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20 – 24 MARCH 2016

Documentation of the Work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Courage for peace

Compassion in action

CONFERENCE A
Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Committee Staff

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<td>Director</td>
<td>Aiskell Román</td>
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<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Kelly Morrison</td>
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<td>Chair</td>
<td>Pearle Nwaezeigwe</td>
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<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Salima Mahamoudou</td>
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Agenda

I. Social and Economic Development in Cities
II. Promoting the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
III. Guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<tr>
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<td>13 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 15 abstentions</td>
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Summary Report

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Social and Economic Development in Cities  
II. Guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean  
III. Promoting the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The session was attended by representatives of 33 Member States and one Observer.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Social and Economic Development in Cities.” The atmosphere on Monday was collaborative, as the delegates began forming groups and drafting working papers. By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of nine proposals, which focused on ways to provide employment opportunities for urban youth, strategies to promote regional funding partnerships, and the protection of the rights of marginalized groups living in cities. Delegates also included recommendations on policies to improve urban education systems and urban planning. Throughout the sessions delegates demonstrated enthusiasm, diplomacy, and critical thinking.

On Wednesday, eight draft resolutions were approved by the Dais, of which five had amendments. The committee adopted eight resolutions following voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including education, transportation, disaster risk reduction, the rights of urban indigenous communities, as well as youth involvement. The final session ended on a celebratory yet professional note, demonstrating the continued engagement and interest of delegates.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Noting the need for countries in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region to diversify their economies in order to be more productive and competitive as noted in the document titled “Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, follow-up to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20,”

Respecting the inalienable human rights of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as stated in General Assembly (GA) resolution 61/295,

Appreciating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) first adopted in the GA resolution 70/1, as these goals are essential for the sustainable and integrated development of cities in accordance with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) policies to tackle inequalities among countries and promote the respect of human rights and gender equality,

Recognizing the efforts of the region to reduce poverty and favor sustainable growth with the partnership of members of the European Union,

Further recognizing the efforts of different multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme, the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to support Latin America and the Caribbean and to help the region eliminate inequalities and to reduce the informal economy,

Reaffirming GA resolution 67/202, Entrepreneurship for Development, which promotes entrepreneurship for all stakeholders as well as the importance of efforts from all Member States to stimulate social and economic development in cities,

Deeply alarmed by the ongoing lack of inclusion of vulnerable groups in the region, in terms of economic opportunities, social policies, education rights as reported in the UNDP’s 2010 Human Development Report for Latin America & the Caribbean titled “Acting on the Future: Breaking the Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality,”

Noting that 10 out of the 15 countries with the highest levels of inequality worldwide are in Latin America according to the UNDP, making it the most unequal sub-region of the world,

Welcoming the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and especially its aims 7, 9 and 10, which emphasize the need to increase equality, state the right to a life free of poverty and violence, and seek to enhance opportunities for youth in cities,

Approving the GA resolution 24/2542, Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which emphasizes the interdependence of economic and social development in the wider process of growth and change together with the creation of a strategy of integrated development,

Noting with appreciation the UN Conference on Trade and Development’s (UNCTAD) Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and Implementation Guidance, which provides an approach to foster entrepreneurship in countries without entrepreneurship traditions,

1. Declares the establishment of the Cities Entrepreneurship Program in Latin America and Caribbean (CEPLAC) through the ECLAC regional bureaus, which shall enhance employment opportunities for the youth through entrepreneurship workshops, consequently raising the living standards in informal settlements and impoverished
parts of cities, improving the education of the impoverished youth, giving marginalized groups within the communities a voice through equal inclusion in the program and thereby creating the prospect of a bright future of LAC cities;

2. **Recommends** the mobilization of experts from all ECLAC Member States to share successful practices and to consolidate and monitor educational programs in the cities;

3. **Further recommends** that Member States take part in the Connective Cities program and take the Future of Cities program as a role model for innovation and creation of development in cities;

4. **Establishes** entrepreneurship workshops as part of CEPLAC to enhance employment opportunities for the impoverished urban youth of LAC, which shall entail:

   a. Teaching the youth about entrepreneurship skills and knowledge and providing the relevant educational support for creating a successful business;

   b. Guiding the youth towards establishing their own ideas on small and middle sized businesses and writing business plans;

   c. Conducting a competition on the best projects and business plans, taking into consideration the feasibility, chances of success and the benefits for the community of the various projects;

   d. Supporting the chosen projects with theoretical knowledge, administrative support and small loans;

5. **Suggests that** the academic support be drawn from inter alia the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and Implementation Guidance by UNCTAD as well as the personnel for the CEPLAC workshops shall be recruited from private and public sources such as the national Chambers of Commerce and other state institutions as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs);

6. **Proposes** that financial support for the CEPLAC workshops shall be provided by private, public, national, and international sources such as national agencies focusing on development and urban planning along with the UNDP and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and that the exact combination of sources for funding and the continuity of funding shall be established by the ECLAC regional bureaus in cooperation with private entities and local governments;

7. **Decides** to establish CEPLAC Headquarters in one of the regional bureaus;

8. **Allows** each ECLAC regional bureau and all ECLAC Member States to decide on the order to of the program and to adjust the details of the CEPLAC workshops to each specific region and their unique needs, such as the choice of the cities in which the program shall start, the size of the programs, the share of private and public financial sources and how the financial sources shall be distributed as well as the content of the training in workshops and the subjects that need to be addressed;

9. **Encourages** the CEPLAC community, which shall encompass alumni of the CEPLAC workshops, to pass on their knowledge about entrepreneurship skills, invest in future projects, and maintain the CEPLAC identity in order to facilitate constant reinvestment in CEPLAC and create a sustainable environment for social and economic development in cities;

