

QUITO DECLARATION
Session of October 3-4, 2014

**TENTH FORUM OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS OF LATIN AMERICA
MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS PROGRAMME
(MOST – UNESCO)**

The Ministers in charge of Social Development Policies in Latin America and their delegations in Quito, Republic of Ecuador, on October 3-4, 2014, participating in and invited to attend the Tenth Forum of Social Development Ministers of Latin America, in the framework of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme,

Meeting for the purpose of reasserting their commitment to carry out actions aimed at strengthening regional ties among players involved in the countries' social development, especially with respect to overcoming inequality in Latin America, where social transformation processes and public policies of the region have been presented and the debate enriched on the basis of the State's vision and the vision of the academic community;

Aware that Latin America, more than any other region of the world, was characterized throughout the twentieth century by a deeply unequal distribution of economic and social assets, a steep imbalance in the population's income level and an unequal distribution of capital and opportunities, a situation that has continued over time, but also a reality that is in the process of changing;

Recognizing that, over the past few years, the reduction of inequality has been the core goal of the public actions of governments and is a reality in most of the region's countries, as a result of a series of successful strategies in social transformation and public policies, which although a general trend, comes from the wealth of diversity in economic structures, political projects, social compositions and historical courses of each country comprising the region;

Taking into account the need to observe, systematize and study experiences and lessons learned in the countries, for the purpose of enriching the discussions and reflections on the concept of inequality, analyzing the possible scope of these experiences and lessons to improve actions in other countries and disseminate social development achievements;

Highlighting the new role of Latin America and the Caribbean in the international agenda, changing the dynamics of multilateralism, broadening its participation and influence in negotiations and decision making about major issues, so that the Region has important experiences to show to the world and that the countries comprising it can greatly benefit from cooperation amongst them;

Committed to promoting actions aimed at regional exchange and participating in the spaces and entities that comprise it arising from the present agreement, and calling upon all to boost bilateral and multilateral cooperation to overcome inequality on the basis of the experiences and lessons learned from the efforts of each country;

WE AGREE

1. To strengthen public policies with a human rights approach for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, prioritizing and guaranteeing among these the elimination of poverty, access to goods and services and their availability, and the creation of opportunities and capacity building, as the basis for the full exercise of rights;
2. To promote strategies aimed at equality, with a multidimensional, intra and intersector perspective, that incorporates the debate on the coordination of economic, labor and fiscal policy with the social and inclusive policy, aimed at linking focused actions with universal actions, promoting the human rights and participatory approach so that citizens are no longer mere passive receivers of the interventions;
3. To recognize peace as a key condition for democracy and development, especially to support the peace-building process being carried out in Colombia to make progress in achieving a more equitable and inclusive society.
4. To institutionalize and strengthen the “Network of Officials of the Forum of Ministers in charge of or responsible for Social Development in Latin America” in the framework of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, comprised of two persons from each ministry (one focusing on cooperation and the other on social policy), for each country and spearheaded by the Forum’s Technical Secretariat (responsibility of the pro tempore Chair), which must generate a technological mechanism for the Network’s adequate and dynamic functioning;
5. To adopt the “Cooperation strategy to move forward on the road to equality in Latin America and the Caribbean” through a space for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned at the regional level and establishing a technical committee that would give priority to the four common needs:
 - 1) To coordinate social inclusions policies with economic policies, promoting decent employment and productive activities, with the participation of the public and private sectors;
 - 2) To improve and innovate progressively the cash transfer programs with a human rights and co-responsibility approach, as a mechanism to mobilize and development capacities and skills to increase their impact on social inclusion for development;
 - 3) To disseminate experiences in designing and using instruments for social issues: information, monitoring and evaluation systems, focusing for interventions;
 - 4) To consider in all the processes the cross-cutting issues of gender equality, disabilities, intergenerational approach, risk management, climate change, migration, territorial equity, and culture and intercultural ties as driving forces behind development and learning;

6. To adopt the “Dissemination Strategy for Overcoming Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean” by designing and building an open virtual platform for the general public, with the contribution of member states and the exchange of data, information and knowledge about policies, intervention models, cooperation mechanisms, assessments, research, videos and other official efforts made in the region as a learning and accountability mechanism, which would be managed by the Forum’s Technical Secretariat (responsibility of the pro tempore Chair);
7. To build up the links between universities, CLACSO, FLACSO, ECLAC, and public decision makers to promote UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, with a key tool to build up the response capacity of governments for the benefit of their populations;
8. To promote, with the region’s research institution, further in-depth lines of research to measure, innovatively and coherently, the multidimensional aspect of inequality, the modality of implementation and the assessment of policy impacts;
9. To incorporate into the debate about equality the consequences of climate change, the implications of natural disasters, the implementation of care systems, giving priority to social investment and the quality management of policies;
10. To take up the discussion of the post-2015 development goals by motivating the issues discussed at the Tenth Forum of Ministers in each country, aimed at drawing up a regional stance with respect to equality, inclusion and the exercise of rights;
11. To welcome the World Social Science Forum “Transforming Global Relations for a Just World” to be held on September 13-16, 2015 in Durban, South Africa and the invitation of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme to organize a plenary panel with the Social Development Ministers of the various regions of the world;
12. To tackle the discussion issues proposed at the Tenth Forum as part of the themes of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which according to what is set forth in the resolution of the XXXV period of sessions of ECLAC, shall be held in Lima, Peru in 2015;
13. To support the priorities promoted by UNESCO, especially quality education for all and the role of culture in inclusive and sustainable development, which basically contributes to overcoming social inequalities;
14. To hold the Eleventh Forum of Social Development Ministers in 2016 in the Republic of Nicaragua.

Finally, to highlight the active participation of the Republic of Haiti and the Republic Ghana, as well as the intervention of the Latin American School of Social Science (FLACSO), the Latin American Council of Social Science (CLACSO), and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and to thank the Government of the Republic of Ecuador for their wonderful hospitality, coordination, and preparation of the Forum and UNESCO for its invaluable support for holding this event.

Signed by the Ministers in charge of Social Development of Latin America and their delegates in the Metropolitan District of Quito, Republic of Ecuador, on the fourth day of the month of October 2014.

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Minister of Social Development
Representative of Argentina

Manuel Monroy Chazarreta
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