



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Distr.
LIMITED

LC/PLEN.36/5
22 February 2022

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
22-00079

**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE OF ECLAC**

New York, 3 December 2021

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in New York on 3 December 2021. The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and by the Government of Costa Rica, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of ECLAC: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Representatives of the following associate members also participated: British Virgin Islands, Curaçao and Montserrat.

4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO).

Presiding Officers

5. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by the Officers elected at the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, held virtually from 26–28 October 2020. The Officers elected were as follows: Costa Rica as Chair and Barbados, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico as Vice-Chairs.

B. AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Presentation of the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020, and of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023.
4. Report on the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC (19–20 August 2021).

¹ See annex 2 for the full list of participants.

5. Report on the preparations for the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC.
6. Adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

7. At the opening session, statements were made by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The session included a video message from António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

8. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, said that the fourth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,² had made it clear that the region had already been facing serious structural problems and problems of inequality, which had exacerbated the effects of the pandemic, causing it to affect certain population groups (women, children, rural populations, indigenous people and persons of African descent or migrants, among others) disproportionately. He also stressed that all the data on the increase in unemployment, informality and extreme poverty caused by the pandemic referred to people and were not mere statistics. Amid that scenario, which was compounded by logistical problems with vaccine distribution, international cooperation and solidarity were the only real solution. The region needed to project a strong voice in order to influence the reconfiguration of the global response to the crisis, an example of which was the Political Declaration on a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC. Costa Rica considered ECLAC an unconditional ally and was grateful for its collaboration and commitment to building inclusive and sustainable societies, and valued the commitment and contribution of all member States in that regard.

9. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the session of the Committee of the Whole would include the presentation of the draft programme of work of ECLAC for 2023, the activities carried out by the Commission and the report “An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which contained a proposal for the region’s recovery based on five policy actions relating to financing for development. She then announced that on 31 March 2022, she would be retiring from the Commission after 14 years of service at ECLAC and 25 years at the United Nations, a period during which she was convinced that she had succeeded in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and raising awareness of issues of great importance to the

² LC/FDS.4/3/Rev.1 [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46696/1/S2100124_en.pdf.

region, such as gender equality, sustainability, cooperation, the problems faced by middle-income countries, financing for development and the needs of Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS).

10. She said that she would remain committed to the transition process until the last moment, working to project into the future the initiatives fostered by ECLAC over the previous years in favour of the development of Latin America and the Caribbean. She concluded by saying that her time as Executive Secretary of the Commission had been the greatest honour of her life, as well as an extraordinary opportunity to contribute, bearing in mind her abilities and limitations, to the shared effort to forge a fairer, more dignified and egalitarian future for the region.

11. The Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that post-pandemic recovery required a new social compact with more investment in health and education. Against that backdrop, ECLAC had worked intensively on the analysis of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the region, monitoring the countries' short- and long-term responses to the crisis, and on the structural causes of poverty, exclusion and inequality, providing relevant information on how those phenomena affected specific population segments and offering innovative, viable and concrete policy proposals. In that regard, she underscored the work carried out in financing for development, which the Secretary-General considered a priority. Finally, she referred to the announcement of the Executive Secretary, expressing admiration for her enormous contributions to the region and the United Nations system through her work. She highlighted the Executive Secretary's commitment to the values of the Organization, especially her leadership and perseverance regarding issues related to biodiversity and climate action, along with her success in bringing attention to the specific challenges of SIDS and middle-income countries, and assured that work would continue to build on her legacy.

12. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a video message, expressed his appreciation for the work of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who had been a pioneer in several areas, helping to modernize the United Nations, being the first woman to lead the Commission and heading a progressive and visionary administration. She had been among the first people in the Organization to identify equality in its multiple forms as a cornerstone of sustainable development and had been able to collaborate with all the different development actors to elevate the work of ECLAC to another level. Finally, he highlighted her commitment to the environment, her leadership and perseverance, which had proved invaluable in key negotiations such as those of the Escazú Agreement. He conveyed his best wishes for her future and said that for over 25 years her vision had helped to shape the progressive thinking of the United Nations on development, both in Latin America and the Caribbean and around the world.

13. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica intervened once again to say a few words about the departure of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, affirming that, in addition to holding that position, she had also been a teacher whose knowledge and experience had nurtured an entire generation of ECLAC officials, and whose dynamic and proactive nature constantly invited action. He then invited all countries to participate actively in the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, to be held in March in Costa Rica, in order to bid the Executive Secretary a fitting farewell. In concluding, he said that her leadership of ECLAC had been the best vaccine for the region during the pandemic.

