



Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2021

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Fourth session of the Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

XIII Ministerial Forum for Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2021

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In May 2014, the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) decided, by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), to establish the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission. The objectives of the Conference include: to promote the development of national policies on social development, to further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among offices and institutions, and to examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on poverty measurement, inequality and structural gaps, in coordination with the work of the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

Every year since 2007, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has held the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In a joint declaration signed in October 2014, ECLAC and UNDP together convened the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of fostering synergies and encouraging the social authorities of the region to attend both events and adopt complementary mandates, while maintaining their institutional identities.

The first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Lima from 2 to 4 November 2015; the second session of the Conference was held in Montevideo, from 25 to 27 October 2017; the third session of the Conference was held in Mexico City, from 1 to 3 October 2019.

At the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually in the framework of the twelfth meeting of the Ministerial Forum, the Presiding Officers welcomed the offer of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2021.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of Presiding Officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report by the Chair on the activities carried out since the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Presentation of the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
5. Rethinking social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Review of the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
7. Other matters.
8. Consideration and adoption of agreements

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of Presiding Officers.

The annex to resolution 682(XXXV) of ECLAC provides for the election of Presiding Officers, composed of the Chair, currently held by Antigua and Barbuda, and six members. The Presiding Officers will serve for a term of two years.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

The delegations will have before them for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda,¹ prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Presiding Officers and the host country of the fourth session of the Regional Conference. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such amendments as they deem appropriate under the ECLAC rules of procedure.

3. Report by the Chair on the activities carried out since the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under this agenda item, Mexico, in its capacity as outgoing Chair, will present a brief report on the main activities carried out since the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Presentation of the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

ECLAC will present the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared for the fourth session of the Regional Conference.

The document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean* seeks to deepen the discussion on how to bring about a transformative recovery with equality in order to address the challenge posed to the region by the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It focuses on public policy actions in terms of social protection to provide the income needed for basic levels of well-being, with food and nutrition security, and access to education and health for the whole population. It also highlights the need to ensure access to quality basic services (water, sanitation, electricity and Internet connection), as well as the need for innovative investment proposals to achieve universal care and decent housing for all, social inclusion and decent work. These initiatives must be addressed comprehensively to advance the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development that was adopted at the third session of the Regional Conference, held in Mexico City in 2019. One of the lines of action under the first axis of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development is to “contribute to increasing the response capacity of public institutions and the resilience of populations affected by humanitarian crises and disasters, especially those living in poverty, also taking into account the heightened vulnerability and limited response capacity of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities to adverse effects during and after crises”. A description of the social consequences of disasters —and in particular the COVID-19 pandemic— is presented along with an

¹ LC/CDS.4/1.

analysis of public policy responses in non-contributory social protection, and the institutional changes needed to address these consequences. The document includes a proposal for a comprehensive approach towards disaster-resilient social protection systems and policy recommendations.

Working document:

- Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CDS.4/3)

Reference documents:

- Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development (LC/CDS.3/5)
- The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post- COVID-19 (LC/SES.38/12)
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2020 (LC/PUB.2021/2-P/Rev.1)

5. Rethinking social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under this agenda item, representatives of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean will hold a panel discussion during which delegates will be able to share their ideas for social protection in the region. Public policy experts will focus the debate on the need to change how people are included in social programmes and the challenges of linkages between those programmes, taking into account the situation of workers.

6. Review of the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Three panel discussions will be held, addressing matters of relevance in social protection systems identified as priorities in the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean* and in the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development.

7. Other matters.

Under this agenda item, the delegations may raise any other matters they wish to examine.

8. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC.