

CALL FOR ACTION TO INTEGRATE **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INTO THE POST-2015**

Sustainable Development Agenda at the Regional Level
Latin America and Caribbean



Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos
Sexuales y Reproductivos, A.C.
REDLAC México

About Elige

Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos is a women's civil society organization made up of young men and women and was legally constituted in 1999. Since the beginning, its mission has been to "Contribute to youth empowerment by defending and promoting human rights (particularly sexual and reproductive rights) as a path to facilitate the exercise of full citizenship of the youth.

We work at a national and regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean and are part of *Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos* and *Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes*.

About Production Team

Authors: Nayeli Yoval, Mayra Zamaniego and Claudio Frausto

Editing and reviewing: Nayeli Yoval

Design: Storm. Diseño+Comunicación

About the Advocacy Brief

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Sustainable Development Agenda at the Regional Level Latin America and Caribbean

Introduction

It's been 15 years since the Millennium Declaration¹, in which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted to eradicate poverty, was signed. During the MDG Summit in September 2010, the Member States set forth the steps to promote the post-2015 development programme. In June 2012, during the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, the Member States approved the document entitled «The Future We Want»², which implemented the preparation process for the post-2015 development programme. This process included the creation of the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the High-Level Political Forum.

The report of the Secretary-General entitled «A life of dignity for all»³, based on a number of reports that were developed within the framework of the above process, proposes the adoption of consistent measures aimed at achieving the MDGs, and requires **a new and more comprehensive framework for sustainable development** taking into account the needs of the people and of the planet.

The Secretary-General submitted his report to the Member States in the special event entitled «Towards achieving the MDGs», on 25 September 2013. In the final document of the special event to monitor the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals⁴, the Member States renewed their engagement in achieving the established MDGs, and agreed to meet on a Heads of State and Government Summit to be held in September 2015, in order to adopt the new goals that will define the post-2015 development agenda.

Throughout 2015, Intergovernmental negotiations were held, and concluded, on 2 August 2015 with a consensus expressed in the document that will be adopted next September, at the Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda.

Within this framework, such document reiterates the importance of responding to young people's demands, in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Thus, firstly we provide a short overview of the situation of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Secondly, based on said situation, we analyze the content of the document «Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development», and

1 United Nations Organization. (2000). Millennium Declaration. 2015, United Nations Organization website: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

2 United Nations Organization. (2012). The Future We Want. 2015, United Nations Organization website: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

3 United Nations Organization. (2013). A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. 2015, United Nations Organization website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/A%20Life%20of%20Dignity%20for%20All.pdf>

4 United Nations Organization. (2014). Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. 2015, United Nations Organization website: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/6

highlight the issues that need to be strengthened when constructing the indicators, particularly in the goals and targets. Finally, we make a number of non-exhaustive recommendations aimed at helping the Development Agenda to improve the conditions of young people living in Latin America.

If this agenda is intended to leave no one behind, it is of the utmost importance that the indicators respond to the priorities of the youth that were not substantially included in the agenda.

Latin America and the Caribbean are characterized by the unequal distribution of resources and exercise of rights. Although it is not the poorest region in the world, it is the most unequal of all, which represents a major obstacle to the exercise of rights, current well-being, and future development of its societies and economies.

Today 68% of the population of the region is lower class, an increasing 30% is middle class, and 2% is upper class. Half of the population in the lower class lives in precarious situations, that is to say, they are not able to meet their basic needs, such as food.⁵

There are 165 million people living in poverty in Latin America, 69 million of which live in extreme poverty. The lack of access to health services, education, and employment contributes to inequality.⁶

Currently, young people represent a substantial part of the population in the region, the so-called “demographic bonus”.⁷ According to the data of the United Nations Department of Social and Financial Affairs, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean for 2015 is 634,387,000 inhabitants, 109,868,000 of which are 15 to 24 years old, making up for 17.3% of the population.

Therefore, young people represent an opportunity to face the core problems of the region. Incorporating the youth in the development processes is a key factor to advancing towards a more equal society; not investing in the youth means closing the door on development.

