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session of ECLAC**  
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**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2020



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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2020.

### **Attendance<sup>1</sup>**

2. The session was attended by representatives of 43 States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Sint Maarten and United States Virgin Islands also attended as associate members of the Commission.

4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team of the United Nations, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resident coordinators, and representatives of the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), the Development Coordination Office, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Offices of the Resident Coordinators.

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Food Programme (WFP).

6. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the meeting: Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), European Commission, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Forum, and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

7. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba and Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, attended the session as special guests.

8. Representatives of cooperation agencies, panellists and other special guests, whose names figure in the list of participants, also attended.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of participants appears as annex 5 to this report.

### **Election of officers**

9. At the first plenary meeting, the delegations elected the officers of the thirty-eighth session.

10. The officers elected to preside over the thirty-eighth session were as follows:

Chair: Costa Rica

Vice-Chairs: Barbados  
Colombia  
Cuba  
Mexico

### **Organization of work**

11. In addition to the plenary meetings held during the session of the Commission and in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, concurrent meetings were held by the Committee on South-South Cooperation.

### **Documentation**

12. A list of the working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session is provided in annex 4.

## **B. AGENDA**

13. The Commission adopted the following 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. Economic and social effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean and on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC
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
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 business
13. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session

## C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### Opening session

14. The opening ceremony was attended by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of the Republic of Cuba; Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (via pre-recorded message); Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Carlos Alvarado, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

15. The Secretary-General of the United Nations said that he was honoured to participate in the opening of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and recalled that he had done so two years earlier, in May 2018, in Havana. Cuba's leadership in the work of the Commission had helped to consolidate the region's stance as one committed to equality, sustainable development and cooperation between governments and peoples. The physical distancing imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic did not diminish the resolve to face the crisis together. The pandemic had placed the world in an unprecedented situation, with multilateralism becoming more important than ever. Solidarity was essential and presupposed an understanding that the responses developing countries could provide would differ from those of developed countries. It should also be understood that women, informal sector workers, older persons and people living in poverty required greater protection and support. There was a need for strengthened health systems, universal health coverage and the guarantee that the COVID-19 would be considered a global public good, accessible to all. He called on countries to provide the necessary resources and mobilize all partners in the service of a global response. The impact of the pandemic in the region had underscored the need for a profound shift in the development model; that much was recognized in a document launched in July on the impacts of COVID-19 in the region, in which the multiple inequalities and vulnerabilities had been examined.

16. The ECLAC position document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability* followed up on the discussions in the General Assembly on the pressing need to move towards a new global social and environmental compact. The Secretary-General also acknowledged the rich repository of the Commission's continuing analyses of the impacts of the pandemic and the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, which compiled and disseminated information on the public policies being implemented by the 33 countries of the region. He reiterated his call to strengthen concessional mechanisms in financial cooperation for the development of middle-income countries, highlighting the Caribbean's need for support given its vulnerability, and said that the digital revolution was an opportunity that should be fully seized to leave no one behind. Costa Rica, the incoming Chair of ECLAC, had the benefit of its experience in promoting the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and the proposal for a Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) to provide extraordinary financing to

developing countries amid the health crisis. Lastly, he drew attention to the role of the regional commissions within the framework of United Nations reform, even more so in light of the pandemic, and reiterated the support of the United Nations to the region in its efforts to face the challenge and imagine a new development paradigm that was inclusive, equal and sustainable.

17. The President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba highlighted his country's efforts, as Chair of ECLAC, to foster multilateralism and cooperation, with particular concern for Caribbean nations. Inequality and gaps were widening in a region facing difficult health, economic, social and environmental circumstances. The pandemic had exposed the region's weaknesses and the projections were grim. The region recorded its worst performance in seven decades and small island States continued to bear the brunt of climate change. Policies on sustainable development, mitigation and resilience, fostering cooperation and access to resources were urgently needed to mitigate the effects of climate change. Only through a coordinated response could the multiple crises facing the region be overcome. States also had a duty to defend peace, since there could be no development without peace and no peace without development. He denounced the United States economic and trade blockade against Cuba, which did not deter his country from its commitment to development programmes. Lastly, he expressed Cuba's appreciation to ECLAC and support for Costa Rica in its mandate chairing the Commission.

18. The Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) noted that the pandemic had hit Latin America and the Caribbean harder than any other region. The report *Latin American Economic Outlook 2020: Digital Transformation for Building Back Better*,<sup>2</sup> co-published by OECD, ECLAC, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the European Union, posited that for a sustainable recovery, the crisis must be turned into an opportunity to redefine the social contract. He highlighted several key elements thereof: (i) inclusion, as the response to the crisis must address high levels of inequality; (ii) innovation, as there was a need to rethink production strategies, promote integration into regional and global chains and enhance competitiveness; (iii) environmental sustainability, with a vital push for a green recovery that valued and protected the region's natural riches; (iv) fiscal sustainability, through greater progressivity and efficient spending, less tax evasion and avoidance, reduced concessions and increased taxation on consumption and carbon emissions; and (v) international cooperation, with noteworthy examples including the FACE initiative proposed by Costa Rica and the OECD project on base erosion profit sharing (BEPS) to combat international evasion. The only way to overcome the crisis was to build back better, through an inclusive and collaborative compact.

19. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in her pre-recorded statement, said that the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC had come at a critical moment for Latin America and the Caribbean as it tackled the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis. The region had been hit particularly hard, accounting for 28% of cases and 34% of deaths from the disease in the world, despite being home to just 8% of the global population. Moreover, regional GDP was projected to contract much more sharply than at the global level, with the region not likely to see pre-pandemic levels of growth before 2023. Some 50 million people were expected to fall into poverty and 30 million would lose their jobs, primarily low-skilled workers, women and young people, further increasing inequality. Therefore, containing the spread of the virus and cushioning the economic impact remained the two key policy priorities. Lifelines amounting to around 8% of the region's GDP and central bank measures had helped, while the proposal put forward by ECLAC for a transformative recovery was very pertinent and timely. Having extended US\$ 64 billion of financial support since the start of the crisis, the Fund stood ready to assist the region's countries and to be a reliable, committed partner in creating a world that was fairer and more equitable, greener and more sustainable, smarter and more resilient to climate change and other shocks.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/PUB.2020/10.

20. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that as the region faced the most dire situation in decades, it was important to recall the Charter of the United Nations, which commemorated its seventy-fifth anniversary, and to think about the collective action needed to overcome it. She thanked the Government of Costa Rica, which would lead the Commission's work for the next two years, and highlighted that country's proposal for a financial mechanism based on international solidarity for a sustainable recovery from the crisis. She also expressed gratitude to the Government of Cuba for its leadership in its capacity as Chair of ECLAC. The region was reeling from the health, economic, environmental, social and political repercussions of its worst crisis in 100 years. The pandemic had highlighted and exacerbated the structural shortcomings of the development model. ECLAC estimates pointed to a 9.1% decline in the region's GDP and a 14% contraction in regional trade. Unemployment was expected to rise (44 million people) and informality rates would exceed 54%. The number of people in poverty would increase by 45.4 million, reaching 231 million, and the number of people in extreme poverty would rise by 28.5 million to 96.2 million.

21. The Executive Secretary said that ECLAC had put forward seven proposals for recovery: an emergency basic income; longer terms and grace periods for lending to companies and job protection; a basic digital basket; expansionary fiscal and monetary policies; international solidarity with respect to debt and the creation of resilience funds; recovery and investment plans for the sectors driving development; and closing gaps to make universal health and social protection regimes possible. The COVID-19 crisis was a systemic one and public action was key to a transformative recovery. The ECLAC position document, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, proposed the implementation of a virtuous combination of social and environmental policies which, together with economic, technological and industrial policies, would form the basis of a new development project. The implementation of that policy agenda also required new political coalitions (domestic and international), new forms of international cooperation, a revival of regional integration, and forms of global governance to provide global public goods. In closing, she said that the Commission would continue to be a source of thinking on the dimensions of development from a distinctly regional perspective.

22. The President of the Republic of Costa Rica thanked Cuba for its work in chairing ECLAC. He stated that the pandemic had had a severe impact on the region and the crisis was hampering the realization of the rights of all people, especially the most vulnerable. The profound inequalities and structural problems already highlighted in ECLAC studies had been laid bare; problems which, in the Caribbean, were compounded by climate change. He endorsed the Commission's call for social compacts for equality. A return to normal could not be a return to business as usual. Building back better meant rebuilding with equality, responding to the crises of the economy, of inequality and of the environment. More funding was needed to respond to the most pressing needs of the population, which had prompted his country to propose the FACE initiative. He called for a large-scale response, along the lines of the Marshall Plan, which would be funded by up to 10% of global GDP. The region was at a turning point and could participate more actively in global processes and strengthen its common voice for the benefit of developing countries. Lastly, he reiterated his country's commitment to moving forward, leaving no one behind.

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

23. Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that humanity was facing a change of era characterized by global challenges such as climate change, inequality, increasing asymmetries between developed and developing countries and the pandemic. A profound transformation that recognized the linkages between the economy, society and the environment and the need for international and regional multilateral cooperation was therefore required. The pandemic had exposed the limitations of the development model, evidenced by a prolonged path of low growth, low productivity, growing inequality,

insufficient export diversification, limited fiscal space and increasing environmental deterioration; all those factors made it impossible to meet the increasing needs of the population. There must be shift towards a more inclusive and sustainable development pattern that guaranteed the conditions necessary for governance and in which there was a balance between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, placing equality at the centre of development.

24. She noted that fiscal policy was once again the focus of discussions on development and growth and that public expenditure had been the main tool to mitigate the economic and social effects of the pandemic. The region needed to maintain an expansionary fiscal policy in its efforts for fiscal sustainability, with a strategic approach focused on public revenues to achieve sustainable growth and employment levels. The importance of financial and monetary measures to address the crisis could not be ignored either. The situation in Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) was concerning, for while highly indebted, their access to concessional funding was limited because they were considered middle-income. Added to that was their high vulnerability to natural disasters. ECLAC had pointed to the need to move forward on debt relief mechanisms to finance investment in climate change adaptation, and Costa Rica had proposed the establishment of FACE, a US\$ 516 billion economic relief fund financed by developed countries to provide unconditional, low-interest and long-term loans to developing countries, regardless of their level of per capita income. With regard to monetary policy, it was proposed that the use of conventional and non-conventional expansionary policies should be continued.

25. The Executive Secretary said that a new impetus was needed in industrial policy for sustainable development and the revitalization of regional integration. The organization of international production chains, which would consolidate as activity resumed and the world economy reactivated, would alter the interdependency of the world economy. There was a need for policies that deliberately favoured productive and service sectors and chains, altering the pattern of specialization of the economy. Examples were health-care industries (medical equipment and pharmaceuticals), the energy sector and the digital economy. It was imperative to move towards the construction of a social welfare state. To protect the living conditions of the whole population, it was crucial to take steps to move towards decent work, to promote co-responsibility for care among the State, the market and families, and pursue universal access to social protection, by ensuring universal access to high-quality public health and pension systems. It was time to implement universal, redistributive and solidarity-based social policies with a rights-based approach, to ensure that no one was left behind. The territorial and local dimension had to be incorporated into the design and implementation of policies to support the modelling and understanding of the deepening inequality and social exclusion in both urban and rural areas.

26. With everything suggesting that the recovery would be slower than projected and the economic and social costs of this crisis could continue to accumulate, a profound transformation that ensured a balance between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability was necessary. Such a transformation would require progress in political and social compacts built on broad multi-stakeholder participation, and in which dialogue and transformative leadership were used to reach consensus on universalizing social protection and refocusing development on equality with tax redistribution, industrial and environmental policies for sustainability. Regional and international solidarity would be critical to rebuild and transform with equality and sustainability, for the progress of all and would lend a united voice to a global agreement for the provision of public goods such as climate security, global health (universal vaccine), peace and financial stability. She said that the 2030 Agenda was more important than ever and that efforts must be redoubled to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the inequality characteristic of the region. As the United Nations commemorated its seventy-fifth anniversary, it could be said that ECLAC once again provided a forum for the



powerful and clear expression of Latin American and Caribbean multilateralism and the region's commitment to cooperation and integration. In closing, she said that ECLAC grew and was nourished through dialogue with its member countries. Together it was possible to do more and better for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the post-pandemic economic recovery (agenda item 4)

27. The dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the post-pandemic economic recovery was chaired by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, who noted in his opening remarks that the presence of high-level authorities from the region was testament to the importance of the issue, as were the public policies put in place to address the social and economic effects of the crisis. He then opened the floor to the participants.

28. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina said that the COVID-19 pandemic compounded the existing inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the social structure of poverty was worsening. His country had promoted macroeconomic policies to guarantee a basic social income and had expanded the health and social protection network. The decline in both formal and informal employment was the main difficulty. Countries must rekindle the desire for integration and strengthened strategic ties, promoting exports and solidarity-based multilateralism, especially when it came to requests for financing. The rules of international trade must be tailored to the region's needs and the World Trade Organization had to recognize that. Market integration and increased intraregional trade were needed to avoid international double taxation. It was also necessary to renegotiate debt owed to international lenders and to support other countries seeking deferrals of payment and grace periods. One of the many lessons to be learned from the pandemic was that a model that was unsustainable must be called into question. It had also dispelled a number of myths, such as those upheld by the financial system, that expansionary monetary policies led to inflation and that equality and economic efficiency were incompatible. Lastly, Argentina agreed with the ideas proposed by ECLAC and it was important to discuss them at the current session.

29. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados said that his country's policy response to the crisis had exacerbated the national debt burden, highlighting the need for international financial institutions (IFIs) and developed countries to provide concessional financing and access to credit, in order to offset revenue shortfalls, provide fiscal space and reduce the likelihood of a debt default. He therefore welcomed the proposal to create a lending facility to support Latin American, Caribbean and African countries, as well as the development of a universal vulnerability index to capture countries' vulnerabilities across economic, environmental and social dimensions. While the pandemic offered opportunities for new and improved ways of doing business through digital platforms and technology, countries would have to invest in secure, affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure. Similarly, training and education must be prioritized to build more diverse and resilient economies, with the proposal by the University of the West Indies to establish a US\$ 600 million multi-donor trust fund most welcome in that regard. Lastly, he urged governments to promote the blue economy, high value manufacturing and the expansion of local technologies in order to bring about a sustainable regional economic recovery.

30. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize said that the pandemic-induced economic crisis was imperilling the people's well-being. While the pandemic offered an opportunity for Caribbean SIDS to diversify away from tourism, the necessary investment in infrastructure and emerging sectors was too high,

putting it beyond the reach of many SIDS. The crisis had also stalled progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with major national realignments and ongoing commitment to helping the vulnerable needed if the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was to be attained. He echoed the calls for the creation of a compact to mobilize concessionary financing, promote partnerships and foster inclusive decision-making for vulnerable economies. Lastly, he said that access to a viable COVID-19 vaccine must be equitable and affordable, and expressed hope that the current crisis would lead to a rejuvenation of the multilateral system. Collaborative approaches based on dialogue, shared experiences, meaningful partnerships and citizen engagement were needed to tackle the pandemic, climate change and other global challenges.

31. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, in a pre-recorded statement, said that the country had been quick to implement a plan to increase hospital capacity and had established a large-scale testing system, created a network of residential facilities for infected persons and adopted a strategy of local rolling lockdowns. Economic measures had included the allocation of US\$ 30 billion for a fiscal stimulus package and the creation of social assistance programmes covering 70% of the population. Moving forward, the country would focus on employment subsidies, a public-private investment plan and support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Chile would continue to promote inclusive, environmentally sustainable trade that was mindful of the participation of indigenous peoples, encouraged leading roles for SMEs and included a gender perspective. Lastly, there was a need to move towards greater regional integration to take advantage of the reorganization of value chains, strengthen institutional capacities, participate in the technological revolution, diversify exports and create public policies to combat inequality, creating safety nets to ensure that the middle classes were not left behind.

32. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia said that countries should seek innovative and viable paths to recovery that would boost economic activity with equality and sustainability. The central aim of her country's National Development Plan 2018–2022 was equity. She highlighted the launch of a reactivation plan that was in line with the SDGs and of programmes and initiatives to protect families and young people, revitalize employment, invest in strategic projects targeting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and improve access and digital connectivity. Given the imperative to transform existing production and consumption patterns, action plans must be aligned with the SDGs. Colombia remained committed to the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a road map for development. Large-scale cooperation and public-private partnerships were needed. In closing, she said that multilateralism and cooperation were vital for achieving common goals.

33. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that to avoid a reversal of the gains made by the countries of the region in the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, they must work together. Cuba's efforts to tackle the pandemic had centred on protecting health, providing social protection for workers and safeguarding the economy to avoid the collapse of essential production activities. Members of Cuba's Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade had been fighting the pandemic, with 45 brigades providing care in 38 countries. Cuba was on the long and difficult path to recovery, which was severely hampered by the rigid economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on the country, in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The areas on which Cuba had focused its work aligned with the seven areas or sectors that drove recovery as proposed by ECLAC. Cuba reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals and would support Costa Rica in its role as Chair of ECLAC. Lastly, he said that it was time to decide what world was wanted and that it was up to the region to make the shift towards a sustainable future.

34. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said that COVID-19 had exacerbated the existing problems in the region and created new ones. Middle-income countries were facing a debt burden and needed international cooperation and relief from international financial institutions and multilateral banks that took into account each country's unique situation to lay the foundation for sustainable global recovery. Employment was vital to recovery, so Ecuador had focused on social protection, social investment and support for SMEs through credit programmes aimed at preventing job insecurity. Talks had been held to renegotiate debt and obtain credit lines. The recommendations of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for strengthening rural tourism had been implemented. He concluded by noting the importance of the SDG Gateway maintained by ECLAC, which reported, *inter alia*, on national responses to the pandemic, and reiterated his support for the Commission's work, which had always been a source of valuable initiatives.

35. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs of Grenada said that small, vulnerable economies had been forced to address the long-term economic, social and health consequences of the pandemic with limited financial resources. As it did not have a central bank, his country was unable to adopt monetary policies and had to rely on limited fiscal tools. Moreover as a middle-income country, Grenada had been unable to readily access credit and concessionary financing. The empirical data gathered by ECLAC supported the need for debt relief. He called on the Commission to develop new strategies to deal with post-COVID-19 challenges. The crisis would require a people-centred, regional approach to development. In that connection, Grenada was implementing a digital governance for resilience project, with assistance from the World Bank. Once the pandemic was over, countries would still have to tackle the issues of climate change, derisking, border security, and environmental and economic resilience. Those challenges could be overcome with support, but the region needed to influence IFIs policymaking.

36. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala said that the ECLAC position document called for reflection on new forms of global governance. The international financial and trade system, which included access to concessional financing, must be revised. GDP should not be the sole criterion for measuring poverty, and Guatemala's work with a group of middle-income countries could be used to deepen the analysis of financing and cooperation opportunities, including South-South cooperation. One example of how Guatemala had advanced in prioritizing SDGs in a participatory manner was the implementation of a major national nutrition campaign. It was important to strengthen the provision of services to migrants, whose remittances were vital to the development of their communities. He thanked ECLAC for its work in preparing the Comprehensive Development Plan. Guatemala supported the Commission's proposals, which included the establishment of a basic digital basket and an emergency basic income, as well as the FACE relief fund initiative proposed by Costa Rica. A coordinated response was needed to standardize regional health protocols in order to revive tourism and development.

37. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guyana said that the COVID-19 pandemic would accelerate the transformative changes resulting from technological developments, shifts in global power and climate change. His country would work with international organizations such as ECLAC to leverage those changes to promote sustainable development. While the pandemic posed the same threat to all countries, poverty, inequalities and vulnerabilities had increased significantly in developing countries, exposing their economic fragility and inadequate health infrastructure, pushing up unemployment rates and forcing many businesses to close. The region's countries needed the flexibility to accelerate financial and technical support in order to contain the spread of the disease, promote economic activity, protect jobs and alleviate liquidity constraints. Moreover, multi-sectoral recovery strategies should be in line with medium- and long-term development, and give due consideration to climate change, disaster risk management and financing for development. Non-predatory financing and lending practices should be implemented to address those issues effectively, in addition to taking urgent steps to eliminate unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

38. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti said that while the region had so far been spared devastating hurricanes, fragile countries were bearing the brunt of the unparalleled human and material costs of the pandemic. To mitigate the sharp economic decline, which was compounded by structural challenges, the Haitian Government had adopted a post-pandemic recovery plan centred on six pillars of action: economic diversification, development of services and energy infrastructure, support for businesses and employment, strengthening capacity, resilience-building and security. By enhancing governance and competitiveness, Haiti aimed to achieve growth and improve social indicators by 2023. Countries were in urgent need of committed, coordinated and solidarity-driven cooperation at the regional and global levels. Innovative resource-mobilization strategies and mechanisms were thus essential. He welcomed the position document and recognized the key role the Commission played in a number of areas, noting that Haiti counted on its support and that of the international community to achieve its ambitious reforms.

39. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras said that it was imperative for the countries of the region to be united amid the current situation. Increasing debt and falling incomes had left the region in a vulnerable position and there was an urgent need to request debt renegotiation to allow for more flexible repayment periods. The time had come to strengthen agreements and cooperation and to promote trade as one region. Honduras had taken ECLAC recommendations into account and pursued policies for sustainable post-pandemic recovery. As part of efforts to address the crisis, the Central Bank of Honduras had reduced interest rates and legal reserve requirements and, together with private banks, had developed mechanisms for debt relief; investment plans had also been devised to improve infrastructure, sanitation, transport, energy transmission in remote areas, as well as social protection, citizen security, opportunities for farmers and business start-ups.

40. The State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica commended ECLAC for the valuable support provided to the region's recovery efforts. In addition to implementing the largest fiscal stimulus in its history, Jamaica had launched the COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) programme to protect the most vulnerable workers, the unemployed and small business, and was spearheading efforts to develop COVID-19 health and safety protocols for the tourism sector. Resources should be directed to reinforcing the social safety net, strengthening education and health systems, and expanding use of information technology and Internet connectivity, in addition to boosting economic resilience. Lastly, he noted that ECLAC offered an avenue for greater collaboration and sharing best practices in response to the pandemic. The Financing for the Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative, co-convened by Jamaica, Canada and the United Nations, offered a menu of innovative solutions, but in order to implement the most suitable ones as quickly as possible, countries must remain fully engaged with their development partners, IFIs, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

41. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that there was general agreement that traditional solutions were inadequate and ineffective in response to the COVID-19-induced crisis, for they had been tried and failed. There had been no solidarity on the financial front or in efforts laying the groundwork for recovery. The levels of debt and the capacity to absorb it varied among countries, so the bases for recovery were also different. An unprecedented effort was needed to build common political ground. Mexico proposed that a special session of the General Assembly should be convened in 2021 to address global recovery from the pandemic, beyond health issues. It was possible that the issues common to Latin America and the Caribbean were shared by other countries around the world.

42. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru said that multilateralism was the most appropriate way to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Peru supported Mexico's proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly on a post-pandemic recovery. The crisis had illustrated the need to strengthen policies to improve State efficiency in providing public services, particularly those related to health. There was a

need for measures that included the State, the private sector and civil society. A comprehensive approach to the issue of labour informality in the region was needed. The development of the digital market, as proposed by ECLAC, was also vital. Lastly, he reaffirmed his country's commitment to multilateralism and international solidarity.

43. The Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported Mexico's proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly on the economic effects of COVID-19. He argued that the crisis affecting the world was not new, as it had its roots in the economic model imposed during the twentieth century—the pandemic had merely exposed its structural flaws. A profound change of model was needed to ensure that post-pandemic economic policies protected social rights and access to basic services and to strengthen the State so that it could address the current challenges. He stressed the need for integration, solidarity and complementarity between the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, as the lack of integration had incalculable costs for the region. He said that the scaling-up of the coercive measures imposed by the United States against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua was unacceptable, and the multilateral system should respond to such aggression, which was structurally damaging to the economies.

44. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis said that his country had launched several relief and social safety net measures to assist those citizens and residents most affected by the pandemic. Thankfully, his country had managed to contain the disease, allowing manufacturing plants to welcome back 90% of their employees and national borders to be reopened on 31 October 2020. No civil servants had been laid off during the crisis and the government had decided to regularize its auxiliary employees to provide them with a safety net and a steady income. The pandemic had highlighted the need to prioritize the education system, invest in alternative energy, and expand fisheries and agricultural programmes. His government would also reprioritize high-impact capital projects in 2021 and would continue to focus on the recovery, but not at the expense of other priorities, such as climate change, and on developing a vulnerability index.

45. The Private Secretary for National Policy of the Office of the President of the Republic of Nicaragua said that against the backdrop of a predatory and unjust neoliberal system, the pandemic would entrench the unequal distribution of wealth, increase the digitization of the economy thus leading to job losses and the closure of small and medium-sized enterprises, and would further weaken multilateralism. He explained that while Nicaragua had never shut down its economy or imposed "stay-at-home" measures, it had kept infection numbers under control thanks to free and universal health and education, available since 2007, the quadrupling of health spending and the significant increase in the number of workers and hospitals. Lastly, he said that a global recovery would require renewed confidence in the future, and to that end, the international community must reduce extreme inequality and exclusion, achieving the SDGs by 2030, and build a society with zero net emissions by 2050 to avoid the worst effects of climate change. There was also a need to heed the Secretary-General's call for the elimination of unilateral coercive measures and to provide debt relief to developing countries between 2020 and 2024 to prevent a chain of sovereign debt default.

46. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Integration of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that in addition to the severe repercussions of the pandemic, her country had had to deal with a climate emergency resulting from devastating forest fires in the east that had its endangered biodiversity and forest wealth. States must commit to preserving the planet, promoting policies and economic models that respected nature and protected future generations. The long and arduous road to post-pandemic recovery would require the creation of sources of employment incentives for investment, expanding and transforming production capacity and fostering agile and fluid intraregional trade. To return to the path of the

2030 Agenda, international solidarity and cooperation in the form of measures such as access to concessional financing, increased private investment and official development assistance were indispensable. She closed by saying that the shared visions and experiences discussed at the session would enable a better understanding of the health crisis and a supportive and cooperative response to its effects.

47. The Secretary for External Trade and Economic Affairs of Brazil said that in recent decades, ECLAC analysis and studies had proved an invaluable contribution in the formulation of public policy and regional integration strategies. The Brazilian Government would continue to support the Commission's activities, participate in discussions and use those studies to guide its policymaking. The pandemic had had a profound impact on intra- and extraregional trade and sustainable development in the region. Brazil had adopted fiscal and monetary measures, increased liquidity and access to credit, supported micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and provided assistance to the most vulnerable populations. However, transparency and clear rules were essential for the recovery of international trade. Brazil was therefore in favour of a comprehensive reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that would allow it to contribute to a rapid, effective, inclusive and sustainable recovery. Countries must work together in international forums to coordinate their positions with a view to mitigating the economic and social impact of the pandemic and ensuring that recovery benefited all.

48. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Economic Promotion and Integration of El Salvador said that humanity was at a turning point and had an opportunity to prepare itself before a similar or greater global threat arose. The pandemic had been a litmus test for El Salvador's health system at a time when the country had also been hit by tropical storms. Efforts to assist the population, especially the most vulnerable, had included the suspension of payment for basic services, deferral of mortgage payments, subsidies and soft loans for SMEs, and support for the informal sector and those who had lost their jobs as a result of health measures. Likewise, the relationship with the diaspora had been strengthened and El Salvador had sought to put remittances to productive use for the country's benefit. Expressing thanks for the solidarity shown, she concluded by calling on countries of the region to strengthen cooperation and asked ECLAC to continue its efforts to change how countries were classified in order to be eligible for concessional financing.

49. The Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama reminded participants that decisions taken in times of crisis defined and shaped the world for decades. Meetings such as the current one made it clear that all countries had the same concerns and it was everyone's responsibility to work in a coordinated manner to create common ground and implement the interesting and practical proposals outlined by ECLAC. One of the main lessons learned from the crisis was the importance of counting on science, technology and innovation to provide solutions for closing existing social gaps. The pandemic had expedited the response to needs that had existed for a long time, but to which insufficient attention or resources had been devoted, such as the provision of telehealth services or distance education. Lastly, she said that room should be given in agendas for countries to jointly coordinate the actions needed to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic and thus prevent significant setbacks down the line.

50. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay recalled that ECLAC had warned that a regional effort was needed to avoid another lost decade. His government believed that developing a strategy for recovery required, among other things, stepping up commitment to the implementation of the SDGs, tackling existing structural weaknesses, strengthening multilateralism, transforming national systems to achieve universal access to health, bridging the digital divide, and moving towards sustainable and inclusive economies. It would also mean taking into consideration the special challenges faced by developing countries, small island developing States, landlocked countries, and middle-income countries, understanding the interdependence between humans

and the environment, and pursuing greater regional integration that would reduce vulnerability to external shocks. International cooperation was necessary, and Paraguay supported Costa Rica's proposal to establish FACE. Lastly, he said that the time had come to build consensus on development models and innovative public policies for the post-pandemic period, and that ECLAC was uniquely placed in the region to help countries achieve that.

51. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic said that the country had embarked on the most ambitious programme in its history to provide health coverage for the entire population. One of the greatest challenges during the crisis had been the digital divide, given the need to accelerate the digital transition by providing equipment to teachers and students and training in distance learning for thousands of professionals, among other things. The partial and insular response to a global problem, he noted, had taken a severe toll on the population, and countries now had a responsibility to work together in an international cooperation system that could fast-track protocols for humanitarian aid and collaboration. When a vaccine finally became available, it must be made available to all countries quickly and affordably. Lastly, he said that regional unity was vital, since the health crisis would likely become an economic pandemic. He therefore supported the creation of the economic relief fund, FACE, and proposed a regional agreement establishing a framework to coordinate the response to the current and any future crises.

52. The Permanent Secretary for Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Suriname said that given the pandemic's impact on the region, solidarity, cooperation and global leadership were more critical than ever, as an improved normal was needed to build a future with equality and sustainability for all. Industrial development and economic diversification, based on market demand, technology and comparative advantages would be required. While confirmed cases accounted for less than 1% of Suriname's population, the pandemic had affected lower-income and vulnerable groups disproportionately. The strict and immediate health and social measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19 had borne results, and test positivity rates were on the decline. Continued monitoring allowed the government to adjust its response, balancing health and economic imperatives to bring about a slow and cautious reopening of the economy, with relevant protocols and innovative solutions to ensure the enjoyment of basic rights. Suriname welcomed the international technical and medical cooperation received and endeavoured to align the results of the session with national policies.

53. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago said that decisive health, education and financial measures had been taken to minimize the effects of COVID-19, including humanitarian assistance to nationals stranded abroad. Effectively countering the ravages of the pandemic in a region facing myriad problems required a novel developmental approach that went against the status quo, and the role of ECLAC would be indispensable in that regard. Innovative response mechanisms, strengthened financial instruments and scaled-up public-private partnerships were key for the recovery that would propel the region forward. An enabling environment was needed to maintain economic gains, reinforce resilience and guide development. As such, financial support and debt relief for small island developing States were critical. There was value in the ECLAC approach to rethinking development and its proposal for a "big push" for sustainability could only redound to the benefit of the region. Trinidad and Tobago would continue its longstanding cooperation with ECLAC and, welcoming the report, *The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19*,<sup>3</sup> looked forward to the Commission's assistance in creating an exit strategy to the crises facing the region.

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<sup>3</sup> LC/SES.38/12.

54. The Director for Political Affairs and Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay spoke about the linkage between control of the health situation and economic recovery, which had led Uruguay to focus on reviving employment and ensuring the sustainability of social policies, as well as on measures to support vulnerable populations and SMEs. On the health front, the pandemic had been kept under control thanks to the responsible actions of the population, the health system and the government's strategy of widespread testing and monitoring. The context in Uruguay was one of high fiscal debt, tax burden and inflation levels; to achieve sustained growth, producers and exporters must be better able to compete internationally, which meant that the State must be a partner and not a burden. Continued efforts must be made towards a multilateral trade system, eliminating barriers to trade. At the regional level, there was a need to reform South-South cooperation mechanisms, explore forums for sharing experiences and good practices, and work together, eschewing protectionist tendencies and turning to international cooperation to resolve any differences.

55. In his concluding statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-eighth session, said that the session was a window of opportunity for all. Costa Rica was committed to chairing ECLAC with an emphasis on listening and dialogue that was inclusive of all voices and dedicated to coordinating and strengthening regional spaces for dialogue, starting with ECLAC. The pandemic had changed individuals' and societies' expectations for the future and challenged the certainty that progress and development were linear and inevitable. The crisis would increase the number of people living in poverty and extreme poverty and reverse human development indicators. He said that multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation were not optional, but the only real way out of the crisis. Costa Rica had therefore called on international financial institutions to adopt greater flexibility in assessing the fiscal situation of developing countries and to implement innovative financial instruments to alleviate the crisis. He referred to the proposed Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE), which aimed to provide a coordinated global response, mediated by international financial institutions. The funds, provided by countries that accounted for 80% of global GDP, would be allocated to meet the needs of developing countries, equivalent to 3% of the GDP of beneficiary countries. Lastly, he expressed Costa Rica's commitment to achieving the SDGs, which was possible only through the coordination of effective responses at the national, regional and global levels.

56. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC submitted for consideration and adoption the Political declaration on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was adopted by consensus. The text is reproduced in annex 3.

*Other special statements by representatives of member countries of ECLAC*

57. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, in his pre-recorded statement, said that a global effort was needed to fight a pandemic that showed no signs of weakening. Turkey's domestic response had been successful thanks to its strong health care system, the manufacture of medical equipment and initiatives to sustain key economic sectors such as tourism. The country had provided aid and exported critical medical supplies to 155 countries and eight international organizations, and its Latin American and Caribbean partners were no exception to that show of solidarity, with equipment donations to 18 countries and support to the emergency plans of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Central American Integration System (SICA). As noted during the Group of Twenty (G-20) summit, a more open international economic system was needed, with free flow of trade and improved global supply chains; isolation and barriers were no solution. Experiences and best practices must be shared, especially in health and research to develop a universally available vaccine. He reiterated his country's support for ECLAC, which was a useful platform for cooperation and strengthening ties with the region.



58. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development of Canada praised the Commission's valuable analysis that supported evidence-based policy- and decision-making. COVID-19 had exposed existing economic weaknesses, multiple inequalities, and the need for greater efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence, threatening decades of hard-won progress in social development. However, it also offered a window of opportunity to rebuild new and more inclusive social contracts. Recovery could only occur with greater solidarity and dialogue. Canada was working closely with regional governments towards inclusive pandemic response measures, human rights and continued delivery of public services, and would contribute \$220 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX). Despite Caribbean countries' laudable efforts to control the pandemic, the serious economic impacts on the subregion made timely access to finance for economic and climate resilience more important than ever. Inclusion and equality were at the centre of Canada's progressive domestic and international agenda, which recognized the critical role of the private sector in economic recovery. To achieve the SDGs and address structural obstacles to growth, transformative and sustainable solutions that benefited all were required.

59. The Ambassador of France to Chile expressed his country's solidarity with those afflicted by the unprecedented health, economic and humanitarian crisis. Convinced that given their historical ties, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean must work together to tackle the pandemic and reflect on a sustainable post-COVID-19 path, France had organized a virtual ministerial meeting to that end in July. In addition to contributions through the European Union, the country had earmarked 800 million euros towards health and economic assistance in the region for 2020 and had launched specific emergency aid projects for low-income populations. France also prioritized laying the foundation for a new globalization that was more balanced, equitable and sustainable and sought not just economic recovery but reconstruction that protected the public goods. The country would maintain established partnerships and continue its financial cooperation in clean energy and environment efforts. France was committed to supporting ECLAC in its key role in resilient reconstruction and defending multilateralism at the highest level.

60. The Ambassador of Norway to Chile referred to the serious health, economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. He said that the recovery would be challenging and complex, but also offered opportunities for technological innovation, the development of a green and blue economy and inclusive growth that left no one behind. The COVID-19 vaccine should be a global public good and Norway had made financial contributions to the development of a universally available vaccine. More efforts were needed to promote technology that would help to achieve the SDGs and to focus more attention on the ocean economy. Strong institutions, responsible allocation and management of public funds and the fight against corruption, tax evasion and avoidance and illicit financial flows were crucial. Women and minority groups were hardest hit by the pandemic, and the difficulty in accessing economic support, health care and education would increase poverty and inequality. He congratulated ECLAC for promoting an ambitious plan for reconstruction and transformation with equality and sustainability, and noted that the Commission's eight proposals for reconstruction were innovative. The deleterious impacts of the pandemic would be substantial and there was no time to lose in building back better, greener and more inclusively.

*Statements by representatives of associate members of ECLAC*

61. The Prime Minister of Curaçao, noting that the region had struggled with many economic and social challenges before the pandemic, said that progress required a new development approach combining technology and research and development. Despite being a cradle of innovation, Latin America and the Caribbean still lagged behind the rest of the world. Curaçao had embarked on a collaborative energy transition project—involving the State, private sector and scientific community—which sought sustainable and multi-disciplinary solutions to the challenge of affordable and clean energy. Such a seemingly futuristic

endeavour would require investment in social development, healthcare and education, but it would build resilience and achieve an integral sustainable development agenda for the region, tapping the region's talent to create employment, encourage start-ups and innovation and help to protect the planet for future generations.

62. The Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands said that despite successful efforts to bring the initial COVID-19 outbreak under control and a functioning internal market, absent the financial wherewithal to generate the level of economic activity needed to sustain the still-suffering tourism industry, the territory had but one option: to reopen borders, as of 1 December, while taking every measure possible to prevent the importation of cases. External financing would be needed to mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic and the territory hoped for a combination of grants and soft loans to conserve its fiscal resources. Recalling that Associate Member Countries had no access to the Green Climate Fund and other sources of international funding for sustainable development initiatives, and that some administering States were often unwilling to assist, he hoped that consideration would be given to granting Associate Members access to the proposed Caribbean resilience fund. Technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building would also be welcome to assist the region's post-pandemic economic recovery, which must not be hampered by discriminatory assistance to the detriment of small island developing States.

