



MISION PERMANENTE  
DEL ECUADOR ANTE LAS  
NACIONES UNIDAS

Presidency Pro Tempore



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

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**Statement of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations on behalf of the  
Community of Latin American and Caribbean States**

**Executive Board UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS  
Annual Session 2015  
(New York, 2-3 June 2015)**

**UNFPA Segment**

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Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and the Caribbean States (CELAC).
2. First of all, CELAC countries would like to begin by recognizing the efforts of UNFPA for the valuable documentation that have been presented to this session of the Executive Board.
3. CELAC countries would like to highlight their strong and continuing support for the overarching policy direction for the work of the UNFPA, as expressed in the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, which marked a critical moment for the United Nations development agenda. The broad mandate and the principles agreed in the Programme of Action and its follow up process remain of critical importance for the international community, which is why the General Assembly determined that the Program should continue to be implemented beyond 2014, as reflected in the Resolution 65/234.
4. In that regard, CELAC countries strongly support the mandate of the ICPD beyond 2014, as well as the inclusion of population issues in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We



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commend, in this regard, the references to population issues contained in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the recommendation to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. In the same line, we recognize the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as a key element for advancing the new development agenda that would lead to enhanced outcomes in all the other goals.

5. CELAC reiterates the importance to continue tackling both the unequal power relations between men and women and the gender stereotypes that impede sustainable development and discriminate against women and girls and integrating a gender perspective in order to address the broader context for the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

6. Young people account for a large segment of our populations and must be given adequate, high quality and comprehensive educational opportunities and training so that they can have the skills to find dignified and decent work. CELAC considers it essential to work for the promotion and participation of young people in education programmes at all levels, because it is through education that our countries will be able to build more inclusive and prosperous societies.
7. We welcome the outcome of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY +20) on May 2015 which raised awareness and inspired concrete actions to further advance youth issues and stressed the importance of accelerated implementation of and renewed commitment to this mechanism.



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Mr. President,

8. CELAC countries would like to reiterate that, as a region composed mostly by Middle-Income countries, the role of UNFPA in supporting the design of programmes aimed at overcoming their development challenges, while respecting national ownership of development priorities, is critical. In this regard, the full support of the UN system is critical in promoting improvements in public health services, making them more sensitive to age, gender, ethnic and cultural diversity.
  
9. CELAC Member States reiterate the importance of ensuring a continuing presence and activities of UNFPA in Latin America and the Caribbean, so it can support our countries in achieving these goals. We stress however our deep concern over the changes in national programs that could lead to the reduction of program activities in the countries of the region. It should be also in line with the need to advance in our efforts against inequality and structural gaps by, inter alia, taking into account the multidimensional nature of poverty, and in that regard, we reiterate the desire to continue promoting the establishment of a Comprehensive Action Plan of cooperation with middle-income countries within the framework of the United Nations and the UNFPA.

I thank you Mr. President.