An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

14. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC began the presentation of the document “An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean”,³ by noting that the COVID-19 pandemic had generated the worst economic and social crisis in the history of the region, magnifying long-standing structural problems. At a time of growing fiscal constraints, increasing social demands, higher debt levels, climbing debt service payments and rising inflation, the need to address the problem of development financing for middle-income countries had become clear. In that context, ECLAC proposed five concrete actions to address the emergency and foster a transformative recovery: (i) expand and redistribute liquidity from developed to developing countries; (ii) strengthen regional cooperation by enhancing the lending and response capacity of regional, subregional and national financial institutions; (iii) carry out institutional reform of the multilateral debt architecture; (iv) expand the set of innovative instruments aimed at increasing debt repayment capacity and avoiding excessive indebtedness and (v) integrate liquidity and debt reduction measures into a development financing strategy that would promote dynamic sectors with the capacity to generate employment, reduce external dependence and protect the environment.

15. The Executive Secretary spoke about special drawing rights (SDRs), which had increased the international reserves of all developing regions and benefited some of the smaller and more indebted economies in the region, such as Guyana and Suriname, but, since they had been distributed according to each country’s quota, had disproportionately benefited developed economies. It was essential to recirculate SDRs to developing economies, which had the greatest need for them in times of crisis. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had developed an important instrument for recirculation—the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)—but it was not available to all middle-income countries (only some countries in the region had access) and had very strict conditionalities. The creation of a new IMF trust fund should be considered to support middle-income countries and SIDS, and be adapted to the diversity of their economic and social development needs, regardless of their level of per capita GDP. She also mentioned the proposal by Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, regarding the reallocation of SDRs of US\$ 500 billion per year for the creation of a climate action fund to support developing countries.

16. Another proposal in that regard was the establishment of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE), which would provide concessional loans regardless of the countries’ income levels and without fiscal, monetary or structural conditionalities. She also said that regional and subregional development banks had played an essential role in the countercyclical response to the economic and social effects of the pandemic, and that the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) had made the most resources available to the countries. With regard to national development banks, whose support for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) was fundamental, financial resources had been committed by the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES). However, the lending capacity of these banks had to be expanded. In addition, liquidity support for countries had to be accompanied by debt reduction and, in that regard, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative was a limited mechanism, which did not include all middle-income economies, provided short-term relief and failed to involve all stakeholders.

17. It was therefore necessary to create a multilateral debt restructuring mechanism that would consider the heterogeneity of debt profiles, and to reform the IMF surcharge policy, which had increased from 2019

³ *Special Report COVID-19*, No. 12 [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47490/3/S2100627_en.pdf.

to 2020 and disproportionately affected middle-income countries. It was also essential to reduce illicit financial flows and tax evasion, which limited countries' ability to mobilize domestic resources. The region also had to promote a common position on minimum corporate income tax and work to foster multilateral tax agreements to generate additional tax revenues. Debt reduction proposals had to consider the constraints of sovereign risk assessment by credit rating agencies, whose downgrades of sovereign debt had hit developing economies the hardest. A multilateral credit rating agency would complement private credit rating agencies and contribute to financial stability, which was a global public good and should not be left to the private sector alone.

18. Debt restructuring initiatives should also be accompanied by innovative financing instruments, such as hurricane or other disaster clauses, which should consider countries' repayment capacities and link them to the performance of the economy through income-related instruments. Gross national income-linked bonds could offer less risk and reduce uncertainty for private investors compared to GDP-linked bonds. The issuance of social and sustainable bonds, many of them aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), had grown significantly in the region, contributing to a recovery with equality and environmental sustainability at its core. Finally, the Executive Secretary spoke about the Caribbean Resilience Fund, a trust fund designed as a public-private partnership that would focus on financing strategic interventions in the Caribbean to build resilience to natural disasters, boost growth and competitiveness, and address the problem of debt unsustainability. She concluded by stressing that ECLAC was putting all these proposals on the table so that the region could speak with a single voice in international forums.

19. In the comments that followed, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the Committee of the Whole said that he wished to speak in a national capacity. The economic and social crisis caused by the pandemic had been the most severe in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, and had not only affected unemployment, poverty and investment, but was also hindering the enjoyment of cultural, economic, social and environmental rights, particularly those of the most vulnerable groups. The ability of the region's governments to make resources available to respond suitably to the crisis was limited by several underlying factors, including high levels of debt and considerable resources being diverted to service debt; scant fiscal space, made even smaller by the pandemic; and the specific situation of countries for which tourism represented a large proportion of the economy. The need for liquidity and financing was more pressing than ever, but the international response did not reflect that urgency. Extraordinary, accessible financing was required. He also underscored the need to allocate financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The climate crisis was the most pressing, especially in Central America and the Caribbean.