To delve into the context where Latin American and the Caribbean young people live, we will address some problems:

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Although significant progress in terms of legislation of sexual rights has been achieved in the region, the problems around this subject prevail due to lack of monitoring, which has subsequently led to law violations. Such violations, plus the limited access to contraceptives, particularly amongst young people, results in a high rate of pregnancy in adolescents, which is directly associated with low socioeconomic and educational level, as well as violence against women.

The rates of pregnant adolescents in Latin America are among the highest rates in the world, following Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, according to a World Bank study. According to said research, Latin America registered 72 births per 1,000 women between the ages of 15-19, in 2010. In contrast, there were 108 and 73 births in Africa and South Asia, respectively.⁸

“ Latin America and the Caribbean, the Most Unequal Region in the World ”

5 Latinobarómetro Corporation. (2013). 2013 Report. 2015, Latinobarómetro Study website: http://www.latinobarometro.org/documentos/LATBD_INFORME_LB_2013.pdf

6 Ibidem

7 Demographic Dividend: Period during demographic transition in which the proportion of working-age population (potentially productive) grows in relation to the potentially dependent-age population (ECLAC 2012)

8 World Bank (2012) Pregnancy in adolescence and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean: about early maternity, poverty and economic achievements. website: http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/12/06/000356161_20131206145519/Rendered/PDF/831670WP0SPANI0Box0382076B00PU BLICO.pdf

Most Latin American countries are among the world's first 50 countries with the highest rates of adolescent fertility. This rate has decreased in other regions. Between 1997 and 2010 this rate decreased 1,6% at globally, while in Latin America the decrease was of 1,25%.⁹

It is also alarming that, according to this year's UNAIDS estimates, 1.7 million people were living with HIV in Latin America in 2014, and nearly about 100,000 people living with HIV in Latin America are between the ages of 15-24, including 40,000 adolescent and young women.

It is of the utmost importance to ensure full recognition of sexual rights, and to provide young people with access to sexual and reproductive health services in order to prevent poverty circles from spreading under the unequal circumstances that exist in this region.

Education and Employment

Education and employment are key factors to emancipation, social inclusion and youth development. According to the International Labour Organization, over 40% of the total unemployed people in the region are young people. This problem is even worse for young women in the region, for whom the unemployment rate increased to 17.7% compared to 11.4% for young men.¹⁰

Although over the last decades, work integration for young people has improved, employment is often characterized by offering the worst circumstances, very low salaries, and a low level of affiliation to social protection systems. This issue has been acknowledged and adopted by the Social Protection Floor Initiative, as one of the nine joint initiatives of the United Nations to tackle the effects of the economic crisis.¹¹

“ The participation of young people is a key principle of youth development ”

Young people and the Post-2015 Agenda

The Post-2015 agenda suggests that the sustainable development goals should be focused on people and searching for a fair, equitable, and inclusive world. It also intends to pay attention to new generations and prevent discrimination under any circumstances. Furthermore, the involvement of young people in the design and the discussion of new development strategies are crucial to achieve more egalitarian societies.

The rights of young people should be the core of the Post-2015 Agenda. It is important to define the specific indicators among young people for topics such as health, education, employment, and participation. That will allow the promotion of progressive legal frameworks and programs, and the necessary investments to ensure a sustained development responding to young people's needs.

Additionally it is important to note that the UN 3rd Committee for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs has adopted a resolution on the policies and programs related to the youth in 2013 (A/RES/68/130). In said resolution, the Member States agreed to acknowledge the participation of young people as a key factor for development, and committed themselves to work to ensure the effective, structured

⁹ Ibidem

¹⁰ International Labour Office. (2013) Decent work and youth, International Labour Office website: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_235577.pdf

¹¹ International Labour Office. (2012). Social Protection Floors Recommendation. 2015, International Labour Office website: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R202

and sustainable participation of young people and youth organizations in the relevant decision-making processes.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On August 12, 2015, the Member States agreed upon the adoption of the final document of the post-2015 development agenda, “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”¹² during the United Nations Summit. This document is included in the global development agenda for the next 15 years, which will set the basis for the global articulation for sustainable development.