63. The Premier of Montserrat said that Caribbean governments' quick response to COVID-19 had protected citizens' health, but at the expense of their economies. The pandemic must be approached in the same way as the natural disasters that devastated the subregion: analyse how well systems and infrastructure withstood the crisis and determine how to rebuild better. Public and private sector experts had developed a strategy to maintain economic activity and identify innovative opportunities. In the short term, financial support had been provided to businesses, vulnerable populations and key sectors. Montserrat hoped to access funding to continue that support in the new fiscal year to meet the immediate needs of those hardest hit. While not solely dependent on tourism, Montserrat's fiscal balance had suffered from the loss of revenue and efforts were under way to attract "digital nomads" by leveraging the island's low infection and crime rates and improved technological capacity. The long-term strategy included strengthening the private sector and reducing bureaucracy, clean energy, sustainable farming and tourism, economic diversification and independence, and technology. Building more resilient post-pandemic economies required proper planning and investment.

Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability* (agenda item 5)

64. The document entitled *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*<sup>4</sup> was presented by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The Executive Secretary said that the world was facing a change of era and that the region was experiencing a lost decade, marked by falls in GDP and rises in poverty and unemployment. Three key structural crises had been made worse by the pandemic: low economic growth, inequality and the environment. ECLAC had developed a model of three growth rates: the economic rate (consistent with external equilibrium), the social rate (a minimum growth rate of 4% per year and gradual redistribution of income, which were needed to eliminate poverty) and the environmental rate (consistent with sustainability and planetary balance). Closing the three gaps would require, in addition to the above-mentioned minimum growth target with income redistribution, a structural change in the production matrix, decarbonization and technological progress.

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<sup>4</sup> LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1.

65. The Executive Secretary said that ECLAC had identified seven strategic sectors in the big push for sustainability: renewable energies, electromobility, the basic basket of digital goods and services, the health-care manufacturing industry, the bioeconomy, the circular economy and tourism. Synergies between business strategies and public policies would be needed to make an enabling environment for investment and capacity-building viable. This would be possible with the right mix of short- and long-term fiscal, social, environmental, industrial and integration policies. Concluding the presentation of *Building a New Future: A Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, she said that it was a realistic, essential and action-oriented document.

66. Following the presentation, statements were made by Carlos Alvarado, President of the Republic of Costa Rica; Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP); Teresa Ribera, Fourth Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain; and José Antonio Ocampo, Professor at Columbia University.

67. The President of the Republic of Costa Rica reiterated that the world had changed and said that rapid and effective responses had to be formulated to the challenges highlighted by the pandemic, which had revealed deficiencies in areas such as social matters, health systems and the protection of biodiversity. Another lost decade could not be allowed: there had to be movement towards a decade of opportunity. The path to a better future would not be easy, but good results would only be achieved if countries walked it together; international and regional cooperation, based on the principle of solidarity, had to be strengthened. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement were visionary and transformative instruments for a better, fairer and more sustainable future. He called on international financial organizations to support the region through the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE), since concessional and solidarity-based loans were crucial for Latin America and the Caribbean to be able to be reborn stronger. For a better future, hope and commitment were needed.

68. The Professor of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) said that the position document prepared by ECLAC put forward another possible form of capitalism, which could be achieved by redesigning public-private partnerships, corporate governance and procurement policies. A new social pact was needed between the State, businesses and citizens, which was symbiotic and based on co-creation processes, to address inequality. It was no longer sufficient to redistribute wealth, Governments had to make it their mission to overcome challenges and adopt SDG-based approaches, as well as investing in State capacity. The purpose of public policy was not to rectify market failures, but to be part of a process that catalysed the desired changes. Compartmentalized conceptions of the public and the private spheres had to be abandoned, and mutually beneficial relationships had to be built, with conditions that favoured investment. Achieving the SDGs would require far-reaching social, political and behavioural changes which would not be easy to achieve, but were possible.

69. The Fourth Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain said that crossing environmental thresholds and not preserving natural capital created risks, as did acute social inequalities. Spain's work towards sustainable recovery was based on four pillars: the ecological transition, by properly managing natural resources; guaranteeing access to resources, in particular digital resources; strengthening territorial and social cohesion; and promoting equal opportunities with a gender perspective. It was vital to undertake processes to jointly build local, national, regional and global responses, with and for people. That entailed not only investing in change, but also reforming existing policies and building partnerships. The most urgent task was ensuring a decent and reasonable standard of living for people and maintaining it. That required policies based on solidarity, including access to financial resources.

70. The Professor at Columbia University said that there was a lack of international cooperation in the COVID-19 crisis, as opposed to previous crises, and it was important to undertake ambitious initiatives such as the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE). In the region, the crisis was not a direct result of the international crisis, and its magnitude was not related to the external shock. Latin America was facing the pandemic following five years of meagre economic performance and with a very limited fiscal margin, and the region had even become the epicentre for several months. Economic, social and environmental policies needed to be integrated. Those policies could be a source of innovation and productive development, and could even create employment, with positive economic effects. A productive transformation was needed, towards greater technological content, which would require a new form of public-private relationship. It was important to depoliticize regional integration. The region needed to adopt a joint position on intellectual property rules and strengthening multilateralism, as well as working together on innovation and technology.

71. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico said that multilateralism was the best way to respond to global challenges and that a global recovery strategy was required. The representative of Cuba stressed the need to consider structural changes and renewed multilateralism, based on candid dialogue and solidarity. Lastly, the representative of El Salvador emphasized the importance of reducing the large digital divide that still existed in the region.

*Panel 1: Sectors driving sustainable development*

72. Panel 1 was moderated by María del Pilar Garrido, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica, and the panellists were Matías Kulfas, Minister of Productive Development of Argentina, Germán Rueda, Deputy Minister for the Digital Transformation of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies of Colombia, Graciela Márquez, Secretary of Economy of Mexico (pre-recorded message), Sergio Silva, Chief of the Global Economic Intelligence Unit of the Secretariat of Economic Affairs of Mexico, and Maurizio Bezzecheri, Director for Latin America of Enel.

73. In her introductory remarks, the Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica invited the panellists to examine the sectors that could potentially drive development in a transformative recovery in which equality and sustainability would be fundamental, and to analyse the forms of cooperation between those sectors, the role of State policy, public-private partnership strategies and social initiatives to achieve progressive structural change capable of closing social, environmental and economic gaps.

74. The Minister of Productive Development of Argentina said that it was increasingly feasible to overcome past incongruities between productive development, environmental care and social development aims, as there were links that allowed for productive development goals that included the environmental dimension and the goals of social progress and human development, in addition to economic results. The environmental dimension was not a cost, but an opportunity to generate new markets and solutions. Argentina planned to work on five major areas: the knowledge economy, digitization and Industry 4.0, sustainable mobility, sustainable production and the circular economy, and energy efficiency and the supply of clean energy. Key actions were under way in each area, including legislative initiatives, training, technical assistance, establishment of fiscal and financial incentives, research and development, regulations and certification. It was possible to undertake productive development that actively incorporated the environmental dimension, was economically sustainable and contributed to improving people's quality of life.

75. The Deputy Minister for the Digital Transformation of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia said that his country was making significant progress with the digital transformation of the State and companies, to improve people's quality of life, taking into account the different sectors that drove sustainable development. The Ministry's initiatives were in line with the policy guidelines set out by ECLAC for the structural and progressive change needed in the region. All of them promoted equality in the process of digital transformation, facilitating interaction with the State and taking into account the different communities to build a future based on sustainability. E-commerce had been accelerated during the pandemic, and to boost growth the public and private sectors had acted quickly to support the inclusion of MSMEs. A set of initiatives aimed to promote digitalization of MSMEs, provide support for digital transformation processes of companies throughout the country and promote e-commerce, with special attention to local communities.

76. The Secretary of Economy of Mexico said that topics being discussed were important, as they allowed for reflection on the sectors that drove economic recovery, how to incorporate small and medium-sized enterprises, and the opportunities offered by the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada to enhance trade and integration, and to increase women's participation in the labour market. The Chief of the Global Economic Intelligence Unit of the Secretariat of Economic Affairs of Mexico said that the country's economic sectors had been affected to varying degrees by the pandemic and that the challenge was to create the structural conditions for recovery to reorient the industrial platform towards sustainable development and green growth in the long term. The health-care manufacturing sector was emerging as one of the pillars for sustainable development and was strategic for potential future health emergencies. Other key sectors included electromobility, the circular economy, e-commerce, aerospace and software. There were two problems with discussing strategic sectors: they were identified through overall analysis, rather than based on the particularities of each region of the country, and developing these sectors would not be enough if inclusion was not incorporated as a key factor. Sustainability would be at risk if the economy did not become more inclusive, in terms of gender, MSMEs and regions. Some sectors would be important for the recovery, but without inclusion it would not be possible to transform the Mexican economy and achieve sustainable development.

77. The Director for Latin America of Enel referred to four sectors. In terms of energy, he said that the region had abundant wind, water and sun resources, and was undertaking decarbonization processes, favoured by the financial, environmental and social context. To have more resilient systems, interconnection between countries was important, including harmonization of regulations and technical rules. Central America's experience in that area was a point of reference. In terms of electromobility, progress had been made by several countries in availability of electric buses and chargers and it was important to have open State policies. Digitization was not merely increased availability of the Internet. For the first time in history it was transforming sectors such as energy and enabling progress towards smart cities. In the circular economy, sustainability was the framework in which activities were undertaken, not an additional aspect, and needed to be considered from the design stage of a plant. These sectors offered the region the opportunity to move from commodities exports to the sale of services, in a specific form of a knowledge economy, and government efforts and private investment should focus on them.

78. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Peru stressed the need to integrate MSMEs and to accelerate digitization processes, which required a strong partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society. The representative of Colombia said that there was a fantastic opportunity for digital inclusion and application of technologies from the fourth industrial revolution, and that all people should have access to the benefits of technologies, which required all sectors to work together. The moderator remarked that in Costa Rica, experiences were available to stakeholders and said that synergies between State policies and private enterprises and civil society were crucial to overcoming economic and productivity gaps.

*Panel 2: Policies for a transformative recovery*

79. Panel 2 was moderated by Andrea Meza Murillo, Minister of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, and the panellists were Luis Carranza, Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Miguel Ceara-Hatton, Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, Carla Barnett, Minister of State with responsibility for Labour, Local Government and Rural Development of Belize, Marisol Argueta, Senior Director for Latin America and Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, and João Carlos Ferraz, Professor of the Economics Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

80. The moderator explained that the panel would focus on chapter V of the session position document, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, which reflected on the medium- and long-term framework conditions and policies that were needed for sustainable development. She then introduced the panellists and invited them to provide their views on how to best approach issues such as increasing competitiveness and creating employment in a sustainable and inclusive manner; attracting strategic investment to revive the economy while favouring sustainability, welfare and decarbonization; generating a coherent fiscal framework that enabled elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, establishment of a carbon tax and provision of incentives for renewable energies; adopting new technologies and creating new institutional frameworks to meet the needs of citizens; and diversifying the productive system and restructuring regional integration and cooperation mechanisms.

81. The Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) said that the goals of growth, welfare and social protection were compatible and, to achieve them, very bold fiscal and monetary policy was needed, including an increase in spending and taking on debt beyond what was customary. To prevent this resulting in a lack of trust in the sustainability of fiscal accounts, second-generation fiscal rules should be considered, favouring long-term goals and giving investors confidence that there would be fiscal consolidation. It was also desirable for long-term concessional resources to be channelled through international cooperation, to support the region in its convergence towards sustainable fiscal situations. It was important to apply environmental taxes, withdraw subsidies that hurt the environment and provide financing facilities to private agents for conversion of land. MSMEs were a core part of the industrial fabric of Latin America and the Caribbean, and therefore had to be supported by improving financing conditions and identifying opportunities for insertion in regional value chains and distribution networks.

82. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic said that, while the country had experienced high and stable growth since 1950, health and education indicators had been deteriorating as the country improved its global position in terms of per capita income. This lag was a result of the fastest growing sectors generating few and poor-quality jobs, wages being the means of adjustment of the economy, corruption and impunity in public institutions, concentration of power, limited citizen power, and low-quality public spending. All this had resulted in widespread emigration. The strategy to change this pattern of economic growth was based on the principles that development was collectively constructed and required citizen power, and that territory was of great relevance to policymaking. The way to achieve multisectoral public policies with a single focus was to concentrate on the same goals: the pursuit of well-being and improvement of people's quality of life. Because the country was an island, it was more vulnerable than other territories in the region, so sustainability was a very important cross-cutting issue.

83. The Minister of State with responsibility for Labour, Local Government and Rural Development of Belize said that tourism and agriculture accounted for most of her country's GDP, but that tourism had come to a halt as a result of health measures, and unemployment had soared. This, combined with a second year of drought, was expected to lead to a sharp decline in GDP in 2020. As spending on health and social

protection had simultaneously increased to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, the country was running a deficit, pushing up debt and jeopardizing the development gains of recent years. The resilience fund proposed by ECLAC had great potential, but better engagement was also needed with private creditors to find a solution to the debt crisis and a path to recovery, through meaningful multilateralism. A new vulnerability index was required, to enable small island developing States to access financing fairly and equitably. Lessons learned in the pandemic included the key role of technology—with emerging initiatives in new agriculture, business process outsourcing and domestic tourism—but steps were required to ensure equitable access.

84. The Senior Director for Latin America and Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum said that the aim of the Forum was to promote a new economic model, transforming the role of business as agents of social change. Stakeholder capitalism was back on the agenda, and the Forum had published a system of environmental, social and governance standards that could be applied to any industry or sector to create a coherent, comprehensive and universal corporate reporting system that allowed companies to look beyond their financial performance and measure their contribution to the SDGs, based on four pillars: people (the social capital of companies), prosperity (impact on the financial well-being of the community), governance (corporate responsibility and ethics) and planet (environmental impact). As COVID-19 was accentuating social unrest, inequalities and exclusion, it was crucial to change paradigms. Companies should recognize the importance of non-financial factors that were critical to their long-term viability and success. The Latin American team had prepared a document to circulate these standards in the region, which included recommendations for the economic recovery of critical industries.

85. The Professor of the Economics Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) said that the ECLAC proposal for productive development with sustainability and equality took countries out of their comfort zone, but it was feasible, and policymakers needed to find ways to nurture this process. Policies were not formulated without theory, without a frame of reference—such as that provided by ECLAC—for prioritizing and assigning responsibilities and resources, but neither were policies formulated without politics, so the quality of leaders was fundamental, as was their vision for the country, the alliances they formed and the trust that the population had in them. The role of the State was fundamental: transformative recovery required a transformative, egalitarian and sustainable State, capable of formulating innovative policies. Thirdly, it was during hard and uncertain times that there was least resistance to change, so there was room to experiment, to consider innovative messages and to embark on new paths. It was time to build and consolidate capacities in the State, business and civil society, and ECLAC could contribute to that.

86. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Nicaragua said that a liquidity fund needed to be approved from developed countries for developing countries. The level of extreme inequality within and between countries needed to be reduced. One way to redistribute income and better address this and future pandemics was to develop free and universal national health systems. The reconstruction should not be based on borrowing—since indebtedness was reaching its limit—but on investments, and one form of international mechanism to support this process could be guarantee funds for marginal investments. Challenges for the Caribbean to build back better (agenda item 6)

87. The Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands, Andrew Fahie, in his role as moderator, said that the COVID-19 pandemic had generated a new sense of urgency to address holistically the challenges faced by all heavily indebted middle-income countries of the subregion already suffering from high exposure to natural disasters and climate change. In *The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19*,<sup>5</sup> which focused on the impact of the

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<sup>5</sup> LC/SES.38/12.

pandemic on the countries of the subregion, ECLAC explored innovative and practical solutions to put them back on the road to recovery post-COVID-19 and to advance longer-term and sustainable development by placing people at the centre. He then invited the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to give her presentation of the document.

88. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that *The Caribbean Outlook* was a joint effort with the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. As a result of COVID-19, GDP was expected to contract in all Caribbean countries except Guyana, while fiscal deficits, unemployment rates and debt levels were expected to rise. Caribbean countries were making enormous fiscal efforts in response to COVID-19, but financial assistance from international donors remained inadequate because of their classification as middle-income countries. The pandemic was weighing heavily on sectors such as tourism, energy, health and transport, and its socioeconomic impacts reflected multidimensional inequalities in the subregion, particularly in access to education. To jump-start Caribbean economies post-COVID-19, there was an urgent need to diversify exports and expand international reserves, and to diversify and expand trade in goods and services. It was also crucial to address declining productivity and reduce gender inequalities, especially in the labour market.

89. The Executive Secretary added that ECLAC had identified six key development priorities for the Caribbean: (i) strengthen food security and the fight against poverty and inequality, (ii) promote economic diversification and blue/green investment for resilience-building, (iii) expand broadband access, (iv) strengthen risk assessment and disaster management, (v) enhance social protection and (vi) strengthen health infrastructure. Recommendations included an integrated planning framework, an improved enabling environment and enhanced access to finance, which would require greater fiscal space (the countries of the region could no longer continue to take on debt) and the revision of international financial institutions' eligibility criteria, as well as support from the ECLAC debt for climate change adaptation swap initiative—which included the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund—and the Green Climate Fund.

90. Next, statements were made by Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia; Leslie Campbell, State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies; Mahmoud Mohieldin, Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary-General, Trade and Economic Integration of CARICOM; Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team of the United Nations; and Andrew Fahie, Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands.

91. The Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia said the fiscal fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic derived partly from unresolved institutional constraints that had developed over the past 10–15 years, for example de-risking and blacklisting which had hampered banks, hurt FDI and inflicted reputational damage; fiscal rules which did not contemplate the situation of micro States and denied them access to concessional funds; and catastrophic debt owing to exogenous factors. Saint Lucia had adopted an approach of coexisting with the coronavirus and getting ahead of the crisis, which implied the use of better mechanisms to guarantee education, public sector activity and tax collection; leveraging e-commerce and online work opportunities; and making quicker progress in tourism to ensure a faster recovery and gain market share.

92. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that financing was one of the biggest challenges for Caribbean nations and required focused international assistance. He highlighted related mechanisms such as the Financing for Development in the Era of



COVID-19 and Beyond initiative co-convened by the Governments of Jamaica and Canada and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) established by Costa Rica and the ECLAC proposal of a Caribbean Resilience Fund. The subregion had to mobilize resources to finance near-term crisis relief measures, stimulate medium-term recovery efforts and invest in long-term resilience-building. Other priority areas were access to digital technology and reliable connectivity and investment in public health. Moreover, an effective recovery process was contingent on the inclusion of women and vulnerable groups in fiscal stimulus and recovery plans. Jamaica's National Development Plan (Vision 2030) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a framework for responses to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

93. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies lamented that, amid the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and lingering effects of the 2008–2009 financial crisis, the Caribbean economy was being held back by the decline in human capital. The subregion, especially the English-speaking Caribbean, had the lowest enrolment in higher education and the lowest access to professional training and skills development of all ECLAC member States, and needed a significant capital injection into skills training, professional development, academic training and research. The migration of skills from indigenous institutions to Europe and especially to North America because of the private sector's inability to absorb those skills had been staggering. The higher education network in the subregion was now at risk as the States did not have the fiscal space, revenue or capacity needed to sustain it. Therefore, he called upon ECLAC to do its best within the multilateral community to create the Caribbean Resilience Fund, which would help to hold the higher education and research system together.

94. The Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development said that Caribbean countries had made valuable contributions and proposals for the future not just of the United Nations system but also international financial institutions (IFIs). While highlighting the issue of debt management was a critical first step, if debt-to-GDP were to be discontinued as an indicator for financing, countries must provide alternative benchmarks for IFIs, such as debt service. The report adequately reflected the priorities related to debt restructuring, resolution and architecture and the notion of extending relief based on vulnerability should be pursued further before focusing on debt restructuring, which could deepen the crisis in some countries if improperly handled. Leakages in domestic resource mobilization or arising from illicit financial flows threatened the sustainability of finance and needed to be addressed in conjunction with other areas of financing for development in the era of COVID-19 to build forward, based on the SDGs.

95. The Assistant Secretary-General for Trade and Economic Integration of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat said that the negative externalities and the economic and social disruptions caused by the pandemic would have severe repercussions on Caribbean economies. However, COVID-19 could also provide opportunities for fiscal reform and business and digital transformation, as digital engagement and e-commerce had grown exponentially. Structural change was essential, as the subregion's economies were too reliant on a few sectors. Technical assistance on improving the quality of proposals for investment loans was also vital, and public-private partnership modalities could play a key role in financing public infrastructure as most countries lacked the necessary fiscal space. The Caribbean's high debt ratios increased the cost of borrowing and it was feared that in the post-pandemic exercise, more weight would be given to sovereign risk, which would further push up rates. It was imperative to address access to concessional financing and remove the burden of per capita GDP.

96. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team of the United Nations said that leveraging the current crisis as a unique opportunity to reset and re-imagine development and build forward would require strong political will, significant resources and access to low-cost financing. Investment must be directed towards building climate resilience and securing the subregion's energy independence and it was imperative for

the Caribbean to integrate climate risk in all planning and budgetary processes. Risk-informed decision-making was essential and the private sector must understand and price risk appropriately. It was clear that new tools were needed to mobilize large sources of private funding at scale for post-pandemic recovery. Investing at least 25% of stimulus and recovery funds in renewable energy would contribute to GDP growth, job creation and competitiveness. With the necessary focus on climate resilience opportunities and by leveraging the agility afforded by their small size, Caribbean countries would emerge stronger.

97. The Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands expressed gratitude for the inclusion of the British Virgin Islands and other associate member countries and territories in the work of ECLAC and said that United Nations support was critical to them. Associate members required international support in ongoing public health and economic responses to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and in relation to climate change and sustainable development. Several required some form of concessional financing as well as public and private sector investment to drive medium- and long-term growth. They also required support in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He looked forward to the planned summit organized by ECLAC in the British Virgin Islands in 2021 to address those issues, and wholeheartedly supported the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund.

98. In the comments that followed, the representative of Mexico noted that his country was proud of its Caribbean identity and that relations with the Caribbean were very important. His country agreed with the ECLAC approach, which focused on people, the principles of solidarity and the most vulnerable. Mexico would continue its international cooperation for development throughout Latin America and the Caribbean through the activities of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), of which it was the Pro Tempore Chair, and it was important for CELAC to have the support of the Caribbean countries in these initiatives and in those carried out in the context of the General Assembly.

99. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados said that the approach of integrated resilience planning outlined in *The Caribbean Outlook* was critical. The United Nations had to play a key role in the global response to COVID-19, to help Member States in recovery efforts to build back better. The Prime Minister of Barbados had recognized the SDGs as essential goals towards which the public and private sectors must work together. Coordinated collective action was needed to tackle the pandemic-induced crises. Leadership and striking a balance between economic growth and social well-being were paramount to recovery. It was time for a universal vulnerability index that reflected the multifaceted challenges small island developing States faced, beyond the ineffective measure of per capita income as a parameter for international assistance. For the Caribbean to rebuild better, a systemic approach to domestic and global financing was needed. The global community must meet its commitments to developing countries under the Paris Agreement. Recovery was only possible if built around resilience, the blue and green economy and digital transformation.

100. The Permanent Secretary for Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Suriname said that the pandemic had dramatically changed the socioeconomic and health panorama of the region and highlighted the interdependence of its economies. Given the Caribbean's limited resources and vulnerability, achieving the 2030 Agenda was a challenge. The Government of Suriname was committed to ensuring the welfare of all and to making better use of ECLAC support and initiatives. The expanded mandate of her Ministry included sustainable growth and development and environmental legislation had recently been adopted to ensure balanced economic growth and environmental protection. She urged ECLAC to play a strong advocacy role in the international community and assist in the design of regional and country-specific strategies. She looked forward to continued constructive debate and action in the context of South-South cooperation.

101. The Prime Minister of Aruba said that her country would continue its people-centred approach and was determined to recover from the crisis a stronger, more resilient and more inclusive society. The island-wide response to the urgent call to develop an economic recovery and innovation plan solidified Aruba's commitment to the 2030 Agenda as its compass. Cooperation was the only way to build forward and to achieve the SDGs. Aruba was focused on a sustainable tourism model and had developed health and safety and other protocols that had allowed a cautious reopening of borders to welcome visitors safely. It was also setting a global standard in hospitality and tourism, signalling the positive effect the sector could and must have in addressing climate change. Structural vulnerabilities were also being addressed through key reforms in capacity-building, transparency, agile governance, economic incentives and sustainable solutions that would catapult the recovery plan into action. Building forward demanded a new way of thinking and robust financial investment. The Commission's seminal work in developing funding initiatives provided crucial support for member and associate member countries.

102. The Director of the International Economic Agencies Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, recalled that small island developing States were highly vulnerable, economically and environmentally, and that their high levels of debt limited their access to financial resources since they were considered middle-income countries. The pandemic had affected work and social protection. The Caribbean needed different treatment, access to additional and predictable financial resources, and the establishment of new synergies between cooperation mechanisms. Despite the rigid economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States, the country was moving towards recovery after COVID-19. It was also developing a vaccine against COVID-19 dubbed Sovereign 1. He reaffirmed that Cuba would not give up its humanist and altruistic vocation and confirmed the commitment to the sustainable development of the region and the 2030 Agenda. The country would continue to cooperate with the Caribbean in the areas of education, culture, disaster risk management, environmental actions to increase resilience and medical care and health services.

103. The Director General for Central America and the Caribbean of Global Affairs Canada underscored Canada's commitment to accompanying the Caribbean on its path to build forward better, given its deep ties with the subregion. The rich biodiversity and delicate balance of nature must be preserved and the pandemic had prompted reflection on how to maintain that balance and respond to a range of issues. Canada was aware of the urgency that small island States faced to maintain development gains in the current global crisis and was engaged at the highest level of government to leverage development funding. It had allocated large amounts towards development and technical assistance to help Caribbean countries bolster their climate and economic resilience, build capacity and use technical innovation to find new solutions. Bearing in mind women's presence on the front lines of development sustainability and the severe effects of the pandemic on them, it was critical for them to participate in shaping solutions. Financing, programming and resilience initiatives had to be gender sensitive. No lasting shift was possible without inclusivity. It was a timely opportunity to take stock of successes and failures as a more sustainable and equitable future was sought.

104. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC reiterated the Commission's commitment to place the Caribbean first, which meant the Caribbean was considered a priority in ECLAC meetings and reports. She said it was an honour to serve the countries of the Caribbean and the associate members of ECLAC. She underscored the value of the proposal to build scenarios on what would happen with or without integration, which would be beneficial not only for the Caribbean but for the region as a whole. It was important to continue with the debt alleviation initiatives for the Caribbean countries and, in particular, with the initiative to measure the vulnerability of Caribbean countries, where debt service could be one of the indicators. ECLAC would continue to work closely with the countries of the Caribbean. Finally, she thanked Mexico for its intervention on behalf of CELAC.

105. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that Caribbean countries were very important and wished to strengthen relations and share a common vision. All contributions from the Caribbean would be taken into account in the discussions and activities taking place during Costa Rica's chairship. *The Caribbean Outlook* made it clear that the pandemic was having serious impacts throughout the Caribbean and that there was an urgent need to identify opportunities to build back better, with better decisions focused on nature. The climate crisis and biodiversity loss needed to be addressed through multilateral actions aimed, inter alia, at preserving the environmental integrity of the Caribbean Sea, a common source of sustenance and wealth. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic required new strategies, such as sustainable tourism, and new financing mechanisms, as well as full implementation of the resolutions of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the recommendations of the Monitoring Committee and the conclusions of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019, and draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022 (agenda items 7 and 8)

106. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC presented the report on the activities carried out in 2019 and the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system. He spoke of the work of the Commission as a think tank for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, as a platform for dialogue and regional consensus, and as a source of technical cooperation in the countries of the region. He mentioned some of the Commission's achievements in 2019, such as the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; support for the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), which included El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico; the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative and the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund. He also highlighted the work of the eight subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings of ECLAC on issues such as planning, science and technology, gender affairs, statistics, population and development, the specific challenges of the Caribbean and South-South cooperation.

107. He then spoke about the challenges faced in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, which had forced the Commission to adapt its programme of work to the new circumstances and to move activities online. Among other initiatives, he mentioned the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean and the special reports on the effects of the pandemic in specific areas. Adaptation had taken place amid a complex backdrop owing to the Organization's difficult financial situation. With regard to the proposal for 2022, based on the various dimensions of the Commission's work —economic development, social development, environmentally sustainable development, public policies and statistics, and subregional activities— he summarized some of the ECLAC proposals and approaches to reassessing regional value chains; digital connectivity and infrastructure; the need for new labour policies; the persistence of social gaps and inequality; the unequal effect of the pandemic on vulnerable groups; new data sources; the environmental big push; planning and public management as tools for building resilience; and the specific needs and challenges facing the subregions. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis concluded his presentation by thanking member States for their support and commitment during the more than seven decades of the Commission's existence.

108. The representative of Mexico congratulated ECLAC on the high level of achievement of the commitments made despite problems in terms of resources and noted that the Commission had been able to adapt its programme of work to the current reality. He also thanked ECLAC and the Executive Secretary for their support within the framework of the CDP, which had reflected great progress in a short time. He also appreciated the incorporation of the COVID-19 pandemic into the draft programme of work.

109. The representative of Cuba commended the presentation of the report on the activities carried out in 2019 by ECLAC, which the country had contributed to in its capacity as Chair. He mentioned several of the events held and progress made within the framework of ECLAC and the United Nations during that year, including the efforts to follow up on the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Gateway).

110. The representative of El Salvador recognized the work of ECLAC in positioning the region and its role as an avant-garde think tank. She also praised the Commission's work in relation to the CDP and called for further progress in that effort through synergies between the countries of the region and other partners. She underscored the importance of moving forward with integration to better address the impact of COVID-19, as proposed by ECLAC, and highlighted the value of networks for sharing experiences and ECLAC technical assistance, with a different approach in each country, emphasizing the particular problems of middle-income countries.

111. The representative of Suriname said that ECLAC had demonstrated its commitment to the development of the region's countries based on innovative ideas and was fulfilling a key role in the region. As a country that was particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, she requested the Commission's support for the mobilization of financial resources under the debt swap initiative that would allow her country to undertake prevention and mitigation measures. She welcomed the subprogrammes presented by ECLAC, especially in the context of the pandemic, and said that Suriname was committed to developing and contributing to the interregional process and to further supporting the work of the Commission.

112. The representative of Costa Rica congratulated ECLAC for having found a way, in the midst of the pandemic, to promote development and strengthen integration with a vision of solidarity and equality. He also highlighted the relevance of the CDP and suggested that it could be extended to other Central American countries and even to the Caribbean, within the framework of the strategy of placing the Caribbean first.

113. The representative of Nicaragua said that, in times of fiscal constraint, the need to do more with less spending led to greater comprehensiveness. He also stressed that, in the face of problems affecting people in rural areas such as the dry corridor because of climate change effects, nature-based solutions increased the resilience of ecosystems and were the best form of adaptation. With regard to the pandemic, he said that investment in strengthening public health systems would have a great redistributive effect, which was much needed because of the great inequality that characterized the region.

114. The representative of Peru highlighted, among the activities included in the report, the preparation of the first input-output table in Latin America and the Caribbean; work in support of MSMEs for more sustainable productive development, such as the promotion of trade single windows for access to international trade; and research on new ICTs, which had allowed the country to increase productivity through the incorporation of digital technologies. Finally, he thanked ECLAC for its overview and its promotion of economic, social and sustainable development in the region.

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 (agenda item 9)

115. First, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the session was the most important intergovernmental meeting of the Commission, at which, every two years, accounts were given of the work carried out. One of the most important and welcome aspects of the Commission's work were the meetings

of its subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental meetings in which ECLAC had the honour of serving as secretariat. The Executive Secretary then summarized the activities of these bodies and meetings in the 2018–2020 biennium. She said that these actions were the concrete expression of the meaningful work of all member countries in different platforms for sharing experiences, which contributed to collective and collaborative action among countries, experts and non-governmental organizations in the region. This was a demonstration of the importance and value of the regional dimension for sustainable development, where ECLAC and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were at the service of the governments, making regional multilateral action a concrete tool for cooperation.

116. Next, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and representative of other intergovernmental meetings reported to the delegations on the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved during the period.

117. The representative of Colombia reported on the work carried out by the Statistical Conference of the Americas and said that the quality of statistical production in such a diverse and unequal region was based not only on rigour and objectivity, but also on relevance, so all national statistical offices in the region were focused on providing information to guide public policies that contributed to equality, were gender-sensitive and inclusive and served all citizens in the territory. In order to have more modern national statistical systems, the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2020–2021 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas had proposed making the Conference a catalyst for innovative strategies for development, with the participation of civil society and the private sector, and 11 working groups had been formed on the basis of the statistical capacity needs identified in the region.

118. The Statistical Conference of the Americas aimed to be a platform to address the technological, human capacity and ethical challenges of achieving the 2030 Agenda. To that end, it promoted data openness, the incorporation of non-traditional sources such as administrative records, big data or geospatial data, among others, and new forms of collaboration with other subsidiary bodies. Two fundamental tools in the context of the pandemic had been the Knowledge Transfer Network, which in recent months had provided a crucial space for learning from the sharing of recommendations and best practices in order to guarantee the continuity of statistical production during the pandemic, and the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway), a virtual space for the sharing of information that helped to reduce gaps in the measurement of SDG indicators.

119. The representative of Chile spoke about the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, recalling that, in its documents, ECLAC had highlighted the differentiated and exacerbated effects of the current crisis on women, and how it highlighted structural gaps in inequality and, at the same time, provided an opportunity to rethink the role of the State, by promoting public policies to dismantle the structural challenges of gender inequality, in order to move towards fairer and more inclusive societies. There was a need to mainstream the gender perspective into all policies, including macroeconomic, fiscal and health policies. Furthermore, COVID-19 had highlighted the considerable weakness of care policies in the region and, therefore, it should be a priority to implement bold measures such as comprehensive national and public care systems.

120. At the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the States had agreed to ambitious measures, under the Santiago Commitment, to advance the gender equality agenda. That agreement outlined the scope of public policies, but coordination at the national and international levels to meet the commitments made remained a challenge. It was necessary to strengthen coordination between the various areas of the Commission and to ensure dialogue between the various intergovernmental cooperation bodies, in order to incorporate gender and human rights issues into all discussions at the regional level. The commitment to gender mainstreaming made 25 years ago in Beijing

was now being reaffirmed in the context of the pandemic. Responses to the crisis had to be coordinated and include the gender perspective.

121. Next, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that the Santiago Commitment was a fundamental instrument in which the region reaffirmed a progressive vision of how to continue moving towards gender equality. The pandemic made it necessary to redouble efforts and work together, as it affected women disproportionately, revealing the discrimination, inequality, and lack of opportunities that women suffered in the region. UN-Women urged the governments to use the Santiago Commitment as a guide, as well as the documents presented at the Regional Conference on Women, referring to changing economic scenarios, and especially the document prepared jointly with ECLAC on care, which was one of the major obstacles to women's participation in the labour market. UN-Women also hoped for the region to participate as a bloc in the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2021, raising the flag of equality and promoting the participation of women at the centre of the economic recovery.

122. With regard to the work of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Peru explained that the implementation of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was especially important in view of the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and, in particular, its effects on the most vulnerable population groups, since, for example, confinement measures had forced many women and children to live with their abusers. Owing to the health crisis, the Presiding Officers had decided to postpone the fourth meeting of the Conference until 2021, but, with an innovative approach, had embarked on the organization of a series of virtual dialogues—with the support of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—to analyse the sociodemographic scenario of the countries of the region and the possible effects of COVID-19 on the population.

123. The Montevideo Consensus was a fundamental tool for achieving the SDGs and building more equal, inclusive and resilient societies in the face of pandemics, climate change and other challenges, and working together with other regional agendas was the key to achieving deeper and more lasting changes. The Conference had therefore been consolidating common working spaces in different thematic areas with other ECLAC subsidiary bodies (reflected in the synergies established with the Statistical Conference of the Americas or the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030), which should be further intensified in the future. In addition, combining efforts in the implementation of the different regional and global agendas was fundamental to create a network of institutional and multilateral commitments that would allow for sustained progress in the implementation of the Consensus and avoid any setbacks in times of crisis.

124. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that UNFPA was closely following the work of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, since the issues it addressed were central to the Fund's mandate. The Montevideo Consensus had undeniable strategic value in contributing to a recovery with equality and sustainability in the region. It remained the world's most advanced intergovernmental agreement on population and development, and its operational guide was a powerful tool for public policymaking. UNFPA was deeply concerned about setbacks in areas where progress had been made in the past—especially maternal mortality—and feared that sexual and reproductive health service coverage would be affected, leading to unwanted pregnancies among adolescents and young people. Finally, he urged governments to prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable people, guaranteeing them the exercise of their rights.

125. The representative of Mexico spoke about the activities of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2020, virtual working groups had been set up to monitor progress on the four axes of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development: (i) universal and comprehensive protection systems to reduce poverty and inequality; (ii) policies to promote social and labour inclusion, to foster dual inclusion and leave no one behind; (iii) a strengthened social institutional framework to implement high-quality social policies; and (iv) regional cooperation and integration to progress towards inclusive social development and achieve sustainable development. Two ministerial meetings had also been held that strengthened collaboration and reconciled national agendas with countries' cooperation capacities, as well as working meetings with Caribbean countries.

