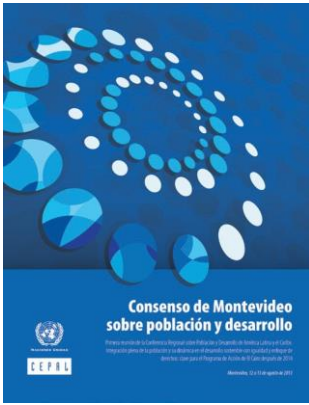
Both the 2030 Agenda, with its Sustainable Development Goals, and the ICPD POA beyond 2014, rely on the premise that economic development must be in synchrony with human development and the sustainability of the environment and natural resources. The **Montevideo Consensus** combines economic development with human development, human rights and respect for the environment, and calls for actions to address pressing population issues such as sexual and reproductive health; population aging; childhood, adolescence and youth; gender equality; international migration; territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability; equal inclusion of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations, and the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

In other words, the **Montevideo Consensus** is a platform for the implementation of both global agendas in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the years to come.



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The *Montevideo Consensus* includes more than 108 measures around ten priority areas to reinforce the implementation of population and development actions beyond 2014.

Implementing the priority actions of the *Montevideo Consensus* will result in the well-being of approximately 650 million persons, especially those furthest behind and in situations of social vulnerability, thus ensuring the fulfillment of important international commitments made by the different countries.

For States and governments, it is a powerful tool to fight inequalities and work towards the universalization of rights and sustainable development.

For civil society, especially women, adolescents, young people, LGBTI persons, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous persons and Afro-descendants, it is a platform that recognizes them as rights holders and strategic actors in their own development whose participation is key to the success of measures agreed upon.

What were the measures agreed upon in the *Consensus*?

In Montevideo, Latin American and Caribbean governments made a commitment to eliminate social, economic and gender inequalities, and protect human rights without discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, in order to ensure a future with equality and dignity for all persons.



The *Montevideo Consensus* addresses ten priority areas:

- 1 Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights.**

This is the general framework to lead the development of the public policies and actions necessary to eradicate poverty, exclusion and inequality.

- 2 Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth.**

Guarantee opportunities for boys, girls, adolescents and young people so they can live a life free from poverty and violence by investing in public education, health and employment, and facilitating their participation in those decisions that affect them. Implement comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health programs to promote informed and responsible decisions regarding their sexuality.

- 3 Aging, social protection and socioeconomic challenges.**

Formulate gender-differentiated policies to ensure a good quality of life in old age, in addition to expanding social protection and security systems.

- 4 Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.**

Protect the free and responsible exercise of sexual and reproductive rights of all persons through the provision of quality health services to prevent maternal deaths, adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS and unsafe abortion.

- 5 Gender equality.**

Design development policies to ensure the autonomy of women and gender equality in the political, economic, cultural, social and family spheres, in order to put an end to inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls.

- 6 International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants.**

Prepare comprehensive global, regional and national strategies to prevent infringement of the human rights of migrants, as well as to take advantage of the benefits and face the challenges arising from migration.

- 7 Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability.**

Design and execute territorial and urban management plans based on a people-centered approach and with a vision of environmental sustainability to reduce inequalities between territories and mitigate the impact of socio-environmental disasters.

- 8 Interculturalism and rights of indigenous peoples.**

Guarantee indigenous peoples' human and territorial rights through the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

- 9 Afro-descendants and the fight against racism and racial discrimination.**

Promote the development of Afro-descendants through affirmative action plans and programs, with a particular focus on Afro-descendent adolescents and women. Implement the recommendations of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

- 10 Frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development.**

Implement and consolidate institutional frameworks, operational instruments, monitoring systems and resources for action in the area of population and development in the region to address the emerging challenges in this sphere.

How are priority actions implemented?



The Operational Guide defines areas of action, goals and indicators so countries can implement measures agreed upon.

The implementation of priority actions depends on the participation of States and governments in the region together with civil society organizations. To carry out their implementation, the Second Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 2015) adopted an **Operational Guide for Implementation and Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development** that facilitates the operational execution of the Consensus in the different countries, taking into account their individual specificities. There is also a proposed set of **Indicators for the Regional Follow-up of the Consensus Implementation**, which was approved at a Special Meeting of the Presiding Officers of RCPD, held in Santiago from November 7 to 9, that will also provide key information to monitor the 2030 Agenda in the region.