“*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” is divided into the following sections: a) Preface, b) Declaration, c) Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, d) Means of Implementation and Global Partnership, and e) Follow-up and review.

Preface

This section points out the areas and core ideas leading the development agenda towards 2030. The goals and targets were designed to generate actions that will lead to the improvement of the following areas, at a global level:

- a) Population
- b) Planet
- c) Prosperity
- d) Peace
- e) Partnership

This section also points out that the links and comprehensive nature of the goals will be the key to ensure the purpose of the agenda.

Declaration

It establishes the view of the world if the development agenda is fully achieved. It envisages the idea of a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, justice, and non-discrimination; respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity. It also talks about the importance of addressing inequities within and between countries. It considers essential including a gender perspective for the implementation of the Agenda, and calls for eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

Another relevant aspect of the Declaration is that it reaffirms the engagement in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as the follow up on their conferences, which in Latin America is key, as the outcome of the First Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development resulted in the Montevideo Consensus.¹³

¹² United Nations Organization. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development*. 2015, United Nations Organization website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf>

¹³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2013). *Montevideo consensus on population and development*. 2015, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean website: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21860/S20131039_en.pdf?sequence=4

It also establishes that “it is a framework that promotes commitment to human rights for everyone, without distinction of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political conviction or opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or any other status”.

Even though this section talks about the importance of the demographic bonus, young people are barely mentioned, particularly in relation to their participation in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the SDGs.

Additionally, it ensures universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual and reproductive health information and education, as well as to accelerate the pace in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Goals, Targets, and Indicators

The Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets. These goals are a comprehensive and indivisible group aimed at making the world free of hungry and poverty, protecting it from degradation, fostering peace through partnership among nations, and creating the appropriate conditions in which human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives.

The SDGs revolve around poverty, hungry, a healthy life for all age groups, education, gender equality, water, energy, employment, infrastructure, inequity within and between countries, sustainable cities and settlements, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, marine resources, sustainable use of ecosystems, peaceful and inclusive societies, and means of implementation of the agenda itself.

By establishing these goals the young people of our region have the opportunity to assert their rights, as they provide a number of tools that can help us resolve our regional issues.

Goals, targets, indicators, and priorities

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

SDG 3: Ensure a healthy life and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Programme of Action of the ICPD¹⁴ recognized the importance and urgency of providing young people with access to sexual health-related information and services ensuring the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights. Even though the PoA-ICPD¹⁵ was signed 20 years ago, young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are still an outstanding matter and should be considered by the development agenda. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are an essential component of the universal right to access the highest level possible of physical and mental health, as established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international instruments of human rights. Development cannot be conceived without recognizing and assuring sexual rights.

¹⁴ United Nations Organization. (1995). Report of the International Conference on Population and Development. 2015, United Nations Organization Sitio web: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/icpd_eng_2.pdf

