

# EURO–LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## RESOLUTION:

### **Combating poverty as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

on the basis of the report by the Committee on Social Affairs, Youth and Children, Human Exchanges, Education and Culture

Co-rapporteurs: Silvia Salgado (Parlandino)  
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**Thursday, 22 September 2016 – Montevideo**

## **EUROLAT – Resolution of 22 September 2016 – Montevideo**

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### **Combating poverty as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,*

- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,
- having regard to the United Nations Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals report of July 2014,
- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2014,
- having regard to the report of 30 May 2013 of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, entitled ‘A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development’,
- having regard to the United Nations Human Rights Council’s ‘Final draft of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights’, submitted by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona,
- having regard to UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’,
- having regard to the resolution on agreed conclusions at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, entitled ‘Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development’, adopted by the United Nations in March 2016,
- having regard to the Fourth International Conference on Population and Development of the United Nations, adopted in Cairo in 1994, and the outcome of the review conferences: ‘Cairo+5’, ‘Cairo+10’, ‘Cairo+15’ and ‘Cairo+20’,
- having regard to the United Nations’ Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the findings of the subsequent reviews thereto, in ‘Beijing+5’, ‘Beijing+10’, ‘Beijing+15’ and ‘Beijing+20’,
- having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly,
- having regard to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1989,
- having regard to the 21st UN Conference on Climate Change, held in Paris in December 2015,

- having regard to the Santiago Declaration of the 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held on 27 and 28 January 2013 in Chile,
- having regard to the Brussels Declaration, which was adopted at the Second Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the EU and CELAC, held on 10 and 11 June 2015,
- having regard to the European Commission communication of 5 February 2015 entitled ‘A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015’,
- having regard to the European Commission communication of 2 June 2014 entitled ‘A decent life for all: from vision to collective action’ (COM(2014)0335),
- having regard to the European Commission communication of 31 October 2011 entitled ‘Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change’(COM(2011)637),
- having regard to the European Commission communication of 21 April 2010 entitled ‘A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals’ (COM(2010)0159),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 3 March 2010 entitled ‘Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 13 June 2013 on the Millennium Development Goals – defining the post-2015 framework,
- having regard to the European Parliament report of 25 November 2014 on the EU and the global development framework after 2015,
- having regard to the Multiannual Indicative Regional Programme for Latin America,
- having regard to the Political Declaration of Belén, Costa Rica, of the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 January 2015,
- having regard to the Political Declaration of Quito, adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State of CELAC on 27 January 2016,
- having regard to the Special Declaration on the Post-2015 development agenda of the II Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CELAC, held on 28 and 29 January 2014 in Cuba,
- having regard to the Montevideo Consensus, adopted in August 2013 in Montevideo, Uruguay, in the framework of the first Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),

A. whereas the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the

first goal to ‘eradicate extreme poverty and hunger’, was one of the most successful initiatives taken by the international community in the past 50 years, as it raised awareness of the need to reduce poverty, established a common global agenda with specific goals, identified poverty as one the most urgent challenges requiring action on a global scale, and obliged international institutions and national governments to evidence their contribution towards these goals and demonstrate their accountability in eradicating poverty;

B. whereas the first Sustainable Development Goal in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a document that embodies our countries’ ideal of achieving a fairer, more equal and more peaceful world, is to ‘end poverty in all its forms everywhere’, including by adopting broad national social protection systems, guaranteeing rights to economic resources and access to basic services, strengthening the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, mobilising resources from different sources, including international cooperation sources, and creating sound policy frameworks that are gender-sensitive and designed to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication measures;

C. whereas poverty could be eradicated, among other means, through the adoption of a human-rights centric approach, recognising poverty as a human-rights concern and as a cause and consequence of human-rights violations;

D. whereas, according to the UN Special Rapporteur, poverty is a phenomenon entailing more than simply the experience of living with a low income, and it implies a deeper void of development and a prevalence of social exclusion across communities, and whereas the future poverty eradication strategy must therefore be centred on redressing inequalities in order to establish and promote long-term sustainable development;

E. whereas poverty is tackled through a policy designed to fulfil peoples’ aspirations and fair demands, and specifically their demand for the right to a job with rights and a fair salary, and through the promotion of social policies that value the right to health, education, culture, sport, social security and a decent life;

