



THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF ECLAC

Havana, 7-11 May 2018

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REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF ECLAC

Havana, 7–11 May 2018



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018.

Attendance¹

2. The session was attended by representatives of 46 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, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, 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, United States Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
3. Curaçao also attended as an associate member of the Commission.
4. The President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba and the Secretary-General of the United Nations attended the session as special guests.
5. Other special guests, whose names figure in the list of participants, also attended.
6. In attendance from the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, were representatives from the Office of the Secretary-General, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Regional Commissions New York Office, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).
7. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
8. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations attended the session: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).
9. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended the session: Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Andean Community, Central

¹ The list of participants appears as annex 3 to this report.

American Monetary Council (CAMC), World Economic Forum, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Centro del Sur and Unión European Union.

10. Non-governmental organizations, universities and academic centres were also represented.

Election of officers

11. At the first plenary meeting, the delegations elected the officers of the thirty-seventh session.
12. The officers elected to preside over the thirty-seventh session were as follows:

Chair:	Cuba
Vice-Chairs:	Ecuador
	Mexico
	Saint Lucia

Organization of work

13. 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

14. A list of the working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session is provided in annex 2.

B. AGENDA

15. The Commission adopted the following agenda:
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
 3. Seminar commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC.
 4. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session.
 5. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-sixth session.
 6. Information on the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 7. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020.
 8. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020

9. Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development.
10. Committee on South-South Cooperation.
11. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *The Inefficiency of Inequality*.
12. High-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality”.
13. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities.
14. Consideration of the request of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of ECLAC.
15. Other matters.
16. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

16. The opening ceremony was attended by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Francisco Guzmán Ortiz, Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Mexico. Attending as special guests were António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba.

17. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, for his presence at the opening of the session, and expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Cuban people. The presence of António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was a testament to the Organization’s commitment to ECLAC and to its member States. The Executive Secretary also thanked the Government of Mexico for its leadership in chairing ECLAC during the previous two years, during which the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development had held its first meeting, a role that would now be passed to Cuba for the next two years. The ECLAC session was the Commission’s most important meeting and provided the opportunity to report on its activity and for the countries to define, through the programme of work and the calendar of conferences adopted, the mandates that would guide the Commission’s work in the future. The work of ECLAC was to provide the Governments of the region with relevant and timely support in a rigorous manner, with a view to building a development plan with a clear horizon: to achieve equality through growth and growth through equality.

18. The main theme at this thirty-seventh session was the inefficiency of inequality. Equality was an irreducible ethical principle and ultimate policy foundation, focused on a rights-based approach, with a humanist vocation that reflected the most precious heritage of modernity and promoted a development model aimed at closing structural gaps and achieving technological convergence to support progress towards higher levels of productivity with economic and environmental sustainability. ECLAC proposed that inequality was not only unfair but also inefficient and unsustainable, something which the Commission had empirically demonstrated and quantified. The culture of privilege, which entrenched inequalities in all areas and was transmitted from one generation to another, had to be set aside in favour of a culture of

equality. A new welfare system needed to be built with public finance management based on macroeconomics for development instead of crisis management, progressive and adequate tax systems, countercyclical policymaking to protect the role of public investment and social spending, broader fiscal space, efforts to combat corruption, institutional upgrading and greater oversight by citizens. There was a need for global tax rules to eradicate the transnationalization of tax evasion and avoidance and end the system of globalized tax privileges. It was also necessary to leave behind the development pattern that caused environmental inefficiencies, which were evidenced by extreme weather events, especially in the Caribbean, which faced enormous costs from climate change. At ECLAC, Caribbean issues would henceforth occupy a prominent place in line with the policy of “Caribbean first”. The United Nations Secretary-General had proposed an administrative reform and a reform of the peace and security architecture that would provide a more decentralized, assertive and effective system for supporting the countries, in a coordinated manner, in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the challenges of climate change. ECLAC was proposing an environmental big push to drive industrial and technological policies with low-carbon production activities, such as renewable energies. Lastly, the Executive Secretary remarked that the work carried out by ECLAC over its 70 years had been geared towards achieving a virtuous circle of growth, equality and sustainability in the region and conveyed her thanks to Enrique Iglesias, Gert Rosenthal, José Antonio Ocampo and José Luis Machinea, for their acknowledged leadership and sound guidance of ECLAC over the previous four decades.