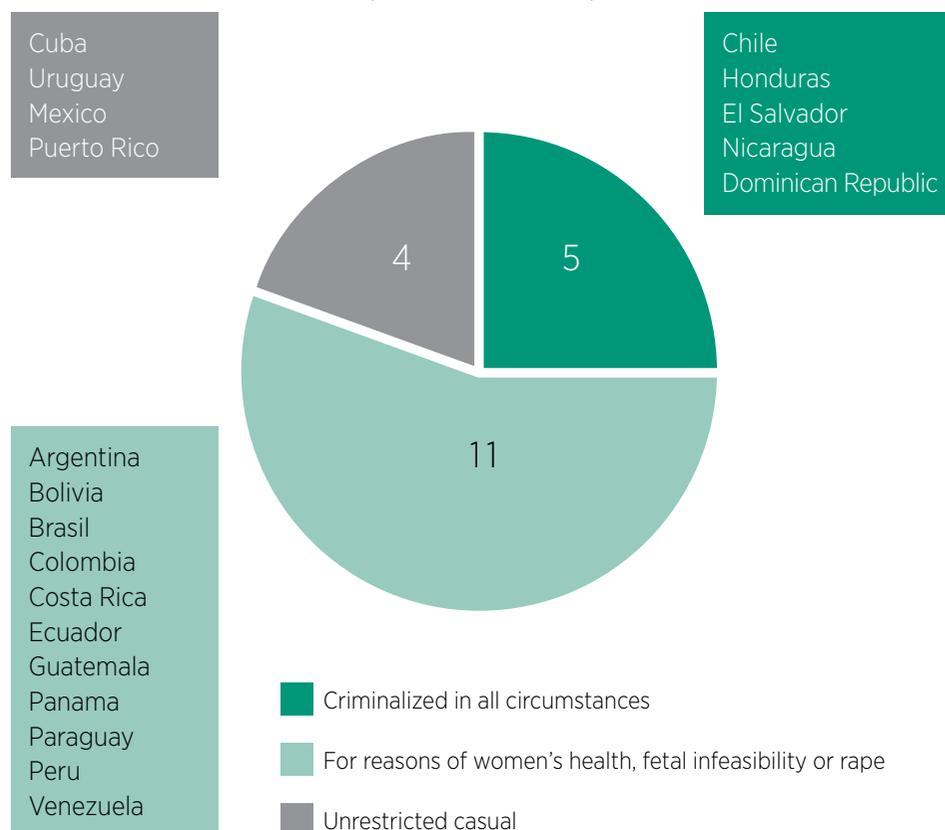
¹⁵ Ibidem

The unequal distribution of income, a typical characteristic of the region, is a major obstacle for the exercise of human rights and a platform of social exclusion, translated into a lack of opportunities and difficulty to access health services. This prevents young people from having timely access to modern contraceptive methods, leading to the high rates of pregnancy in adolescents in the region.

Seventy-two births out of 1000 are from women between the ages of 15-19.¹⁶ The age at which sexual life begins is another situation that has to be considered. In countries such as Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Nicaragua, the rate of young women having their first sexual intercourse at an age younger than 15 is 14%, 13.5%, and 10.9% respectively, which, in addition to the lack of contraceptive methods, results in a vulnerable situation for young women.¹⁷

Although maternal mortality in the region decreased about 40% from 1990 to 2013, an estimate of 9.300 women suffered maternal death, in 2013. This means that no country in the region achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) aimed at reducing 75% of maternal mortality by 2015.

LATIN AMERICA: LAW ON ABORTION AND VOLUNTARY INTERRUPTION OF PREGNANCY, 2012¹⁸ (Absolute numbers)



¹⁶ Op. Cit. World Bank (2012)

¹⁷ United States Agency for International Development. (2015). Demographic and Health Surveys. 2015, USAID Sitio web: <http://dhsprogram.com/>

¹⁸ ECLAC. (2012). Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean. 2012, de ECLAC Website: <http://bit.ly/1N63Thg>

Unsafe abortion and criminalization of abortion across the region are a serious problem for young women. There are five countries where abortion in all its forms is penalized, even when the woman's life is in danger.

There are data that stand out clearly the importance of addressing the issues related to the lack of sexual health services and information; however, only the Agenda Goal 3.7 makes reference to this issue: "By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes".

Sexual and reproductive health and rights have been a challenge for the Post-2015 process, particularly when it comes to addressing the population between the ages of 15-24 in a specific way. No goal is addressed to this age group, so the governments should urgently take into account the indicators enabling to address the issues related to the lack of guarantee for sexual rights.

For this purpose we recommend a number of indicators:

3.1 "By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births":

- Number of births among girls 15-19 years old given year
- Unsafe abortion rate among young women

3.3 "By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases":

- Percentage of young people living with HIV
- Percent of the population 15-24 receiving an HIV test and receiving the test results in the last 12 months
- Percentage of population aged 15-29 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

3.7 "By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes"

- Is there a national policy/strategy on sexuality education/life skills-based education?