126. He stressed that the Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean offered immediate access to studies and analytical tools that favoured collaborative spaces. The key task of the Conference had been to promote a unique and accessible space for reflection, with people at the centre of the discussions. Among the challenges, he stressed the need for progress in recording the identification of the population in need of support and the measurement of poverty and vulnerability; integration of the technological component into information systems and into the distribution and provision of support; and promotion of the creation of jobs, food security, the strengthening of distribution and production chains, the empowerment of local production networks and the development of care systems that facilitated the integration of women into paid work.

127. The report of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) was presented by the representative of the British Virgin Islands, in his capacity as Vice-Chair. In that regard, he said that said the subregion was commemorating the forty-fifth anniversary of the Committee, whose convening power facilitated the participation of the subregion's countries in broader regional dialogue, ensuring a uniquely Caribbean perspective in the decisions of important regional forums. Amid the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Caribbean leaders and senior decision makers had reiterated the need to advocate for a new international financial architecture providing access to concessional funding for the subregion's vulnerable economies. The Vice-Chair of CDCC would advocate for international and regional support to advance the recovery of the Caribbean post-COVID-19 and re-energize progress towards implementation of the SDGs and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

128. CDCC would seek active engagement with the international community through follow-up of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond initiative and lend political weight to proposals such as the Caribbean Resilience Fund. It also strongly supported the establishment of a new sovereign debt restructuring architecture for middle-income countries in the subregion and the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses in borrowing arrangements for Caribbean countries. Lastly, the British Virgin Islands appreciated the commitment of CDCC to ensure a space for active participation of associate members in the Committee's work.

129. The representative of Costa Rica reported on the Committee on South-South Cooperation, stating that the Committee's resolution mandating a special meeting to consider ways of improving its functioning, including through structural changes, reflected the increasing importance of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the need for the Committee to be able to expand and strengthen its scope. South-South cooperation leveraged the comparative advantages of each partner, thus benefiting all parties. It also allowed learning from countries with similar development challenges and adapting those solutions to the conditions of each country, and was an effective way to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.



130. In view of the challenges posed by the pandemic, it was necessary to seek more comprehensive models for measuring development and to reorganize priorities in order to embark on a new path of cooperation, taking into account the heterogeneity of the region. The agenda established at the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), included suggestions to address the crisis, such as presenting a common front to review measurement mechanisms; leveraging the crisis to develop the green, circular and digital economy; strengthening the concept of regional public goods or creating mechanisms for horizontal cooperation, among others. In conclusion, she said that Costa Rica wanted its chairship to be proactive and transformative, and would promote dialogue with other regional and global bodies, as well as with ECLAC subsidiary bodies, to address issues of gender, science, innovation, technology and statistics.

131. The representative of Uruguay gave an account of the work of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). He said that Latin America and the Caribbean needed cooperation and economic openness to face national challenges and to integrate a perspective of generating and improving regional and global public goods that would allow the region to respond to the complexity of today's world. The Council had to continue to serve as a forum in which to openly discuss the challenges of planning for post-pandemic recovery, planning as an opportunity for systematic interaction and collaborative work between different development actors, the sharing of country experiences in the application of tools for improving public management, the strengthening of government capacities in the areas of planning and public management, and the development of regional platforms and tools to facilitate the management of knowledge about planning and public management systems and exercises.

132. The twenty-eighth meeting of the Council's Presiding Officers would be held on 12 November 2020, during which planning authorities would discuss the countries' experiences and the effectiveness of their responses to the crisis, as part of a continuous learning process. Planning was essential in the post-pandemic recovery process, in which the region would face a scenario of limited fiscal space and borrowing capacity. A more effective linkage between planning and budgeting exercises was an increasingly significant challenge in that context, to assess the achievement of emergency response measures and their linkage to medium- and long-term plans and policies. Although 17 countries in the region had some form of government monitoring and evaluation system, little progress had been made in the use of evaluations as they were rarely used in decision-making.

133. With respect to the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the representative of Costa Rica said that the objective was to coordinate actions and exchange knowledge in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of policies in these areas, and that this was the aim of the proposal for regional cooperation in science, innovation and ICTs presented to the Executive Committee in July 2020, which sought to strengthen regional integration of the health industry and digital ecosystems in three areas of work: (i) research and development, promoting the exchange of information among researchers and health systems, and coordinating existing centres of excellence in the region; (ii) digital platforms, considering access gaps, the challenges of the digital economy, e-government and citizen participation, as well as social inclusion through digital technologies; and (iii) the health industry, through industrial and technological policies and regional integration initiatives in priority segments such as pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and equipment, as well as mutual recognition of regulatory entities, which would make it possible to create an integrated regional market.

134. The region should be prepared for new waves of this pandemic and others to come, moving towards health autonomy through cooperation and exchange between countries. Given that science and innovation were cross-cutting issues that influenced all aspects of society, as well as fundamental instruments of

structural change, the process of productive diversification, modernization and competitiveness, and the achievement of the SDGs, the Conference invited all ECLAC subsidiary bodies and meetings to seek common ground that would allow them to work together and take advantage of the tools offered by science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda. In particular, opportunities had been sought for coordination with the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

135. The representative of Colombia reported on the activities of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had focused on the continuity of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) to achieve greater social inclusion and equality in the region, as well as on strengthening national digital agendas and digital integration. It had also made contributions to important international bodies, such as the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, the cooperation dialogue between the European Union and Latin America, and the United Nations High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation in 2019. It had also promoted the formulation of a regional digital market strategy to expand the benefits of digital trade and boost the reconstruction of the business fabric, particularly that of SMEs.

136. In order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and to reconstruction, accelerating digitalization was crucial, and the Conference was the ideal space to exchange best practices on digital transformation as a linchpin for economic recovery and social welfare. The strategies that had been implemented in this regard included the extension of connectivity in the territories, the reinforcement of digital training at all levels, the promotion of virtual education and digital health and the encouragement of telework. In addition, the Conference offered to increase cooperation and synergies with other ECLAC bodies, since digital issues cut across all areas. Finally, the representative said that the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean would be held from 23–26 November 2020.

137. The representative of Paraguay spoke about the work of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, one of whose main contributions had been the incorporation of older persons into the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda from a human rights perspective, opening up a space for organizations of older persons to present their main demands and to shed light on their contributions and ensure they were considered within the framework of the global development agenda. Older persons were among the most vulnerable groups in the pandemic, which directly affected their quality of life and fulfilment of their rights. Various protective measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 had exacerbated their vulnerabilities, restricting their access to health services and their opportunities for social integration, which had adversely affected their economic situation and their mental and physical health.

138. The post-pandemic recovery provided an opportunity to build a more inclusive and fair society that promoted healthy ageing and the human rights and dignity of older persons. In that regard, a virtual seminar had been held on challenges for the protection of older persons and their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most outstanding messages of which had been the urgency of placing the protection of the rights of older persons back at the centre of public policy efforts and incorporating the vision and commitments of the various international instruments. The Conference generated synergies with other subsidiary bodies, such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development and, mainly, the Regional Conference on Population and Development, with which it worked constantly, since one of the chapters of the Montevideo Consensus focused on ageing.

139. The summary of the meeting of the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) was presented by the representative of Costa Rica, which served as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Agreement and continued to advocate in all forums for its swift entry into force. In September, thanks to Dominica and Belize, the number of signatories had risen to 24, and ratification processes were progressing in several countries, meaning that it would soon enter into force and that regional success could be celebrated. The representative presented the work done in the period, including the first meeting of the countries signatory to the agreement in October 2019, and five technical meetings in 2020 to agree on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, including the modalities for significant participation by the public, the rules of composition and operation of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, financial provisions and the Voluntary Fund. In addition, activities had been held to promote the Agreement in the countries of the region.

140. Next, she said that it was undeniable that ratifying the Agreement strengthened the rule of law, democracy, transparency and the exercise of human rights, and reinforced multilateralism. A shift from representative democracy to participatory democracy was required, because sustainable development could only occur if all social actors were involved, and the Agreement had been exemplary in that regard. Radical transformations and courageous actions were needed to promote a green, sustainable and fair reconstruction that prioritized the creation not of wealth, but of well-being. At that point, ratifying the Agreement was the clearest signal of environmental commitment that States could send. Finally, she said that the region could be proud of the inclusive and participatory negotiations that had resulted in an Agreement with a very high level of democratic legitimacy, and therefore encouraged States to ratify it and, for those that had not yet done so, to become members as soon as possible.

141. During the time allotted for comments, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados expressed her country's deep appreciation for the commitment of ECLAC to the Latin American and Caribbean region, reflected in its work to promote growth and development in the region and its responsiveness to the countries' needs in a period of dynamic change. One example of the partnership between Barbados and ECLAC was the work of the Global Commission on Trade and Development 2020, which was expected to be among the substantive outcomes of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to be held in Barbados in April 2021. Barbados fully supported the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his calls for a new global deal, and was intent on working with interested partners, including ECLAC, to devise a universal vulnerability index that captured the multifaceted nature of countries' susceptibilities across economic, environmental and social dimensions.

#### Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022 (agenda item 10)

142. The secretariat submitted the proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022 for consideration by delegations, and it was adopted as reflected in the annex to resolution 738(XXXVIII).

#### *High-level events*

143. Three high-level events were also held during the thirty-eighth session: the presentation of the study “Afrodescendientes y la matriz de la desigualdad social en América Latina: retos para la inclusión”, organized by ECLAC and UNFPA, at the request of the Government of Costa Rica, a high-level event on “Older persons, human rights and social protection in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”, organized by ECLAC and the Government of Costa Rica, and the launch of the book *The environmental tragedy of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

## Other matters (agenda item 12)

### *Presentations by civil society*

144. Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, opened the floor by reminding participants that the most pressing challenges of that time could not be faced by any actor alone. He said that the spirit of the 2030 Agenda was to promote and facilitate intense global participation, to mobilize all available resources. Civil society organizations, therefore, were an indispensable partner in the pursuit of the SDGs, as were academia and the private sector and other relevant actors. It was becoming increasingly clear that long-term solutions would emerge from collaborative, multilevel governance; dialogue, cooperation, coordination, solidarity and exchange of best practices were more vital than ever in the context of the pandemic. Citizens and civil society organizations had done crucial work, rising to those challenges, supporting Governments in providing essential services, protecting vulnerable populations, and joining forces to offer valuable and relevant solutions.

145. The representative of the facilitating group of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development greeted the participants on behalf of the more than 300 civil society and regional organizations that had been members of the mechanism since 2018. Following the postponement of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development because of the pandemic, a declaration had been prepared, drawing attention to the most pressing problems created by the pandemic, and how they would hinder pursuit of SDGs<sup>6</sup>. It was crucial to strengthen democratic systems and address the coronavirus crisis from a human rights perspective, promote decent work, recognize and support informal workers, prioritize the most vulnerable (such as people affected by HIV/AIDS), protect environmental and human rights defenders, support rural and entrepreneurial women, encourage the production of statistics disaggregated by gender, race and ethnicity, guarantee access to education and connectivity for children, adolescents and young people, consider older people as rights holders, guarantee the rights of migrants and promote the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement. In conclusion, she said she was confident that the session would mark a milestone in the recognition of civil society as a fundamental actor and interlocutor at the national and regional levels.

146. The representatives of Iniciativa Social para América Latina y el Caribe (ISALC) explained that the organization was the result of an exercise in regional citizenship that brought together different voices that identified with the need to provide a structural solution to the COVID-19 crisis. The document being presented,<sup>7</sup> containing the principles that should steer the way out of the crisis, emerged from a meeting held in October 2020 between 16 social movements, academic networks and platforms of civil society organizations in the region. The main problems that had been identified were growing social divisions, worsening inequalities (poverty, informality and unemployment), poor government response capacity, a lack of common pool resources and low taxes for those able to pay, which affected the ability to mitigate the pandemic for the neediest. There had also been a reversal in social matters, primarily affecting women, and a rise in authoritarianism, expressed in repressive rather than dialogue-based responses to social discontent.

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<sup>6</sup> See the document “Las organizaciones de la sociedad civil de América Latina y el Caribe ante el COVID-19: Impactos, recomendaciones y desafíos de los Estados” (Spanish only) [online] [https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/sites/ps38/files/mesa\\_de\\_vinculacioin\\_macanismo\\_foro\\_alc.pdf](https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/sites/ps38/files/mesa_de_vinculacioin_macanismo_foro_alc.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> See the document “Voces y propuestas de América Latina y el Caribe: Transformaciones para salir de la crisis” (Spanish only) [online] [https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/sites/ps38/files/isalc\\_voces\\_y\\_propuestas\\_06.10.2020fin.pdf](https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/sites/ps38/files/isalc_voces_y_propuestas_06.10.2020fin.pdf).

147. A new social pact was needed, based on principles of solidarity, the defence of human life and the planet, social policy that was not subordinate to macroeconomic policy, the primacy of the public sphere, democratic fiscal policy to ensure that taxation fulfilled its redistributive purpose, the protection of cultural and biosystem diversity and the elimination of discrimination. Health had to be seen as a universal right and care as a public good, and the economic model centred on extractivism should be reoriented towards productive diversification and ecological transition. The proposed short-term action plan consisted of child support plans, emergency public investment programmes, support for SMEs, comprehensive care systems, an emergency basic income, care for displaced persons and migrants, and universal access to the COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good. Lastly, they said ISALC supported the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) initiative and the need for Governments to jointly renegotiate the region's debt.

Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session (agenda item 13)

148. The secretariat presented to the delegations of States members a document containing the resolutions of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, for their consideration. The resolutions were adopted, and their text is included in section D of this report.

**Closing session**

149. At the closing ceremony, statements were made by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica.

150. In her closing remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the Commission's long tradition of open, inclusive and sustained dialogue with its member countries was more important than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. Linking recent events on the SDGs, financing for development and climate action convened in the United Nations showed that while the pandemic was a human tragedy that threatened decades of progress, it must be taken as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restructure economies and put the world back on track towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. The decisions made now could determine recovery pathways that could either entrench a high-carbon, high-pollution trajectory, or pave the way for a just transition. The dire forecast of the pandemic's socioeconomic repercussions called for drastic action.

151. She said the United Nations had proposed a response framework to support countries with bold and innovative proposals but Governments' ability to enact those policies was constrained by their fiscal situation and debt vulnerability. A major redistribution in liquidity from developed to developing countries was needed and could be achieved through a massive issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs) and a voluntary reallocation of idle SDRs towards developing regions. Increased lending to developing countries should be facilitated by the capitalization of multilateral, regional and national development banks. The pandemic had shown that even middle-income countries remained vulnerable and required international development cooperation. Debt relief should become a permanent policy alternative, tied to business cycle fluctuations as well as the structural vulnerability of economies. Climate adaptation and resilience must also be dramatically scaled up, especially by multilateral development banks. The COVID-19 crisis was an opportunity to reach wide social and political consensus on ambitious reforms, and a sustainable and egalitarian recovery. High-quality, universal public services should be a priority, which meant investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and energy efficiency. There must be no return to the failed policies and frameworks that engendered the fragility exploited by the pandemic. It was imperative

to imagine a better future for younger generations. Now was the time for bold choices. Thanking the Executive Secretary for her leadership, she said that region could count on the support of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system in that noble and just cause.

152. The Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of 77 and China said that given the inevitable pandemic-induced economic crisis, which had the potential to reverse development gains, the question was how to accelerate financing for development. The crisis had exacerbated existing structural problems in developing countries, such as high levels of external debt, and a new path forward was needed for more inclusive, balanced and sustainable development. An enabling international environment was therefore essential, with critical actions such as enhanced policy coherence and institutional capacity, improved access to finance, trusted development partnerships, official development assistance to facilitate investment and new approaches from multilateral financial institutions. The 2030 Agenda provided a framework to respond to the challenges developing countries faced, and the Commission had an important role to play in identifying and analysing new sources of growth, and addressing social issues and environmental degradation. Intensified efforts were also required to guide interventions in social sectors, such as education, health, and social protection.

153. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that physical distance had not prevented participants from witnessing the warmth, welcoming attitude, commitment and dedication of Costa Rica in chairing the first session to be held virtually. She expressed her profound thanks to President Carlos Alvarado for his leadership at the session and his vision and commitment for the next two years at the helm of ECLAC. In the region, Costa Rica was an example to be followed in terms of peace and the regional commitment to sustainable development, and the country had also proven its dedication to integration and multilateralism. The session had benefited from the invaluable participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who, by attending a session of the Commission for the second consecutive time, had demonstrated his appreciation for the member States of ECLAC and, in particular, for Latin America and the Caribbean. When the region came together and spoke with one voice, it called for and attracted the attention and support of the international community. The Political Declaration on a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had been signed by the ministers for foreign affairs of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean under the auspices of ECLAC, was vitally important and a crucial sign that the region could raise a common voice in the face of the challenges that the times called them to address. The messages from the ministers had demonstrated the capacity of the countries of the region to respond with policies and measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its socioeconomic effects.

154. She said that the international community should take into consideration the specific problems of middle-income countries in the region and of small island States in the Caribbean. Fiscal support, international solidarity and access to concessional funds were needed, which required a review of the “graduation” criteria and consideration of multidimensional vulnerability indices. International financial solidarity, renewed multilateralism and strengthened regional integration were urgently needed for a post-COVID-19 recovery with equality and sustainability. ECLAC was also committed to the Caribbean First initiative. Caribbean countries faced complex multinational challenges and needed practical and innovative solutions for recovery based on economic diversification, green investments, better disaster risk management and construction of better social protection systems that left no one behind. She made an emphatic call for a change in the development model and redoubled efforts to achieve a post-COVID-19 recovery guided by the principles of inclusive development, equality and sustainability. The new position document, entitled *Building a New Future: A Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, proposed a set of policies that were appropriate to the seriousness of the times, while aiming to overcome the structural problems that

plagued the region. The crisis caused by the pandemic had hit the region when it already showed serious problems with low growth, inequality and environmental imbalances created by an unsustainable development pattern. Political polarization, growing rivalry, conflict and loss of confidence in democracy were all signs of these structural problems. That was why urgent action was needed.

155. The Executive Secretary said that during the session, civil society, private sector representatives, and economic sector authorities and development banks had been heard. The way out of the crisis would require transformative leadership, a capacity for dialogue and the forging of political and social pacts that would bring together broad coalitions to guarantee universal access to health, protection and decent employment, as well as a change in modes of production and consumption to build welfare States. The region was committed to the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals despite the challenges created by the pandemic. The Executive Secretary thanked the Deputy Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for their leadership in fostering a global debate on the urgency of more international solidarity to support lower-income countries, middle-income countries and small island States, and to extend the debt suspension initiative for lower-income countries, distribution of liquidity by issuing special drawing rights and cooperation to eliminate tax evasion and the outflow of illicit funds from the countries of the region. For that reason, rebuilding with equality and sustainability was the way forward. In turn, new forms of global governance were needed to provide global public goods, such as universal health (a coronavirus vaccine for all), climate security and protection of the atmosphere, financial stability, peace and protection of human rights.

