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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

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UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



SIXTY YEARS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

The thirty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 9 to 13 June 2008. By a resolution adopted at the thirty-first session (Montevideo, Uruguay, 20-24 March 2006)¹ and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 2006/40, the member States accepted the offer extended by the Dominican Republic to host the session. The meeting is being held in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2006-2008.²

The session is the most important event of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for the consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and an opportunity to review the progress of the Commission's activities. In consultation with the host country, the theme selected for this session is Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities.

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

In the present note, the secretariat has put forward some suggestions which, should the Governments of the member States decide to accept them, may facilitate the consideration of the various items on the provisional agenda and ensure the efficient use of time. As is customary at meetings of the Commission, these suggestions concerning the organization of work could be considered, together with the provisional agenda and the election of officers, at the meeting of heads of delegation, scheduled to take place on 10 June at 8.30 a.m. in the Salón Santo Domingo (Conference room 2) of the Hilton Hotel. The secretariat will make working and reference documents on the various agenda items available to the attending delegations.³

The work of the thirty-second session will be conducted from Monday, 9 June to Friday 13 June 2008.

The official opening ceremony of the thirty-second session of the Commission will take place at 6 p.m. on Monday, 9 June in the Gran Salón (Conference room 1) of the Hilton Hotel.

On Tuesday, 10 June, at 9.30 a.m., delegations will gather in a plenary meeting in the Gran Salón (Conference Room 1) to elect the officers of the session and adopt the agenda of the conference. The Executive Secretary will then present the document entitled *Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities*. A high-level seminar, scheduled to begin that afternoon and continue into the morning of Wednesday, 11 June, will be devoted to the same theme.

The afternoon of Wednesday, 11 June, will be devoted to consideration of the report on the activities of the Commission during the period 2006-2007 and to the presentation of the draft programme

¹ Resolution 631(XXXI).

² LC/G.2298(SES.31/7).

³ See Documents presented at the thirty-second session of the Commission (LC/G.2375(SES.32/11)).

of work for the ECLAC system for the 2010-2011 biennium (Gran Salón (Conference room 1)). At the same time, the Regional Consultation Preparatory to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will start in the afternoon of Wednesday, 11 June (in the Salón Santo Domingo (Conference room 2)) and will continue throughout the day of 12 June. On this day, also, the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will meet (Salón Santo Domingo (Conference room 2)).

The Committee on South-South Cooperation will meet in the morning of Friday, 13 June. A high-level panel on gender and financing will also be held. Subsequently, delegations are expected to hold a general discussion and to consider the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of the Commission. Following this, the plenary meeting will adopt the relevant resolutions.

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

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-second session
3. Presentation and analysis of the document entitled *Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities*
4. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-first session
5. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2010-2011
6. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2008-2010
7. Regional Consultation Preparatory to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus
8. ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development
9. Committee on South-South Cooperation
10. Consideration of the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of ECLAC
11. Other matters
12. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-second session

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, at the commencement of each session, the Commission shall elect a chairperson, two or more vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur. These officers shall then hold office until their successors are elected. It is customary for the Commission to be chaired by the head of the delegation of the host country. It should also be noted that rule 20 provides that the chairperson or vice-chairperson shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, rather than as the representative of the member country by whom s/he was accredited.

It is suggested that the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the Committee on South-South Cooperation should each have its own presiding officers, consisting of a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

It is proposed that the selection of the presiding officers for the session should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-second session

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda (LC/G.2365(SES.32/1)) for their consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. Representatives of member States may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure

It is suggested that the agenda should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

3. Presentation and consideration of the document entitled *Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities*

Working document:

- Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities (LC/G.2367(SES.32/3))
- Structural Change and Productivity Growth - 20 Years Later. Old problems, new opportunities. Summary (LC/G.2368(SES.32/4))

The document prepared by the secretariat places emphasis on diversification of production and innovation, as well as on public-private alliances for establishing a medium- and long-term strategy for furthering development in the region. It will be presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in the morning of 10 June, and will be commented on by three panellists.

In order to permit an in-depth consideration of the central theme of the thirty-second session, the secretariat has invited ministers, representatives of member States, eminent scholars and distinguished experts to participate in a high-level seminar on this subject.

This seminar, which will be held on 10 and 11 June (Gran Salón (Conference room 1)), will be divided into four panel discussions on the following subjects: (i) Latin America and the Caribbean in a structurally changing world economy; (ii) Openings for competitiveness and learning in the area of natural resources; (iii) Openings for competitiveness and learning in the area of manufacturing and services; (iv) Public-private alliances for innovation and restructuring of production.

Following each panellist's presentation, a general discussion will be held. In accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the representatives of member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be given to other participants.

4. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-first session

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2006 to December 2007 (LC/G.2372(SES.32/8))

Reference documents:

- Report of the twenty-second session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/CAR/169)
- Report of the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2651)
- Report of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2870)
- Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2795)
- Report of the fortieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2695)
- Draft report of the forty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Report of the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2361(CRM.10/8))
- The Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean: Development of Technology and Technologies for Development. Abridged document (LC/L.2860)
- San Salvador Commitment (LC/R.2144)

- Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a Sense of Belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2335)
- Agricultura, desarrollo rural, tierra, sequía y desertificación: resultados, tendencias y desafíos para el desarrollo sostenible de América Latina y el Caribe (LC/W.192)
- Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: obstacles, lessons and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/R.2142)
- Millennium Development Goals 2006: A Look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2352-P)
- Objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio. La progresión hacia el derecho a la salud en América Latina y el Caribe (LC/G.2364)
- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2006 (LC/G.2327-P)
- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007 (LC/G.2355-P)
- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2006-2007 (LC/G.2338-P)
- Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007 (LC/G.2360-P)
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2007 (LC/G.2351-P)
- Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy 2006. Trends 2007 (LC/G.2341-P)
- No more!: the right of women to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2808-P)

The secretariat will submit a report to the delegations summarizing the activities carried out by the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), under its programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007.

The report is divided into three sections. The first deals with the main elements of the Commission's institutional mandate and begins with a description of its role within the region, its achievements during the biennium in the economic, social and environmental spheres, the comprehensive follow-up to world conferences on economic and social issues and the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, this section reviews the general implementation of the programme of work during the 2006-2007 biennium, including the cooperation activities in terms of technical assistance missions and implementation of projects financed with extrabudgetary resources.

The second section reports more specifically on the implementation of the twelve subprogrammes undertaken by ECLAC during the 2006-2007 biennium, and sets out the substantive and operational activities, measured in terms of final outputs and accomplishments. The third section provides an overview of the activities carried out in the areas of evaluation and dissemination and communications

The chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC have been invited to present a brief report on the activities of those bodies.

5. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for the 2010-2011 biennium

Working document:

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2010-2011 (LC/G.2373 (SES.32/9))

Reference document:

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2008-2009 (LC/G.2297(SES.31/6))

The secretariat will submit for consideration the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), for the 2010-2011 biennium. The frame of reference for this draft programme is the proposed strategic framework and substantive priorities for ECLAC for the 2010-2011 biennium, currently being considered by the relevant subsidiary organs of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York; this framework is used to derive the essential elements that are reflected in the logical matrix incorporated into the structure of each subprogramme.⁴

The Draft programme of work sets out the priority areas and lines of work that the Commission proposes to address during the 2010-2011 biennium in the light of the main challenges facing the countries of the region and current global priorities. The document is divided into 12 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes that reflect the multidimensional vision which the secretariat proposes to adopt for addressing development issues. The first three relate to the activities of ECLAC in the field of economic development (subprogrammes 1-3); the next three to social development activities (subprogrammes 4-6); the following subprogrammes concern training and the planning of public administration (subprogramme 7); sustainable development, human settlements, and natural resources and infrastructure (subprogrammes 8 and 9) and statistics and projections (subprogramme 10); the last two have a subregional focus and relate to activities in Mexico and Central America and in the Caribbean (subprogrammes 11 and 12). Under each subprogramme, the strategy envisaged for achieving the proposed objectives is indicated together with the relevant thematic areas under which the relevant activities and outputs for the 2010-2011 biennium are grouped.

6. Proposed calendar of ECLAC conferences for the period 2008-2010

Pursuant to resolution 419(PLN.14), adopted by the ECLAC Committee of the Whole at its fourteenth session, held in November 1980, the focal points around which meetings of the Commission are organized are the biennial sessions. It was decided, as set down in that resolution, that sessions should be held in even-numbered years so as to coincide with the two-year budget programming cycle established by the United Nations General Assembly. It was also agreed that at each session the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the following session should be considered and that, whenever possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting should be specified.

⁴ United Nations, *Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011* (A/63/6 (Prog. 17)), March 2008.

At its thirty-first session, the Commission considered the document entitled “Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2006-2008. Note by the Secretariat”.⁵ Following consideration of that item, the Commission decided, by virtue of resolution 619(XXXI), to retain the existing intergovernmental structure and pattern of meetings, and to approve the calendar of conferences for the aforementioned period.