The goals and indicators should be broadened in order to respond to sexual and reproductive aspirations. Therefore, adolescents and teenagers are to be provided with easy-to-access, sexual and reproductive health-care services.

Education

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Education is a pillar for the eradication of poverty and inequality. Therefore the SDG4 must be strengthened through its indicators, and the need to invest in the education should be strongly underscored. The general trend of public expenditure on education over

“ Incorporating the youth in the development processes is crucial to progress towards a more equitable society ”

the last decade was slightly positive in the region (going from about 4,5% to 5,2% of the average GDP), although without a relevant increase to prioritize education within the public expenditure.¹⁹

Over the last 20 years, the region has shown great progress regarding the proportion of young people completing any educational cycle. Primary education scenario is notable: the rate of young people between the ages of 15-19 completing this cycle went from 60% in 1990 to 94% in 2012. The scenario of secondary education for young people between the ages of 20-24 has improved significantly too, but there is still much to do in order to make this essential learning stage universal. The rate of young people completing the tertiary education remains a problem as it continues to be very low across the region. Even though the proportion of young people between the ages of 25-29 that completed this educational stage was duplicated over the last two decades, only 10% of young people were able to complete this cycle.²⁰

We stress the importance of implementing this goal throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Ensuring a quality education is fundamental for the region. Quality education means free, secular, affordable (at every level, including university) education that can be equally accessed by all men and women.

19 UNESCO (2013) The educational situation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards quality education for all by 2015. website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Santiago/images/SITIED-espanol.pdf>

20 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2014). Social panorama of Latin America. 2015, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean website: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/37627/S1420728_en.pdf?sequence=4

BOX 6: Commonly used “quantity” indicators

(These indicators are collected by UNESCO’s Institute for Statistics)

Primary completion rate

Children out of school, primary

Persistence to last grade of primary

Progression to secondary school

Literacy rate, youth

Public spending on education (% of GDP)

Public spending on education (% of government expenditure)

School enrolment (% gross)

Trained teachers in primary education

Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a great challenge

The implementation of international commitments and national laws in connection with the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) has been hampered by conservative governments, particularly in Central America. As a result, there is a lack of evidence-based information, and consequently young people are unable to make decisions in a safe informed manner. The high rates of pregnancy in adolescents or the prevalence of young people living with HIV or any other Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) reflect the precarious conditions of comprehensive sexuality education that has gone worse due to the structural conditions faced by young people.

Answers about Countries Legislation on sexual education and HIV prevention²¹

Country	The legislation regarding sexual education in schools is national?	The legislation regarding HIV prevention education in schools is national?	Is there specific legislation at state and/or province and/or district level regarding sexual education in schools?	Is there specific legislation at state and/or province and/or district level regarding HIV prevention at schools?	Does the legislation that exists with respect to sexual education and HIV prevention applies to all schools, including public schools?	Is the legislation specific about content that schools must offer students of all levels with regard to sexual education and HIV prevention?	Is the legislation explicit in relation to the minimum age to start sexual education and HIV prevention in schools?
Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brazil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Colombia	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominican Republic	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Mexico	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nicaragua	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

Based on the above, It is key that Goal 3.7 stating that “By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes” be translated into indicators that enable a significant progress.

Percentage of schools in which comprehensive sexuality education/life skills-based education is available

Gender equality, empowerment of all women and girls

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

According to the ILO²², 20% of young women aged 15-24 work in household chores restricting their favorable approaches to a future labor insertion, compared to only 2% of young men dedicated to these sorts of chores. This phenomenon is closely related to cultural patterns associated to gender inequality.

Equality may be only exercised through autonomy, that is to say, if decisions, abilities, and personal development do not depend on others.

Goal 5.4 “Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate” is an effort to raise the subject about women’s contribution and seeks to favor the empowerment of women. This goal, however, is merely rhetoric as it does not contribute to reduce inequality in a substantial manner.