156. She said that regional collective cooperation with solidarity was the only enabling condition for Latin America and the Caribbean to have some impact on the new global governance. It was essential to raise awareness of the different development agendas of social movements and thematic networks, and the experience of civil society was vital for reconstruction. The unprecedented times had imposed physical distancing, but they had also redoubled the shared commitment to closeness, integration and fellowship among the countries of the region.

157. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-eighth session, congratulated the work and commitment of all the delegations of the member States of ECLAC and thanked the Executive Secretary for her leadership in organizing the meeting. He said that the period for which Costa Rica would chair ECLAC would be transformative and promote inclusive dialogue. During the sessions, there had been insistence on the need to recover a social pact based on solidarity, cooperation and the fight against inequality. The member States of the Commission had adopted a Political Declaration on a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. Solidarity and international cooperation were the only real way out of the unprecedented crisis and the principle of leaving no one behind should inspire the decisions taken by the countries of the region in keeping with development commitments and the 2030 Agenda.

158. He said that the discussions on the challenges the Caribbean faced had again highlighted the need for a recovery process with a focus on environmental sustainability. The proposals put forward by ECLAC for the seven sectors that were strategic for the region's future development had been particularly important: non-conventional renewable energies, urban electromobility, the digital revolution for sustainability, the health-care manufacturing industries (pharmaceuticals and medical devices and equipment), research and development, the circular economy and the tourism sector. These proposals laid out the roadmap for the period that Costa Rica would chair. In addition, how to meet the specific needs of the vulnerable groups of older persons and Afrodescendants had been addressed at the high-level events that had taken place, and the high calibre of the participants reflected the importance of those two groups in the countries of the region.

159. He stated that the countries and economies of the region needed to rewrite their development based on regional and international cooperation and within the framework of effective multilateralism with solidarity. South-South cooperation involved working together at the international and regional levels, as well as identifying synergies between financial and trade systems, with particular attention to issues of global security and guaranteeing fundamental human rights. In their actions, Governments should remember to apply international law. Women in the region should be the focus of public policies to promote their empowerment. The entry into force of the Escazú Agreement was very important. In conclusion, he invited everyone to join efforts to achieve the shared goals.

#### **D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

160. At its thirty-eighth session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolutions reproduced below.



### 737(XXXVIII) SAN JOSÉ RESOLUTION

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, together with operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

*Bearing in mind* the document *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission,<sup>1</sup>

*Bearing in mind also* the document *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,<sup>2</sup>

*Bearing in mind further* the document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission,<sup>3</sup>

*Bearing in mind also* the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,<sup>4</sup>

*Bearing in mind further* the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,<sup>5</sup>

*Emphasizing* that General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, offers an opportunity for all the countries in the region to progress towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and reducing inequality, as proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the documents presented at its past five sessions,

*Bearing in mind* that the guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2021, 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 outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and General Assembly resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental spheres,<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

<sup>2</sup> LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

<sup>3</sup> LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

<sup>4</sup> LC/G.2660(SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661(SES.36/4).

<sup>5</sup> LC/SES.37/3-P and LC/SES.37/4.

<sup>6</sup> LC/PLEN.34/4.

*Having reviewed the document Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability and its summary, prepared by the secretariat, which complements the trilogy of equality,*<sup>7</sup>

1. *Takes note of the document Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability and welcomes the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception;*

2. *Recognizes the relevance of the issues examined and supports the general tenor of the document's conclusions;*

3. *Instructs the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries, in close cooperation with their policymakers, with a view to supporting the building of national capacities for the achievement of sustainable development;*

4. *Calls upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country's national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.*

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<sup>7</sup> LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1 and LC/SES.38/4.

## 738(XXXVIII) ECLAC CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2021–2022

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the system of the Commission, in which it decided that, at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next regular session should be considered,

*Taking into account* resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the Commission's intergovernmental structure and functions, in which it was recommended that the current institutional structure should be maintained,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 40/243 entitled "Pattern of conferences" and the provision concerning the principle of rotation of the venue for the sessions of the Commission as laid down in rule 2 of its rules of procedure and reiterated in its resolution 480(XXI),

*Taking into account* resolution 553(XXVI) on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission, in which it was recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the Commission's system should continue to serve as the basis for maintaining the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of its work,

*Bearing in mind* the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that establish and govern the periodicity of the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

*Bearing in mind also* resolution 676(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, in which it was decided, for economic and environmental reasons, to employ documents in electronic format for the future sessions and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

*Having examined* the proposed calendar of the Commission's intergovernmental conferences for the period 2021–2022, as set forth in annex 6 of the relevant document,<sup>1</sup>

*Considering* the objectives and priorities established in the subprogrammes of the work programme approved by the member States at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approves the calendar of conferences of the Commission as it appears in the annex to this resolution, along with the observations and suggestions included in the report of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission's current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms as well as cost-effective, and recommends that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary with a view to an ongoing and sustained improvement in those services;

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<sup>1</sup> See *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022. Note by the secretariat* (LC/SES.38/9).

3. *Further reaffirms* the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic, social and sustainable development fields;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary to ensure implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of this resolution.

**ECLAC CALENDAR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2021–2022**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Place and date</b>                              | <b>Legislative authority</b>   | <b>Source of funding</b>       |
|-------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 2021        | Twenty-second session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)   | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Central American Economic Cooperation Committee   | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC   | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolution 580(XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7   | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean       | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council of Planning of ILPES   | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)   | ECLAC and ILPES regular budget |
| 2021        | Thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC   | United Nations Headquarters, New York <sup>b</sup> | Economic and Social Council Resolution 106(VI) (para 3); ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14) and 489(PLEN.19)   | Regular budget                 |
| 2021        | Twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)             | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)   | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development              | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Preparatory meeting for the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)  | Extrabudgetary resources       |
| 2021        | Central American Economic Cooperation Committee   | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of CLAC                      | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean                      | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32  | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean              | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12–15 August 2013) | ECLAC regular budget           |
| 2021        | Sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population  | <sup>a b</sup>                                     | Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012);  | ECLAC regular budget           |

| Year | Title   | Place and date | Legislative authority   | Source of funding                 |
|------|---|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|      | and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean  |                | Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12–15 August 2013)  |                                   |
| 2022 | Twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES  | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)  | Regular budget of ILPES and ECLAC |
| 2022 | Twenty-third session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)  | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)   | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Central American Economic Cooperation Committee   | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)   | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean   | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)   | Extrabudgetary resources          |
| 2022 | Sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean                  | <sup>a b</sup> | Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2   | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean           | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32   | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies                                      | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35  | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development                             | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)   | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)  | <sup>a b</sup> | ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)  | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean | <sup>a b</sup> | Agreement 1, Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12–15 August 2013) | ECLAC regular budget              |
| 2022 | Twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC                                | <sup>a b</sup> | Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7   | ECLAC regular budget              |

<sup>a</sup> Place to be determined.

<sup>b</sup> Date to be determined.

### **739(XXXVIII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, at which the region adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development,

*Recalling also* that the fortieth anniversary of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was celebrated in 2017,

*Recalling further* resolution 558(XXVI), in which it adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001,

*Recalling also* that, in the Lima Consensus, adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries undertook to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action beyond the year 2001,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits, which reaffirms that gender mainstreaming must form an integral part of the implementation of the decisions of recent United Nations summits and conferences,

*Mindful* of the agreements adopted by States that are parties to relevant human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, as well as of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews,

*Recalling* the countries' commitment to implement and monitor the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide, and recognizing its contribution to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard,

*Highlighting* that, at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, the countries adopted the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030,<sup>2</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, held its fourteenth session in Santiago, from 27 to 31 January 2020;

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2087(CRM.8/6)).

<sup>2</sup> See *Report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRM.13/6/Rev.1).

*Bearing in mind also* that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, has held three meetings of the Presiding Officers: the fifty-seventh meeting in Santiago, on 30 and 31 July 2018, the fifty-eighth meeting in Santiago, on 22 and 23 January 2019, and the fifty-ninth meeting in Santiago, on 28 January 2020,

*Having in mind* the outcomes of and the commitments adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,

*Taking into account* the work carried out by the Commission and the other agencies which support the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the considerable progress achieved in disseminating and redesigning the Observatory,

*Taking note* of the initiatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to mainstreaming the gender perspective,

*Deeply concerned* that the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the social and economic situation of women and girls and their access to education and essential health services, the increased demand for paid and unpaid care work and the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, during confinement, are deepening already existing inequalities and risk reversing the progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made in recent decades,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 27 to 31 January 2020, and the adoption of the Santiago Commitment;

2. *Recognizes* the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995 and reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report “Care in Latin America and the Caribbean during the COVID-19: towards comprehensive systems to strengthen response and recovery” released by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in August 2020;

4. *Also takes note* of the reports of the fifty-seventh meeting, fifty-eighth meeting and fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 30 and 31 July 2018, in Santiago on 22 and 23 January 2019, and in Santiago on 28 January 2020, respectively;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms, and to take action to fulfil the Goal on the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the other 16 Goals, in order to achieve robust sustainable development;



6. *Recommends* the redoubling of efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals reflect the inequalities between men and women and can be used to design effective public policies for overcoming such inequalities;

7. *Commends* the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasizes the need to strengthen work in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers, and machineries for the advancement of women, as well as relevant civil society organizations;

8. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in the work relating to gender statistics in the region, as well as in shedding light on gender affairs at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission, as well as in the work related to the organization and follow-up of the Regional Conferences and the support provided to the Governments;

9. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Calls for* active participation in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Argentina in 2022;

11. *Recommends* that the delegations participating in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean bear in mind and promote gender balance in their composition;

12. *Requests* that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference, on the understanding that the quality of democracy is contingent on citizen participation;

13. *Encourages* the design and implementation of comprehensive public policies and programmes that integrate sustainable development, including a gender perspective, to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

**740(XXXVIII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* its resolution 340(AC.66) of 25 January 1974, in which it directed that the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) should become a permanent institution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with its own identity and directly responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission,

*Reiterating* its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provide to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

*Noting that*, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Regional Council for Planning held its seventeenth meeting in Montevideo, on 29 and 30 August 2019,

*Having in mind* the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held in Montevideo on 29 and 30 August 2019;

2. *Expresses* its conviction that the policies adopted by States should be geared towards long term aims and afford increasing attention to building visions for the future, centred on reducing inequalities, promoting the prosperity of their peoples, and furthering sustainable development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of public policy consistency for strengthening the processes and instruments of planning for development and public management for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the Institute to maintain applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training to promote cross-sectoral and multilevel integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in planning for development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Regular System of Government Financing is essential for the continuity of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work, as a complement to the regular budget of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Expresses* its concern at the critical level of resources reached by the Regular System of Government Financing<sup>2</sup> and requests member States to take the necessary measures to make and regularize their contributions to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning in conformity with their respective normative frameworks and circumstances, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/CRP.17/6).

<sup>2</sup> See *Report on the status of the Regular System of Government Financing for the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/CRP.17/5).

6. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to ensure and strengthen the operation of the Institute within existing resources of the regular budget of the organization, and to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds;

7. *Reiterates* the recommendation that the Institute should strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and should step up the activities it conducts in that area in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of the Commission and other international institutions;

8. *Decides* to convene the twenty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning in the second half of 2020, and the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in the second half of 2021.

**741(XXXVIII) STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by which it approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

*Bearing in mind* Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

*Bearing in mind also* that the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

*Taking into account* that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its tenth meeting in Santiago, from 19 to 21 November 2019,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking into account also* that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its seventeenth meeting, in Santiago on 3 and 4 October 2018, its eighteenth meeting, in Santiago on 27 and 28 March 2019, and its nineteenth meeting, in virtual format from 25 to 27 August 2020,

*Taking into account further* that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* the major challenges facing official statistics in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the growing demand for statistical data and indicators in areas such as the environment, economic and social development, the labour market, gender affairs, information and communications technologies, public safety and justice, and South-South cooperation, as well as the challenges involved in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of information and assessing their appropriateness and relevance for measuring the multiplicity of Goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.10/9).

<sup>2</sup> See *Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.17/7), *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.18/5) and the draft report of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CE.19/PINF).

*Recognizing also* the increasing importance of reliable, good-quality, timely, disaggregated public statistics and the growing need to provide these for the sake of transparency, accountability of the public authorities and the evidence-based evaluation of public policy outcomes, which are key elements for sustainable development and for enhancing democracy in the region,

*Recognizing further* that, as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, many economies in Latin America and the Caribbean have contracted or are expected to contract, thus reducing the resources available to the Governments in the region and to statistical offices, against a backdrop of increased resource requirements to address the emerging data collection problems caused by the pandemic and requests to increase the frequency and volume of statistical production,

*Taking into consideration* General Assembly resolution 71/313 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/7, adopting the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators that was agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017, as a voluntary and country-led instrument that includes the initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission at its fifty-first session, held from 3 to 6 March 2020, and its fifty-sixth session, to be held in 2025, and will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels, which will be developed by Member States,

*Recalling* that in the conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the Governments attending the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the countries recommended that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, make progress with producing indicators of relevance to the region in the framework proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals and support the strengthening of national statistical capacities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 19 to 21 November 2019, and of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of its Executive Committee, held in Santiago from 3 to 4 October 2018, in Santiago from 27 to 28 March 2019, and virtually from 25 to 27 August 2020, respectively;

2. *Also takes note* of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;<sup>3</sup>

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates regional and international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems of the countries of the region;

4. *Takes note* of the adoption of a prioritized set of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will

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<sup>3</sup> LC/CEA.10/7.

help to prioritize measurement efforts and achieve the effective coordination of horizontal, regional and international cooperation in order to close gaps in statistical capacities;

5. *Commends* the launch of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals —SDG Gateway— developed in an inter-agency effort with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region under the leadership of the Commission, as a key tool for supporting the countries in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for strengthening the capacities to that end, and encourages the countries to use the SDG Gateway to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Conveys its thanks* for the presentation of global, regional and national experiences in the measurement of progress towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals; calls upon the member States to develop metrics to calculate the achievement of the targets; recommends that these metrics be considered within national development plans; and requests the secretariat to pursue the implementation of this type of harmonized measurement for the region in line with other current developments;

7. *Acknowledges* the adoption of the generic law on official statistics for Latin America, which defines the national statistical office as the leading authority of the respective national statistical system and as a professionally independent body, and recognizes it as a regional model for countries that are interested in formulating or reformulating the legal basis for the functioning of their national statistical systems and the production of official statistics;

8. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the actions of the Knowledge Transfer Network to exchange experiences and recommendations relating to the challenges and solutions adopted by the countries of the region in the face of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and encourages the continued consolidation of dissemination and exchange activities, such as on the role of national statistical offices as data stewards and how to ensure the continuity of statistical operations in emergency situations, among other matters;

9. *Underscores* the importance for member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, through the good offices of each Government, to provide the financial and human resources needed to guarantee the implementation of data collection and statistics production, including the 2020 round of population censuses, and calls on the public and private entities that compile administrative records and other data sources to facilitate national statistical offices' access to this information, considering its usefulness for statistical purposes and recognizing that these sources allow for greater and more timely data disaggregation;

10. *Expresses* its support for the joint declaration on the integration of statistical and geospatial information,<sup>4</sup> presented at the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 19 to 21 November 2019, which urges the Governments of the region to establish governance mechanisms that will better support the joint work of national statistical offices, national statistical systems and national mapping agencies through the establishment of national geostatistical frameworks.

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<sup>4</sup> *Declaration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas.*

**742(XXXVIII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000,

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development,<sup>1</sup> as well as other relevant internationally agreed instruments, constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national, regional, and international levels,

*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 by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2014, the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

*Bearing in mind* that, by virtue of resolution 2014/32, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in resolution 682(XXXV) of the Commission,

*Taking into account* that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its third session in Mexico City, from 1 to 3 October 2019,

*Bearing in mind* that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held the second and third meetings of its Presiding Officers, in Panama City on 12 September 2018 and Santiago on 23 April 2019, respectively,

*Considering* that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995)* (A/CONF.166/9).

<sup>2</sup> See *Report of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CDS.3/6), *Report of the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDS.2/3) and *Report of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDS.3/2).

*Taking into account* the additional challenges brought about by the coronavirus disease (COVID- 19) pandemic in terms of poverty and inequality, and acknowledging that such challenges require universal and comprehensive social protection systems to be strengthened,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 1 to 3 October 2019, and of the adoption of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development;

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the second and third meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development, held in Panama City on 12 September 2018 and Santiago on 23 April 2019, respectively;

3. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal and inclusive action plan based on the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental— whose goals and targets are indivisible, and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the platforms in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimension of sustainable development;

4. *Requests* that the secretariat support the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries in identifying key policy areas that can be strengthened in accordance with the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, in keeping with national and subnational realities and with a view to the factors that hinder poverty eradication and perpetuate social inequality in the region;

5. *Also requests* that the secretariat organize, maintain and systematically update the Observatory on Social Development, on the basis of official data provided by the countries;

6. *Notes* that the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in 2020, jointly with the XII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is convened by the United Nations Development Programme.



## **743(XXXVIII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Reaffirming* the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, and resolution 65/234 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, whereby it was decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as an instrument for realizing the human rights of all, reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind,

*Recalling also* the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and their contribution to following up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Bearing in mind* that since the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its third session in Lima, from 7 to 9 August 2018,

*Bearing in mind also* that since the thirty-seventh session of the Commission the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held their fourth meeting in Santiago, on 9 and 10 October 2019,

*Considering* all relevant regional and international developments on population and development matters, in particular the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, at which the Asunción Declaration, “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, was adopted, and the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, at which the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted,

1. *Takes note* of the agreements adopted by the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at its third session, held in Lima from 7 to 9 August 2018, and by the Presiding Officers at their fourth meeting, held in Santiago on 9 and 10 October 2019, which are reflected in the respective meeting reports;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Renews* the countries’ commitment to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide as a voluntary technical tool for assisting countries, and recognizes the contribution of the *First regional report*

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<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRPD.3/5) and *Report of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDP.4/4).

*on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*<sup>2</sup> to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

3. *Encourages* all member States to participate actively in the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2021;

4. *Urges* the countries to make every effort to send inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, including, insofar as possible, representatives from ministries and national institutions engaged with the population and development agenda, as well as representatives of relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia involved in the process of implementing the Montevideo Consensus;

5. *Also urges* all member States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, and invites all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation;

6. *Encourages* all member States to participate in the regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, and invites all the stakeholders to engage in this process;

7. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Population Fund for its support for the activities of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the other funds, programmes and specialized agencies to make their contributions, as appropriate, to the activities to be carried out by the Conference.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/CRPD.3/6.

