



**Thirty-eighth  
session of ECLAC**  
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Thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission  
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2020

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION  
OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

- A. Organization of the thirty-eighth session
- B. Provisional agenda
- C. Annotations to the provisional agenda



UNITED NATIONS



## A. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

The thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2020. Although the member States accepted the offer extended by Costa Rica to host the session by virtue of resolution 734(PLEN.33), adopted at the thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, held in New York in February 2019, it will not be possible to hold the meeting in person in Costa Rica because of the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The meeting will be held virtually, in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2019–2020.<sup>1</sup>

The session is the most important event of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for the consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and an opportunity to review the progress of the Commission's activities. In consultation with Costa Rica, in its capacity as Chair, the theme selected for this session is a strategy for a big push for a recovery with equality and sustainability, which is addressed in a document that ECLAC will make available to its member States.

The session also enables the Governments of member States to examine the secretariat's report on the Commission's activities and thus apprise themselves of the work accomplished by ECLAC during the preceding year. Furthermore, through the programme of work that the Governments adopt and the calendar of conferences they approve, they also define the mandates that will guide the Commission's work in the future.

The following annotations to the provisional agenda provide background information on each of the proposed items and suggestions regarding their consideration at the session. In this respect, it may be useful to recall resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, which states that, in order for the session to be fully successful, government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered.

## B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
3. Economic and social effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on Latin America and the Caribbean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the post-pandemic economic recovery.
5. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*.
6. Challenges for the Caribbean to build back better.
7. Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> ECLAC resolution 718(XXXVII).

8. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022.
9. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-seventh session.
10. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022.
11. Committee on South-South Cooperation.
12. Other matters.
13. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session.

### **C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **1. Election of officers**

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives a chair, two or more vice-chairs and a rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. It is customary for the Commission to be chaired by the head of the delegation of the host country.

On this occasion, given that the meeting will be held virtually, the member States elected Costa Rica as the chair at the thirty-fifth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, held virtually on 4 August 2020, in accordance with the offer made by Costa Rica at the thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole.<sup>2</sup> The countries that will join Costa Rica as the presiding officers will therefore be elected during the session.

It should also be noted that rule 20 provides that the chairperson or vice-chairperson shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member country by whom she or he was accredited.

It is suggested that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should have its own presiding officers, consisting of a chair, two or three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda<sup>3</sup> for their consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. The representatives of member States may formulate observations and suggest such modifications as they consider appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

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<sup>2</sup> See resolution 734(PLEN.33) [online] [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44639/S1900430\\_en.pdf?sequence=1](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44639/S1900430_en.pdf?sequence=1).

<sup>3</sup> LC/SES.38/1/Rev.2 [online] <https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/37/en>).

### **3. Economic and social effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on Latin America and the Caribbean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had enormous health, social and economic consequences, which have claimed a very high number of human lives in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The pandemic is expected to lead to the deepest recession in recent history, which will endanger the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will give a presentation on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region and on the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Working document:**

- Reconstruction and transformation with equality and sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/SES.38/11)

### **4. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the post-pandemic economic recovery**

In the morning of Monday, 26 October, ECLAC and the Government of Costa Rica have organized a dialogue with ministers of foreign affairs of the region and political figures, to reflect upon the post-pandemic economic recovery.

Interventions should not exceed more than seven minutes per country.

### **5. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability***

The secretariat will present the document in the morning of Tuesday, 27 October.

In the document, ECLAC proposes a strategy for a big push for sustainable development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Given the existence of a crisis in international governance, a crisis of inequality and the environmental crisis—all three simultaneously—in addition to the repercussions of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need is evident to move in the direction of a new development pattern capable of overcoming these. With this in mind, the document offers guidelines and public policy proposals that link up the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, focusing on the synergies between them.

The document has five chapters. The first discusses the three structural crises in the international system and in Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically low trade and GDP growth, growing inequality and the environmental crisis. The chapter also addresses the impact of the pandemic on these structural crises. The second chapter sets out an analytical framework for discussing the problems of sustainable development. A three-gap model is proposed, defined by the difference between three growth rates: that needed to move towards greater equality, that which is consistent with the external constraint and that which is consistent with protecting the environment. To narrow these gaps, policy actions are needed, which are examined in the subsequent chapters of the document. The third chapter presents different models that provide quantitative analysis of the impact of different combinations of economic, social and environmental policies, which demonstrate that social inclusion and environmental stewardship can foster higher output and employment. The fourth chapter examines sectoral policies for a big push for sustainability, identifying the sectors and policies necessary for productive transformation in a world in which technical progress is rapidly redefining

the bases for competitiveness. Lastly, the fifth chapter examines cross-cutting policies and the importance of striking a new social compact rooted in a new development pattern.