It is essential for governments to allocate sufficient financial and human resources to make decisions and formulate and evaluate their development policies and programs based on reliable, timely and quality information.

The sovereign right each country has to decide on the implementation of recommendations, based on national legislations, development priorities and universally agreed human rights, is fully recognized.

The Montevideo Consensus and the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was approved on September 25, 2015, is an action plan that seeks prosperity and the well-being of individuals and the planet. It is also the outcome of the largest participatory process of reflection, agreements and consultations in history. More than 8 million persons from all countries in the world participated in it, including leaders and experts from States, international organizations, private companies and organized civil society.

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals seek to eradicate poverty in all its forms, reduce social inequalities and protect the planet and its natural resources for present and future generations.

These objectives encompass three essential dimensions of development: social, economic and environmental. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015), which focused on progress in developing countries, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are applicable to all countries.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



United Nations Organization (UN) Sustainable Development Goals
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/en/>

To monitor the progress made by regions and countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs, a rigorous accountability process will be required, with indicators reported at the national, regional and global levels.

All the countries have made the commitment to include this global agenda in their national and local development plans, and also to carry out periodic evidence-based review processes to measure their progress and gaps, ensuring a broad participation not only from governments, but also stakeholders from civil society, the academia and the private sector.

Both the **Montevideo Consensus** and the 2030 Agenda address the issue of inequality and inequity, call for the promotion of inclusive growth, and urge national bodies and agencies to be more effective and transparent and protect the human rights of all persons.

In conclusion, the **Consensus** aims at achieving a significant number of the SDGs directly, and is complementary with regard to other issues that affect specific populations that should not be left behind: indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, elderly persons and migrants.

The Montevideo Consensus aims at achieving a significant number of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The *Montevideo Consensus* and ICPD beyond 2014

The Consensus is considered the execution platform for the implementation of the Agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD - Cairo 1994) in the Latin American and Caribbean region in the years to come.

The Agenda was reviewed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014, 20 years after its initial implementation. At the same time, the world's countries worked together to formulate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ICPD review reaffirmed the validity of its recommendations to achieve progress in the different countries beyond 2014, as well as the need to redouble efforts to promote social inclusion, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all persons.