20. He then referred to the report presented by the Executive Secretary, which noted that the actions of multilateral institutions had been limited and had focused mainly on lower-income countries, despite the high vulnerability of Latin American and Caribbean countries. The access criteria for cooperation and financing did not take into account the gaps and difficulties of the region's countries in pursuing sustainable development. In that regard, the countries of the region needed to be pragmatic and take action. He mentioned the five specific measures proposed in the report and said he wished to convene an in-depth dialogue with the countries regarding the expansion of liquidity and its redistribution from developed to developing countries. He also stressed that in order to break the mould, it was necessary to generate a high-level capacity for convening and decision-making and the best diplomatic and political capabilities to influence the decisions of multilateral financial institutions. The region was aligned, with the same goal in that regard; he called for strengthening of political cooperation to position interests and priorities and achieve tangible results as soon as possible for the benefit of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

21. The representative of Mexico commended the work of the Executive Secretary at the head of ECLAC and her leadership, dedication and professionalism. He then said ECLAC was a valuable source of information and technical support for the region, its reports leaving countries better positioned to make informed decisions on sensitive issues in complicated circumstances. He also recognized the Commission's promotion of environmentally sustainable development, the reduction of inequalities, the strengthening of the gender perspective and technological change. Regarding the report presented and the comments made by the representative of Costa Rica, Mexico considered it interesting and opportune to align the region's programmes with the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda", creating synergies between those proposals and the work of ECLAC on related issues, in order to jointly pursue implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The pandemic had increased the number of people living in poverty and extreme poverty in the world, and it was time to consider direct transfers for those living on less than US\$ 2 a day, which could help accelerate achievement of SDG 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere). He hoped for dialogue with the rest of the countries of the region and with ECLAC in the near future on the impact of direct transfers on the well-being of the populations, in order to build a global alliance for well-being.

22. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia lamented the imminent departure of the Executive Secretary and highlighted her work and contribution to Latin America and the Caribbean. He said the report that presented was valuable and it clearly stated where the region needed to be heading. The report underscored the urgent need to address the issue of financing for development in middle-income countries in a world marked by the coronavirus pandemic, and it was therefore important to make use of multilateral cooperation. The five policy measures outlined in the report represented an urgent short- and medium-term package that would enable a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability. The vital need for access to vaccines and their equal and equitable distribution could not be overlooked, nor could the creation of a resilience fund to alleviate and address the debt problem. On that point, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had raised in multilateral forums the need to establish a negotiating table with developing countries to propose options, terms and financial conditions for the deferral of debt payments, debt restructuring or debt relief. The representative lastly expressed his country's interest in continuing to combine efforts to ensure that the region achieved all three dimensions of sustainable development.

23. The representative of El Salvador expressed her appreciation for the report, whose proposals were key to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and stated that her country agreed it was important to continue discussing those recommendations, not only within the framework of the United Nations, but also in each of the countries. One of the lessons learned from the pandemic was the need to decisively and urgently address the structural problems of the countries of the region, which had suffered significant setbacks in several areas. Solidarity and cooperation constituted the real solution to the crisis, and to successfully address the problems that afflicted all countries (migration, climate change, attention to vulnerable groups and others) the search for solutions had to be based on collaboration, with global solidarity and revitalized multilateralism. El Salvador, like other middle-income countries, had been adversely affected in the allocation of resources and support to meet development needs, and the pandemic had interrupted and reversed the pace of growth. However, through several actions, which she listed, the country's recovery had been rapid. Reaffirming the principles set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, she reiterated the need to strengthen the participation of all stakeholders in building an enabling environment to address the issue of financing for development. Only with the sum of all stakeholders could full progress be made toward an equitable global economic system in which no country or individual was left behind.

24. The representative of Guatemala expressed his best wishes for the Executive Secretary and highlighted her commitment to the region's development. He said the meeting was valuable for sharing ideas on an appropriate response from the countries to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic. His country's work as Chair pro tempore of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in the second half of 2021 had included pursuit of strategic issues such as the relaunching of the integration process; institutional strengthening; economic recovery in terms of trade, investment and tourism, including addressing the causes of forced migration; regional health capacity to deal with COVID-19 and other health crises in the future; regional capacity to support national food and nutrition security efforts, and efforts concerning climate change and disaster impact. SICA was committed to the process of deep integration, which would enable progress and more trade, investment and prosperity. He underscored the value of strengthened cooperation in the response to the region's challenges, as well as the role that development banking had played during the pandemic and to promote sustainable recovery and economic, social and environmental development, and expressed his country's appreciation for the plan for self-sufficiency in health matters for Latin America and the Caribbean developed by ECLAC, which would strengthen the countries' capacities in that area. Lastly, he reiterated Guatemala's commitment to continued work with other countries in the region to foster recovery and growth in their economies.