F. whereas considerable progress has been made towards reducing extreme poverty on a global scale: by 2010, five years earlier than foreseen, the number of people living in extreme poverty in developing regions had been halved, from 47% in 1990 to 22% in 2010;

G. whereas the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interconnected, and it is recommended that those concepts should be incorporated into all poverty eradication policies and programmes; whereas steps need to be taken to guarantee that everyone has the right to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development; whereas the same attention and urgent consideration should be given to promoting, protecting and fully achieving civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

H. whereas 1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty, and whereas these 1.2 billion people consume only 1% of all goods and services worldwide, while the richest billion consume 72%;

I. whereas women and girls are disproportionately represented amongst the poor, accounting for around 70%, and thus are more often victims of violence and multiple discrimination, (in their access to employment, working conditions and wages, for example) exclusion and material deprivation; whereas poor girls are 2.5 times more likely to marry during childhood than those in the richest quintile; and whereas women and girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including human trafficking, and those that suffer from sexual violence have fewer opportunities to flee violent relationships owing to their lack of income and resources;

J. whereas additional efforts need to be made to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, despite the important results achieved in the past decades, when malnutrition or under-nutrition fell from 23.2% in 1990 to 14.9% in 2012;

K. whereas the downturn in economic growth has hampered progress on the second objective, namely to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, impacting chiefly on young people and women; whereas, in the midst of the economic crisis, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), more than 200 million workers were unemployed in 2012, and poverty is affecting more and more people, even among those who manage to keep their jobs;

L. whereas, as a result of the Rio+20 summit aimed at evaluating the state of play in progress towards the MDGs, it was considered necessary to set new targets, building upon the progress made to date in order to better link climate change and environmental protection as a whole to sustainable production and to reinforce the integration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development;

M. whereas the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out 17 goals, including ending poverty, eradicating hunger, providing access to clean water and sanitation and reducing inequalities, among others;

N. whereas adequate food is essential for health, physical and intellectual development, and whereas people living in poverty have often limited access to adequate and affordable food, or to the means to produce or acquire such food;

O. whereas access for all children, adolescents, young people and adults to public, free and high quality education and high quality training has to be an essential part of poverty eradication strategies, and an effective tool to break inter-generational poverty cycles and considerably reduce inequality;

P. whereas the creation of new, decent and good-quality jobs, with full respect for workers' rights, the associated collective agreements and the international social and labour standards, is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities; whereas the private sector and, in particular, SMEs being the major job generators, their potential should be duly taken into account by the State in the design and implementation of strategies to fight poverty, while also making sure that workers' rights are not reduced;

Q. whereas the mobilisation of domestic resources plays an important role in fighting poverty and reducing inequalities;

R. whereas climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters contribute to amplifying existing vulnerabilities, with an extremely negative impact on the fight against poverty, especially in countries and regions lacking the capacities to prevent and adapt to these phenomena;

S. whereas sustainable development aid and cooperation are still powerful tools in fighting poverty, and whereas any development aid for that purpose should be based on a human-rights approach, with the guiding principles of equality and gender equality, solidarity, mutual respect and non-discrimination;

T. whereas in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, extreme poverty has been halved in the last 10 years, enabling 56 million people to escape extreme poverty; whereas, nevertheless, levels of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean are still very high, and over a third of the population – some 200 million people – remain vulnerable as they transition from extreme poverty to prosperity, and are at high risk of falling back below the poverty line;

U. whereas, in the Santiago Declaration of the 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held on 27 and 28 January 2013 in Chile, the countries in the region reaffirmed their commitment to achieving internationally agreed goals, including the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals being defined subsequent to the Rio+20 summit, and stated the importance of the post-2015 development agenda having voluntary, universal, clear and quantifiable objectives able to be adapted to the distinct national realities, with a view to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development;

V. whereas, in the Special Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Cuba on 28 and 29 January 2014, the countries in the region emphasised the urgent need for the new Agenda to provide solutions to the structural problems faced by developing countries and to eliminate the existing gaps at international and regional levels and within their societies, in order to help countries attain the fullest well-being possible for all their populations and guarantee them the exercise of their human rights, particularly the right to development;