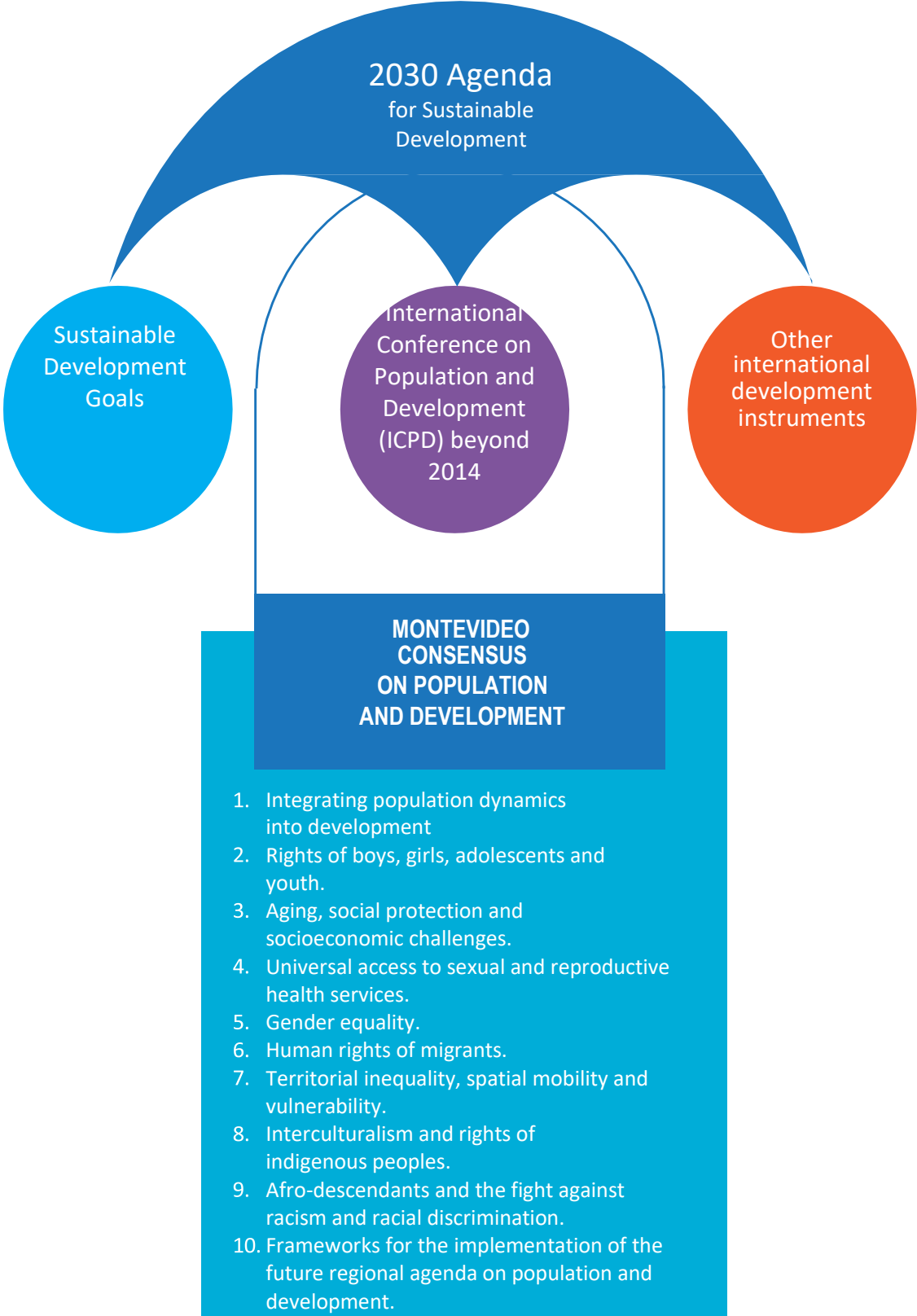
Therefore, it is fully aligned with the main focus of the 2030 Agenda: the unequivocal and unavoidable commitment to respect the dignity of individuals and their human rights as the basis of resilience and future sustainability.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) proposes 5 pillars of development

1. Sustainability
2. Dignity and human rights
3. Governance and accountability
4. Security and Mobility
5. Health



The figure below illustrates the interaction between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, Sustainable Development Goals and the *Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*.



Third Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development: reviewing national and regional progress made

At RCPD-3, Latin American and Caribbean countries will present their national reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. Each individual country report will describe progress made in the implementation of the Consensus at the national level, and as well as achievements, challenges and good practices. To this end, to the extent possible and depending on national realities, the different countries can use the *Indicators for Regional Follow-up of the Consensus Implementation*, which were approved in 2017.

The first preliminary Regional Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus will also be presented. This report will be based on the national reports available upon its preparation, as well as official information from the different countries, such as national population censuses and national surveys, the voluntary reports presented at the Special Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, information on the different countries systematized and compiled by ECLAC, UN databases, the SDG indicators database, voluntary national reports on the implementation of the SDGs, and a vast body of bibliography based on documentation produced by ECLAC and the UN System, as well as academic research and documents on different issues produced by civil society.