25. The representative of Peru highlighted the importance of the report presented by the Executive Secretary, which was decisive given the region's need for technically supported and politically viable proposals, in view of the challenges of economic patterns and global instability caused by the pandemic. Three of the policy actions included in the report had attracted Peru's attention: expanding and redistributing liquidity to drive a recirculation cycle from developed economies to developing countries, and within that the creation of a new trust fund for development of middle-income countries, and the possibility of pursuing initiatives for middle-income countries to access the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust created by IMF; strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing the lending and response capacity of regional, subregional and national financial institutions (in which context he referred to CAF as an example of efficiency, capacity and a permanent and systematic impact on financing for economic and social development in the region); and reforming the multilateral debt architecture.

26. The five policy actions proposed in the report had been made at an exceptional juncture, which required exceptional responses. Therefore, the delegation from Peru wanted to propose an initiative to convene an extraordinary meeting of ministers of foreign affairs and of economic affairs within the framework of ECLAC in the coming months, to discuss the proposals contained in the innovative agenda presented by ECLAC at the necessary political level, and to respond to the financing problems posed by the crisis. Lastly, the representative of Peru paid tribute to the ECLAC Executive Secretary for her management, her work in strengthening the Commission's technical capacity and her promotion of an equality and inclusion agenda as a component of the vision of economic theory and social development. Her ideas would undoubtedly endure in the work of ECLAC and in the countries of the region, for a long time.

27. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, after thanking the Executive Secretary of ECLAC for her presentation and her work, said the pandemic was an unprecedented human crisis that had disrupted all areas of life and threatened to reverse the development achievements of recent years. An innovative agenda was needed for the development and recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean, which would be vital, among other things, for achieving the SDGs, but protectionist policies or coercive measures against countries in the region prevented major progress from being made. Such measures had a direct impact on the realization of the right to development, contravened the rules of the multilateral trading system and undermined international cooperation and solidarity. In the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, there was also clear politically motivated discrimination that extended to some multilateral organizations and international financial institutions, which prevented access to development loans, SDRs

and sovereign funds that could be used for development financing, and were necessary for sustainable recovery. The delegation requested that ECLAC continue to address those issues in its reports and to pay greater attention to the repercussions of such actions, which jeopardized the economic and social development of the countries, as well as sustainable and equitable reconstruction in the post-pandemic era.

28. The representative of Argentina underscored her delegation's deep appreciation for the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who left a great legacy, and said that she had been a guiding light for rethinking development in the region. The presented report was a key input, with specific proposals for action for policy discussions at the multilateral and regional levels on the issue of financing for development, the lack of liquidity and unsustainable debt levels in developing countries. She highlighted two of the five proposals it contained: first, the need to ensure that new SDR issuance would be accompanied by voluntary recycling to developing countries, including middle-income countries, as well as the possibility of recycling SDRs through a middle-income country trust fund and regional development banks or financial institutions. Secondly, Argentina considered that a reform was needed of the international financial architecture on sovereign debt, with a multilateral legal framework for restructuring processes that included private creditors; a review and re-evaluation of the surcharge policy, which affected developing countries, and particularly middle-income countries disproportionately; changes in the role of credit rating agencies, and an approach that took into account the heterogeneity of debt profiles and debt vulnerability. Bearing in mind the importance of the region's countries for world development and global financial stability, it was time to join forces and reach a consensus on a common position to promote a regional vision in multilateral discussions concerning financing for development and sovereign debt restructuring and sustainability.

29. The representative of Jamaica thanked the Executive Secretary of the Commission for her presentation of the financing for development agenda, which he said was both timely and effective. All proposals needed to be given serious consideration for there to be an inclusive and sustainable recovery. The "Caribbean first" initiative in particular formed part of the Executive Secretary's enduring legacy. Jamaica was battling the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on economy and society for the second year, and the risks to its economic outlook were still significant. Although the third wave of the pandemic was abating in the country, new waves could cause more disruption. Another uncertainty was inflation, and in Jamaica the rate was well above the central bank target range. Natural disasters were another ever-present risk for SIDS like Jamaica. Therefore, support from the international community was needed regarding debt, including innovative financing initiatives such as emergency debt relief, hurricane clauses and collective action clauses, thus enabling countries to channel investment into social spending and removing supply-side constraints on growth and development.

