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(CIDI)



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PLAN OF ACTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 2022

**“Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation towards Resilient Reconstruction and
Sustainable Social Development in the Americas”**

(Approved during the fourth plenary session held on November 18, 2022
and subject to review by the Style Committee)

We, the Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on November 17 and 18, 2022, on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (REMDES) within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), endorse the following Plan of Action to implement key priorities and lines of action set out in the Inter-American Declaration on Social Development Priorities that we have adopted, in the Dominican Republic in 2022, until the next ministerial meeting scheduled for 2025, committing ourselves to continue strengthening social protection policies and programs as essential tools for the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities that characterize our region and that have deepened from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic; highlighting the instrumental role of hemispheric cooperation in promoting social development in the Americas.

1. BACKGROUND

Recognizing that multilateralism plays a key role in achieving common goals and facilitating joint solutions, particularly in the face of the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; the Ministers and High Authorities for Social Development of the OAS Member States renew our recognition for the need to promote synergies of work and cooperation with other organizations of the Inter-American system, through different instruments, including the resolution “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promotion of Resilience” [AG/RES. 2967 (LII-O/21)] and the [AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22)] adopted by the General Assembly in their respective regular sessions of 2021 and 2022,

and the Declaration of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Social Development, held in Guatemala, in 2019 (IV REMDES) (CIDI/REMDES/DEC.1/19).

At the IV REMDES, a Plan of Action called “Overcoming Multidimensional Poverty and Closing the Gaps in Social Equity: Towards an Inter-American Social Development Agenda” (CIDI/REMDES/doc.6/19 rev.3) was adopted for the first time at the Inter-American level in the field of social development. Also known as the “Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019”, created as a roadmap that defined concrete actions to favor the promotion of social development in the region, while urging Member States to participate actively in the established Working Groups and in the activities organized by them.

Given the context in which this process has been developed in the last two years, marked by the many impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in our countries, the implementation of the Plan of Action of Guatemala suffered certain delays that led to the schedule of activities reflected in the “Work Plan” to be set in April 2021 (CIDI/CIDES/RPA/doc.3/21 rev.1), starting the work of the Working Groups. The preparation of the aforementioned “Work Plan” required adjusting the activities defined in the “Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019”, adapting them to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. That is why this Plan of Action seeks to give continuity to the work started, resume those activities that, for the reasons mentioned, could not be carried out and include new activities in line with the actions agreed in the Declaration at the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development.

It should be noted that this document was created in a participatory manner, incorporating inputs provided by the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES), the TROIKA of the ministerial meeting and the members of the Working Groups with the support of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity/Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS as Technical Secretariat.

The Working Groups were initially created to implement the activities proposed in the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019, and will continue to debate and define the process for preparing the activities that will be reflected in the Schedule-“Work Plan” in close coordination with the authorities

of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES), and with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Process of Social Development.

2. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The proposed Plan of Action is based on the priorities for hemispheric action in the area of social development identified by the OAS Member States, and on the need to generate spaces for dynamic exchange and dialogue among the countries around these priorities.

This Plan of Action was prepared taking into account the “General Guidelines for Sectoral Ministerial Processes within the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)” (CIDI/doc.228/17) approved by the OAS General Assembly in 2017, and the “Rules of Procedure for the for CIDI Sectoral and Specialized Meetings of Ministers and/or High Level Authorities” (CIDI/doc.258/18) approved by the OAS General Assembly in 2018.

The implementation of the activities defined in this Plan of Action are based on the principles of collaboration and intersectoral coordination, and the need for strengthening cooperation with other international organizations in the field, as well by academia, the private sector, and organized civil society, enabling spaces to encourage the active participation of populations in vulnerable situations whose inclusion is essential to making comprehensive social development viable. The Working Groups will seek to guarantee the mainstreaming of a gender equality and equity approach in the development of their work plans, making visible the differential impacts and needs of groups historically marginalized, discriminated and/or in situations of vulnerability.

3. PURPOSE

The main purpose of this Plan of Action is to define the activities, in line with the Inter-American Declaration on Social Development Priorities: “Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation towards Resilient Reconstruction and Sustainable Social Development in the Americas” that the OAS Member States wish to carry out, within the next three years, until the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development. Moreover, the Working Groups created to implement the activities defined in this Plan of Action will be responsible for organizing cooperation and exchange

strategies, in accordance with the defined priorities and in coordination with other reference organizations and public, private, and academic actors of international cooperation.

4. GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION

To achieve the objectives and priority areas of action defined in this Plan, we will continue with the work of the three Working Groups through which we will follow-up on the previous Plan of Action, incorporating the guidelines described here, for which Member States are urged to actively join and participate.

The Working Groups are made up of representatives of the Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions of the OAS Member States who are in charge of: a) advising the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) in compliance with the priorities established in the Declaration; b) examine in greater depth the issues identified in this Plan of Action and c) facilitate the exchange of experiences and follow up on related hemispheric initiatives.

1. Working Group 1 (WG1): “Measurements of multidimensional poverty and the design of public policies intended to guarantee the well-being and the enjoyment of a good quality of life”.
2. Working Group 2 (WG2): “Social protection systems that lead to social development, through the reduction of poverty and inequality, and expand social protection with a comprehensive approach”.
3. Working Group 3 (WG3): “Partnerships, funding, and strengthening hemispheric cooperation and technical assistance to promote social development through the Inter-American Social Protection Network (RIPSO)”.

Working Group 1: The main objective of this group is to strengthen the institutional capacities of Member States in the implementation of multidimensional poverty measurements and their application in the design of national public policies, as well as their possible use in evaluating said

policies and the advancement of Member States in the 2030 Agenda. To achieve this goal, this Working Group will facilitate the following activities:

- Continue generating instances for the exchange of experience and knowledge on the methodologies to measure multidimensional poverty in the countries of the Americas and, in particular, the adaptations that have been implemented to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on multidimensional poverty in the region.
- Promote the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of multidimensional poverty measurements at an extra-regional level.
- Deepen the exchange of experiences on the measurements of multidimensional poverty at the subregional level, especially to learn about the experiences of the Caribbean countries and the advances in the analysis of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with a subregional approach.
- Continue strengthening “peer-to-peer” technical cooperation through cooperative exchanges between the teams that lead the design and implementation of multidimensional poverty measurements.
- Strengthen the systematization of regional information on the measurements of multidimensional poverty, through the preparation of compendiums, reports, publications, observatories, indicator systems, among others.
- Promote training opportunities to strengthen technical capacities around the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the future of social protection, emphasizing the new opportunities to build more inclusive protection systems that contribute to preventing and reducing poverty.

Working Group 2: The main objective of this group is to strengthen the capacities of OAS Member States in the implementation of nationally determined social protection systems with an approach based on the respect of human rights, on the principles of universality, solidarity, equality, nondiscrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and transparency, and equity, in pursuit of broad coverage, particularly for groups in situations of vulnerability, and promotion of impact evaluations as a tool for decision-making. In order to achieve this objective, this Working Group will facilitate the following activities:

- Continue to strengthen the technical capacities of officials of Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions through training opportunities such as the “Diploma in Social Protection in the Americas” in cooperation with academic institutions in Latin America and its English version with the University of the West Indies and other academic institutions in the Caribbean.
- Generate opportunities of dissemination and training for the “Regional Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Survivors of Trafficking of Persons in the Americas” (OAS-IOM).
- Promote initiatives such as the “Third Pan Amazonian Seminar on Social Protection” in coordination with the countries that share the Amazon to recognize the mechanisms of social action implemented in the Amazon region to promote integral well-being.
- Promote a “Discussion Table on Social Protection Systems of the Inter-American States” through the Week of Social Inclusion (October).
- Deepen high-level hemispheric dialogue through initiatives such as a High-Level Political Forum on Social Protection Systems (Virtual Modality) in which a Political Declaration could be adopted for the establishment of an Inter-American Agenda on Social Protection.
- Promote participatory gender analysis within Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions, in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women, CIM and UN WOMEN, among others.
- Promote the application of a disability lens within Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions to ensure that data collection, analysis, and policy recommendations take into consideration this particularly vulnerable group.
- Provide targeted technical training and strengthening of institutional capacities to recognize and increase the value of paid and unpaid care work and improve conditions in the care sector as part of the adoption of Comprehensive Care Systems in the region as a fundamental pillar of social protection through initiatives such as workshops, discussion forums and other appropriate spaces to raise awareness about the “Model Law of Care” (CIM-OAS) as a tool to advance towards Comprehensive Care Systems.
- Systematize international best practices on the most effective economic reactivation systems after the COVID-19 pandemic and their effect on social development in general, and social protection systems in particular.