W. whereas in the political declaration adopted at the 3rd CELAC Summit on 28-29 January 2015 in Belén, Costa Rica, the LAC countries reaffirmed their strong determination to reformulate the fight against extreme poverty, hunger and inequality in an multidimensional way, by directly tackling their causes, as a precondition to achieving sustainable development in the region;

X. whereas the Latin American countries and the EU have developed strong political ties over recent years, and the EU is the LAC region's primary donor of development cooperation, its first foreign investor and its third trade partner;

Y. whereas, after 20 years of successful implementation of a range of cooperation programmes under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), most of the Latin American countries are now categorised by the World Bank as middle-income countries, and thus new bilateral and bi-regional programmes, other than the DCI, need to be designed and implemented in order to take into account the new political and economic circumstances in

both regions;

Z. whereas the EU recently launched a new regional cooperation package for the LAC countries for the period 2014-2020, with an allocation of EUR 925 million over seven years, dedicated to four priority areas, namely: the security-development nexus; good governance, accountability and social equity; inclusive and sustainable growth for human development; environmental sustainability and climate change; and higher education;

AA. whereas the EU has allocated EUR 40.35 million for the same period to the EUROsociAL programme, which aims to reduce poverty, inequalities and social exclusion, and to boost trade and investment with the ultimate objective of reinforcing social and territorial cohesion;

AB. whereas, through ALFA III and Erasmus Mundus Action 2, the EU has set up mobility programmes for students and teachers, while ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups and less developed regions, and has implemented projects aimed at fostering academic cooperation between European and Latin American institutions,

AC. whereas in 2010, in order to strengthen relations with the LAC region, while taking into account the degree of economic and social development of Latin American and Caribbean countries, the EU launched a new instrument, the Latin American Investment Facility, aimed at promoting the development of the private sector and investments in public infrastructure projects, such as transport, energy and the environment, by providing support to financial institutions in the partner countries;

AD. whereas trade is recognised as a key factor for inclusive growth and sustainable development, and thus as an important means of contributing to the eradication of poverty, and therefore the EU has enhanced the integration of sustainable development into its trade policy by the systematic inclusion of sustainable development provisions, including labour and environmental aspects, in all its trade agreements with third countries;

AE. whereas, in the area of trade, the EU and LAC countries have implemented unilateral instruments intended to boost sustainable development in vulnerable economies through unilateral trade concessions, in particular the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and GSP+;

AF. whereas 24% of the entire EU population (120 million people), including 27% of all children in Europe, are at risk of poverty or social exclusion; whereas 9% of Europeans live in severe material deprivation and 17% of Europeans live on less than 60% of their country's average household income; and whereas this situation is the result of austerity policies pursued by the governments of a number of Member States;

AG. whereas 12 million more women than men are living in poverty in the EU; whereas women have lower salaries, lower pensions and longer working days, are more vulnerable to job insecurity, and face discrimination in the workplace and a paucity of maternity support; and whereas all those forms of discrimination cause the poverty that they experience;

AH. whereas the fight against poverty and social exclusion is at the heart of the Europe

2020 Strategy, with the European Platform against poverty and social exclusion being one of the flagship initiatives providing the basis for a joint commitment among national governments, EU institutions and key stakeholders such as NGOs, social partners, businesses, social economy actors and academic organisations;

1. Welcomes the results achieved in reducing extreme poverty globally but points out that further efforts need to be made in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by creating a strong interconnection between poverty eradication and sustainable development, with the aim of reducing inequalities within and between countries;

2. Reiterates that poverty must be treated as a multidimensional problem, which is not limited only to low incomes but also includes a strong social dimension, and that it should therefore be considered, and progress should be measured, through indicators of well-being and human development;

3. Considers that all action taken with the aim of fighting the roots of poverty, social exclusion and inequalities must be based on a human-rights approach, without discrimination on any ground, with special attention to be paid to the rights of women and girls, and the elderly, recognising the links between achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and the need to guarantee a decent quality of life for women and girls in all aspects of, and throughout, their lives, as well as to the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular migrants, children and adolescents, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, minorities, indigenous populations and people of African descent, and people with disabilities;