10. **Asks** the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to supervise CEPLAC and to report to the Member States on the success of the program during the biennial sessions of ECLAC, elaborating on the number of cities in which CEPLAC was implemented, the number of entrepreneurship projects worked out during the workshops and the success of the businesses started in terms of profitability, job creation, their compliance with the above mentioned CEPLAC values and their benefit for the impoverished parts of cities.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Emphasizing Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which gives all individuals the right to a quality standard of living,

Affirming General Assembly (GA) resolution 69/319, which identifies the need for an explicit and clear set of guidelines for efficient management of financial crises that encourage sovereign debtors and creditors to act in good faith and to use a cooperative spirit to reach a mutual rearrangement of the debt of sovereign Member States,

Recalling GA resolution 70/190, “External sustainability and development,” which addresses the issue of improving sovereign debt restructuring,

Acknowledging GA resolution 70/1, which establishes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and specifically SDG 8, targets 8.3 and 8.10, which seek to strengthen domestic financial institutions with the aim of achieving inclusive economic growth,

Guided further by SDG 11, which recognizes the critical need for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities,

Noting the International Labor Organization’s report, “Transitioning from the Informal to the Formal Economy,” which establishes a standard-setting agenda to advance the fundamental rights and principles for the informal economy,

Applauding the contributions of regional institutions such as The Bank of the South and the Caribbean Development Bank, which provide loans and grants on highly concessional terms to developing countries within the region in order to promote regional financial independence,

Concerned by the existing trade barriers and tariffs that hinder the growth and expansion of the markets of developing countries,

Noting that sustained domestic and international economic growth are critical factors in the expedient achievement of the SDGs,

Realizing that economic stability within Member States is essential in order to lay the foundation for greater social equality and mobility among citizens,

Reaffirming its belief that Member States should make greater strides toward implementing the provisions of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,

Noting that many countries and cities in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) regions are dependent upon non-renewable resources,

1. Emphasizes the importance of sustaining a multi-faceted economy through the incorporation and promotion of industry expansion and diversification;

2. Encourages opportunities for micro and macro businesses within cities in order to promote robust urban growth;

3. Further encourages partnerships among the public and private sectors to facilitate the use of excess and abandoned land toward different types of city infrastructure such as:
Transportation networks including roads, highways, buses, and bridges;

Public spaces including, but not limited to, community gardens, recreational spaces and parks;

Sewage systems, garbage removal and waste disposal that would provide cleaner streets and improve the overall health of city residents;

4. **Strongly urges** greater collaboration between commercial banks and governments in order to offer concessional financial terms to low and middle income households that would enable these households to secure adequate housing;

5. **Calls upon** regional and international banking institutions to increase technical and administrative collaboration in the areas of information gathering, information sharing, and dialogue on regional monetary stability through:
   a. Increased collaboration with the Central Bank Board of Governors for prudent data management and research into the effects of structural adjustment on social and economic development;
   b. The use of this collaborative data for improved fiscal planning to ensure efficient and sustainable urban development;

6. **Recommends** ECLAC Member States to pursue the transition from informal economy, defined as the lack of registration of firms, security coverage or an employment contract, to a formal economy which would be able to better provide social services in densely populated cities by:
   a. Registering unregulated enterprises in order to standardize informal jobs;
   b. Extending social and legal protections to the informal workforce;
   c. Maintaining a sufficient minimum wage especially for regulated workers;

7. **Reminds** Member States of the urgency for debt restructuring to enable highly indebted developing countries to be able to invest more within their cities by:
   a. Establishing incentives for borrowing countries with consistent compliant debt repayments;
   b. Allowing temporary debt relief of external debt for countries affected by devastating natural disasters which hinders their ability for repayment;
   c. Adopting an assistance payoff program which allows Member States to pay off their loans by a mutually agreed time;
   d. Annually reviewing countries’ progress on loan repayment administered by ECLAC with support from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);

8. **Calls upon** Member States in LAC to cooperate in creating a transparent and reliable finance and trade system to increase revenue generation within cities by:
   a. Avoiding illicit capital flows, bribery, and corruption with funds directed towards development;
   b. Encouraging Member States to approve and ratify the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*;
   c. Working to reduce loopholes that facilitate illicit capital mobilization and tax evasion;
   d. Monitoring administrative departments to keep track of how resources are mobilized;
9. Invites trading parties with the assistance of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to ease existing trade burdens on the importation of essential construction materials and equipment necessary for city development;

10. Urges strengthened of international cooperation to increase research of environmentally friendly methods of infrastructure, provide access to clean energy technologies, and work towards SDG 7 by:

   a. Increasing the Official Development Assistance (ODA) offered to developing countries to a minimum share of 0.7% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), based on the recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus;

   b. Promoting the financial support for the Green Climate Fund to be a catalyst to environmentally sustainable projects;

11. Further urges developing countries to increase collaboration with financial institutions at both the international and regional levels so that they may obtain financial and technical aid towards clean energy initiatives;

12. Calls for Member States to pursue policies in line with the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) in order to implement efficient and sustainable renewable energy projects in the planning and development of cities.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Noting with deep concern that 25% of people in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) live under four dollars a day according to the United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP) and the interconnection between poverty, lack of proper housing, and the unequal access to water and electricity in the cities of LAC region and its implications on a national and international level,

Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 66/288 titled The Future We Want that identifies poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge facing the world today and highlights that addressing poverty is essential for sustainable development, while also recognizing that hunger is a main consequence of poverty which further hinders the well-being of city dwellers,

Reaffirming the 6th priority area of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (LC/L.3697 (2013)), which focuses on sustainable urban development and stresses the need for social inclusion and guaranteeing basic human rights including the right of all people to benefit from economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the importance of proper housing for sustainable development as mentioned in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) CEPAL Review No. 85 on Mortgage Loans and Access to Housing for Low Income Households in Latin America, which stresses the importance of access to affordable mortgage loans for affordable housing,

Guided by GA resolution 70/1, titled Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that establishes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recalling SDG 13.3 which promotes improving education, awareness-raising and human institutional capacity and climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning in order to protect the development advances made in cities,

