

ILPES



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Distr.

LIMITED

LC/L.4077

20 October 2015

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR PLANNING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)**

Santiago, 12 August 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) held their twenty-fifth meeting on 12 August 2015 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (Co-Chair), Guatemala (Co-Chair), Jamaica and Paraguay.

B. AGENDA

3. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Review of progress in the area of planning pursuant to resolution CRP/XIV/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fourteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2013).
3. Review of the proposal relating to the fulfilment of resolution CRP/XIV/02 on the modernization of the Regular System of Government Financing.
4. Preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (November 2015).
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

¹ For the complete list of participants, see annex 2.

C. PROCEEDINGS

4. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission welcomed the participants and informed them that, at the suggestion of Ecuador, Guatemala would chair the meeting in its capacity as co-Chair. The Under-Secretary for Planning of the Office of the President of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers, then opened the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 1)

5. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda (LC/L.4033(MDCRP.25/1)) for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

Review of progress in the area of planning pursuant to resolution CRP/XIV/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fourteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2013) (agenda item 2)

6. The Chief of ILPES gave a brief presentation of progress in the area of planning pursuant to resolution CRP/XIV/01 and mentioned the priorities of the programme of work of ILPES under the guidance of the Regional Council for Planning. He said that the study on the status and challenges of development planning was relatively far advanced in the drafting stage, with preliminary findings and conclusions that had been shared with the representatives. The draft would be submitted for review by the countries in late October, in time for its presentation during the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council on Planning, to be held in November 2015.

7. He stated that the proposal for a long-term visioning exercise for planning in Latin America and the Caribbean consisted in four phases and would be submitted to the countries in late October for consideration during the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council on Planning in November 2015. The repository of development plans, which was now operational, would continue to be nourished by the plans and planning instruments submitted by the countries. Work on planning approaches, instruments and methodologies would result in a draft “white paper” on planning in the region, which would be presented to the Council at its fifteenth meeting as an instrument for strengthening regional planning. In terms of capacity-building for strengthening planning, the Chief of ILPES reported on the achievements of the training programme, as a key part of its capacity-building work, and proposed that a capacity-building programme be developed in relation to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

8. In the subsequent discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Ecuador, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. The representatives of the countries enquired about the coordination between the work of the Regional Council for Planning and other intergovernmental networks such as the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN) and the Latin American Regional Development Network. They also asked about the regional plan of action on planning that the countries had requested of ILPES and how it was related to the 2020 agenda of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and suggested that ILPES undertake a comparative analysis with a view to determining the coherence of different regional and global development plans and agendas. Regarding the proposal for a capacity-building programme, the representatives suggested that ILPES help develop methodologies for building the 2030 agenda for sustainable development into national planning processes. The discussion then turned to the advisability of defining a subset of targets, within the 2030 agenda, that would be particularly relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean. The possibility of exploring different targets, not included in the agenda but which might be of special interest, was also mentioned.

9. The Chief of ILPES recalled the mandates of ILPES and said that the requested work on a regional plan of action was under way and was mentioned in the report presented, along with the proposal of building a long-term regional vision that would be submitted for the consideration of the Regional Council on Planning at its fifteenth meeting in November 2015. He thanked the representatives for the suggestion that a methodology be prepared for mainstreaming the 2030 agenda in national planning processes, and emphasized the need to strengthen capacities, including the development of methodologies.

10. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission explained the difference between ECLAC, ILPES and the Regional Council for Planning on the one hand, and intergovernmental networks such as REDEPLAN and the Latin American Regional Development Network on the other. ILPES supported the work of these and other thematic and functional networks, but adhered solely to the mandates of the Regional Council for Planning and ECLAC, as its governing bodies. In its relationship with CELAC, as a political coordination body, ECLAC offered technical contributions that were a commitment on the part of the secretariat of the Commission, but not of member countries, which were free to use them or not in their political deliberations within CELAC. He noted that monitoring the 2030 agenda was already one of the Commission's mandates, and announced that the proposal to create a regional forum on sustainable development, with the express purpose of fulfilling that mandate, would be presented at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC.

