

Distr.
GENERAL
LC/G.2523(SES.34/2)/Rev.1
22 August 2012
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
2012-412



2012

*Thirty-fourth
session of ECLAC*

*San Salvador,
27 - 31 August*

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



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

- I. Organization of the thirty-fourth session
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Annotations to the provisional agenda



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ECLAC

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

The thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held in San Salvador, from 27 to 31 August 2012. By resolution 656(XXXIII) adopted at the thirty-third session, held in Brasilia in 2010, and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 2010/4, the member States accepted the offer extended by El Salvador to host the session. The meeting will be held in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2011-2012.¹

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 for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development".

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.

The following annotations to the provisional agenda provide background information on each of the proposed items and suggestions regarding their consideration at the session. In this respect, it may be useful to recall resolution 419(PLEN.14), 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-fourth session.
3. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-third session.
4. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2014-2015.
5. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2010-2012 and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings which report at the session.
6. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2012-2014.
7. Committee on South-South Cooperation.
8. Global crisis and current conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ Resolution 651(XXXIII) of ECLAC.

9. Presentation and consideration of the document prepared by the secretariat entitled *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development*.
10. High-level seminar on the theme “Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development”.
11. High-level dialogue.
12. Consideration of the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of Bermuda as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
13. Consideration of the request of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for admission of Curaçao as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
14. Consideration of the request of France for admission of Martinique and Guadeloupe as associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
15. Other matters.
16. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-fourth 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 chair, two or more vice-chairs 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 chair or vice-chair shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, rather than as the representative of the member country by whom she or he was accredited.

It is suggested that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should have its own presiding officers, consisting of a chair, two vice-chairs 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 27 August 2012.

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

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda (LC/G.2522/(SES.34/1)/Rev.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. The representatives of member States may formulate observations and suggest such modifications as they consider 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 27 August.

3. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-third session

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2010 to December 2011 (LC/G.2528(SES.34/7))

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 2010-2011. The chairs of subsidiary organs of the Commission have been invited to report briefly on the activities carried out by those bodies in the period 2010-2011.

The secretariat will also report to the Governments of States members on activities carried out by ECLAC in support of meetings and summits, such as the Summit of the Americas, Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, Summit of Heads of State and Government from Latin America and the Caribbean and from the European Union, cooperation with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and, especially, the mandates subsequent to the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in December 2011.

4. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2014-2015

Working document:

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2014-2015 (LC/G.2526(SES.34/5))

The secretariat will submit for consideration the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for the 2014-2015 biennium, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The frame of reference for this draft programme is the proposed strategic framework and substantive priorities for ECLAC for the 2014-2015 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.

The draft programme of work is based on the draft strategic framework of the Commission and the priorities that are being considered on a parallel track by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The overall purpose of the programme is to promote the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through continuous international cooperation, by undertaking comprehensive research and analysis of development processes and providing the relevant normative, operational and technical cooperation services in support of regional development efforts. The mandate for the programme, which falls within the purview of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI), by which the Council established the Commission for the purpose of contributing to and coordinating action towards the

economic and social development of the region and reinforcing economic relationships among the countries of the region as well as worldwide. In 1996, by virtue of ECLAC resolution 553(XXVI), the Commission was instructed, inter alia, to collaborate with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination.

The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme is structured around 14 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, implemented through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. It is proposed to create a new subprogramme on support to regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, with the objective of strengthening these processes and the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in interregional and global political dialogues. The establishment of new organizations in the last decade to promote integration and cooperation represents a step forward in the region, fostering common positions and a concerted effort to strengthen the region's role in dialogue with other countries and other regions. In this regard, the new subprogramme is intended to contribute to regional and subregional processes and organizations through technical and analytical support aimed at facilitating debate and consensus-building. Particular effort was made to ensure that the Commission's gender mainstreaming strategy is reflected throughout the 14 subprogrammes of the programme of work.

The basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 were drawn from the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

5. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2010-2012 and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings which report at the session

The chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission will report on the activities carried out between June 2010 and July 2012 and outcomes thereof:

- Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development
- Committee of the Whole of ECLAC
- Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

Other meetings:

- Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Reference document:

- Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2010-2012 (DDR/1)

6. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2012-2014

Pursuant to resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the ECLAC Committee of the Whole at its fourteenth session, held in November 1980, the focal point around which meetings of the Commission are organized is the biennial session. It was decided, as set down in that resolution, that sessions should be held in even-numbered years 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.

At its thirty-third session, the Commission considered the document entitled “Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2010-2012. Note by the Secretariat”.² Following consideration of that item, the Commission decided, by virtue of resolution 651(XXXIII), 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.2527(SES.34/6)), which lists the scheduled meetings for the period 2012-2014 in accordance with the mandates adopted by the Governments at meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

Working document:

- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2012-2014. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2527(SES.34/6))

7. Committee on South-South Cooperation**Working documents:**

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2529(SES.34/8))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2530(SES.34/9))
- Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2010-2011 (LC/G.2531(SES.34/10))
- Middle-income countries: A structural-gap approach. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2532(SES.34/11))

² LC/G.2435(SES.33/6).