Recognizing SDG 7 to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,” and to promote “the use of green technologies and to increase the sustainability of transportation systems in cities,”

1. Recommends the use of poverty reduction strategies in LAC cities that were suggested by the World Food Program (WFP) and is funded by the World Bank to:

   a. Implement support programs such as the school feeding program and mother-and-child health and nutrition (MCHN) that increase equitable access to health services, education and information, which will contribute to learning and improvement of basic nutrition and health needs, particularly for children, adolescent girls, women and their families;

   b. Further encourages Member States that are to make full use of the support offered by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF);

2. Strongly encourages Member States to adopt an all inclusive approach that takes into consideration the principles of gender equality and women’s human rights for a gender-sensitive plan for spatial urban management;

3. Calls for an increase on the construction of sustainable, affordable, housing development. with the increase of subsidy grants for eco-technology housing development projects;
4. **Calls for** the increase of access to affordable mortgages for vulnerable populations in cities by:

   a. Fostering partnerships between Member States’ governments to provide land and for private financial institutions to deliver subsidized low-interest loans regional and local loaning institutions;

   b. Recommending that Members States to use current accountability mechanisms to monitor the correct allocation of loans;

   c. Promoting anti-discrimination clauses to access mortgages, which includes indigenous population through:

      i. Usage of native languages to assist indigenous peoples in understanding the terms and conditions of the low-interest mortgage-loans;

      ii. Inclusion of indigenous leaders in the discussion of loan conditions in mortgage agreements;

   d. Promote greater access to low-interest loans with the national accountability bodies to monitor and audit the allocation of loans;

5. **Encourages** all Member States to increase public awareness and participation by implementing sustainable policies in cities, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and also promote long-term investment in educational institutions and development campaigns focused on caring about the environment in cities;

6. **Calls upon** Member States to establish renewable energy targets in LAC cities on a long-term basis by modeling after Jamaica’s National Plan “Vision 2030,” which commits to reach 15% and 20% of renewable energy combination 2020 and 2030 respectively by considering:

   a. Reducing dependence on non-renewable energy sources as a primary source of energy to encourage greater use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy, biogas, photovoltaic devices, wind, hydropower and others to diversify Member States’ economy;

   b. Improving sustainable energy infrastructure and ensuring secure, equitable distribution of energy;

   c. Promoting energy conservation to reduce wasteful practices in industries, households, public areas, and transportation systems;

   d. Encouraging partnerships between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government, and the private sector to increase eco-efficient industries that protect the environment while guaranteeing their international economic competitiveness;

7. **Recommends** the implementation of a national framework, which is similar to Trinidad and Tobago’s ‘Vision 2020’ initiative that seeks to "emphasize the extent of commitment required and the important roles that individuals, civil society, the private sector (local and foreign), and the government in the process of moving forward;"

8. **Emphasizes** the need for Member States to ensure adequate water supply and sanitation services for citizens especially those living in cities, and to identify and upgrade water supply systems of cities in LAC;

9. **Further recommends** Member States incorporate the UN Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA) program in its national framework in an effort to increase women’s involvement in the execution of SDGs by:

   a. Addressing women’s economic struggle to have access to electricity and proper fuel for household needs;

   b. Working alongside UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA) to receive technical and
statistical support to improve the lives of women in cities while increasing awareness of sustainable energy usage;

c. Stressing the need to increase women’s participation in the energy sector in keeping with SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

10. Encourages Member States to launch campaigns that promote the personal use of alternative energy vehicles to reduce energy consumption and contamination from the transport system in concordance with SDG 11.2 to promote sustainable for the transportation policies systems within cities:

a. Reduce subsidies on the fossil fuels and reduce tariffs on eco-friendly vehicles;

b. Invest in mass transport systems to mobilize people inside the cities in a more efficient way.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Acknowledging the Organization of American States’ General Assembly resolution A-52, The Protocol of San Salvador, which asserts the importance of basic human rights, and especially Article 11 regarding the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to basic public services,

Recognizing Article 1.3 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), which seeks to achieve international cooperation to solve international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems, and promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

Believing in the importance of organizations that promote international cooperation in research and development for environmental sustainability and human development, such as the International Institute for Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1, which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and especially SDG 6, which promotes availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, SDG 7, which aims to ensure access to clean energy, and SDG 11, which seeks the security and sustainability of cities and human settlements,

Taking note of GA resolution 64/292 and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 16/2, which calls upon Member States and international organizations to work towards providing potable water to everyone,

Stressing the post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a guideline for future actions and the Hyogo Framework for Action, which assists countries in identifying risk factors,

1. Requests the creation of the Regional Research Management Conference on Urban Development (RRMCD) that will:
   
a. Meet annually for a period of four days in a location that will rotate between Member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on a voluntary basis;

b. Collect and assemble knowledge and expertise on efficient sustainable practices regarding social and economic development in cities of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region;

c. Facilitate the seamless transfer of information and technology to better promote urban development between ECLAC Member States;

d. Invite members of civil society, local stakeholders, and members of the public and private sectors, as well as all the ECLAC Member States to strengthen the communication channel between aforementioned participants;

e. Provide a report on the outcome of the conference, funded by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);

f. Allow ECLAC Member States to elect its board;

g. Reaffirm the importance of the youth in promoting sustainable social development and creating alternative solutions to address new and emerging urban challenges by:
Engaging universities in information gathering and implementation of mutually shared solutions;

Inviting the youth to participate in a subsidiary conference of the RRMCUD, to be called RRMCUD – Youth, which will be held simultaneously with RRMCUD at partner university of Member States on a voluntary basis, funded by a RRMCUD budget, and led by a board selected by the university;

Invites the RRMCUD to create a regional research and development program for information gathering which will focus on solutions addressing common challenges affecting urban development in LAC, such as disaster risk reduction, rapid urbanization, sustainable technologies, and sanitation;