Working Group 3: Partnerships, Financing, and Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation and Technical Assistance to Promote Social Development through the Inter-American Social Protection Network (RIPSO):

The main objective of this group is, within the framework of SDG 17, to promote dialogue, synergies and cooperation with other international, regional, and subregional organizations and mechanisms to strengthen technical cooperation on social development issues. To achieve this objective, the Working Group will facilitate the following activities:

- To develop, together with the new authorities of the RIPSO, a plan to guarantee the financial sustainability of the Network, and to continue encouraging the ministries of social development and equivalent institutions to make contributions to the Voluntary Fund, in accordance with national capacities.
- Hold a technical meeting to urge countries to join WG3 and agree on the plan to relaunch the RIPSO as a voluntary space for exchange and review of the main Social Protection Policies in the American States where public institutions, academia, and NGOs with expertise in the field participate.
- Relaunch the RIPSO website and, in accordance with available resources, keep it up to date.
- Develop an updated database of RIPSO contacts with the list of authorities of the Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions in the region and contact data at the technical level.
- Develop a database (available on the RIPSO website) in which issues/areas of public policy/programs etc. of supply and demand of technical cooperation by the ministries of social development are identified to promote the exchange of experiences between countries (horizontal and triangular cooperation).
- Publish on the website the methodology for “peer-to-peer” technical cooperation, the application process to facilitate cooperation between social development agencies of the countries of the region and all relevant information on cooperation exchanges, reports on these exchanges, among others.

- Create a space for virtual dialogue between the technical liaisons/focal points of the Ministries of Social Development or their equivalent to follow up on the commitments of REMDES.
- Promote the dissemination of information on the relevant topics and activities of the Network, through monthly newsletters.
- Deepen "peer-to-peer" technical cooperation among the region's Ministries of Social Development and equivalent institutions through regional cooperation initiatives such as the "Caribbean Bridge" program.

5. FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUPS (implementation means)

The Working Groups will be coordinated by the Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development who could carry out their functions directly or through representatives. The authorities of each Working Group will be a Chair and a Vice-Chair -High Authorities of Social Development-.

For the performance of their functions, the Working Groups will have the support of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity/Department of Social Inclusion as the Technical Secretariat for the organization of their meetings, as well as for the preparation of technical inputs and reports of activities and follow-up. To monitor the technical work of each working group, the corresponding authorities will designate officials from the relevant technical areas who will act as focal points for communications and the implementation of the activities defined in this plan.

With the prior authorization of the authorities of the Working Groups and following an expression of interest, the activities of the Working Groups may be open to international, regional, and subregional organizations, national institutions and to persons with renowned expertise in the matters to be examined, in order to promote cooperation, forge synergies, and supplement activities.

The Working Groups in coordination with the Technical Secretariat and the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) shall define a schedule of activities ("Work Plan") no later than three months after the Ministerial Meeting to comply with this Plan of Action.

6. FOLLOW-UP, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING

The Plan of Action will be led by the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the ministerial process of social development. The Chair of CIDES will report on the follow-up of the actions at the next ministerial meeting on social development.

7. FUNDING

The implementation of the activities proposed in this Plan of Action will depend upon the availability of the appropriate technical and financial resources. In order to guarantee the sustainability of the Working Groups, and the effective execution of their activities, a voluntary fund for social development was created in 2019 by resolution of the General Assembly to receive voluntary contributions from OAS Member States^{1/}, international and regional organizations, foundations and other public and private organizations interested in providing support.

We encourage Member States, permanent observers, and other donors to contribute to this fund, to the best of their ability, to ensure the financing of the initiatives described in this Plan necessary to achieve the commitments agreed upon in the Declaration adopted at the current meeting, to promote social development in the region, and to boost the recovery of our countries after the current crisis.

1. [AG/RES. 2939 \(XLIX-O/19\)](#) “Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development” approved by the OAS General Assembly during its forty-ninth regular session held in Medellín, Colombia, in June 2019 - operative paragraph 29.