Review of the proposal relating to the fulfilment of resolution CRP/XIV/02 on the modernization of the Regular System of Government Financing (agenda item 3)

11. The Chief of ILPES briefly outlined the Institute's medium-term work strategy, under guidance from the Council, and highlighted the resource requirements entailed by its implementation. He stressed the importance of the regular budget contributions of ECLAC and the necessary supplement from the member States through the Regular System of Government Financing. In recent years, these contributions had tended to diminish, which undermined the Institute's capacity to deliver products and services, and he therefore urged the governments to reaffirm and formalize their financial commitments to ILPES.

12. In the subsequent discussion, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Ecuador and Colombia. In general, the countries expressed support for the work of the Institute and acknowledged its contributions to planning in the region and to institutional capacity-building and strengthening in the countries, as well as its value as a forum in which governments could come together to share experiences and collaborate through bodies such as the Regional Council for Planning. It was recalled how the system of voluntary contributions had been created, and emphasis was laid on the importance of bringing it up to date. The representatives also suggested the preparation of a concrete proposal for the modernization of the Regular System of Government Financing. The representative of Colombia said that ILPES had been crucial to strengthening development planning in the region, and that Colombia supported the proposal to reaffirm and formalize the system of contributions. He also announced that Colombia had already earmarked payments for 2014, 2015 and 2016 in its national budget. The representative of Paraguay requested that the proposal include mention of the National Strategic Plan of Paraguay, reaffirmed that country's commitment to supporting ILPES, and announced that a payment would be made by the end of August 2015.

13. The Chief of ILPES said that the document *Proposed strategy and resource management*² prepared by the secretariat, contained a draft work strategy that formed the basis for a financing proposal that would be prepared by the working group that the Presiding Officers had established for that purpose, but which had not yet convened. The Chief said that ideally national budgets would make provision for contributions and offered to submit a draft bilateral agreement for the consideration of the countries if they so requested. The management and evolution of the Regular System of Government Financing was part of the Institute's memory, which it would place at the countries' disposal. Lastly, he expressed gratitude to Colombia and Paraguay for their announcements of financial support, and to the countries for their positive attitude and constructive suggestions.

Preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (November 2015) (agenda item 4)

14. The representative of Ecuador said that the preparations for the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning were well on track, and that the meetings would take place on 18 and 19 November 2015 in Yachay, Ecuador. The fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning would include a public seminar on the issue of prospective analysis, and a half-day closed session for the deliberations of the Council. A draft programme for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning would be prepared and circulated among the Presiding Officers.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 5)

15. At their twenty-fifth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES adopted the agreements contained in annex 1 of this report.

16. Lastly, the Chief of ILPES expressed thanks for the generous participation of all the representatives, without which the meeting would not have been a success. The Chair welcomed the outcomes of the meeting and urged all countries to take part in the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES, in Yachay, Ecuador, on 18 and 19 November 2015.

² LC/L.4023(MDCRP.25/3).

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their twenty-fifth meeting, held in Santiago on 12 August 2015, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning agreed to:

1. *Take note* of the presentation by the secretariat on the progress achieved in implementing the work programme in the area of planning, and acknowledge the usefulness and relevance of the activities undertaken and the outcomes achieved in support of capacity-building, research and advisory services for the improvement of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) upon its contribution to regional planning for development, and request that it maintain its support for the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES);
3. *Urge* the States members of the Regional Council for Planning to regularize and maintain their voluntary contributions to ILPES so that it may continue to provide services with a view to strengthening planning for development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. *Take note also* of the proposal by the secretariat to establish bilateral agreements between each of the States members and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to renewing the current operating arrangements of the Regular System of Government Financing for ILPES;
5. *Request* the secretariat to prepare a proposal for a training programme to strengthen capacity for implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the countries of the region, to be submitted for the consideration of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning at its fifteenth meeting;
6. *Request also* the secretariat to convene the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning and the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean on 18 and 19 November 2015 in Yachay, Ecuador, with an agenda that affords priority to the role of planning and public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States members of the Commission****ARGENTINA**Representante/Representative:

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COLOMBIARepresentante/Representative:

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Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

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ECUADORRepresentante/Representative:

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GUATEMALARepresentante/Representative:

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JAMAICARepresentante/Representative:

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PARAGUAYRepresentante/Representative:

- Emiliano Fernández Franco, Viceministro de Crecimiento Económico Inclusivo, Secretaría Técnica de Planificación del Desarrollo Económico y Social (STP), email: efernandez@stp.gov.py

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLICRepresentante/Representative:

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**B. Secretaría
Secretariat**

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