Requests Member States to create an action plan endorsing a water conservation program, in line with frameworks such as the National Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plan, during the assembly of RRMCUD;

Recommends Member States increase public awareness on proper sanitation procedures in cities by:

a. Implementing education programs in schools to educate children on proper hygiene habits;

b. Calling upon local authorities to provide citizens with pamphlets and other forms of advertising on proper sanitation procedures, taking into consideration the native language and mother tongue of the areas;

Highlights the necessity of regional natural disaster reduction in order to build resilient and flexible cities through sharing of information regarding data collecting systems and expertise on natural disasters simulations between Member States to minimize the loss of life and property; in addition, the information will:

a. Include documentation from civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local universities and other academic facilities regarding on-the-ground data;

b. Engage with existing assessment and monitoring systems to collect real-time data and coordinate with local authorities to have admission to the official recorded data.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declares that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,” “They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood,”

Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1, specifically Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 10.2, which states that “by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status,”

Further recalling SDG 11, Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable, which highlights the need to provide adequate and fair access to housing and transportation,

Concerned with the plight of marginalized groups in cities such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples,

Recognizing that no one country can successfully socially and economically develop its cities if it is not offered the freedom of international trade and marit ime navigation, as stated in GA resolution 61/11,

Emphasizing the problematic manner in which urban expansion occurs in LAC which can result in the absorption and reclassification of indigenous territories close to large cities as addressed on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) report on Guaranteeing Indigenous People's Rights in Latin America (LC/L.3893/Rev.1),

Fully supporting Article 10 of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which introduces the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as a vitally important international principle necessary to legally protect indigenous groups as it can ensure that tribal communities have the right to grant or withheld their content for projects affecting their land, resources, and people,

Commending the Member States that established or expressed support for prior-consultation laws, incorporating FPIC into their Constitutions and urban development processes, and thereby setting the standard for the domestic recognition and effective implementation of FPIC,

Taking note of the issue of indigenous peoples being relegated to informal settlements in cities which makes them more vulnerable to social and economic problems as well as to natural disasters, as addressed in LC/L/3893/Rev.1,

Fully aware that the empowerment of people with disabilities is a fundamental human rights issue as mentioned in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Deeply concerned that those most marginalized in urban society - women, children and the indigenous - are disproportionately burdened by the demonstrably negative effects of rapid urbanization, based on reports by World Vision, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII),

Believing in the utilization of media and technology as a platform for positive reinforcement due to the need for a holistic approach for the empowerment of the marginalized group,

Keenly aware that indigenous people are subject to a unique threat and individual tribal members may survive the extinction of the tribe when absorbed into cities even though well-developed individually-focused rights regimes fail to appreciate and defend the culturally specific relations that express a basic collective identity,
1. *Encourages* all Member States to engage in dialogues with its indigenous communities to learn about, and take into account all of the historical factors - from the Colonial period, to the armed conflicts of the 20th century - that make indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities more vulnerable to natural disasters in urban areas due to their mass displacement from the countryside into informal settlements in urban areas;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to move towards economic and social normalization and refrain from applying unduly burdensome impediments on another Member States’ ability to engage in international trade, so that all Member States have access to any appropriate resources necessary for the social and economic development of their cities;

3. *Recommends* that local governments in Member States take adequate steps to ensure accessibility for disabled persons in cities to:
   a. Facilitate transportation inside and between cities;
   b. Provide access to public buildings, green spaces and public spaces;
   c. Ensure all educational facilities are accessible to disabled people;
   d. Providing education that is sensitive to the unique needs that exist for disabled persons;

4. *Encourages* Member States that have yet to sign the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, to become a signatory and to sign the Optional Protocol;

5. *Suggests* Member States adopt principles modeled after the Venezuela's Council for People's Disabilities on a regional or international level, which emphasizes that citizen mobilization is a necessity to the advancement of programs that empower and support people with disabilities, in order to:
   a. Promote the participation of people with disabilities in the city and state affairs;
   b. Raise awareness for anti-discrimination initiatives directed toward disabled individuals;

6. *Recommends* the incorporation of principles that emphasize the value, agency and capabilities of human beings, collectively and individually, in workplaces and schools in cities and such areas to help prevent imbalances in equality in these types of environments, as well as culturally appropriate education that takes into account the unique religious, linguistic, and ethnic characteristics of cities and indigenous groups;

7. *Recognizes* the potential that modern media and technology has as an effective avenue for raising awareness in cities as well as beyond cultural barriers, including:
   a. The capitalization of mass media through television advertisements depicting influential personalities in both social and political spheres, which will showcase their support for empowerment of the marginalized group;
   b. The utilization of social media platforms to stimulate mass movement and attention, which will gain traction overtime and further push for the empowerment of marginalized groups as a social norm;
   c. Featuring a constant influx of media content to slowly change the perception and mentality of audiences around the globe when tackling the empowerment of said marginalized group, especially in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;
   d. Further increasing the access to technology for children in urban areas, including schools and libraries;

8. *Encourages* applying and enforcing realistic, safe building regulations and land use planning principles, including identifying safe land for low-income citizens and upgrading informal settlements, wherever feasible;
9. **Strongly recommends** Member States to integrate the FPIC principle into their respective domestic law and all urban expansion mechanisms in order to protect indigenous land by institutionalizing a tribal voice in domestic land governance regimes:

   a. With the inclusion of indigenous stakeholders in all FPIC processes;
   b. Guaranteeing full transparency among indigenous leaders and concerned interests;
   c. Urging Member States to ensure that all information is readily available to the public in all relevant local dialects;

10. **Promotes** the Concluding Observations in the reports CRDP/C/ECU/1 & CRDP/C/KOR/1 by the Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities concerning the inclusion of women with disabilities by promoting infrastructural and transportation accessibility.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming the crucial role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandated in General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1 and drawing attention to SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable,