8. Global crisis and current conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean

The secretariat will present a brief report on the global economic outlook and its implications for Latin America and the Caribbean. Particular attention will be afforded to economic, social and environmental dimensions, which the delegations will be invited to discuss.

Reference documents:

- The international financial crisis and its implications for Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/2)
- Policy measures implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean in response to the adversities of the international economy, 2008-2012 (DDR/3)

9. Presentation and consideration of the document prepared by the secretariat entitled *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development*

The position document for the thirty-fourth session argues that long-term, sustainable development with equality cannot be achieved without structural change. This premise, which is at the roots of ECLAC thinking, is widely accepted in development policy analysis and formulation today. Those countries which have been able to shift their production structures towards sectors and activities that are more knowledge-intensive and better positioned in fast-growing domestic and external markets are the countries which have also been able to narrow productivity and income gaps vis-à-vis the developed world. Viewed thus, structural change is not a matter of creating cells of high-productivity in isolation from the rest of the economy, but of diversifying the economy towards increasingly productive sectors which offer better employment opportunities to a high proportion of workers. This sort of structural change generates a denser and more integrated production structure with stronger linkages and the ability to diversify exports and open avenues towards new types of international specialization.

The document also addresses the interaction between short-term cycles and structural change. Since the mid-1970s, fluctuations in the international credit supplied through the financial system, combined with commodity price trends and volatility, have acted as a drag on economic growth in the region. External liquidity shocks have generated boom periods which have culminated in crises of varying severity, such as the lost decade of the 1980s and the lost half-decade of 1998-2002. Capital inflows have triggered unsustainable expansions associated with currency appreciation, which has penalized tradable goods production and created external imbalances. For some countries, this combination has heavily undermined international competitiveness, especially in the absence of production development policies. During crisis phases, investment has fallen heavily, damaging the production structure and GDP growth. Growth prospects have been compromised by long periods of capacity underuse and limited technology absorption. The situation has been uneven across the region, however, since each country's response and structural traits have given rise to different trajectories. These are examined in the document and used to extract lessons to inform policy considerations.

The document also highlights a number of positive tendencies seen since 2003 in relation to public policies. First, progress made in the use of countercyclical policies helped the countries to recover from the great recession of 2008; second, advances in social and income distribution policies helped to reduce inequality in several Latin American and Caribbean countries. Progress was seen, too, in

production development policies, especially as regards support for small and medium-sized enterprises and for science, technology and innovation schemes. Although much remains to be done in all these areas, especially in terms of policy implementation, the successes achieved represent a positive signal as regards the region's capacity to tackle contemporary problems in an effective manner.

Lastly, the document emphasizes that structural change must happen in order to achieve a virtuous pattern of growth in which productivity and employment increase hand in hand. The region's countries have managed to reduce inequality in the past decade by means of distribution policies. However, to avoid a setback in this regard should external conditions change—for example, in the event of an external shock such as occurred at the end of 2008—the region must make further progress towards production structures that can create enough employment to absorb most workers in dynamic sectors of the economy. Inasmuch as it creates better employment opportunities in rising-productivity sectors, structural change is the way to reduce inequalities in the long run.

Working documents:

- Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development (LC/G.2524(SES.34/3))
- Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary (LC/G.2525(SES.34/4))

The Executive Secretary will present the document during the morning of 29 August, after which it will be commented on by three panellists.

10. High-level seminar on the theme “Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development”

In order to permit an in-depth consideration of the central theme of the thirty-fourth 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 30 August, will be divided into four panels, which will discuss the main themes examined in the document.

Each panel's presentations will be followed by a general discussion. In accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the representatives of the member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be opened to other participants.

11. High-level dialogue on structural change in Latin America and the Caribbean: regional integration and the role of ECLAC

A dialogue with ministers of foreign affairs of Brazil, El Salvador, Guyana and Peru will take place on 31 August, with a view to reflecting upon the following subjects: the challenges which structural change represents for the countries of the region; regional integration; and the multilateral development agenda in light of the outcomes of Rio+20 and the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015. This session will be chaired by Mauricio Funes, President of El Salvador. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, will also be participating.

12. Consideration of the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of Bermuda as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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 Bermuda as an associate member of ECLAC.

Working document:

- Request by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of Bermuda as an associate member of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2533(SES.34/12))

13. Consideration of the request of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for admission of Curaçao as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Under this agenda item, consideration will be given to the request submitted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands for admission of Curaçao as an associate member of ECLAC.

Working document:

- Request by the Kingdom of the Netherlands for admission of Curaçao as an associate member of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2534(SES.34/13))

14. Consideration of the request of France for admission of Martinique and Guadeloupe as associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Under this agenda item, consideration will be given to the request submitted by France for admission of Martinique and Guadeloupe as associate members of ECLAC.

Working documents:

- Request by France for admission of Martinique as an associate member of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2535(SES.34/14))
- Request by France for admission of Guadeloupe as an associate member of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2543(SES.34/15))

15. Other matters

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

16. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-fourth session



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