19. The Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Mexico conveyed greetings from the President of Mexico and expressed his country’s support for the work of ECLAC, the main United Nations agency in Latin America and the Caribbean, which throughout its seven decades of existence had provided a constructive forum for discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the region. Since its inception, ECLAC had laid the foundations for the common agenda and promoted the economic and social development of the region on the basis of three key values: unity, solidarity and fraternity. In times of stability and adversity alike, ECLAC had provided nations with solid support on the path towards inclusion and prosperity. The Commission had established itself as a forum for global coordination, offering its cumulative experience and knowledge. Mexico, a proud Latin American and Caribbean nation, had been honoured to chair ECLAC for the preceding two years, a noble task that would now pass to Cuba. In this work, Mexico’s purpose had been to address the challenges arising at the start of the new century, especially to close the region’s hallmark structural equality gaps.

20. As for the outcomes of the preceding two years, the speaker mentioned, on matters of population and development, the development of tools —with the support of the United Nations Population Fund— aimed at strengthening institutions supporting vulnerable groups in the region; with regard to South-South cooperation, promotion of the participation of all social sectors in creating innovative partnerships to maximize the scope of cooperation activities in the region; the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean had served as a platform to launch a digital agenda promoting the use of new technological platforms to improve living conditions in societies; in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, efforts had been made to strengthen statistical tools to enable evidence-based public policymaking and to develop and standardize information on security and justice; and in the sphere of geostatistical information, a programme of work had been developed, together with ECLAC, to strengthen follow-up to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Global economic activity was recovering and Latin American and Caribbean economies were following suit, but more important was the quality of growth, which needed to be inclusive. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the best route towards overcoming existing challenges, together. Its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) were significant and represented strategic proposals to underpin policymaking in the region. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development provided impetus to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. Lastly, the speaker

remarked upon the need to build partnerships among the countries of the region, as this promoted the development of them all, and strengthening regional unity could resolve historic equality gaps and create a future of inclusion and well-being for all.

21. The Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Cuban people and the Government of Cuba, represented on this occasion by President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez. He also thanked the Government of Mexico for its leadership during its term as Chair of ECLAC, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for her energy, dedication and leadership at the helm of the Commission. ECLAC, which was celebrating its seventieth anniversary, was an authoritative voice for social justice in the global economy; the Commission had pioneered the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and had consistently and courageously advocated for a vision of development which treated equality as the driver of growth, centred on a deeper meaning of equality, looking beyond income as a measure of well-being or as evidence for development cooperation, remaining focused on equal rights in the broadest sense: economic, social and political equality. The Commission's activity was based on sound and rigorous research and on the sharing of experiences linking national priorities with global discussions. ECLAC remained at the forefront of efforts to promote a more equitable form of globalization, introducing evidence-based policies, technical analysis and knowledge aimed at forging a progressive structural economic transformation, a vision and an approach that were more necessary than ever. Despite the benefits of globalization, far too many people had been left behind. Women were less able to participate in the labour market and the gender pay gap remained a global concern. Unemployment among the young had reached alarming levels, affecting their well-being, countries' development and, in some places, public safety. Fundamental inequalities were preventing people from enjoying better health and education, having access to justice, earning a decent wage and leading decent lives. Rising inequality had become the face of globalization and generated discontent, intolerance and social instability, especially among young people. The potential offered by the fourth industrial revolution should be harnessed in the interests of well-being and progress and to address the aforementioned risks.

22. The Secretary-General further remarked that, in a complex and multipolar world, the concept of development had to be redefined, especially in transition and middle-income countries such as those in the region. There was a need for a global economy that benefited and created opportunities for all: a fair globalization. The 2030 Agenda represented a crucial contribution, whose highest priority was the eradication of extreme poverty. The Sustainable Development Goals were clear in their ambition and their commitment to empowering women, achieving production inclusion among youth, reducing climate risk, creating decent jobs, mobilizing green investments in favour of inclusive growth, and providing dignity and more opportunities for all on a healthy planet. Financing was crucial; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development called for enhanced initiatives and innovation to mobilize additional resources and funding for development. Countries' efforts to mobilize domestic resources needed to be accompanied by a stronger commitment from the international community to combat tax evasion, money-laundering and illicit financial flows. The boldness of the 2030 Agenda demanded equally bold changes in the work and activities of the Organization; efforts to reposition the United Nations development system were based on the creation of a new generation of country teams and reinforced national leadership and ownership for sustainable development. The system would be demand-driven, tailored to achieving results on the ground, and bringing accountability for results in supporting the countries in realizing the 2030 Agenda. The support of ECLAC was critical for implementing the Agenda in the region. The Secretary-General congratulated the region for the voluntary national reports that had been shared at regional forums on sustainable development. The measure of success of the Organization were the results achieved for the people it served; accordingly, support for regional integration should be adapted to the needs of countries. Work was under way with the leadership of the regional economic

commissions to enhance their capabilities and cooperation mechanisms and, in that regard, ECLAC was the model to be followed by the other regional commissions. Climate change was affecting the region and there was a need for collective action; in this regard, he commended the ECLAC initiative to undertake a debt swap for climate change adaptation measures in the Caribbean. The Secretary-General remarked on the climate summit to be convened in New York in September 2019; this would bring together leaders from all spheres to develop more ambitious plans, because the commitments made in the Paris Agreement were not sufficient. An anniversary was an opportunity to take stock of the challenges: the history of ECLAC was the history of the struggle for economic and social justice in the region and beyond, which, he recalled, should never be abandoned. Lastly, the Secretary-General appealed to all to continue creating, and working and striving for, a fair globalization that would leave no one behind.