Noting with deep concern the hardships foreign loans and bonds have brought upon the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, particularly as related to the Latin American Debt Crisis of 1982, which ruptured financial solvency in the region and led to a 40% decrease in individual income on average,

Reiterating the ongoing problems of economic and social urban development for many LAC Member States as addressed in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Emphasizing the successful model of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (REDD) and the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) of the World Bank Group (WBG), which highlight the efficiency of bilateral partnerships alongside multilateral initiatives and collaboration,

Further emphasizing the success of the REDD partnership between Guyana and Norway, under which Norway made an annual contribution of $50 million for five years so long as Guyana maintained levels of deforestation under 2%, thus mitigating climate change while empowering Guyana to promote infrastructural growth,

Recognizing the longstanding effects of displacement and urban externalities on indigenous peoples who inhabit regions near cities as observed in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,

Acknowledging the efforts made by the United Nations (UN) Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to promote multilateral development initiatives in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico and Panama by partnering with the national and local governments,

Recalling the implementation of the outcome of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to monitor and support implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,

Having adopted GA resolution 64/207, which focuses on sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction, and slum upgrading,

Aware of the rapid increase of informal settlements in the LAC region, with an estimate of 113 million people living in slums,

Deeply concerned by the unfavorable living conditions of the habitants of the informal settlements,

Acknowledging the Charter of the United Nations, which focuses on the international cooperation on solving problems of economic, social, and humanitarian character,

Recognizing that the LAC region is a high-level disaster risk area, based on the World Bank Natural Disaster Hotspots, which indicate that seven of the top 15 countries exposed to three or more natural disasters annually are located in the LAC region and that 15 of the top 60 countries exposed to two or more hazardous disasters are LAC countries,

Recalling GA resolutions 70/107 and 70/204, which seek to improve early warning information systems and strengthen international cooperation to prevent and mitigate the effects of disasters through the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,
Seeking to prevent disaster risk and focusing on long-term economic, social and environmental development as well as a human-centered preventive approach to multi-hazard and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction practices,

Considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030 as the first major voluntary agreement of the post-2015 development agenda that prioritizes targets to achieve and affirm shared responsibility with other stakeholders such as local government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in disaster risk reduction,

Further recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action that built, between 2005 and 2015, the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster, which created an outline for the response that Member States would need to mitigate the harms of disasters,

Keeping in mind the 682 (XXXV) Report agreed upon at the 35th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which considers the body’s key role in the facilitation and encouragement of dialogue among representatives of the region, thus promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to social development and to policies and regulatory frameworks for such actions, promoting in the same time the development of national policies on social development,

Deeply alarmed by the mortality rate as reported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) with an estimated 240,000 deaths between 2005 and 2012 from natural disasters in the LAC region,

1. **Supports** the integration of the SDGs into urban development strategies for all Member States according to their economic and infrastructural capacities;

2. **Calls upon** Member States to seek alternative and sustainable funding sources such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to minimize ECLAC Member States’ international debt dependency and financial immobility;

3. **Supports** the establishment of a new urban development initiative titled Ciudades Sin Barreras (Cities Without Barriers, CSB) which will:
   
   a. Develop a framework of general guidelines to combat the direct harms and externalities of informal settlements as a tool for Member States to develop and implement their own strategies;
   
   b. Assist local authorities to implement effective city planning to connect urban informal settlements to city centers;
   
   c. Support the development of integrated road networks and intermodal transport to efficiently link urban areas with informal settlements;
   
   d. Promote the economic attractiveness of informal settlements, redeveloping these areas and promoting cultural and artistic activities, such as land-art events, to be sustainable for a community-led reintegration process;
   
   e. Organize events and activities to enhance and promote social unity and inclusive city life;
   
   f. Encourage best practice sharing among local authorities, grassroots organizations, NGOs, and civil society, and their collection in an annual report to be published on the ECLAC official website;
   
   g. Be directed by the ECLAC Executive Secretary, who will:
      
      i. Direct the Program Planning and Management Division and the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division to support the implementation of this program;
      
      ii. Request information and technical support from the UN-Habitat Management System and Upgrading of Informal Settlement Program as well as the UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab;
h. Invite ECLAC Member States to implement and adapt the program to their national governmental frameworks;

i. Express its support for social housing programs;

4. **Strongly encourages** the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Partnership Committee (LACSDPC) within ECLAC, which will:

a. Establish voluntary Sponsor-Sponsee structured partnerships between ECLAC Member States who are prioritizing economic and social urban development (Sponsee) and other UN Member States who are willing to finance urban development (Sponsor);

b. Encourage Member States not able to financially participate as Sponsors to assist existing partnerships in intangible ways, such as but not limited to:

   i. Providing technical support with specific initiatives;
   
   ii. Consulting on efficient practices of infrastructure development;
   
   iii. Guiding, implementing, and sustaining urban utilities;
   
   iv. Financing technology and knowledge transfer expenses of the Sponsor to the Sponsee;

c. Meet annually for three days with all participating Member States to discuss the status of the committee, progress of current partnerships, and elect a new Speaker to handle leading the meeting as well as collaborate with the host Member State on the Summit planning and logistics for the following year;

d. Be led by a Speaker who shall be nominated by ECLAC;

e. First be held in Santiago de Chile in March 2017 at the ECLAC Headquarters with the succeeding LACSDPC Summit Speakers and hosting Member States being elected by means of the standard Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

f. Invite participating Member States of LACSDPC who do not hold membership with ECLAC to biennial ECLAC meetings in which a Summit Speaker and hosting Member State shall be chosen and may put forth their nomination, but act as a non-voting member in order to preserve the autonomy of ECLAC;

g. Provide intermediary guidance for and insight into the creation of the partnership between Member States to ensure that the Sponsee duties, Sponsor financial obligations, length of partnership, and measurements of fulfilled Sponsee duties shall be decided between the Sponsor and Sponsee and signed before the committee at the LACSDPC Summit;

h. Stipulate that each Sponsor may request a measurable action, initiative, or benchmark that does not bring harm or unnecessary strain upon the Sponsee;

i. Annually deliver compensation to the Sponsee once their duties in the partnership have been fulfilled;

j. Oversee, along with ECLAC, fund transfers between partnering Member States and store funds in the ECLAC financial account where they specific amounts owed to each country may be used alongside cooperation with CSB;

k. Specify that participating ECLAC Member States who have been rewarded contributions by fulfilling Sponsee duties may at their own discretion transfer funds to fellow ECLAC Member States but must be used in conjunction with CSB;

l. Review any conflict between the Sponsor and Sponsee concerning whether or not the Sponsee duties have been fulfilled, by considering the method of data gathering, and the claims of the Sponsor and
Sponsee on the specifics of the matter;

m. Support region-specific recommendations for the protection of indigenous people’s rights and presence in areas neighboring cities and urban environments;

n. Mandate that the Sponsee of a partnership who has received funds from the Sponsor shall provide research conducted by domestic urban development initiatives on the status of proposed plans’ effects on the presence of neighboring indigenous peoples;

5. **Recommends** the adoption of the Latin American & Caribbean Symposium on Urban Development and Leadership, a biennial three-day conference in conjunction with the Latin America and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which would:

   a. Bring together the ministries of development and public works of all ECLAC countries;

   b. Foster extensive discussion and collaboration between participating ministries of ECLAC Member States to share national solutions to social and economic urban development problems impeding growth and progress in other Member States;

   c. Facilitate discussion on standards of safety, sustainability, and disaster resilience in urban development among Member States to spur ingenuity and infrastructural innovation;

   d. Host its first symposium in Georgetown, Guyana, in October 2017;

   e. Host succeeding symposium based on the nomination from Member States at the end of each biennial meeting;

6. **Encourages** Member States to embrace social housing (government or institutional funded housing) to enable resettlement of socially deprived families from informal settlements in order to resettle households and eliminate informal settlements;

7. **Reaffirms** the results of “La mitad de una buena casa” from Alvaro Aravena in Chile, a project which consists of constructing basic housing infrastructure to provide an affordable, safe and sustainable accommodation for achieving desired developmental goals in this matter and recommends Member States adopt similar strategies;

8. **Invites** Latin American and Caribbean Member States to focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR) of enterprises of high magnitude and profitability;

9. **Recommends** enterprises grant a certain proportion of what they earn to social housing settlements at the discretion of the enterprise, in terms of deciding whether to bring it in the structure of the construction or in another area;

10. **Further recommends** that such enterprises bolster public knowledge of the “Vivienda de Protección Oficial” Spanish legal requirement as an inspiring measure to be adopted by enterprises;

11. **Strongly suggests** the use of proper and sustainable techniques in order to construct natural disaster resistant buildings to mitigate the damages brought upon urban environments by disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, tropical storms, hurricanes, and floods;

12. **Invites** local governments to enhance existing early warning systems like urban sirens and hazard monitoring systems such as the *Groupe d’études de Propositions pour la Prevention du Risqué Sismique en France* (GEPP) by:

   a. Promoting enterprises to provide free alarm services to citizens in order to warn communities of approaching extreme weather in exchange for tax breaks;
b. Asking governments to share their expertise on hazard monitoring and siren systems in order to continually advance the crucial technology;

13. Supports collaboration among Member States to encourage scientists to engage in work and study programs in ECLAC Member States in order to accelerate the exchange of knowledge and information;

14. Emphasizes the population’s evacuation system by providing local government the tools they need in order to design and implement these procedures, keeping in mind each territories’ uniqueness;

15. Requests Member States, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and civil society to also develop reconstruction and immediate response procedures to provide lasting comprehensive care by:
   a. Engaging with willing organizations or enterprises to clean disaster zones and collect raw materials for their industry in return for their help;
   b. Building permanent and eco-friendly living areas that will uphold a quality standard of living, sustainability, quintessential human dignity;

16. Calls upon Member States to initiate Disaster Risk Reduction Training Programs and expand existing national models for the benefit of all ECLAC Member States to engage in training;

17. Reiterates that education after a disaster should be continued as suggested in the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Education for Disaster Risk Reduction plan by:
   a. Implementing a mechanism for the distribution of teacher and administrator salaries;
   b. Distributing of earthquake preparedness manuals for teachers, children, school staff, and the Ministry of Education;
   c. Designing community and school emergency contingency plans;
   d. Developing implementation plans to strengthen vulnerable educational buildings;

18. Calls upon all Member States to collaborate among one another but also with NGOs such as ActionAid, Red Cross and Red Crescent in order to improve the efficacy of our actions;

19. Encourages ECLAC Member States to further collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as it coordinates risk reduction research and the implementation of natural disaster harm mitigation policies.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Viewing with appreciation the cooperation between Member States, United Nations (UN) agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the need for continued cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1,

Cognizant that progressive economic development and sustainable urban growth will lead to the increased quality of life for all citizens in cities and more complete achievement of the SDGs,

Recalling SDG 8 regarding decent work and economic growth to improve economic outlook and reduce poverty,

Further recalling the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) VI report on Employment Policies for Social Justice and a Fair Globalization, on the importance of minimizing the informal economy,

Affirming Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to education in order to empower every individual to reach their potential, promote informed decision making, and enable full participation in the economic and social development of their city,

Acknowledging the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Education for All (EFA), MDG 2 of achieving universal primary education, SDG 4 on quality education, and the UNESCO’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the Twenty-First Century, which support the idea that educational and vocational training programs will mitigate unemployment and informal employment in cities and encourage the economic and social development of urban regions,

Calling attention to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s (ECLAC) Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre Population Division 2010 census, which notes that 80% of the general population and 51% of the indigenous population of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) resides within urban settings,

