



First session of the
Regional Conference on
South-South Cooperation
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 30 and 31 May 2023

Distr.
LIMITED
LC/CCSS.1/2/Rev.1
12 May 2023
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
23-00441

First session of the Regional Conference on
South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 30 and 31 May 2023

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was established by resolution 752(PLEN.36) adopted by the member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole,¹ in December 2021.

In accordance with the resolution, the regular sessions of the Conference shall be held every two years at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, in alternating years to the sessions of the Commission, using installed capacity and within existing resources.

Some of the objectives of this subsidiary body of ECLAC are: to strengthen national South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms and possible linkages with North-South and multilateral cooperation; to further South-South and triangular cooperation among regional and extraregional stakeholders, including donor countries and international organizations, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of cooperation; and to examine the experiences of South-South and triangular cooperation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to make progress in evaluating them, in coordination with the work carried out by the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda.
2. The challenges of international development cooperation in the new global context.
3. Assessment and evaluation of South-South and triangular cooperation.
4. Multi-stakeholder cooperation: opportunities for new public-private partnerships.
5. International cooperation in comprehensive management of risks and natural disasters.
6. Cooperation and the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.
8. Other matters.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ See [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47756>.

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

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda for consideration and adoption. Representatives of member States may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

2. The challenges of international development cooperation in the new global context

The world is still recovering from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has recently been compounded by new challenges consisting of a series of cascading crises, such as the spike in inflation, migration and climate change, resulting in the need for all stakeholders to redouble their efforts. These challenges include the realignment of cooperation policies and measures to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and progress in the implementation of the agreements reached at the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.²

Under this agenda item, delegations are expected to discuss international development cooperation —South-South and triangular cooperation— in the context of new development challenges, such as integration and the need for regional consensus, a common language and participatory governance; the establishment of platforms to connect political agendas with technical agendas through dialogues on more integration between public policy in Latin America and the Caribbean, and between this region and other regions of the world; the importance of multi-stakeholder, multisectoral and multilevel development partnerships; and the need to bolster South-South and triangular cooperation, to establish and apply multidimensional metrics —to complement GDP— that take account of gender inequality and environmental impact, and prioritize technology transfer.

Working document:

- Progress and challenges of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/CCSS.1/3)

Reference documents:

- From the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the regional conference: opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat (LC/RECSS.2021/3/Rev.1)
- Development in transition: concept and measurement proposal for renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/TS.2021/95/Rev.1)
- Middle-income countries: a structural-gap approach (LC/G.2532/Rev.1)
- An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, COVID-19 Special Report, No. 12

² See Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/CONF.235/3) [online] <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3795097?ln=en>.

3. Assessment and evaluation of South-South and triangular cooperation

Under this agenda item, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will be able to exchange relevant experiences on how South-South and triangular cooperation has been evaluated at the national, regional and global levels. This exchange will allow discussion of the possibility of gradual and planned progress towards standardized subregional or regional systems based on similar or equivalent parameters.

Unifying results and comparing performance can contribute to the goal of increasing knowledge, improving the role of South-South cooperation and strengthening a concerted regional voice at the global level to support the changes needed to achieve fairer, more inclusive and sustainable international development cooperation.

Working document:

- Progress and challenges of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/CCSS.1/3)

Reference document:

- Evaluating South-South cooperation in six Latin American and Caribbean countries: shared challenges for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/TS.2021/121)

4. Multi-stakeholder cooperation: opportunities for new public-private partnerships

Implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17, requires broad participation of all stakeholders, both public and private. Understanding and supporting the role of the various stakeholders is crucial for mobilizing investments and resources for development, and for making more efficient use of these resources.

Under this agenda item, a space is expected to be created for exchanging experiences and challenges for innovative, joint and coordinated work between international cooperation offices and agencies and regional, provincial and local governments, non-governmental actors, businesses and development banks, among other actors, on cross-cutting regional issues such as poverty, education, research and development (R&D), technological development, digitalization, the environment, gender and migration. Delegations are also expected to reflect on the importance of leveraging the positive effects of multi-stakeholder capacities in support activities for critical cooperation issues, strengthening the institutional environment and improving online data systems for cooperation so that they are secure, traceable and comparable.

Working document:

- Progress and challenges of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/CCSS.1/3)

5. International cooperation in comprehensive management of risks and natural disasters

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions of the world most prone to natural disasters—increasingly recurrent natural events of more extreme magnitude— and, at the same time, is disproportionately affected by health, economic, social and environmental crises, putting its development achievements at risk.

Under this agenda item, Latin American and Caribbean countries will reflect on the role of international cooperation in comprehensive disaster risk management, with a view to fostering better knowledge, prevention and risk reduction, along with mitigation of the destructive and disruptive impact of disasters. Special attention will be paid to the link between humanitarian assistance and international development cooperation, along with the need for a joint effort between governments, international agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector.

Working document:

- Progress and challenges of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/CCSS.1/3)

Reference document:

- “Planning for disaster risk reduction within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (LC/TS.2020/108)

6. Cooperation and the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union

The Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union will be held in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023.

This agenda item will offer an opportunity to seek common positions on the new challenges the two regions are facing and on how they should shape their new bi-regional partnership. The discussion is intended to address the importance of traditional financial aid, but also the significance of investments for Latin America and the Caribbean, considering the diversity and needs of the countries in the region.

The dialogue is expected to provide some direction with regard to the need to move forward with a series of cooperation and financial support formats, to strengthen the development path of Latin American and Caribbean countries, such as innovative instruments for knowledge sharing, triangular cooperation, multilateral policy dialogue, capacity-building, technology transfer, blended financing and resource mobilization.

7. Consideration and adoption of agreements

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC.

8. Other matters

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