23. The President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba said that his country was honoured to host this thirty-seventh session, which coincided with the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC. For decades, the Commission had represented a regional and global benchmark for economic and social knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean and had made a crucial contribution to placing equity at the centre of development. It had shown that the region remained the most unequal region on the planet and had studied certain structural causes of the problem, which would be addressed at the meeting. He emphasized that the culture of inequality, which was associated with the colonial past of the Latin American and Caribbean nations and particularly affected indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, girls and women, had to change. In his view, this culture was also a result of imperialism, neoliberalism, macroeconomic policies that for decades had favoured transnational corporations and had deepened differences grounded in class, skin colour, territories and the urban-rural divide. Significant challenges needed to be faced, including slow productivity growth, poor production structure diversification and limited technological upgrading. There was no choice but to advance with regional integration and development with equity, in order to reverse the wealth pyramid whereby a huge part of the assets in the region's largest countries was captured by the richest 1% of the population. The establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in February 2010 had highlighted the will to promote unity in diversity; the commitment was to concentrate social policy efforts on the most vulnerable population in order to respond to the challenges of poverty, inequality and hunger and achieve greater economic and social development for the Latin American and Caribbean peoples, on the basis of integrality, non-discrimination and recognition of the individual as a rights-bearer. The proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace was an essential road, since there could be no development without peace and no peace without development. Inequality had not only economic implications, but also political, social and cultural ones.

24. In addition, the distribution of income and wealth was the key element in closing this gap, for which States must ensure access for all to food, work, quality education, health, culture and better living conditions. The Paris Agreement could have initiated a path towards addressing climate change, but in the Caribbean States the threats were multiplying and imposing enormous stress on their economies, which required special and differential treatment, as well as greater support, solidarity and cooperation. It was essential that, in addressing the issue of inequality, access to knowledge was also taken into account; information and communication technologies favoured development, which made it essential to eliminate the gap between knowledge and ignorance. Such technologies had to be used to promote social solidarity, create values, contribute to peace and to economic, cultural and political sustainability in the countries of the region. The President reiterated Cuba's commitment to cooperation and solidarity towards other countries based on mutual respect, disinterested assistance and complementarity. Cuba assumed its role as Chair of ECLAC for the period 2018–2020, as well as of the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. It did so with deep commitment and awareness of the challenges it faced in continuing to promote cooperation among the countries of the region for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cuba stood ready to support the

Commission's vocation to advance the search for a just, equitable and inclusive world in which people were acknowledged as the centre of sustainable development, and to promote unity within diversity.

Seminar commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC (agenda item 3)

Round table: 70 years of ECLAC

25. The round table was moderated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the speakers were Enrique Iglesias, Gert Rosenthal, José Antonio Ocampo and José Luis Machinea, former Executive Secretaries of the Commission.

26. The Executive Secretary said that this session was unique because among the participants were four former Executive Secretaries of ECLAC who, like the other former Executive Secretaries, Gustavo Martínez Cabañas, Raúl Prebisch, José Antonio Mayobre, Carlos Quintana and Norberto González, had played leading roles in the history of ECLAC. When ECLAC had been created 70 years earlier in the immediate post-war period, its membership had originally consisted only of Latin American countries, until those of the Caribbean were incorporated in 1984. The Commission had engaged in a fruitful intellectual effort that had shaped a body of original Latin American thought, with Raúl Prebisch at the forefront. Guiding ideas of ECLAC thinking had been forged at that time, such as the centre-periphery concept and the importance of industrialization as a channel for absorbing technical progress. Referring to the former Executive Secretaries present, she said that Enrique Iglesias had had to cope with the advent of military dictatorships in the region and create a role of moral and intellectual resistance for ECLAC; the problems of external debt and inflation had also had to be faced at this time. Gert Rosenthal had invited the economist Fernando Fajnzylber to work at ECLAC during his mandate, and the concept of changing production patterns with social equity had been predominant. ECLAC had challenged the Washington consensus with alternative visions and put forward constructive solutions. The changing production patterns with social equity approach had been linked to other aspects of development, such as open regionalism with emphasis on creating genuine competition by reducing technological and labour market divides. José Antonio Ocampo, for his part, had emphasized the importance of a fiscal covenant reflecting social and political agreement on the need to combat tax evasion and avoidance and attain greater equity, a task that remained incomplete. The challenges of globalization had also been examined and the value of citizenship incorporated into the analysis, together with the problems created by the lack of an international financial architecture and the effects of globalization on the environment. During José Luis Machinea's mandate, three vital contributions had been made: the analysis of social protection systems, a new emphasis on the importance of social cohesion for development, and a critical assessment of structural change and of the need for a revived industrial policy. New pathways of economic, social and environmental debate had opened up following the international financial crisis. The Executive Secretary ended by saying that ECLAC was one of the few institutions to have a school of thought with a continuous line of development, something that the presence of the former Executive Secretaries demonstrated.