Believing that women, children, young adults, and in particular the urban indigenous are the most vulnerable members of urban populations,

Noting the 2015 UNESCO report on the achievements and challenges of the EFA goals, which details that the world’s poorest children are four times more likely not to go to school than the world’s richest and five times more likely not to complete primary school,

Conscious of UNESCO’s Declaration of the Rights of the Child and Security Council resolution 2250, which stress the need for educational opportunities that allow individuals to realize their full potential in order to become actively engaged in the decision making processes of their cities,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which promotes gender equity and stresses women’s right to be free from discrimination, and especially Article 10 of CEDAW, which assures equal rights and promotes equal opportunities for women in the field of education,

Stressing the importance of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169) as the primary international agreement regarding the indigenous, which clearly affirms the right of indigenous peoples to education in their own culture and language,
Ensuring the conservation and sustainable recovery of natural resources to motivate environmentally responsible economic growth and renewable urban development, as described in the Global Sustainable Development Report 2015 edition,

Encouraging transparency to ensure accountability of Member States to properly allocate funds to develop education programs that prepare citizens to fully participate in the formal economy in accordance with the target goal of SDG 9 regarding the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, especially in urban areas,

Guided by the Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development 2014 publication, “A World That Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development,” which emphasizes the role of data in facilitating sustainable development,

1. **Encourages** continued cooperation between UN agencies such as the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and education-focused NGOs such as CARE in:
   a. Promoting data and information sharing to ensure implementation of substantive education/initial education and vocational training programs enabling people to participate in the formal economy;
   b. Contributing financially to assist in funding these programs;

2. **Supports** community-based social organizations to serve as a tool to increase awareness and better incorporate the ideas of marginalized groups in the development of social and economic policies;

3. **Urges** Member States to continue implementing vocational training programs that will:
   a. Target marginalized groups in urban areas, specifically indigenous peoples, women, and youth;
   b. Be accessible, practical, and culturally sensitive;
   c. Utilize a community-based teaching method in order to promote retention and a self-sufficient educational system;

4. **Emphasizes** the need for educational content designed to advance sustainable practices primarily in resource acquisition industries, specifically through:
   a. Continued collaboration between academic research institutions and vocational training programs to improve industrial processes as new information becomes available;
   b. Improved accessibility to apprenticeships, externships, internships, and jobs in urban settlements where these teaching methods are applicable;

5. **Draws attention to** the use of conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs in cities to promote gender equity and universal education as well as alleviate poverty through cooperation with local community service organization;

6. **Calls upon** Member States to develop a Regional Action Forum for Transparency (RAFT) to ensure accountability by:
   a. Establishing an online platform for Member States to share information and open dialogue on transparency and transparency-related issues including:
      i. Origin of funds;
      ii. Allocation of funds to social and economic programs, particularly in cities;
   b. Requesting UN agencies like the UNDP for funds in the development, setup, and maintenance of a server to host the online platform;
c. Supporting research and publications on transparency and transparency-related issues;

Recommends Member States to commit to the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to initiate capacity building and collective action through information sharing in working towards achieving economic and social development.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Affirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which protects the social and economic rights of all peoples, specifically minorities and indigenous peoples, as well as the right to education,

Believing that the promotion of the rights of all people will lead to a prosperous future and the social and economic development of cities,

Fully aware that crime arises out of social inequality, as shown by the World Bank in its 2002 study titled “Inequality and Violent Crime,”

Concerned that one out of five Latin Americans lives in chronic poverty, as stated in the World Bank’s report titled “Left Behind: Chronic Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean,”

Recalling the findings of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that 41 of the 50 most dangerous cities on the planet are in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region,

Reaffirming General Assembly (GA) resolution 46/152 particular to the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), which aims to increase the safety, security, and quality of life of all individuals while expanding the international knowledge base on crime prevention in cities thus improving the vitality, economic, and social development of cities,

Highlights GA resolution 29/3281, “Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,” which promotes the need to diversify domestic economies to member States’ changing position in global markets,

Further recalling GA resolution 70/174 and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2006/20, which declare that education is fundamental to prevent crime and corruption,

Observing GA resolution 70/1, which outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets for sustainable development that can only be achieved when each sustainable development goal is viewed in the context of the Sustainable Innovation Forum of 2015 and by incorporating cross-sector participants from business, government, finance, the United Nations (UN), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society actors,

Emphasizing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Focusing on the rights of indigenous peoples as outlined in the UDHR, and thereby promoting increased indigenous participation in social and economic development,

Draws attention to UN efforts to improve the role of women in society through the HeForShe campaign of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and SDG 5, which ensures women’s full participation in XYZ and equal opportunities for women,

Recognizing the success of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in bringing microfinance opportunities to the world’s 48 poorest nations through national systems in accordance with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) on the status and functioning of national institutions for the protections and promotion of human rights, as adopted by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 1992/54 and by GA resolution 48/134,

Celebrating the success of small-cash transfer programs throughout the LAC region, particularly in Belize, as highlighted by the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), particularly in the areas of
increasing school attendance and improving access to financial infrastructure, both of which are key to development in cities,

Appreciating that microfinance as an economic tool empowers women and has shown to be effective in many Latin American and Caribbean States, as evidenced by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) report on Reducing the Gender Dimensions of Poverty: Microfinance: Policies and Practices,

Seeing the success of UNCDF’s MicroStart program in increasing access to microfinance services and spurring developing economies towards greater social and economic development, as emphasized in the UNDP Microfinance Program Impact Assessment Review,

Deeply concerned by the lack of publicly available information from micro-financial institutions operating in LAC,

Guided by the policy recommendations created by UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and outlined in The Right to Education, Law and Policy Review Guidelines,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which seeks to fulfill the right to work through technical and vocational guidance and training programs,