A group of experts and other authorities have been invited to comment on the document, after which two panel discussions will be held: the first on sectors that drive sustainable development and the second on policies for a transformative recovery.

#### **Working documents:**

- Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability (LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1)
- Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability. Summary (LC/SES.38/4)

#### **Reference documents:**

- Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails. Summary (LC/G.2433(SES.33/4))
- Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary (LC/G.2525(SES.34/4))
- Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future. Summary (LC/G.2587(SES.35/4))
- Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary (LC/G.2661 (SES.36/4))
- The Inefficiency of Inequality. Summary (LC/SES.37/4)

### **6. Challenges for the Caribbean to build back better**

Some of the small island developing States in the Caribbean are among the world's most indebted economies as a result of a series of external shocks, compounded by structural weaknesses and vulnerabilities and greater exposure to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

In the afternoon of 27 October, ministers and high authorities will discuss these and other challenges for the Caribbean to build back better. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC will present the document, *The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19*, after which the floor will be opened to comments and statements by the country representatives. The session is open to the participation of all countries.

#### **Working document:**

- The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19

### **7. Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019**

The secretariat will submit a report to the delegations summarizing the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved by the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), under its programme of work for 2019.

**Working document:**

- Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019 (LC/SES.38/7)

**8. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022**

The secretariat will submit for consideration the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for 2022, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

The overall purpose of the ECLAC programme of work is to promote the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of Latin America and the Caribbean through continuous international cooperation, by undertaking comprehensive research and analysis of development processes and providing the relevant normative, operational and technical cooperation services in support of regional development efforts. The mandate for the programme, which falls within the purview of ECLAC, derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI), by which the Council established the Commission for the purpose of contributing to and coordinating action towards the economic and social development of the region and reinforcing economic relationships between the countries of the region and other countries of the world. The mandate was updated in 1996, by virtue of ECLAC resolution 553(XXVI), in which the Commission was instructed, *inter alia*, to collaborate with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination.

The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme is structured around 13 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, implemented through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

The basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the programme of work for 2022 were drawn from the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

**Working document:**

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022 (LC/SES.38/8)

**9. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-seventh session**

The secretariat has prepared a short video that summarizes the activities carried out by those bodies and intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-seventh session. The chairs of the subsidiary bodies will then make a short statement:

- Statistical Conference of the Americas, chaired by Colombia
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Chile
- Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Peru

- Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Mexico
- Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), chaired by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Committee on South-South Cooperation, chaired by Costa Rica
- Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), chaired by Uruguay
- Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, chaired by Costa Rica
- Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Colombia
- Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Paraguay
- Meeting of the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Costa Rica
- General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), chaired by Colombia

**Reference document:**

- Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-seventh session (LC/SES.38/DDR/1)

**10. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022**

Pursuant to resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC at its fourteenth session, held in November 1980, the focal point around which meetings of the Commission are organized is the biennial session. It was decided, as set down in that resolution, that sessions should be held in even-numbered years. It was also agreed that at each session the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the following session should be considered and that, whenever possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting should be specified.

At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission considered the document *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019–2020. Note by the Secretariat*.<sup>4</sup> Following consideration of that item, the Commission decided, by virtue of resolution 718(XXXVII), to retain the existing intergovernmental structure and pattern of meetings and to approve the calendar of conferences for the aforementioned period.

Pursuant to this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table (contained in the annex to the document *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019–2020. Note by the secretariat*),<sup>5</sup> which lists the scheduled meetings for the period 2021–2022 in accordance with the mandates adopted by the Governments at meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

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<sup>4</sup> LC/SES.37/9.

<sup>5</sup> LC/SES.38/9.

**Working document:**

- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.38/9)

**11. Committee on South-South Cooperation**

The Committee on South-South Cooperation will meet in the afternoon of Monday 26 October. The work of the Committee will be organized according to the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Annotations to the agenda.
3. Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC.
4. Regional follow-up to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.
5. Panel on development in transition: challenges for middle-income countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Working documents:**

- Provisional agenda (LC/SES.38/5/Rev.1)
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/SES.38/6/Rev.1)
- Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.38/10)

**Reference documents:**

- Report of the eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.8/2)
- Report of the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.9/2)
- Report of the first working meeting of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/OR.2019/2)
- Report of the second working meeting of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/OR.2019/3)
- Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/CONF.235/3)

**12. Other matters**

Under this agenda item, delegations may raise any other matters they deem appropriate.

**13. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session**