27. Former Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias said that representatives of Latin American governments had met in Montevideo in 1950 to discuss the foundational report of the Commission, prepared by Raúl Prebisch and known as the Latin American manifesto, which urged the industrialization of Latin America and had been an inspiration for his own development and his connection with ECLAC. The Commission had made five major commitments. In the first place, there was its commitment to Latin America, manifested in its perspective on the region's role in the international economy (the centre-periphery conception), the approach to internal challenges (inward-looking development via industrialization) and regional integration (which could be observed in South-South cooperation); in the second place, ECLAC had committed itself to a way of thinking about development that had called

neoclassical thinking into question and that, while evolving, had maintained a structural conception of development and been given currency by the courses the Commission had held for the younger generations; in the third place, ECLAC had maintained its sensitivity to social issues, something manifested in its commitment to social development and equity, education and population issues through the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC; in the fourth place, there was the commitment to technological transformation dating from the earliest positions taken by Prebisch; and in the fifth place, there was the commitment to the fundamental United Nations principles of freedom, democracy and the defence of human rights. Lastly, the speaker emphasized that an institution that was capable of reuniting its former Executive Secretaries, as ECLAC had managed to do on this occasion, was demonstrating an exceptional degree of continuity in the commitment of an organization whose work was intended to be useful to the countries of the region.

28. Former Executive Secretary Gert Rosenthal said that not only did ECLAC generate ideas, but these were useful for formulating and applying economic policies. The ECLAC brand was that of a centre of thought. ECLAC had introduced the idea that Latin America and the Caribbean had enough elements in common to be thought of as a unit, and this had had concrete consequences for the way the region engaged with the world. Intraregional cooperation had been driven by ECLAC, and this had been one of its major contributions. The nexus between the regional economy and the international economy had become a guiding notion of the Commission's, combined with the idea of equity, inasmuch as development did not mean economic development alone. There was a dissident vein in the analytical work of ECLAC, a questioning of the orthodoxy of the moment and an eagerness to stimulate reflection and promote debate on issues crucial to the region's development. The speaker said that ECLAC was a meeting place through which Latin America and the Caribbean could convey its message to global forums while bringing what happened in the world to the region. He also emphasized the need for institutions to adapt to the new circumstances of the context. In the near future, given the international situation, Latin America and the Caribbean would have to contend with a world quite different to that of earlier years, and this represented a challenge for the region and for ECLAC.

29. Former Secretary General José Antonio Ocampo recalled some prominent members of the ECLAC staff, such as Celso Furtado, a great intellectual from the institution's early years. He touched on five subjects studied by the Commission: first, equity (which was still unfinished business in Latin America and the Caribbean), the inclusion of social rights and citizen rights on the ECLAC agenda, universal policies that contributed to equity (as opposed to targeted policies), fiscal issues and the paucity of what was being achieved by way of redistribution through tax policy by comparison with the European countries or Canada; second, macroeconomic issues, dominated by the search for responses to crises, something that had led to analysis by national agendas and the United Nations and prompted reflection on the subject of the international financial architecture; third, reflection on changing production patterns and production chain participation and service sector specialization, and in more knowledge-based production structures; fourth, the region's engagement with the world economy and global economic restructuring, particularly the challenge of economic integration, which had led to the creation or revitalization of institutions such as the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Andean Community, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), although Latin American integration processes had been very vulnerable to political differences, this being a major challenge; and fifth and last, the issue of environmental sustainability and its relationship to sustainable development, which held a central place in ECLAC thinking.