²¹ DeMaria LM, Galárraga O, Campero L, Walker DM. (2009) “Educación sobre sexualidad y prevención del VIH: un diagnóstico para América Latina y el Caribe”. 2015, website: <http://www.scielosp.org/pdf/rpsp/v26n6/03.pdf>

²² Op. Cit. International Labour Office.(2013)

Employment

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Post-2015 Development agenda makes a great effort to focus on people's development, but this task is hard to accomplish if the optimal conditions to fully exercise Human Rights are not guaranteed. Employment is a cornerstone in this sense, particularly throughout youth, as it is a crucial element for emancipation, social inclusion, and human development. Despite the importance of this topic, there are only three goals that tackle youth employment explicitly:

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

In order to achieve these goals, the commitments assumed with the ILO to provide decent jobs must be implemented nationally, taking into consideration the following indicators:

- Number of young people disaggregated by age, gender, disabilities, and socio-economic level that have access to equal salary conditions
- Number of policies and programs promoting decent jobs for young people
- Is there any national policy describing the protection of young migrants' labor rights?

Means of Implementation (MOI)

The means of implementation, as well as the key players that will realize the Development Agenda have to be defined clearly. The agenda to be adopted this year talks about the importance of creating a World Alliance including the governments, private sector, civil society, and United Nations system.

A relevant issue is that the differences of the responsibilities and role that each of the players will play are not defined explicitly. In addition, it is important that this new World Alliance takes into consideration the measures necessary to fight inequality. It is important to establish regulatory and surveillance frameworks in relation to private investment and international trade.

At a national level, each country is responsible for providing the resources and creating the capacities suggested by the agenda implementation, as well as the essential role of national parliaments in the promulgation of laws and allocation of the budget required to fulfill the commitments assumed. However, the governments are not specified with the accountability mechanisms to assess the progress achieved in relation to the goals. In this sense, the most important aspect is probably the importance that the work performed by the national and regional bodies will have.

Other additional key elements within the means of implementation of the Agenda are the following:

- The recognition of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda²³ as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The autonomy of the different nations for the preparation of public policies intended to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development, in accordance with the international agreements.
- The recognition of the need of providing assistance and relieving the debt of the countries strongly indebted.
- The introduction of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism as established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, intended to make available to the countries the technology means required to meet the goals and targets.

Financing

Financing is a key factor to the health and rights of young people. Without the appropriate assignation of public resources, particularly to the most marginal sectors, the access to sexual and reproductive services is conditioned.

Financing is undoubtedly a weakness of this document, as how this agenda is to be implemented is not defined clearly. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, considered as a global framework to finance the post-2015 development, has been embraced in spite of the number of shortages contained.

- Even though Human Rights are clearly recognized, this recognition is not reflected in the agenda scope of action.
- It recognizes the need to empower women and girls and guarantees the full exercise of their human rights in order to achieve a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and a sustainable development, but the concrete actions to finance the actions contributing to this purpose are not defined.
- It recognizes that investing in children and young people is basic, but it is far from recognizing, for example, actions to finance education at tertiary levels beyond an increase in scholarships.
- It tackles the creation of jobs from a productive perspective but not as part of the human development of individuals. The broadest commitment in this sense is to implement a global strategy aimed at youth employment no later than 2020 and to apply the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- The topic regarding the resources provided to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services is not discussed.

As a conclusion, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is short of mechanisms to finance the social agenda and it strengthens the economic model that makes inequality grow, which not encouraging for the most unequal region of the world.

²³ Resolution A/69/313 The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015 website: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.82

If the general goal is sustainable development, an inclusive financing framework guaranteeing the resources that will enable the full development of individuals, particularly the youth, is basic.

Accountability (Follow-up and Review)

Even though the agenda has an implementation follow-up and review section, no regular accountability mechanisms are specified to follow up and monitor the progress of this ambitious agenda. Neither there are any participation mechanisms for the civil society, including young people, defined clearly. Nevertheless, it contemplates that the review process should be performed voluntarily and taking into consideration the capacities of the countries. Therefore, the construction process of indicators at a national level will be basic.