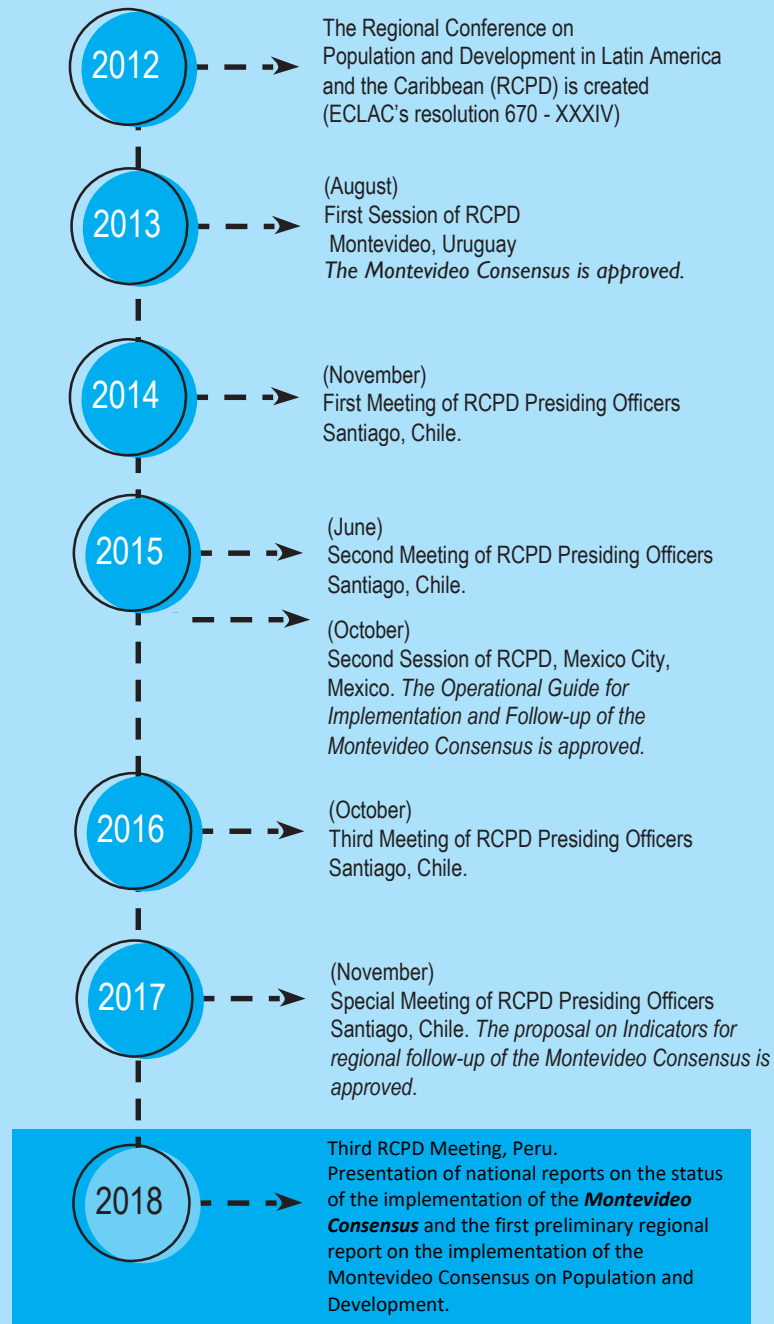
The Regional Report, on the other hand, will be Latin America and the Caribbean's contribution to the global assessment and review of ICPD's PoA beyond 2014, which will take place in 2019 during the 52nd period of sessions of the UN Commission on Population and Development, and also to the follow-up and assessment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, to participate in the Third RCPD Meeting, each country must appoint an official delegation made up of State and government representatives that can include civil society organizations and groups committed to the issues and approaches agreed upon. An online registration system will be available soon on ECLAC's website for all those interested in attending the meeting.



Regional Conference on Population and Development Timeline

Five years after its first edition, these are the key moments in the history of the Regional Conference on Population and Development.



UNFPA's contribution to the process

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) works with national governments to help them build capacities for the implementation and follow-up of development agendas in a synergic and coordinated fashion. In particular, its cooperation efforts focus on developing skills for the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies through the use of quality data and statistics. In addition, it promotes and supports linkages between civil society organizations, the academia and the private sector for the implementation of development agendas.

In preparation for the Third Conference, UNFPA's country offices in the region are providing technical support to governments and civil society in aspects related to the processes of consultation and preparation of national reports, in dialog with the rest of UN System's Agencies, Funds and Programs, and in particular with ECLAC, which currently hosts its secretariat.

UNFPA is committed to working together with States and governments to address the population challenges faced by current and future generations, the biggest one being that of inequality prevailing in the Latin American region, which mainly affects adolescents, young people, women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, as well as migrants and persons with disabilities.

For additional information:

RCPD website: <http://crpd.cepal.org>

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean -
<https://www.cepal.org/en>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) -
<http://lac.unfpa.org/>



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is dedicated to delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

www.unfpa.org
lac.unfpa.org