30. Former Executive Secretary José Luis Machinea said that his mandate had coincided with an economic boom, with good terms of trade for the Latin American and Caribbean region and a high rate of growth. The region had reduced poverty for the first time in many years, and there had been improvements

in equity. In 2013, however, the situation had begun to deteriorate. One of the main concerns of ECLAC during his mandate had been to analyse the scope for social protection that was non-contributory in origin, since rates of informal working were very high in Latin America and the social protection associated with the society of work left a substantial proportion of the population out of social protection mechanisms. He remarked that major global changes were taking place, with new technologies and the service sector taking on a predominant role. He added that global trade had started to grow again, but there had been no improvement in income distribution or decline in inequality. Protectionism was not the solution, in his view, as it could have negative effects on goods value chains. He reflected upon with possibility that inflation would rise, something that would be problematic given that both public and private sectors around the world were heavily indebted, with the consequent risk of devaluation. In a testing and uncertain environment, he considered that integration and capacity-building were the route Latin America needed to take.

31. The debate that followed highlighted the importance of three major agreements reached under the auspices of the United Nations: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Although international trade was no longer such a major driver of development and multilateralism had weakened in the current context, the Latin America and Caribbean region could boost its growth by integration and enhanced trade flows, not only with the countries of the Pacific but with those of the Atlantic too, since by 2100 most of the world's population was going to be living in Africa. Three pillars of the technological revolution were highlighted: information and communication technologies and robotization, biotechnology, and the technological revolution deriving from renewable energies. It was argued that ECLAC must not lose its capacity for change and adaptation, its regional vocation or its capacity for dialogue. It also needed to offer viable alternatives and not utopias and to strive for a fresh conceptual leap transcending poststructuralism, as the international order was changing and political realities were different from what they had been when the 2030 Agenda was adopted. Interaction and dialogue between member countries and ECLAC were very enriching, and the participation of civil society was also important, especially where environmental protection was concerned. Another point made, lastly, was that the Caribbean countries should feel integrated into the work of ECLAC, but this meant acquiring a more thorough knowledge of the subregion.

32. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted the function of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in providing opportunities for dialogue involving governments and representatives of the statistics ecosystems of the region's countries, among other stakeholders. In April 2018, the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean had been held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) and the publication *Data, algorithms and policies: redefining the digital world*² had been presented there, showing ECLAC to be at the cutting edge of digital issues in the region. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals had been formulated by the countries themselves, and the countries of the region in particular had given a strong impetus to aspects such as the measurement of progress towards fulfilment via improvements to statistical capabilities and observation of advances in each subject area of the Goals. In addition, the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean reflected the importance of civil society participation in attaining the Goals. ECLAC had taken the policy decision that the first session in any intergovernmental meeting that it held would be devoted to the countries and territories of the Caribbean, in accordance with its "Caribbean first" initiative. The speaker also highlighted the relationship that the countries of Asia, particularly China and the Republic of Korea, had with Latin America. In conclusion, she asked the region's countries to reflect on the future they wanted and how it could be achieved with ECLAC support.

² LC/CMSI.6/4.

Presentation of the book Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018

33. The book *Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018* was presented by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC. This segment was moderated by Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and Leonardo Lomeli Vanegas, Secretary General of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), offered comments on the book.

34. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that the book *Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018* captured the evolution of the various aspects of ECLAC thinking over the past decade and remarked upon its richness.

35. In her presentation, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the book contained a selection of the most representative ECLAC texts from the period 2008-2018, as well as an analytical presentation on the 70 years of ECLAC thinking. The texts were grouped in five thematic areas: the centrality of equality, social development, macroeconomics for development, production development and environmental sustainability. The Commission's messages over its 70 years related to industrialization; structural reforms for regional development; patterns of development in Latin America and the Caribbean; Latin America's debt crisis and "lost decade"; changing production patterns with equity; globalization, development and citizenship; and equality at the centre of sustainable development. The Executive Secretary affirmed that the prevailing development pattern was economically, socially and environmentally unsustainable and that a new, equality-centred development style was needed. Equality was an ethical principle and the ultimate aim of development and extended to encompass autonomy, recognition and dignity. It went beyond the distribution of income to consider other dimensions, such as capacities, social protection and access to public goods. Equality was not a cost, but a necessary requirement for sustainable development; it heightened capacities, enabled dynamic positioning in a world in the throes of technical revolution, and was necessary to preserve the environment to even out development opportunities between generations, promote production diversification, drive inclusion from within the labour market, universalize rights and social benefits, achieve greater territorial convergence, forge a new production pattern and achieve environmentally sustainable consumption and production patterns.