A worthy element among the few directives established to carry out the Agenda follow-up process is that collected data should be disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnic group, migratory status, disabilities, and geographic location. This is an essential element for constructing public policies at a national level to address specific needs of each sector of the population.

In contrast, although the follow up process is set out in three monitoring levels –national, regional, and global- the first two are invitations generate responses to the agenda implementation. At a global level, the High-Level Political Forum is described as the central organisation responsible for the surveillance process of the follow-up and monitoring network in which the General Assembly and the ECOSOC will be involved.

As a conclusion, the challenge is clear: to create accountability mechanisms considering the participation of the Civil Society, particularly young people, in order to measure the progress and identify the challenges of the Agenda.

Based on the Millennium Development Goals experience, the monitoring processes should be performed on a regular and exhaustive basis. Transforming our world through the Sustainable Development Goals will be possible only if we are able to measure the achievements of the agenda in a timely manner, but this may be attained only by enabling the full participation of young people.

Recommendations

The Post-2015 Agenda for Latin America should be an opportunity to leave no one behind, to make within 15 years a Latin America of equality and rights. We must bet for truly transformative actions to bring huge inequality gaps to an end. Thus the recommendations below should be observed:

1. The governments from around the globe but especially those from the region should immediately make an effort to understand poverty is not only the lack

of monetary resources but also reflects in the lack of access to land and basic social services such as health or education, and in precarious conditions of employment.

2. The regional governments should resume the review outcomes of the Cairo Programme of Action²⁴, particularly the Montevideo Consensus resulting from the First Meeting of the Conference on Population and Development²⁵

Urgent youth-related topics, goals, targets, and indicators:

3. The governments should construct indicators aimed at measuring the progress of key youth-related topics such as:
 - The progress made in the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education
 - Amendments to the laws penalizing abortion in order to protect the life and health of adolescent girls and young women and reduce the number of unsafe abortion
 - High rates of adolescent pregnancies, to prevent school dropout, unsafe abortion, and the subsequent adolescent pregnancy
 - The eradication of the fertility rate in young people aged under 15, usually linked to sexual violence
 - Training health-care providers on sexual and reproductive health and providing adolescent-friendly health services

Financing

1. Develop financing mechanisms and/or programs aimed at improving the capacities of the organizations that support the development of leadership and the full participation of young people at all decision-making levels
2. Strengthen the mobilization and assignation of national resources, particularly for sexual health and education, to guarantee the effective enforcement of the policies that contribute to enabling young people to fully exercise their rights
3. Ensure public resources for sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for adolescents. The costs of these services plus legal and cultural barriers lead to increased pregnancy, sexual transmitted infection, and HIV-prevalence rates
4. Remove commercial barriers to ensure universal access to medications and medical equipment, particularly for preventing and addressing HIV/AIDS
5. Ensure enough sustainable budget required for promoting innovative technologies that tackle the needs of young people, particularly regarding sexual health and education

²⁴ United Nations Population Fund. (2014). Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 website: http://issuu.com/shiralevine/docs/icpd_review_global_report_a_69_62_e.

²⁵ Op. Cit. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2013)

Means of Implementation and Accountability

1. Strengthen the capabilities, including enough sustainable budget for national statistical offices ensuring the collection of data disaggregated by income level, sex, age, race, ethnic group, migratory status, disabilities, and geographic location
2. Enhance the capacity of sexual and reproductive health service areas, including trained staff to advice and look after the adolescents in a confidential and friendly manner
3. Define the roles and responsibilities of the players, particularly the government and private sector, involved in the Agenda implementation
4. Establish transparent accountability mechanisms that are applied on a regular basis and ensure the effective participation of the civil society, particularly young people and youth organizations
5. Accountability should take into account the principles of participation, inclusion, accessibility, collaboration, and receptivity.

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