

Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions with the UNGA Second Committee: “The Means of Implementation in Support of the post-2015 Development Agenda – Regional Perspectives.”

Introductory Remarks by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive- Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC):

Excellencies, Mr. Chairman, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi for chairing this dialogue and to thank my colleagues from the UN Regional Commissions, Ms. Khalaf, Mr. Hamdok, Mr. Vasilyev and Mr. Murata for their participation.

I am very pleased to be here and to moderate this dialogue on one of the aspects that is going to be, [as Ambassador Cardi has rightly mentioned], crucial to the success of the post-2015 development agenda: the means of implementation (MoI). We are at a crucial moment for the design and definition of the post-2015 development agenda. It is one that will require the best of our abilities in order to piece together all of the components of the post-2015 agenda to make it coherent, workable and effective. Along with the necessary political will, the means of implementation are the engine that will make the agenda move forward. Without these, the agenda, despite its ambition and transformative nature, will remain stagnant. **That is why this dialogue is so relevant and timely.**

Given the ambitious, transformative and universal nature of the post-2015 development agenda, a strengthened and renewed global partnership is indispensable and should serve as an effective channel for the means of implementation. Countries will have to tap into a broad range of sources including, public, private, national, international and innovative ones to secure the means of implementation for the achievement of the new agenda. While the scale of the resources needed is staggering, we believe that it is not prohibitive if the international community comes together to meet this challenge, including through regional cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

The UN Regional Commissions have provided a space for Member States to voice their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda and forge common positions through a series of broad and inclusive consultations at the sub-regional and regional levels. Participants in these consultations included representatives of Governments, civil society, the business community and academia. One of the common messages that arose across the regions was the fact that adequate means of implementation were an essential component of the new agenda. Member States recognized the need to improve their ability to mobilize domestic resources and to strengthen their tax structures, but also emphasized the role that ODA continues to play in the achievement of their development objectives. Member States also acknowledged the relevance of the regional dimension as a means of catalysing and facilitating the mobilization of resources, including through South-South cooperation, and of forging a stronger global partnership. Another common message was that poverty eradication remains a central goal, but the agenda needs to go beyond this approach and towards universality, while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The importance of

effectively tackling climate change was also highlighted. The latest Secretary-General's report on Regional Cooperation summarizes the results of these consultations.

The Regional Commissions also hosted regional outreach meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and, more recently, undertook regional consultations on a monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda, in which the regional space was also acknowledged as an adequate platform for monitoring the new agenda. The outcomes of all these consultations can be made available by the Regional Commissions New York Office.

Mr. Chair,

This dialogue is part of the continued commitment and engagement by the Regional Commissions in support of Member States as they move forward with the design and definition of the post-2015 development agenda. The scale of the resources required for the achievement of the agenda is enormous, and so is the effort that will be required by Member countries to mobilize and procure them. The Regional Commissions stand firmly by their side to support them in this effort. We hope that this dialogue will contribute to their debate in this regard.

Allow me now Mr. Chair to take off my hat as moderator and wear my hat as Executive Secretary of ECLAC to make my presentation.

Thank you.