In compliance with this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table (contained in the appendix to document LC/G.2374(SES.32/10)), which lists the scheduled meetings for the period 2008-2010 in accordance with the mandates adopted by the Governments at meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

7. Regional Consultation Preparatory to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Working document:

- Trends and challenges in international cooperation and the mobilization of resources for development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2380(SES.32/15))

By its resolution 62/187, adopted on 19 December 2007, the General Assembly decided that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008. The resolution calls upon the regional commissions to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, during the first half of 2008, which would serve to provide inputs to the preparations for the Doha Conference.

In addition to reviewing progress, sharing experiences and identifying the obstacles and difficulties encountered in the different areas covered by the Monterrey Consensus, the Regional Consultation is a suitable opportunity for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to share views on the new challenges and emerging issues that are crucial for the region. As a contribution to the intergovernmental debate that will take place at the Consultation, the secretariat of the Commission has prepared a background document which presents an overview of the central topic and provides up-to-date information on emerging issues. The outcome of the Regional Consultation will be transmitted to the Secretary-General as an input for the documents to be prepared for the following preparatory phases for the Conference.

As part of the Regional Consultation and pursuant to the agreements adopted at the forty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a high-level panel on gender and financing will be organized jointly by the Secretary of State for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic and the ECLAC secretariat.

⁵ LC/G.2298(SES.31/7).

8. ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development

Working document:

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2376(SES.32/12))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2377(SES.32/13))
- Demographic transformations and their influence on development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2378(SES.32/14))

Reference document:

- Report of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and resolutions 615(XXXI) and 616(XXXI) adopted at the thirty-first session of ECLAC (DDR/1)
- Informe de actividades 2006-2008 sobre envejecimiento y desarrollo para el Comité Especial sobre Población y Desarrollo del período de sesiones de la CEPAL (DDR/2)
- Informe de actividades 2006-2008 sobre migración internacional para el Comité Especial sobre Población y Desarrollo del período de sesiones de la CEPAL (DDR/3)
- Report of the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection (LC/L.2891(CRE.2/5))

The Chairperson of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will report on the progress made in implementing the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development and the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994). The Chairperson will also report on relevant activities conducted between March 2006 and June 2008.

The Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC will report on the activities carried out by the secretariat between March 2006 and May 2008 and on the priorities which will guide the work of CELADE in the coming months.

The Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will report on activities completed and planned by the Fund in the region within the framework of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, key measures for continued follow-up to this Programme of Action and the recommendations resulting from the ten-year review process.

The secretariat will present a comprehensive report on the activities carried out in the area of international migration during the past biennium with a view to the discussion of developments during that period. A proposal for future follow-up activities envisaged in this area will be presented for consideration by member States.

The secretariat will present the outcomes of the second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean and the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development. In that context, member countries will be expected to identify specific activities to be carried out on the subject in the next two years.

In compliance with that request, the secretariat has prepared a document entitled *Demographic transformations and their influence on development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, in which it makes available to the member countries of the Commission up-to-date information on demographic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to identify the principal challenges to development in the region in a situation marked by rapid and intense demographic change. The document reveals that, while some common features may be detected among nations, the wide differences persisting within and between countries point to the need for the design and implementation of strategies that offer diverse and innovative solutions in the context of rights-based development.

Thus, the document considers demographic information on the basis of the lines of work recently defined at ECLAC in order to direct public policies towards a form of development based on democratic principles and solidarity. Emphasis is placed on the rights-based approach to development and public policies, on the expansion of social protection and on the promotion of social cohesion, gender mainstreaming and priority attention to disadvantaged groups.

9. Committee on South-South Cooperation

Working documents:

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2369(SES.32/5))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2370(SES.32/6))
- Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2006-2007. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2371(SES.32/7))

The ECLAC secretariat will present for consideration by delegations the document Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2006-2007, which examines the characteristics of South-South cooperation and multilateral assistance channelled through the United Nations.

The first section analyses the overall situation and describes the general trends relating to official development assistance in recent years. Section II of the document reviews the cooperation activities of ECLAC during the 2006-2007 biennium, with particular reference to South-South cooperation in a global, multilateral framework. It outlines the characteristics of ECLAC technical assistance projects and reports on the expenditures incurred in that area during the biennium, listing the projects by subject area. A number of key projects which have contributed to the implementation of South-South cooperation in the region are highlighted. The technical assistance missions undertaken by ECLAC during the past biennium are examined by subject and geographical area. Lastly, South-South cooperation activities are presented by subprogramme with an indication of the Millennium Development Goals to which they relate.

The Committee will consider the preparations for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which the General Assembly decided to convene by its resolution 62/209.

10. Consideration of the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of ECLAC

Working document:

- Request by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2381(SES.32/16))

Under this agenda item, consideration will be given to the request submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island for admission of the Cayman Islands as an associate member of ECLAC.

11. Other matters

This item provides for consideration of any other issues which delegations may wish to raise.

12. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-second session