1. Recommends that Member States adopt the World Bank’s operational techniques, and more specifically the six sub-components that aim to reduce and ultimately eliminate the crime in cities;

   a. Treat crime as the effect of an underlying systemic misconfiguration;

   b. Provide vocational and arts policies, entrepreneurship, and access to mental health services in order to ensure social cohesion and inclusion;

   c. Provide for the appropriate mental health care and rehabilitation policies which aim to reintroduce the prisoner to city life;

   d. Provide volunteer mentors through community service organizations to individuals in order to integrate prisoners back into society as contributive members;

2. Affirms the right to education and social inclusion for those living in cities - including those temporarily excluded from the daily functioning of society in penitentiary institutions - in order to mitigate against the negative consequences of crime for the social and economic development of cities, and requests that Member States should:

   a. Treat crime as the effect of an underlying systemic misconfiguration;

   b. Provide vocational and arts policies, entrepreneurship, and access to mental health services in order to ensure social cohesion and inclusion;

   c. Provide for the appropriate mental health care and rehabilitation policies which aim to reintroduce the prisoner to city life;

   d. Provide volunteer mentors through community service organizations to individuals in order to integrate prisoners back into society as contributive members;

3. Calls upon Member States to include other stakeholders in decision making concerning economic and social development in cities, particularly community leaders, in the areas of education, crime reduction, access to jobs and micro-financial assistance;

4. Requests that all voices be heard on development issues within the political setting by recognizing the place of indigenous people in administrative affairs in cities;

5. Encourages all Member States to invest in different education projects in urban areas, such as music, education, gardening, agriculture, etc. for the personal and professional formation to be acknowledged and included in job market as soon as they finish, and to be an active member within the economic and social system; modeled after the work done by the UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which promotes projects such as the System of Youth and Children’s Orchestras of Venezuela;

6. Encourages Member States to create an independent and fair education system within cities similar to Bolivia’s Ecominga Amazónica project that includes topics that will create well-rounded students, such as extracurricular education opportunities like sports, music, and outdoor opportunities like gardening by:

   a. Giving the opportunity to get a professional formation to ensure employment;
b. Influencing participation in the economy by developing workforce in cities;

c. Permitting other kinds of education than academic ones, such as concrete formation that will develop economic and social aspects in cities;

7. Recognizes the importance of continuing to improve the roles of women in and around cities in order to empower women to be important members of cities while respecting the cultural and religious values of each Member State;

8. Encourages Member States to agree with policies such as the HeForShe campaign and SDG 5, which aim to garner an increasingly positive attitude towards women in the development of social and economic progress;

9. Further encourages cooperation with the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to include gender awareness training to public service employees, local authorities, and all workers of the public sector in order to increase gender sensitivity to build capacity in gender analysis, design and planning for urban development;

10. Suggests institutional and legal reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources;

11. Further suggests the modification of conditional small-cash transfer policies on the local level mirror after Belize’s internationally acclaimed Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST) program by:

   a. Providing impoverished parents of young children with a stipend in exchange for keeping their children on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) vaccination schedule up to the age of four years;

   b. Providing impoverished parents of school-aged children with a stipend when their children receive good attendance records in school with a limit of six children per household;

   c. Providing impoverished pregnant mothers with a stipend for visiting their local health center after 14 weeks of pregnancy up to birth;

12. Calls upon national aid coordination bodies to foster increased cooperation and transparency between financial aid agencies and the local government by:

   a. Establishing a comprehensive development strategy at the national and state levels, and coordinating with private institutions to implement this strategy;

   b. Tracking each entity’s progress toward achieving the SDGs;

   c. Setting quantifiable standards to measure micro financial productivity;

13. Calls upon Member States to create a stable environment for national development by overseeing macro economy performance and behaving proactively within urban fiscal governance;

14. Encourages Member States to support urban legal infrastructure by:

   a. Upholding the rule of law;

   b. Providing access to civil courts for small claims;

   c. Enforcing regulations that do exist;

   d. Seeking to simplify inefficient regulations;

15. Suggests that micro-financial operations in cities should:
a. Be guided by a technical service provider (TSP) with a proven track record in producing sustainable microfinance;

b. Utilize performance based grant agreements in all cases, with micro financial institutions (MFIs) that do not meet the grant requirements being dropped from the government’s national strategy;

c. Prepare these agreements cooperatively between the government and a private financial services entity;

d. Allow these agreements to be approved by a steering committee with minority government representation;

e. Target women and traditionally disadvantaged groups;

16. Invites Member States to focus on job skill training for all individuals searching for city employment by suggesting job training to teach applicable technical skills such as electrical work and office management, which will be previously accorded with companies, particular those that are locally based or which work in the sustainable use of resources;

17. Emphasizes the importance of the inclusion of low profile criminals in job systems to promote social integration and full economic participation in urban congregations;

18. Supports policy endorsing jobs related to the sustainable use of natural resources in and around urban areas;

19. Encourages tertiary educational opportunities in job sectors that are predicted to experience sustainable economic growth in cities by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or an equivalent body in each Member State by incentivizing small entrepreneurs to provide vocational opportunities and apprenticeships to students in order to encourage careers in the trades and the development, perhaps through the promotion of salary-free internships;

20. Further encourages the registration of urban business through the Bureau of Labor or other equivalent bodies to ensure a smooth transition from informal to formal economies and thereby allow for proper oversight and management by state agencies;

21. Recommends the creation of jobs in cities related to the sustainable use of natural resources such as green energy engineering and ecological technology manufacturing.
ANNEX

Encourages all educational institutions to consider the needs of minorities and indigenous groups in urban contexts by:

a. Institutionalizing the use of indigenous dialects and cultures in educational systems;

b. Increasing the admissions of minorities;

c. Providing transportation services to aid minorities in attending such institutions;

d. Allowing minorities to learn in their native language, congruent with their beliefs and customs;

e. Providing subsidies to students attending schools and universities within cities in order to ensure adequate access to education.