**744(XXXVIII) REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which establishes the following: “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”,

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>1</sup> in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and signed by 24 Governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, declared their willingness to work towards a regional instrument promoting the full application of those rights and requested the support of the Commission as technical secretariat,

*Recalling further* paragraph 60 of the Declaration of Santiago adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the first Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Santiago on 27 and 28 January 2013,

*Recalling also* resolutions 686(XXXV) and 706(XXXVI) “Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, adopted, respectively, at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission, which emphasized the importance of sustainable management of natural resources and mechanisms for informed, broad and inclusive participation,

*Recalling further* resolution 725(XXXVII) “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean”, adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, which took note of the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Escazú, Costa Rica, which constitutes an important step forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* that the Regional Agreement was opened for signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on 27 September 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

*Bearing in mind* that since the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean held their first meeting in San José, on 11 and 12 October 2019,

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.216/13.

1. *Takes note of the Report of the first 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,*<sup>2</sup> held in San José on 11 and 12 October 2019;

2. *Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its offer to host the second 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, to be held virtually on 9 and 10 December 2020;*

3. *Takes note with appreciation of the signature of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean by 24 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the ratification of the Regional Agreement by nine countries of the region to date as a contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions;*

4. *Invites all Latin American and Caribbean States to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate, in accordance with its article 21, as soon as possible.*

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<sup>2</sup> LC/ESZ.1/3.

**745(XXXVIII) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME  
OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
FOR THE DECADE 2014–2024**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>1</sup> adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

*Reaffirming* the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 69/232, the General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 711(XXXVI) and 732(XXXVII) on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions of the Commission, respectively,

*Bearing in mind* the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,<sup>2</sup>

*Bearing in mind also* that the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation, are fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup>

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies at the national and regional level, as well as its invitation to regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation; and again encourages the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships;

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 74/15.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

2. *Takes note with appreciation of the Report of the midterm review meeting of Latin American countries preparatory to the comprehensive midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,*<sup>4</sup> held in Santiago on 11 and 12 June 2019;

3. *Calls upon* the secretariat to continue providing technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, logistical integration and logistics cost studies.

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<sup>4</sup> LC/PSL.1/2.

## 746(XXXVIII) CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* its resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a forum in which the Governments of the subregion exchange information and share experiences with a view to addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges to achieving sustainable development,

*Bearing in mind* that the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its nineteenth meeting in Port of Spain on 17 May 2019, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-eighth session virtually, on 10 September 2020, and that, on those occasions, they adopted conclusions and resolutions, which appear in their respective reports,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* that the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which brings together high-level experts and policymakers to consider key issues relating to development in the subregion, was first established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in March 2010,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* the Caribbean Development Roundtable as a valuable forum for fostering strategic thinking and stimulating the consideration of policy options to address critical Caribbean development challenges, and as a mechanism for forging partnerships between Latin America and the Caribbean through dialogue and engagement,

*Highlighting* the positive contribution made by the sixth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable to the consideration of key issues on the sustainable development agenda of Caribbean small island developing States, particularly debt sustainability and resilience in the time of coronavirus disease (COVID-19),

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its nineteenth meeting and the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-eighth session;

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the Caribbean Development Roundtable on a biennial basis and calls on development partners to work in collaboration with the members of the Commission in support of these meetings;

3. *Reaffirms* the key role of the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in coordinating development support for the subregion, in collaboration with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and through direct engagement with Caribbean development partners, including the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;

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<sup>1</sup> See the resolutions adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and *Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* (LC/CAR/2019/6).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 73(XXIII), adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session, held in St. George's on 15 and 17 March 2010 (LC/CAR/L.257).

4. *Welcomes* the role that the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, is mandated to play in incorporating the needs of the small island developing States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-eighth session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its nineteenth meeting and the conclusions reached at the sixth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.



**747(XXXVIII) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Taking into account* the potential of information and communication technologies for furthering the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

*Reaffirming* the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society and the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, which reaffirms the need to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and requests that a high-level meeting be held in 2025,

*Taking into account* the provisions of paragraph 68 of that resolution, in which the regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and to contribute reviews thereof, including through regional reviews,

*Recognizing* that the digital economy forms a crucial component of progressive structural change aimed at increasing the relative share of knowledge-intensive production activities in the economy, enhancing competitiveness and making progress towards social inclusion and the reduction of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Stressing* the urgent need for capacity-building to create, share and utilize digital technologies to benefit from the new digital revolution and accelerate the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries,

*Emphasizing* the need to create conditions in which to boost the digital economy, by addressing barriers that hinder the deployment and diffusion of digital technologies and promoting the exchange of goods and services online,

*Mindful* that the development of a regional digital market could generate opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth, while stimulating investment, productivity and competitiveness,

*Aware* of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to the information society and information and communications technologies,

*Recognizing* that, in the 15 years since its formal establishment in 2005, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant contributions to a common vision for building an inclusive information society in the region,

*Emphasizing* that digital technologies have been essential to the functioning of the economy and society during the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Calls upon* all member States to participate in the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held virtually from 23 to 26 November 2020;
2. *Commends* the joint efforts made by member States to strengthen regional collaboration on the information society with a view to identifying the advances achieved by Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of rethinking the digital governance model within the framework of a digital welfare state that promotes universal access to information and communications technologies, protects the economic, social and labour rights of the population, repudiates the unauthorized collection and improper or unauthorized use of personal data, and fosters innovation and the diffusion of technology in the productive system, for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms the need to promote public policies for this purpose;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially with regard to the advisability and feasibility of advancing an agenda for the development of a regional digital market in close cooperation with stakeholders.

**748(XXXVIII) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2022**

*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”<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup>

*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 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,

*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, 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;

*Taking into account the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019,*<sup>3</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> LC/SES.38/7.

*Taking into account also* that the thirty-eighth session of the Commission is the occasion for the relevant intergovernmental review of the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022,<sup>4</sup>

*Having reviewed* the outcomes and activities of 2019 and the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the presentation on the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and which updates and reinforces the priorities endorsed by the Commission at the thirty-fourth session of its Committee of the Whole,

*Having reviewed also* all aspects of the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022, 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 ECLAC system, 2022 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 coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental spheres,

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

*Acknowledging* the secretariat’s efforts 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,

1. *Adopts* the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022, in its entirety, 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-eighth session, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production of the wide 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 2022 reflects the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities of the programme of work to the new 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, as well as from other internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

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<sup>4</sup> LC/SES.38/8.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;
4. *Expresses its concern* at the recent liquidity crisis which has negatively affected the budgetary resources allocated to the Commission to carry out the activities set forth in the programme of work;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the *Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019* and underlines the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by the Commission in the different areas of work, commending especially its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region;
6. *Welcomes* 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;
7. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission, also with a view to strengthening and broadening the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole.

## 749(XXXVIII) COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

*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,<sup>1</sup>

*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 will be 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, and 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,

*Bearing in mind also* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>2</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> 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 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,

1. *Endorses* the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

2. *Requests* 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;

3. *Also requests* the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

**750(XXXVIII) CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,<sup>1</sup>

*Considering* the key role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to science, technology and innovation, and of policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

*Recognizing* the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, especially as regards the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

*Recalling* resolution 672(XXXIV) adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Recalling also* United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/242 on the Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 22 December 2017,

*Reaffirming* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Aware* of the importance of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies,

*Recognizing* the strategic and essential role of science, technology, innovation and digital technologies in addressing the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Bearing in mind that*, given the need to coordinate an effective science and technology response to the challenges arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on 2 July 2020, the Executive Committee of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies approved the regional cooperation proposal presented by the secretariat and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, to work in three areas related specifically to the pandemic,

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<sup>1</sup> See chap. I of *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).



1. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to implement a short-term regional cooperation agenda in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, based on science, technology, innovation and digital technologies;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for a coordinated joint effort and response from the science, technology, innovation, and information and communications technology regional institutions to tackle the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic effectively and prepare for a sustainable recovery;

3. *Encourages* the prompt operationalization of the online platform of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, to share information about existing science, technology and innovation policies, initiatives and programmes.

## Annex 1

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

1. The Committee on South-South Cooperation met as scheduled on 26 October 2020 during the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The following countries were appointed to serve as presiding officers of the Committee:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Chair:       | Costa Rica                                |
| Vice-Chairs: | Argentina, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru |

2. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of 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.
6. Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. At the opening session, statements were made by Déborah Rivas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba in her capacity as the outgoing Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, and Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as the new Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation.

4. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba, in her capacity as the outgoing Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, said that it was an honour for Cuba to participate in that space where successful experiences were shared and discussions were held on strengthening development cooperation activities. In the context of the pandemic, cooperation and solidarity among countries were essential and the Committee should be able to adapt to that scenario in order to counter the impact of the emergency and avoid setbacks to the achievements made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the major challenges was to strengthen the means of implementation, in particular inclusive and concessional financing and the development of capacities, institutions, knowledge and human resources at different levels. The region also faced the challenge of improving statistics. Methods were needed to plan, oversee and measure South-South cooperation so that it would better contribute to sustainable development. Finally, she reaffirmed her country's commitment to South-South cooperation and expressed her best wishes to Costa Rica in its role as Chair.

5. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, in his capacity as the new Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, thanked the countries that would serve as Vice-Chairs and stressed that there was a sense of urgency and expectation in the search for solutions to overcome the negative effects of the pandemic on health and social protection systems and economies. Along with the multilateral response, South-South and triangular cooperation and solidarity among the countries were needed. His country's

chairship would focus on regional political coordination, cooperation with international financial institutions, support for the United Nations system and the safeguarding of international law and human rights. It was essential to promote a recovery with a focus on environmental sustainability, which would make it possible to build a more equal and inclusive region. The countries of the region, most of them middle-income countries, needed to work more closely together and present to the international community concrete proposals on the need for more comprehensive models for measuring development given its multidimensional nature. The measurement of development had to be changed in order to obtain urgently needed international aid. Finally, he said that the region should not miss the opportunity to build back better based on the solidarity fostered by South-South cooperation.

Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC (agenda item 3)

6. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba, in her capacity as the outgoing Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, described the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-seventh session, which were summarized in the respective note by the Secretariat.<sup>1</sup> Over the past two years, the Committee had focused on promoting the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, building capacities for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, sharing good practices and accompanying international processes such as the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, with special attention to the challenges faced by Caribbean countries. A major effort had been made to promote the network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, an ECLAC initiative aimed at creating a platform to improve capacities for the achievement and follow-up of these Goals. Within the framework of a request to the ECLAC secretariat, a set of studies to evaluate South-South cooperation had also been carried out. Finally, she pledged Cuba's support for the work of the Committee and the new Chair.

Regional follow-up to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (agenda item 4)

7. This session was moderated by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, and participants included Juan Ignacio Roccatagliata, Director of Multilateral Cooperation of Argentina; Simone Rudder, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados; Alison Stone Roof, Under-Secretary of the Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Gabriel Terres, Adviser to the Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID); and Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnership of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

8. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation invited the panellists to hold a critical discussion on what countries had done and could do to improve the cooperation framework, enhance systems and tools, and increase transparency and accountability, and how South-South cooperation could contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> LC/SES.38/10.

9. The Director of Multilateral Cooperation of Argentina noted that that discussion was taking place in a context that linked the short-term impact of the pandemic and the structure of South-South cooperation based on the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, with a medium- and long-term perspective. It was necessary to seek convergence of the two perspectives, since structural problems such as inequality and poverty had to be addressed not only in the medium and long term, but also by tackling the needs determined by the situation. Some of the topics of that Conference that had to be followed up were institution-building, the role of cooperation among multiple actors, strengthening in the area of technology and innovation, the role of the United Nations and coordination among the different regional integration mechanisms. The convergence of dialogues and experiences in different international forums was critical to strengthening multilateralism and South-South cooperation.

10. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados said that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were evolving. The coronavirus pandemic had underscored the need for multilateralism and cooperation to solve global problems, and it was important to ask what the countries in the region and in the global South could do to thrive in the new landscape. While battling the pandemic, the focus on climate action, the blue economy and environmental protection needed to be maintained. In 2021, Barbados would host the twenty-second meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Latin America and the Caribbean needed to continue to press for metrics other than per capita gross domestic product, and particularly pursue the structural gap approach promoted by the Commission. Regional development banks could also offer debt forgiveness or moratoria.

11. The Under-Secretary of the Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that many countries had been recategorized as middle-income and thus had limited access to concessionary financing. South-South cooperation could reduce dependence on aid from developed countries and expand trade among developing countries. Jamaica promoted South-South cooperation through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, through the Caribbean Community and in forums such as the Group of 77 and China. The country also undertook initiatives that provided opportunities for development. Potential foreign and economic policy measures to promote South-South cooperation included commitments to South-South collaboration, expansion of external representation networks, and virtual meetings. Sharing of best practices, new approaches to partnerships, strengthened data gathering and results-based evaluation mechanisms could all contribute to South-South cooperation.

12. The Adviser to the Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) said that in the current context, existing challenges were compounded by additional ones such as those posed by the pandemic, the persistence of poverty, migration, climate change and natural disasters, which demanded coordinated actions from governments and international cooperation agencies for the recovery of basic services and the health and productive sectors, the resilience of economic, trade and financial systems, and the promotion of environmental sustainability. Cooperation should be aimed at improving people's quality of life, reducing income inequality and strengthening the resilience of governments, businesses and society. He spoke of the role played by Mexico in the framework of regional cooperation, particularly with respect to the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, and its commitment to the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico, spearheaded by ECLAC. Finally, he noted that South-South cooperation could be a key instrument to achieve the SDGs and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, through efficient and replicable projects that could restore confidence in government institutions and promote the design of a new social compact for development.

13. The Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnership of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) described the system-wide strategy on South-South cooperation led by UNOSSC through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It aimed to provide policy orientation on South-South and triangular cooperation for United Nations entities to increase impact at the national, regional and global levels, and ultimately to support the national priorities of countries of the South in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Alignment with national plans and priorities, with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and with international, regional and national normative frameworks was crucial. ECLAC was a good example of regional commissions' active engagement in the preparation of the strategy given its Committee on South-South Cooperation, which may be replicated in other regional commissions. ECLAC had agreed to lead the outcome of the action plan, which would include a set of system-wide deliverables to ensure broad implementation.

14. In the statements that followed, the Prime Minister of Curaçao said that Latin America and the Caribbean should promote intraregional cooperation and political and economic agreements to offer solutions for the pandemic and integrated sustainable development. Although problems of economic stagnation, civil insecurity, social cohesion and social protection had existed before the pandemic, there were also unprecedented opportunities. Actions, investments, and best practices had to be coordinated. Multilateralism was one of the most effective vehicles for tackling poverty and inequality while promoting sustainable development. An integrated regional market would provide protection from external shocks and foster shared production and research. An inclusive, transformative sustainable development agenda would create resilience. The world needed to build back better, but also to be better at building, together. South-South cooperation was vital to a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability.

15. The representative of Brazil commended ECLAC for its contribution to South-South cooperation thus far. That said, he recommended that ECLAC develop new approaches for dialogue with South-South cooperation focal points in the region. Brazil, for instance, had no recent record of joint initiatives with the Commission, particularly in terms of trilateral cooperation, while the country had been developing many trilateral projects with United Nations agencies across the region, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme. Those partnerships had been developed through technical or humanitarian cooperation modalities. He believed that ECLAC and Brazil could develop interesting partnership mechanisms that could respond to demands from across the region.

Panel on development in transition: challenges for middle-income countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (agenda item 5)

16. The panel was moderated by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, and participants included Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre, Volker Oel, Deputy Director-General for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, Mariano Berro, Director of the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency (AUCI) of Uruguay and Sergio Alfaro, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union.

17. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC spoke about the inadequacy of per capita income as a measure of a country's development. Global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, made no exceptions and affected countries with diverse GDP levels. ECLAC had long been proposing a new development

model with equality and sustainability at the centre, and was grateful for the support of the European Union, France, Germany, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Spain in considering this issue. Countries' capacities to mobilize resources varied and the graduation of middle-income countries made it difficult for them to access international funding sources. The countries of the region suffered from various gaps, in productivity, financial policy and fiscal policy, for example, and in order to fill them, dialogue was needed to reach a regional agreement. Middle-income countries accounted for 96% of external public debt and the lack of a solution could lead to serious instability in the global system. It was essential to link existing gaps, dialogue and cooperation to avoid a debt crisis. The Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) proposed by Costa Rica was an example of such possible cooperation. It was time to rethink development and cooperation, and ensure the transition with reciprocity.

18. The Director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission thanked the ECLAC Executive Secretary for her leadership in relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. Everyone was aware of the impact of the pandemic on international cooperation and at that time of uncertainty it was necessary to have ambitious, adaptable and flexible aspirations. The concept of development in transition had emerged to address the needs of partner countries that did not feel reflected in existing instruments and types of intervention. The global benchmark for a new type of cooperation and cooperation between the European Union and the region needed to be strengthened. The design of a new type of cooperation had taken on a significant role in light of the new European Union funding framework and the COVID-19 crisis. The European Union was instrumental in the region's recovery and was offering its experience and knowledge to develop a response to the crisis based on strengthening the social contract, the green and circular economy, the digital transformation and the strengthening of fairer and safer societies and democracies. The European Union would work on the conservation of common goods, biodiversity and deforestation, growth and jobs, innovation, diversification and local economies, digital partnerships, security, governance and democracy, and police and judicial cooperation. All this, she said, would help to define ambitious cooperation processes already adapted to the countries of the region.

19. The Director of the OECD Development Centre spoke about two main issues: the extraordinary situation arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to find a different way of cooperating at the present time. Social discontent was increasing, along with poverty, while tax morale was decreasing. This situation required a change in the social contract. It was important to pay attention to the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean because in the world, either everyone was growing or no one was. Before the crisis, the need for a new development model had been highlighted. Traditional international cooperation could not help to overcome the crisis as the actors and objectives had changed. Development could not be measured by GDP alone. He questioned whether the North-South and South-South cooperation model was still valid, as there was a need, he said, for dialogue on a new form of cooperation.

20. The Deputy Director-General for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany said that development in transition called for change in development cooperation relations. Innovative forms of international development cooperation should be created to support middle-income countries in pursuit of their development objectives, and should strengthen domestic institutional capacities, work inclusively to place countries of all development levels on an equal footing, and play a facilitating role through an expanded toolbox to strengthen triangular, South-South and multilateral cooperation. Two examples that responded to those dimensions were the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the long-standing strategic partnership between Germany and ECLAC. The Government of Germany was committed to supporting ECLAC in a regional COVID-19 recovery project to be implemented as early as April 2021.

21. The Director of the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency (AUCI) noted that not all of the region's problems were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, nor would they disappear when it ended. Uruguay was a small country with a small population interested in research, development and innovation, in improving regulatory frameworks and in attracting migrants. Transition country status had to be underpinned by the way in which countries could be leveraged in terms of investment, knowledge, innovation, employment and trade. Cooperation was a combined effort; differences had to be overcome, and ECLAC could contribute. Uruguay, recognized as a good executor of cooperation, and capable of sharing good practices, mainly needed technical assistance, training and know-how, and partners. The access of countries in transition to cooperation needed to be reviewed to ensure a better future for all.

22. The Ambassador of Costa Rica to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union said that the pandemic was a disruptive event that had dragged down all medium- and long-term forecasts. Costa Rica thanked the European Union for the support provided in terms of cooperation. He highlighted two initiatives of his country's government: the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) and a repository of information on technologies relating to COVID-19. Finally, he pointed out that it was time to rethink the formulas and mechanisms of international cooperation so that it would be more versatile and focused on the aspects most needed by countries.