30. The representative of Uruguay thanked the Chair and the Executive Secretary for their work and said the latter's leadership of ECLAC had benefited the countries of the region. The Commission's role was central to understanding the problems and particularities of Latin America and the Caribbean, and its analyses, programmes and accords, such as the Escazú Agreement, were especially valuable. In addition to the problems of middle-income countries, similar difficulties were faced by countries that had graduated to the high-income level. The problem was the use of factors that focused on economics, based solely on per capita GDP. His delegation agreed that a set of values to assess countries' development needs was necessary; regardless of their levels of GDP, countries had partial and structural problems that had to be overcome in order to make progress with development. He referred to the remarks on the impact of the drop in tourism in Costa Rica and said that Uruguay had also been affected, as it was itself a major tourism destination. Regarding the specific measures of the innovative agenda that had been presented, the Uruguayan delegation agreed that a dialogue was needed at the highest level with political decision-making capacity on these proposals, involving not only the countries of the region, but also other regions, including the developed countries that were part of ECLAC. Among the proposals presented he drew attention to the strengthening of cooperation and financing mechanisms at the regional level, which would benefit all the countries of the region, given the excellent performance demonstrated by these institutions.

31. The representative of Nicaragua thanked the Executive Secretary for her leadership, through which ECLAC had become one of the most active and influential regional commissions. He underscored the need for countries to reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation, and the importance of promoting South-South and regional cooperation, as a complement and not as a substitute for North-South cooperation. In that regard, he thanked Cuba for its solidarity in sharing its vaccines and medical and scientific expertise with the wider region. He expressed his delegation's concern about the increasing impact of global warming and extreme weather events in the region, particularly in the Caribbean and Central America, and stressed the urgent need for concrete and ambitious actions to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. His delegation rejected the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against countries in the region, as they hindered national and regional efforts to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty and the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and further hampered the response to the pandemic. Lastly, he said it was increasingly clear that an international financial architecture that promoted inclusion, equity, social justice and respectful equality between States was needed to create a better world for all, and in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable.

32. The representative of Guyana thanked the Executive Secretary, ever-responsive to requests from the Caribbean, for the enthusiasm and empathy she had brought to the position. She thanked ECLAC for the sobering but instructive report, which illustrated the two miserable sides of the coin: on one, the region's high indebtedness and inequality were compounded by poor ratings from credit rating agencies that scared off investors; on the other, countries whose considerable efforts had led to their middle-income classification were being punished for their fragile success. The report clearly set forth the actions needed for the region and for reform of the multilateral system, in particular the financial architecture in operation. Referring to countries' calls for the reallocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) that appeared to go unanswered and to a multi-vulnerability index which the subregion had long been advocating for, with the Commission's support, she asked what countries like Guyana and the wider Caribbean must do to move forward the valid recommendations contained in the report.

33. The representative of Colombia acknowledged the valuable work of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and expressed gratitude for the innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was action-oriented and pioneering in its analysis. It was a clear diagnosis that made finding solutions possible with some guidelines that were in line with the Colombian Government's priorities. Only by working together at the multilateral level would the region be able to surmount the difficulties wrought by the pandemic, she said.

34. The representative of Brazil, noting the Commission's key role in promoting a lucid and objective understanding of the socioeconomic challenges facing the region, thanked ECLAC for the report, proof of its important contribution in terms of policy options for member States. He then reiterated the importance Brazil attached to South-South cooperation and expressed the hope that the regional conference being established would strengthen the Commission's operating capacity in that area, in line with its mandate and in conformity with the principles of such cooperation. ECLAC could count on Brazil's support in promoting more South-South cooperation in the region and its constructive engagement going forward. He recognized the excellent work done by the Commission under the very difficult circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked the Executive Secretary for her years of service for the development of the region.

35. The representative of Honduras thanked Costa Rica for its work as Chair and ECLAC, under the leadership of Alicia Bárcena, and noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had had unprecedented global repercussions on the economy and health. His country had been confronted with deepening social development problems and had taken measures to cope with the impact of the pandemic and the tropical storms which had struck, affecting primarily the productive and social sector and infrastructure. Funding was needed to implement recovery plans. He wished Argentina success as it assumed the chairship of ECLAC.

36. The representative of Cuba commended the Chair and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and said that the document presented analysed a scenario of uncertainty that threatened to linger. The innovative financing agenda presented a promising outlook, and his country would examine it closely. Against a complex global backdrop, with unparalleled repercussions in the region, ECLAC had documented experiences in tackling the effects of COVID-19. The analysis produced by experts had also provided useful tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECLAC had unreservedly promoted South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as the consideration of multidimensional poverty indicators, the questioning of graduation processes and the reform of the classification of countries as middle-income. It had placed equity at the centre of development. Cuba reiterated its commitment to ECLAC, to the concept of leaving no one behind, to Latin American and Caribbean integration and to the common struggle for economic and social development. He commended the work of Alicia Bárcena at the helm of the Commission and acknowledged her legacy in the promotion of integration, development and equality in the region.

37. The representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated Costa Rica on its work as Chair of ECLAC. He stressed the need for international banks to take into account the needs of countries; all countries had seen external debt increase and it was time for multilateral banks to understand that their work was dependent on countries' wealth, and he called for a high-level dialogue. He commended the Executive Secretary for her tireless work leading the Commission.