4. Calls for the eradication of extreme material, social and spiritual poverty, in the context of enabling human beings to fully realise themselves; believes that this involves providing universal basic services for a population and sufficient income so that people can develop fully;

5. Calls on governments to step up the fight against corruption and impunity, guarantee equal access to an independent and impartial judicial system, and promote full respect for the balance of power – all essential elements in strengthening democracy, governance and the rule of law and achieving sustainable development; reaffirms that, for poverty to be tackled comprehensively, democracy, the rule of law and all human rights, including the right to sustainable development which places the individual at the heart of public policies, while always in alignment with and with respect for mother earth and the balance of the ecosystem, need to be respected fully, recognising the importance of encouraging all members of society to participate fully, and in diverse ways, in civic life;

6. Highlights the strong interconnection between, on the one hand, good governance, sustainable use of resources and development growth as well as the fair and equitable redistribution of resources and, on the other, the reduction of inequalities; considers that sustainable development is possible only if equal access is guaranteed and all groups, with greater emphasis on vulnerable sectors, are taken into account;

7. Points out that governments have the primary responsibility for designing and implementing sustainable economic policies and also for the mobilisation and efficient,



sustainable use of public resources, particularly those coming from the sustainable and reasonable exploitation of natural resources, the wealth of which should be used to serve the people and to further the development of the countries in question; considers that public-private partnerships can play an important role in the mobilisation of additional funds for development, promoting the sharing of expertise and knowledge among themselves within a solid framework of accountability and of social responsibility understood as social stocktaking which will ensure wealth redistribution, contributing to the fulfilment of the social agenda of their governments' national development plans;

8. Stresses the crucial role played by civil society in the economic and social development of the countries; pledges, therefore, a greater inclusion of all groups in the decision-making process, with particular regard to incorporating groups vulnerable to falling below the poverty line, in order to make such groups active contributors to inclusive growth;

9. Underscores the need to guarantee universal access to public, free and high-quality education, with particular attention to be paid to people with special educational needs, migrants, indigenous peoples, people of African descent and people with disabilities, and to adopt strategies for schools to combat social inequalities, as a tool to close the knowledge gap and promote sustainable development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

10. Highlights, with a view to ensuring sustainable development, the need for qualified workers; to this end, encourages governments to put in place training and educational programmes for all age groups, targeting in particular vulnerable groups, those suffering social exclusion, and other persons exposed to the risk of poverty;

11. Urges governments to take all necessary measures to promote the creation of decent and stable jobs, recognising that insecure employment contracts weaken the labour market and increase the risk of poverty for the most vulnerable groups; calls specifically for the adoption of mechanisms to prevent the emergence and perpetuation of the phenomenon of workers with no job security and limited resources, the aim being to ensure that employed people do not get trapped in poverty;

12. Calls on governments to create public policies and mechanisms to foster inclusion, with the aim of providing stable and decent jobs for young professionals;

13. Calls on governments to guarantee equal access to universal, public, free and high-quality healthcare as a precondition for ending poverty and achieving sustainable development, placing particular emphasis on the prevention and eradication of discrimination on any ground and the removal of obstacles to healthcare access;

14. Underlines the fact that governments have an obligation to ensure that women enjoy equal political, social and economic rights, including the legal right to own and administer private property, and have genuinely equal access to economic opportunities including employment and entrepreneurship, to public services, including health, sexual health and reproductive services, and to education and social security benefits; considers, moreover, that States should develop mechanisms to guarantee that women can be involved in the decision-making process in a way that strengthens their role in society;