23. In the statements that followed, the Coordinator of South-South and Triangular Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia said that his country benefited, in addition to the optimal platform provided by ECLAC, from bilateral cooperation spaces, such as those with Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay. With ECLAC, his country was working on a project to strengthen national statistical systems. He reiterated his country's commitment to cooperate with the Caribbean on innovation, technology and orange economy projects.

24. The Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations reaffirmed that most post-pandemic recovery efforts bypassed middle-income countries because of outdated resource allocation methodologies. She called on the United Nations and international financial institutions to develop new measurement tools that took into account the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. ECLAC was a great ally in that effort and El Salvador could be counted on to carry it forward.

25. The Director of Development Partnerships of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala said that ECLAC projections were alarming and that it was necessary to rethink the role of the State and of international cooperation. Measuring development based on GDP could block such development and access to support should be equal for all. The countries' internal frameworks needed to be strengthened to ensure that cooperation was more effective.

26. The Chief Adviser of the Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru said that the crisis had highlighted the region's structural weaknesses and that that affected the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The concept of graduation needed to be reviewed and an inclusive and multidimensional approach had to be implemented to optimize cooperation and the humanitarian dimension. The cooperation contributions served to unite efforts and strengthen capacities.

27. In her closing remarks, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked Cuba, the outgoing Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, for its achievements, and welcomed Costa Rica, which would be chairing the Committee at a time when cooperation would be key to the post-COVID-19 recovery process, especially to strengthen regional integration with positive effects on trade and financial flows,

technological capacities and economic growth. One of the issues that Costa Rica had focused on was the necessary reconceptualization of international cooperation, particularly for middle-income countries and the small island States of the Caribbean. ECLAC had developed a methodology to calculate structural gaps relating to poverty and inequality, informality, education, productivity, infrastructure, fiscal policy and gender. The region suffered from wide structural gaps and the level of per capita GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean was not a reliable indicator of development challenges. The pandemic had also highlighted pre-existing vulnerabilities, such as those of the small island developing States, which were highly indebted and vulnerable to climate change and hurricanes, with fragile economies that depended primarily on tourism and had limited access to financing owing to their classification as middle-income countries. The criteria for measuring and classifying development, including capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and technology transfers, and the stages thereof, had to be reconsidered. Particular emphasis was needed on countries' capacity to mobilize resources and address their specific vulnerabilities, and, in parallel, to enhance development integration agendas. It was time to strengthen regional political and economic agreements to deepen intra- and extra-regional cooperation ties.

28. Regional, solidary and collective cooperation was the only enabling condition for Latin America and the Caribbean to play a role in the process of redefining global governance, which was already being heralded as one of the consequences of the prolonged deterioration of the dominant development model and its exacerbation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. International cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean should help to overcome the limitations imposed by the development model, make it possible to move towards progressive structural change—in which the production structure is steered towards more knowledge-intensive sectors, with higher rates of growth in demand and employment—and support the transformations that require a coordinated set of policies dubbed a big push for sustainability: economic, social (equality) and environmental. It should also factor in a wide variety of actors (private sector, development banks, local governments and civil society) and work with a broad set of instruments and mechanisms for social and economic development. There was also a need to rethink international cooperation frameworks as change was needed in the way development was measured, the development status of countries was evaluated and development trajectories and stages were assessed.

29. Finally, she highlighted the partnership established since 2016 with the European Commission under the leadership of Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, and the OECD Development Centre, led by Mario Pezzini, to establish broader parameters for cooperation in order to avoid exclusion and the withdrawal of concessional support to countries moving up the income ladder. She also recognized Germany's great leadership in triangular cooperation and its active support to the region for more than 15 years.

30. In his closing remarks, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation thanked all participants and Cuba, the outgoing Chair, for the valuable work done. Cooperation and solidarity were essential to the achievement of the SDGs in the current context. It was necessary to strengthen cooperation with the help of partners that made it possible to increase capacities for sharing through triangulation. Triangular cooperation was needed to increase project capacity by providing financial and technical resources. There was also a need to continue speaking to the international community about the need to consider indicators other than GDP that would allow greater and better access to international cooperation. Costa Rica recognized the effort made by ECLAC to contribute to development and highlighted the proposed multidimensional approach as well as the process of calculating structural gaps to facilitate measurement and visualize countries' levels of development. The gap approach was complementary to GDP in terms of allocation of funds, especially for upper-middle-income countries. He also highlighted the benefits of using the human development index of the United Nations Development Programme.



31. Costa Rica had set out to provide transformative leadership with the following objectives: promote a recovery process with a focus on environmental sustainability that would ensure a more equal and inclusive region through strategic actions that helped to best address the socioeconomic and financial consequences of the pandemic; contribute to the process of regional rebuilding in the post-pandemic era by coordinating actions at the international level and within the United Nations system; contribute to the process of strengthening the 2030 Agenda and promote its multisectoral benefits in the recovery process by strengthening and fostering cooperation; promote digitalization as a central tool for the transformation of the region's productive and government sectors, and encourage the defence and promotion of human rights, particularly those of the most vulnerable groups, as a cross-cutting pillar of the regional process. In conclusion, he invited everyone to make the commitment to leave no one and no country behind.

32. The conclusions of the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation are reflected in resolution 749(XXXVIII).

## Annex 2

**EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF CHILE**

**Ambassador Cristian Streeter, Multilateral Policy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile presented the following explanation of position of the Government of Chile**

**RESOLUTION 743(XXXVIII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

“The Government of Chile wishes to make the following explanation of position:

The Government of Chile voted in favour of the resolution, with reservations to the text of the sixth preambular paragraph and paragraph 6, since Chile is in the process of updating its migration legislation. We have proposed a new law to establish a solid foundation for effective management of migration to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular. I should be grateful, Mr. Chair, if the Secretariat would take note of this explanation of position and include it as an annex to the aforementioned resolution, which has just been adopted.”

**RESOLUTION 744(XXXVIII) REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

“The Government of Chile wishes to make the following explanation of position:

The Republic of Chile has not signed the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which was opened for signature in New York on 27 September 2018, for the reasons given before the National Congress and in line with public opinion. I should be grateful, Mr. Chair, if the Secretariat would take note of this explanation of position and include it as an annex to the aforementioned resolution, which has just been adopted.”

## Annex 3

**POLITICAL DECLARATION  
ON A SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*We, the Foreign Ministers and high representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered virtually on the occasion of the thirty-eight session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), under the presidency of Costa Rica, from 26 to 28 October 2020, considering the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development in its three dimensions—economic, social and environmental, leading to the most severe contraction in economic activity in the history of the region;*

1. *Express* solidarity with all people and countries affected by the pandemic, and condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of COVID-19 and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic.
2. *Recognize* with deep gratitude the competence, generosity, solidarity and personal sacrifice of health-care professionals and services in Latin America and the Caribbean in the exercise of their duties to contain the spread of the pandemic.
3. *Reaffirm* our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and its consequences.
4. *Reaffirm also* our commitment to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental.
5. *Reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda; call for the swift and efficient mobilisation of resources to tackle development challenges, emphasize the need to strengthen international development cooperation, calls upon donors that have not done so to fulfil their respective official development assistance (ODA) commitments; and recognize the synergies of this agenda with relevant instruments, in particular the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, the SAMOA Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Outcome document of the Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation.
6. *Take note* of the reports produced by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on COVID-19 and acknowledge their recommendations.
7. *Express* profound concern about the devastating impact of the pandemic on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as on the fulfilment of sustainable development and humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on poverty eradication, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, livelihoods, environment and the exacerbation of inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets.

8. *Emphasize* with deep concern the special challenges facing developing countries in this crisis, including small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and the challenges faced by developing countries graduating to higher income per capita status and underlining the need to give particular attention to their concerns and specific challenges.

9. *Emphasize also* with deep concern the particular adverse effects of the pandemic in countries of the region dependent on commodities, remittances or tourism as well as the impact of limited fiscal space and high debt levels on countries' abilities to withstand the consequences of the COVID-19 shock and to invest in a sustainable recovery and reconstruction of their economies and welfare.

10. *Recognize* that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on women and girls, older persons, youth, children, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as the poor, deepening existing inequalities for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations; and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to take into account multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities; as well as the increased demand on women for paid and unpaid care and domestic work and the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence during confinement, all of which are deepening already existing inequalities and risk reversing the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. *Recognizes* further that the pandemic has disproportionately affected people of all ages with preexisting medical conditions, showed a higher mortality rate in men affected by COVID-19, and elevated the risks of frontline and health care workers;

12. *Recognize further* that inequalities, or even widening gaps in inequalities, remains pervasive in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, and that further investment in social services, including social protection services, and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable.

13. *Reaffirm* the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; and call for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the sustainably strengthening of the health system, including community based-services and psychosocial support programs in primary health care, integrated people-centred health services, and equitable and social care and support systems, in the context of achieving universal health coverage.

14. *Urgently call* for intensified solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation at all levels, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to contain, mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences through responses that are people-centred, gender-responsive, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

15. *Call* for bold and concerted actions to address the impacts on sustainable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies necessary to address the economic crisis and depression, begin economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and avoid new pressures on the global trend of loss of biodiversity by designing recovery strategies out of the crisis to accelerate progress towards the full

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including gender-sensitive targeted measures for poverty eradication, social protection for formal and informal sector workers, increased access to finance and capacity-building for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, financial inclusion mechanisms, strong fiscal stimulus packages and supportive monetary policies, and calls upon donors and other stakeholders to support countries that lack the capacity to implement such measures.

16. *Urgently call* for universal, unhindered, timely, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory access to, and fair distribution of all quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnosis, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, as well as health technologies and products, including their components and precursors, that are required in the response to the COVID-19 as a global priority; encourage strengthening of scientific international cooperation necessary to combat the pandemic and support initiatives in this regard, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), and relevant pledging appeals; and recognize the COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good.

17. *Encourage* Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and international financial institutions, to mobilize a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences; call for a global coordinated multilateral response, and in this regard take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19”, in which the need for a multilateral response amounting to at least 10 per cent of global gross domestic product is highlighted;

18. *Emphasize* that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and the flow of essential goods, and that these disruptions hinder the fight against poverty, hunger and inequalities, ultimately undermining efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaffirms that emergency measures must be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary, that they must not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains, and that they must be consistent with World Trade Organization rules, and calls upon Member States to reaffirm the critical importance of connected global supply chains in ensuring the unimpeded flow of vital medical and food supplies and other essential goods and services across borders.

19. *Call upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimize food loss and waste, support workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilize and allocate adequate resources and enhance institutional capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, provide continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food.

20. *Express concern* that the region is highly vulnerable to climate change owing to its geography, climate, spatial inequalities, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard, underscore the need to urgently increase the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters and the ambition for climate action in order to achieve the long-term goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and fully implement its provisions.

21. *Emphasize* the need of significantly increasing international climate finance, which is additional to ODA, and ensure enhanced access to it in order to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, and to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development that leaves no one behind.

22. *Emphasize also* the need to increase access to concessional finance, especially in the context of the global pandemic, including by the creation of new financial mechanisms or funds to support countries facing fiscal pressures and consider offering low-interest loans to open up the fiscal space and, in this regard, welcome regional and global proposals including the creation of the Fund to Alleviate COVID- 19 Economics (FACE).

23. *Welcome* the steps taken by the Group of 20 and the Paris Club to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries and by international financial institutions to provide liquidity and other support measures to ease the debt burden of developing countries; further encourages all relevant actors, including private and commercial creditors, to address risks of debt vulnerabilities, through existing channels, in developing countries due to the pandemic, and call for an expansion of these kind of measures through 2021 and to countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

24. *Call upon* Member States and international financial institutions to provide more liquidity in the financial system, especially in all developing countries, including by the implementation of instruments such as a Liquidity and Sustainability Facility to inject liquidity into developing economies and support sustainable investments and supports the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system.

25. *Welcome* innovative financing mechanisms such as the Debt Relief/Swap for Climate Adaptation for the Caribbean; as well as ECLAC “Caribbean first” initiative.

26. *Also emphasize* that illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, corruption and transnational organized crime, reduce the availability of vital resources for responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon Member States to recommit to addressing the challenges of preventing and combating illicit financial flows and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on this regard.

27. *Strongly urge* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

28. *Stress* that recovery from the pandemic should be an occasion to enhance and support the development policies of Latin America and the Caribbean while strengthening democracy and fulfilling human rights; and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including by empowering and engaging all women, adolescents and girls.

29. *Stresses* that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to reduce the risk of the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss, and urge Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts, including by aligning investments and domestic policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, as well as the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; in this regard, we welcome the convening of a Summit on Biodiversity on 30 September 2020 at the level of Heads of State and Government, to highlight the urgency of action at the highest level in support of a global biodiversity framework post-2020 that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

30. *Urges* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies play in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, health, communication, commerce and economic recovery and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address the digital gap, including the gender digital divide.

31. *Emphasize* the need for the international community to strengthen its capacities of prevention, preparedness and multidimensional response in the face of future pandemics and look forward to the results of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response and the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, and to identifying concrete measures towards this end.

32. *While recognizing* that substantial digital divides and data inequalities exist within and among countries and regions, and between developed and all developing countries, and that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies, calls upon States and all relevant stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to bridging digital and knowledge divides to promote research and capacity-building initiatives, as well as to enhance cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner to help bridge those digital divides.

33. *Reaffirm* our strong commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger everywhere, to further promote inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion, to combat inequalities within and among countries as well as to respect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course, foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations.

## Annex 4

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH  
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| LC/SES.38/1/Rev.2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Temario provisional</li> <li>– Provisional agenda</li> <li>– Ordre du jour provisoire</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/2/Rev.3   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Temario provisional anotado y organización del trigésimo octavo período de sesiones</li> <li>– Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the thirty-eighth session</li> <li>– Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire et organisation de la trente-huitième session</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Construir un nuevo futuro: una recuperación transformadora con igualdad y sostenibilidad</li> <li>– Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/4         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Construir un nuevo futuro: una recuperación transformadora con igualdad y sostenibilidad. Síntesis</li> <li>– Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability. Summary</li> <li>– Construire un nouvel avenir: une reprise transformatrice, axée sur l'égalité et la durabilité. Synthèse</li> <li>– Construir um novo futuro: uma recuperação transformadora com igualdade e sustentabilidade. Síntese</li> </ul> |
| LC/SES.38/5/Rev.1   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Temario provisional del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur</li> <li>– Provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation</li> <li>– Ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud</li> </ul>  |
| LC/SES.38/6/Rev.1   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Temario provisional anotado del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur</li> <li>– Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation</li> <li>– Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud</li> </ul>  |
| LC/SES.38/7         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de actividades del sistema de la CEPAL, 2019</li> <li>– Report on the activities of the Commission, 2019</li> </ul>  |



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|--------------------|--|
| LC/SES.38/8        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Proyecto de programa de trabajo del sistema de la CEPAL, 2022</li> <li>– Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2022</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/9        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Calendario de conferencias de la CEPAL propuesto para el período 2021-2022. Nota de la Secretaría</li> <li>– Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2021–2022. Note by the secretariat</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/10       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de las actividades de cooperación Sur-Sur llevadas a cabo desde el trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría</li> <li>– Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat</li> </ul> |
| LC/SES.38/11       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reconstrucción y transformación con igualdad y sostenibilidad en América Latina y el Caribe</li> <li>– Reconstruction and transformation with equality and sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean</li> </ul>   |
| LC/SES.38/12       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19</li> </ul>  |
| LC/SES.38/13/Rev.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Documentos presentados al trigésimo octavo período de sesiones de la comisión</li> <li>– Documents presented at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission</li> </ul>   |

## **B. DOCUMENTOS DE REFERENCIA/REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

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| LC/SES.38/DDR/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de las actividades de los órganos subsidiarios de la CEPAL y reuniones intergubernamentales desde el trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones</li> <li>– Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-seventh session</li> </ul> |
| LC/SES.38/DDR.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Estudios de valoración de la cooperación Sur-Sur en países seleccionados de América Latina y el Caribe. Nota conceptual</li> <li>– Evaluation of South-South cooperation in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Concept note</li> </ul>  |

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|---------------------|--|
| LC/G.2433(SES.33/4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– La hora de la igualdad: brechas por cerrar, caminos por abrir. Síntesis</li> <li>– Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails. Summary</li> <li>– L’heure de l’égalité: combler les écarts, ouvrir de nouveaux chemins. Synthèse</li> <li>– A hora da igualdade: brechas por selar, caminhos por abrir. Síntese</li> </ul>   |
| LC/G.2525(SES.34/4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cambio estructural para la igualdad: una visión integrada del desarrollo. Síntesis</li> <li>– Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary</li> <li>– Changement structurel pour l’égalité: une vision intégrée du développement. Synthèse</li> <li>– Mudança estrutural para a igualdade: uma visao integrada do desenvolvimento. Síntese</li> </ul> |
| LC/G.2587(SES.35/4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pactos para la igualdad: hacia un futuro sostenible. Síntesis</li> <li>– Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future. Summary</li> <li>– Pactes pour l’égalité: vers un avenir durable. Synthèse</li> <li>– Pactos para a igualdade: rumo a um futuro sustentável. Síntese</li> </ul>   |
| LC/G.2661(SES.36/4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Horizontes 2030: la igualdad en el centro del desarrollo sostenible. Síntesis</li> <li>– Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary</li> <li>– Horizons 2030: l’égalité au coeur du développement durable. Synthèse</li> <li>– Horizontes 2030: a igualdade no centro do desenvolvimento sustentável. Síntese</li> </ul>                                 |
| LC/SES.37/4         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– La ineficiencia de la desigualdad. Síntesis</li> <li>– The Inefficiency of Inequality. Summary</li> <li>– L’inefficacité de l’inégalité. Synthèse</li> <li>– A ineficiência da desigualdade. Síntese</li> </ul>   |
| LC/MDSS.8/2         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de la Octava Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur</li> <li>– Report of the eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation</li> </ul>  |

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|--------------|---|
| LC/MDSS.9/2  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de la Novena Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur</li> <li>– Report of the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation</li> </ul>  |
| LC/OR.2019/2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de la Primera Reunión de Trabajo de la Red para la Implementación de la Agenda 2030 y el Seguimiento a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe</li> <li>– 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</li> </ul>       |
| LC/OR.2019/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informe de la Segunda Reunión de Trabajo de la Red para la Implementación de la Agenda 2030 y el Seguimiento a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe</li> <li>– 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</li> </ul>      |
| A/CONF.235/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Documento final de Buenos Aires de la Segunda Conferencia de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur</li> <li>– Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation</li> <li>– Document final de Buenos Aires issu de la deuxième Conférence de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la coopération Sud-Sud</li> </ul> |

## Annex 5

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#### **Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI)/International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

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#### **Foro Económico Mundial/World Economic Forum**

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