38. The representative of Ecuador thanked ECLAC and the Executive Secretary for preparing the document presented. He said that it was important to incorporate the ideas coming from the countries of the region on sustainable urban planning, health and climate change. The resilience of Latin American and Caribbean peoples was expressed above all in the cities, where 80% of the population lived, and the Commission's analysis would make a very positive contribution to the debate on sustainable development from that perspective.

39. The representative of the British Virgin Islands expressed gratitude for the inclusion of the 14 associate members of ECLAC in the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and to member States for their support and understanding that real gaps existed for associate members with respect to sustainable development. ECLAC had played a vital role in helping to fill those gaps, notably by providing technical assistance to support the preparation of a national sustainable development plan that would provide an overarching policy framework to guide sustainable growth and development and the attainment of the SDGs. The challenges facing associate members were not merely access to funding but also the lack of technical expertise and limited capacity. The British Virgin Islands believed there should be a focus not only on the SDGs and ongoing pandemic response and recovery, but also on the blue economy and resource mobilization for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Presentation of the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020, and of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023 (agenda item 3)

40. Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC, presented the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020,⁴ recalling that ECLAC had adopted an annual programming cycle pursuant to the reform spearheaded by the Secretary-General. He noted that ECLAC had reacted promptly to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing its business continuity plan. The measures implemented included teleworking and the

⁴ LC/PLEN.36/4 [online] <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47492-report-activities-commission-2020>.

holding of meetings in virtual format. One of the main achievements was the holding of the thirty-eighth session. The Commission had also launched the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway), a repository of information and knowledge products for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda in the region. The “Caribbean first” initiative had been pursued through ministerial-level dialogues on social and economic development in the subregion; supporting Haiti in drafting its national policy on social protection and promotion; assisting the Government of Costa Rica at the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, held in the framework of the General Assembly, and in promoting the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE); the presentation of *The Caribbean Outlook*, with a focus on post-pandemic recovery; and promotion of the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative, with practical recommendations for the establishment of a Caribbean resilience fund.

41. The meetings of subsidiary bodies had been valuable forums for dialogue and consensus-building, as was the case at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the Commission to fulfil its mandate, its main source of funding was the regular budget (approximately 80% of its resources) and the regular programme for technical cooperation, the United Nations Development Account, and resources from development partners like France, Germany, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the European Union. During the period, the Commission had carried out more than 147 cooperation projects financed with extrabudgetary resources; it had produced more than 300 publications; and there had been more than 60,000 references to ECLAC in the press and more than 10 million downloads from its website. Seminars and specialized training sessions had also been conducted. It had worked jointly with the Resident Coordinators and the Development Coordination Office of the region. The CEPALSTAT database, which systematized official statistical information in the region, was being overhauled. The Commission had published several reports on COVID-19 had been published, in addition to the *Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south- southeast Mexico*,⁵ and responded to the reform of the United Nations development system.

42. With regard to the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023,⁶ he said that the strategic priorities were post-pandemic recovery, with a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that encompassed gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion in the United Nations and ECLAC. He mentioned five thematic clusters: economic development, social development, environmental sustainability, public management and statistics, and subregional activities. The main change proposed was changing the title of subprogramme 5, “Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development” to “Gender equality and women’s autonomy”, to reflect the advances in the gender agenda in the region, which was correlated to the commitments undertaken. The idea was to emphasize gender equality and women’s economic, political and physical autonomy. He assured that the change would not add new mandates to the programme of work.

Report on the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC (19–20 August 2021) (agenda item 4)

43. Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, presented the report on the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC, held on 19 and 20 August 2021. He listed the member States, associate members of ECLAC and United Nations agencies that had participated and referred to the

⁵ *Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico*, vol. 1 (LC/TS.2021/7) [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47247/4/S2000524_en.pdf.

⁶ LC/PLEN.36/3 [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47448/1/S2100576_en.pdf.

note by the secretariat that had been submitted.⁷ Given the need to improve the cooperation system and institutions in the region, it had been recommended to the Committee of the Whole that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should be renamed the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. That would give greater priority to the issue of cooperation, allow more time for meetings and give the body more autonomy. The Presiding Officers would have their own identity, as well as more visibility and decision-making capacity at the multilateral level. The proposal had been set out in a draft resolution that was submitted to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Report on the preparations for the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC (agenda item 5)

44. Luis Yáñez, Secretary of the Commission, said that the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development would be held in-person in Costa Rica, from 7 to 9 March 2022, and that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) would be held at ECLAC headquarters, from 20 to 22 April 2022, in hybrid format (delegations from States Parties would attend in-person and other delegations remotely).

