

50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Statement by ECLAC on
Changing population age structures and sustainable development

(Mr. Paulo Saad, Chief, CELADE-Population Division)

The Latin America and Caribbean region is currently in the midst of a demographic transition which will lead to a dramatic shift in the age structure of the population, with sharp declines in economic activities are strongly linked to their stage in the life cycle, changes in population age structure have an important impact on economic development.

opportunities and challenges brought by the demographic transition in order to advance towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The underlying assumption is that the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is strongly bound to anticipating and planning for the effects of the demographic transition that will unfold during the period from 2015 to 2030.

An important feature of the project is to properly incorporate the gender dimension in the analysis of the impact of population changes on economic and social development. Gender constitutes a key factor to take into account when formulating sustainable development policies. While much academic and policy interest has been focused on the demographic dividend, it is

Broadly defined, the gender dividend refers to the increase in per capita economic output that is generated as progress is made towards equality between women and men in the labor market, which implies overcoming discriminatory barriers against women that exist both inside and outside of the labor market.

The project builds upon a well-established methodology of the National Transfer Accounts of which constitutes a system that measures the flow of economic resources between age groups in a manner consistent with National Accounts, using an international standard: the United Nations *National Transfer Accounts Manual*. Currently, 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries participate in the global National Transfer Accounts Network, which comprises more than 50 countries from different regions of the world.

By providing a framework for understanding the impact of changing age structures on national economies, this project is expected to provide support to countries in the region in complying with the commitments of the Montevideo Consensus as well as in advancing towards the Sustainable Development Goals.