15. Recognises the direct contribution of family and small-scale farming, which takes into account traditional use of land and agricultural methods, to food security, the development of local economies and sustainable growth and to diversity in the variety of agricultural produce; stresses, in particular, the role of small-scale farming as a tool to eradicate hunger, 'hidden hunger' and malnutrition;
16. Underscores the importance of putting in place integrated water management systems in order to guarantee equal and universal access to drinking water, sanitation and adequate waste water treatment systems, with a particular focus on countries and regions threatened by droughts; urges governments to take all necessary measures to prevent water pollution by hazardous chemicals or other contaminants which have an impact on the environment and human health; calls for water and access to water, as an inalienable right which is fundamental to human survival, to stay in the public domain;
17. Stresses the role played by sport, physical exercise and recreation in fighting poverty and inequalities, and in promoting inclusion and social integration mechanisms within countries; invites governments to create more sport opportunities, especially for children and young people;
18. Underlines the fact that, in recent years, the LAC countries have made great progress, both economically and socially, and have thus contributed to political and economic shifts on a global scale; notes that although Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced rapid economic growth they still face important challenges in terms of inequalities within their societies; considers, therefore, that future bi-regional cooperation must be strongly focused on a coherent policy of sustainable development;
19. Stresses the role that culture plays in combating poverty, given that cultural access, creation and fulfilment contribute to people's emancipation and development;
20. Underscores the importance of States in the region promoting public policies and regulatory frameworks aimed at mitigating social inequalities and biases, and at establishing strategies and programmes through which a *fair and equitable* redistribution of wealth among the population can be guaranteed and social investment increased, both of these being necessary for the poverty levels characteristic of Latin America and the Caribbean to fall;
21. Emphasises that climate change, natural disasters and the degradation of the environment are key challenges for humanity, are among the underlying causes of poverty and hunger, and are a factor that undermines efforts to achieve the sustainable development of our countries and regions; in this regard, strongly recommends stepping up bi-regional cooperation in the area of prevention, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, through bi-regional cooperation programmes; points out that both regions must also reinforce the synergies between, and coordination of, common positions in multilateral forums in order to give a global response to these challenges;
22. Draws attention to the rise of emerging economies which have become the main drivers of global economic growth; notes that, for the first time in history, developing countries as a whole account for more than half of world trade, which has contributed significantly to lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty;

23. Stresses the crucial role played by the private sector in stimulating economic growth, in wealth creation and in reducing levels of poverty through the creation of new opportunities for decent and stable employment; welcomes accordingly the initiatives to foster cooperation between small and medium-sized companies in EU and LAC countries; points out, in this regard, that the activities of the private sector must be carried out in a transparent and predictable legal environment with full respect for national and international social and labour standards;

24. Considers that the role of the public sector is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whereas the private sector is the engine of job creation and economic growth in all market economies, generating 90% of jobs and income in developing countries, and whereas the private sector accounts for 84% of GDP in developing countries, according to the United Nations, and has the capacity to provide a sustainable base for domestic resource mobilisation, which leads to less aid dependency, as long as it is properly regulated, conforms with human rights principles and environmental standards and is linked to concrete long-term improvements in the domestic economy, sustainable development and inequality reduction;

25. Considers that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs), which form the backbone of all market economies, face much heavier regulatory burdens in developing countries than within the EU, and most of them operate in the informal economy, which is prey to volatility and where they are denied legal protection, labour rights and access to finance; notes that, according to the World Bank's 'Doing Business 2014' report, the poorest countries are, in fact, the ones subjected to the heaviest regulatory burdens;

26. Emphasises that trade can be an important agent of development and a useful tool in fighting poverty, as it enables countries to integrate into regional and global value chains, diversify their production and maximise the associated economic and social benefits; calls therefore on the EU and the LAC countries to work on the realisation of a global EU-CELAC trading area aimed at promoting sustainable development on the basis of full respect for human rights and social and labour standards, and taking into account all relevant environmental considerations;

27. Invites governments to explore science, technology and innovation as tools to promote sustainable and inclusive development by aiding citizens in escaping from poverty, establishing their independence and improving their quality of life; and to generate quality employment opportunities, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns, reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and promote the efficient use of rare resources; considers that technology transfer and cooperation in the field of science, innovation and technology, conducted within a transparent framework with active participation by civil society, should be key elements in future EU-LAC bilateral and bi-regional cooperation programmes;

28. Calls on the EU and the LAC countries to share science, skills and technology in an effort for countries to find a way out of poverty;

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29. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, and to the parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the Andean Parliament and the Mercosur Parliament, the Secretariat of the Andean Community, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Mercosur, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System and the Secretaries-General of the Organisation of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the United Nations.