45. The representative of Argentina conveyed her Government's offer for Argentina to host the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC in the second half of 2022, in person, if health considerations so allowed. She said it was an honour for Argentina to assume the Chair of ECLAC for 2022–2024.

Adoption of agreements (agenda item 6)

46. The ECLAC Committee of the Whole adopted the resolutions contained in annex 1 of this report.

Closing session

47. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked all for their words of affection and support. She called for continued support for the Commission, which was at the service of the countries to respond to their needs; in her words, "ECLAC belongs to you".

48. Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, thanked everyone for their work, and in particular Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for her leadership and guidance, and extended his gratitude to ECLAC staff. He acknowledged the team in Costa Rica for their commitment during the country's term as Chair of ECLAC. In closing, he said that recovery was urgently needed for the region to become more equitable and inclusive. The focus of work must be multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation to leave no one behind and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

⁷ "From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: Opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat" (LC/RECSS.2021/3/Rev.1) [online] https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/2100493_recss.2021_note_by_the_secretariat_rev1-9_pm.pdf.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS**751(PLEN.36) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2023**

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Commission and the mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations concerning the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies of the system,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”¹ and General Assembly resolutions 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 69/313 “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)”, as well as the Paris Agreement,²

Recalling further paragraphs 80 and 81 of resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which welcome the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encourage the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019, as well as General Assembly resolutions 72/279, 72/236, 73/248, 74/297 and 75/233 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2019/15 and 2020/23,

Reaffirming the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its role as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States, with a view to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner at the regional level,

Emphasizing the importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations development system by: (i) strengthening regional and subregional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits; (ii) the need to address gaps and overlaps bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for the regional approach and that it is necessary to consider the specificities of each region and the strengths of its regional mechanisms; (iii) the need to preserve the existing functions already performed by the United Nations development system at the regional level, including current interactions between the regional economic commissions and member States; and (iv) the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commissions,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

*Taking into account the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020,*³

*Taking into account also that the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission provides the context for the relevant intergovernmental bodies to review the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023,*⁴

Having reviewed the outcomes and activities of 2020 and the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, which updates and reinforces the priorities endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session,

Having reviewed also all aspects of the draft programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023, which further strengthens programming, results-based management and evaluation,

Bearing in mind that the basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the draft programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Bearing in mind also the Political declaration on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, signed by ministers of foreign affairs and high-level representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission,

Taking note of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 to address the consequences of the coronavirus disease pandemic,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Latin America and the Caribbean and reiterating the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in the regional and global response to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by engaging all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Emphasizing that the enhanced delegation of authority framework is one of the pillars of the United Nations reforms, and recognizing the challenge to accelerate the cultural change necessary to fully implement the new management paradigm in the United Nations that promotes, inter alia, delegation of authority, transparency and accountability, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and a culture of continuous learning,

³ LC/PLEN.36/4.

⁴ LC/PLEN.36/3.

Reiterating the importance of empowered, strategic, effective and impartial leadership through the resident coordinator system and that all entities of the United Nations development system fully support the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including through inter-agency collaboration,

Recognizing the efforts made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to implement its programme of work in a timely manner despite the constraints imposed by the coronavirus disease pandemic,

Recognizing also the efforts made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to update and align the content and modalities of the programme of work with the new requirements emerging from the aforementioned agendas, action plans and instruments,

Recalling its rules of procedure,

1. *Adopts* the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023 in its totality, including its innovations and changes in the implementation strategies, which, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production and dissemination of a broad range of knowledge products and publications identified therein;

2. *Emphasizes and welcomes* the fact that the draft programme of work and priorities of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2023 reflect the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities of the programme of work to the requirements arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, including the accelerated modalities and priorities of the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as from other internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work, 2023 to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

4. *Welcomes the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020* and underlines the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by the Commission in the different areas of work, commending its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* for the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Commission to the benefit of the region's development, and recommends pursuing those efforts further;

6. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the continuity of its operations and availability of products and services considering the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic;

7. *Expresses* its concern at the liquidity crisis that has negatively affected the availability of budget resources allocated to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out the mandates set forth in the 2020 and 2021 programmes of work;

8. *Stresses* that a downward trend in funding allocated to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean would limit its ability to carry out the activities set forth in its programme of work, and the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to it;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the implementation of best practices in the gradual return to a new normality in the context of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic and the need to monitor those practices regularly to ensure that they contribute to the operations of the Commission and the implementation of its mandates;

10. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening and broadening the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

752(PLEN.36) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, represents an opportunity for the countries of the region to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions, as well as eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review is primarily based on national official data sources,

Recognizing that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth, reiterating the importance of global partnerships,

Bearing in mind that 2019 marked the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and that the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March, 2019,

Bearing in mind also the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,² which recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

Stressing the need to reinvigorate the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, aiming at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978 (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1), chap. I.*

² A/CONF.235/3.

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening bonds with the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in order to leverage our contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions,

Considering the key role played in recent years by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Committee on South-South Cooperation as one of its subsidiary bodies, in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region and in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, in accordance with its respective mandate,

Recognizing the supportive function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences,

Bearing in mind the ongoing United Nations development system reform, by ongoing activities such as enhancing connectivity, harnessing the human and other resources of relevant knowledge networks, partnerships, technical and research capacity to enhance subregional, regional and interregional South-South and triangular cooperation and by continuing their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions and by cooperating, as appropriate, with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams to continue to support the capacity of Member States, upon their request and leadership, in areas in which South-South and triangular cooperation could have the highest development impact,

Recalling resolution 749(XXXVIII), adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, which requested the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to convene, with the support of the secretariat, an extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, outside the framework of the session of the Commission, as soon as possible and no later than the second half of 2021, in order to examine ways to enhance its functioning, including the need for institutional changes, with a view to providing recommendations to the Commission on these deliberations,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean,³ held in virtual format on 19 and 20 August 2021;

2. *Also takes note* of the document “From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat”;⁴

3. *Endorses* the annex contained in the document “From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat”, which is an integral part of the present resolution;

4. *Approves* the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Decides* that the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall prioritize the implementation of the mandates conferred on United Nations regional commissions in the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which was endorsed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in resolution 749(XXXVIII) adopted at its thirty-eighth session, held in October 2020, and shall

³ LC/RECSS.2021/4.

⁴ LC/RECSS.2021/3/Rev.1.

carry out its activities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolution 75/234 on South-South cooperation;

6. *Agrees* that the regular sessions of the conference shall be held every two years at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, in alternating years to the sessions of the Commission, using installed capacity and within existing resources;

7. *Decides* that the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in 2023, on a date to be determined.

ANNEX**I. FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN****1. Nature**

The Committee on South-South Cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be renamed the “Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean” and shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will support member States in South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, in line with the roles of United Nations regional commissions as set forth in paragraphs 21, 26 and 27 (i) of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and in accordance with their respective mandates.

2. Purpose

Its objectives shall be:

- (a) To strengthen national South-South cooperation mechanisms and possible linkages with North-South and multilateral cooperation;
- (b) To further South-South and triangular cooperation among regional and extraregional stakeholders, including donor countries and international organizations, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of cooperation;
- (c) To examine the experiences of South-South and triangular cooperation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to make progress in evaluating them, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, with the support of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;
- (d) To expand and deepen information-sharing on experiences of South-South cooperation conducted by member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean between Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world, to foster exchanges of knowledge on issues of mutual interest;
- (e) To promote dialogue on South-South and triangular cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world; and
- (f) To bring a Latin American and Caribbean perspective to the debates and proposals led by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

3. Membership

The members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be members of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Meetings of the Conference

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall hold its regular meetings at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago (Chile), every two years in alternating years to the sessions of Commission. The

Conference may accept an invitation from the government of a member country to host the regular meeting in that country.

5. Presiding Officers

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the general guidelines established in section II of this annex. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

6. Secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Regional Conference the existing facilities and resources necessary to carry out its work.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Nature

The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 below.

2. Membership

The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and four or more members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

3. Election of Presiding Officers and duration of mandates

At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

The newly elected Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

The members of the Presiding Officers may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected as a member of the Presiding Officers. Any country which has served on the Presiding Officers for three successive terms may be elected again after two years have elapsed since the end of its last term of office.

4. Duties

The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

- (a) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (c) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings; and
- (d) To decide on requests concerning agenda items proposed by ECLAC member States for the consideration of the Conference.

5. Meetings

The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular sessions of the Conference. At the meeting of the Presiding Officers preceding the next session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, they shall adopt a draft programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted for the consideration of member States at its regular meeting.

The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.

753(PLEN.36) PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of its terms of reference and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Argentina to host the thirty-ninth session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Argentina for its generous invitation;
2. *Accepts* this invitation with pleasure;
3. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations approve the decision to hold the thirty-ninth session of the Commission in Argentina in 2022.

Annex 2

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

ALEMANIA/GERMANY

Representante/Representative:

- Ulrich Nicklas, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations,
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ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

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BAHAMAS

Representante/Representative:

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BARBADOS

Representante/Representative:

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BELICE/BELIZE

Representante/Representative:

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Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

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- Sharleen Henderson, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations,
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BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)/BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)Representante/Representative:

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BRASIL/BRASILRepresentante/Representative:

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CHILERepresentante/Representative:

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COLOMBIARepresentante/Representative:

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COSTA RICARepresentante/Representative:

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Miembros de la delegación/Delegation member:

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