36. The Executive Secretary also emphasized that macroeconomic policy—which acted over the short term as it conditioned investment and competitiveness—affected the production structure and long-term growth. The production structure in turn affected macroeconomic dynamics by determining the degree of exposure to external shocks. All this implied the need to conceptualize a macroeconomy for development capable of bridging the short and medium terms. A selective fiscal policy would protect investment and social policy. Without industrial and technology policy there was no way to carry forward the environmental big push. It was necessary to tap comparative advantages, change the production structure to create higher productivity jobs with better wages, strive towards regional integration which was key to productive and export diversification, revitalize the process of poverty and inequality reduction and tackle gender inequalities, which were a reflection of the culture of privilege and a pillar of the prevailing development pattern. It was essential to reduce tax evasion and make tax systems more progressive. Natural resource governance, with a perspective of sustainability, structural change and equality, would contribute to dialogue with communities before conflicts arose; the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was thus a landmark in this regard. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented the consensus of the international community on the need to combat inequality and, more than ever, the

challenges were global and required international cooperation. The Executive Secretary emphasized, moreover, that a new development pattern would need new institutions and public-private partnerships at the global, regional and national levels to guide a progressive structural change on the basis of the environmental big push. Lastly, it was necessary to change institutions that reproduced the behaviours of agents who wielded greater economic and political power, the rentier propensity, the culture of privilege, territorial segregation and weak taxation, in order to drive a culture of equality in the region.

37. The Secretary General of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) recalled that the volume that had commemorated the Commission's fiftieth anniversary had compiled texts on ECLAC structuralist thinking and the first approaches to neostructuralism; the compilation on the sixtieth anniversary had discussed the necessary link between development and citizenship from the perspective of equity; and now the book marking the seventieth anniversary, prepared by Ricardo Bielschowsky and Miguel Torres, reflected the evolution and deepening of the Commission's thinking over the past decade. Following an overview of the book's contents, he emphasized that equality was an underlying theme in the intellectual output of ECLAC and represented an effective route towards overcoming the difficulties facing the region. He added that the approach to sustainable development must be comprehensive, because the origins of inequality went beyond income and wealth concentration. In order to achieve environmentally sustainable development, the various stakeholders and countries had to coordinate their respective policies. Lastly, he drew attention to the need for social compacts to help overcome inequalities through, among other things, equality in access to justice and to educational and work opportunities, despite the challenging global context.

Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session and the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 (agenda items 4 and 7)

38. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC presented the Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session and the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020. The activities carried out included research; technical cooperation missions; training courses, workshops and seminars; the preparation of publications and technical documents; the maintenance of observatories and data bases; the activities of the Hernán Santa Cruz Library; and the online dissemination and communication of information and data. The Deputy Executive Secretary also referred to the Commission's organization of the meetings of its nine subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental and expert conferences linked to the global development agenda, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, follow-up to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and global conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields. This work had been carried out in a context of economic growth in both developed and developing countries, but amid a weakening of multilateralism, with fragmented trade integration systems, a crisis of globalization, greater uncertainty with respect to the normalization of monetary policy in the developed countries, a return of protectionism, deepening of polarization and increase in international conflict. Latin America and the Caribbean had experienced an upturn in economic growth, although with differences between Central America and Mexico, on the one hand, and South America and the Caribbean, on the other, as well as stronger private consumption. At the same time, however, the production structure was poorly diversified and innovation was lagging behind. Poverty reduction had come to a standstill and income and wealth concentration had risen. With respect to the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, a number of changes had been adopted in the framework of the reform spearheaded by the Secretary-General. These included replacing the biennial programme of work with an integrated annual programme budget document containing the report on the previous year's activities, the draft programme of work and the budget proposal for the following year. The new format would apply to the draft programme of work, 2020, and would be implemented on a trial basis for three

years. The General Assembly would review the outcomes in 2022. The speaker then presented the programmatic structure of ECLAC for 2020 and the main priorities and proposals with regard to social development, sustainability, public policies and subregional matters, all with a view to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

39. In the statements that followed, several delegations drew attention to the contribution ECLAC had made to the formulation of public policies in the countries of the region and the importance of the intergovernmental meetings held on the digital agenda, ageing, and access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, for example, as well as its technical cooperation activities, especially in Central America and the Caribbean. The Commission's activities had also contributed to multilateralism by developing relations between the Pacific Alliance and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). Among the topics most raised were the need to build the Caribbean countries' resilience to extreme climate phenomena and the financial difficulties they faced. Given that access to concessional financing was a concern for the Caribbean countries, mention was made of support for reconstruction and economic and climate resilience in the subregion and collaboration with multilateral partners on new mechanisms and instruments to attract fresh investment to the Caribbean. The countries also expressed their intention of improving living standards, based on the principles of rule of law, fair trade, environmental protection and the fight against climate change. The representatives of several Caribbean countries underlined the importance of tackling the subregion's issues as a matter of urgency and their commitment to the work of ECLAC in strengthening regional integration, as well as promoting and increasing South-South cooperation and sustainable development for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, the representatives underscored the outcomes of the preceding biennium under the chairship of Mexico, and the Commission's possibilities of contributing to a future of stronger integration under the concept of unity in diversity.

40. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the countries for their support for the Commission's work and drew attention to the role of Chile in the initiative that had led to the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as its support for activities leading to convergence between the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR. She also expressed thanks for Germany's cooperation in areas such as energy and dual education involving companies, and for Canada's cooperation in activities relating to various Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the Goal on gender equality. Panama's work on fiscal transparency was also a significant contribution. Tighter relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the establishment of a resilience fund for the Caribbean, spearheaded by Mexico, represented a step towards the achievement of development goals 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-sixth session (agenda item 5)

41. 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.

42. Guillermo Pattillo, National Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, reported on the work carried out by the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which was aimed at promoting the formulation of more and better statistics, to which end assistance among members were essential. The Conference had an Executive Committee composed of representatives of each of the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, a representative of the associate member States and the outgoing Chair of the Committee. The Committee members were supported by the Statistics Division of ECLAC as technical secretariat. The National Director said that the Conference conducted its activities through working groups, which addressed subjects as varied as international classifications, gender, information and communications

technologies, statistics on public safety and justice, agricultural statistics, environmental statistics, disability measurement, statistics on childhood and adolescence, labour market indicators, poverty statistics, administrative records, national accounts, censuses, institution-building and the Knowledge Transfer Network. He then referred to outputs that had been produced during the biennium, including specialized workshops, courses and seminars, face-to-face meetings, working papers, publications and questionnaires. Challenges included the need to strengthen the institutional fabric of the statistical bodies working in the region and their technical independence, as well as the need to process and understand large databases. The tasks of the working groups also needed to be better coordinated to avoid duplication of efforts. He viewed as essential a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Georeferencing and the integration of statistical and geospatial information were also critical for public policymaking and information needed to be made available to the public in a suitable format. He noted that it would be important to use such information in the 2020 census round in the region's countries. Lastly, he remarked that the State should not be exclusively responsible for building statistical databases, but could instead partner with other stakeholders from academia and civil society to generate innovation and better statistics.

43. Ana Olivera, Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference had remained actively committed to advancing public policies on gender equality and the real recognition of women's rights and their effective exercise in the countries of the region. Its work in 2017 had been geared towards supporting the application of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. In addition, the Presiding Officers of the Conference had held their fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth meetings, which had been well attended by the countries of the region. The Conference had also supported activities aimed at fulfilling the commitments made by the countries in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Fourteen countries had submitted voluntary reports on developments in the adaptation and implementation of the Montevideo Strategy at the national level and their link with the Sustainable Development Goals. Highlights of substantive contributions included the panel discussion on vocational education and training and young women's participation in the labour force held in the framework of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, and the contribution of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, with the repository of legislation on migration and gender of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean presented at the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers. The contributions of the Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC included the publication "Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean: road maps for development",³ under the *Studies of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean series*, as well as the high-level panel on the implementation of gender equality plans within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held at the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers in Havana. Since the establishment of the Conference 40 years previously, the conceptual progress in the approach to pro-equality policies had moved from the integration of women into development to a comprehensive aim of achieving sustainable social development with gender equality and women's empowerment. The Montevideo Strategy was a political and technical instrument that had resulted from a collective process, in which it was recognized that building equality for women required acknowledging their diversity. In order to build fair democracies and societies, it was essential to overcome the structural barriers of inequality associated with economic, political and cultural dimensions, where gender and ethnic and racial descent were key. Lastly, the virtuous circle among States, governments and women's and feminist organizations and movements must be strengthened in order to deepen the commitments undertaken.

³ LC/PUB.2017/1-P.

44. The Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, also summarized the activities undertaken by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose aim was to contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the region. Among the mandates entrusted to it was further analysis of the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty and vulnerability, as well as of the relationship between economic, production and social policies and policies on employment protection and decent work. In this regard, the Vice-Minister drew attention to the document entitled “The Social Inequality Matrix in Latin America”,⁴ prepared by ECLAC, as well as the document “Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges”.⁵ The work of the observatory on social development was intended to support the formulation and implementation of public policies for social development and to monitor trends in this regard. The Vice-Minister also stressed the importance of the regional agenda of inclusive social development, based on public policies capable of impacting structural inequalities in the region. It was important to strengthen the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda. She said that the next phase of agenda-setting, which would include lines of action for the achievement of the goals, needed to be adopted. To this end, the intention was to form a working group at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Panama in September 2018.

45. Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico, reported on the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. She remarked that the main outcomes of the second session of the Conference, held in Mexico City in October 2015, included the Operational guide for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,⁶ which was a voluntary technical tool to assist countries in the implementation of the priority measures of the Consensus. In addition, a working group of government-appointed experts had been set up to develop a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, with ECLAC as technical secretariat. The indicators proposed by the working group came mainly from the Operational guide and also incorporated the SDG indicators, thus strengthening the synergy between the Consensus and the 2030 Agenda. As part of the process of preparing the proposal of indicators and the activities of the working group, the Government of Mexico had conducted two discussion and review workshops in 2016 and 2017, respectively, with the support of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). These had been attended by representatives of the working group member countries and institutions, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO) and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC. Meanwhile, the Chair had organized a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference in Santiago in November 2017, at which the proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus had been adopted.

46. Agustín García-López, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), referred to the work of the Committee on South-South Cooperation. He remarked that ECLAC had proven its worth as a source of social and economic thinking in the region and in calling for a new vision for sustainable development in which development was seen in a holistic manner, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, thanks to consensuses such as the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The process of change would need to be based on strong national policies, at a time of paradigm shift around the world. He added that South-South cooperation (or horizontal cooperation) had acquired growing weight in the architecture of international cooperation. During the last biennium, the Committee had acted as an open platform, with broad

⁴ LC/G.2690(MDS.1/2).

⁵ LC/CDS.2/3.

⁶ LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3).

participation that fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue and the participation of civil society, as well as experience-sharing. Mexico was now ceding the role of Chair to Cuba, a country characterized by solidarity and fraternity, as had been demonstrated during the earthquakes suffered by Mexico in September 2017. The Executive Director also referred to the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee, held in Santiago in April 2018, in the framework of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. On that occasion, the Presiding Officers had discussed the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, he remarked that Mexico was a Caribbean as well as a Latin American country and drew attention to the importance of technical cooperation to help build the resilience of countries, such as those in the Caribbean, that were particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

47. Álvaro García, Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay, summarized the activities of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The objective of the subprogramme implemented by ILPES in the 2016-2017 biennium had been to strengthen competencies for planning and public administration for development with a hemispheric and regional perspective. ILPES had also been given a mandate to maintain and improve the digital repository of national development plans, among other things. With regard to the results achieved in the biennium, ILPES had focused on foresight for development, participatory planning, territorial development, open government and the assessment of public management instruments, through training, technical assistance and applied research. Particular importance had been afforded to linking the themes of ILPES with the 2030 Agenda. The Director cited several examples of technical assistance to various institutions in the region. In the area of applied research, in the previous biennium several research studies had been published, and had been very well received. He then referred to Planbarómetro, an important tool for improving development planning systems, implemented in different parts of the region. In 2017, the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development had been set up online. He noted that ILPES had met its targets during the biennium. Planning was an indispensable means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ECLAC and ILPES had supported the efforts of the countries in that regard. Finally, ILPES reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and improving public policies.

48. Juanita Rodríguez Kattah, Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia, referred to the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies. Three objectives had been established at the most recent session of the Conference: to promote training through regional and international cooperation programmes to build capacity in science and technology; to encourage experience-sharing and knowledge-building in policymaking on science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies; and to facilitate coordination and cooperation between member States of the Conference. The Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in April 2018, had adopted the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) and the Cartagena de Indias Declaration. On that occasion, there had been a significant contingent of Caribbean countries, as well as various agencies and representatives of the private sector. The Vice-Minister emphasized the importance of a regional digital market strategy and of governance for the information society, as well as the rejection of improper data collection. Lastly, she mentioned the proposal to establish a regional observatory on emerging technologies.

49. Maria Teresa Barán, Vice-Minister of Public Health of Paraguay, summarized the activities of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean had been the first region in the world to

hold a meeting for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, within the framework of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference, held in Asunción in 2017. That Conference had been attended by delegations of member States, which had reported on the main activities undertaken to further the protection of the rights of older persons, as well as on existing challenges. The Conference had also been an occasion for the exchange of experiences and best practices. It had advocated strengthening of the institutions governing matters relating to ageing and old age and, in fact, several countries were taking steps to strengthen their institutions in this area. Civil society had played an important role at the Conference. Emphasis had been placed on the need to strengthen respect for and protection of the human rights of older persons, especially with regard to social protection and health coverage. The Conference had adopted the Asunción Declaration: “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights” and had called for governments to mainstream the issue of ageing in development policies in a cross-cutting manner. The countries of the region had stressed the need to draft a specific multilateral legal instrument that would be binding in nature. Lastly, the Vice-Minister remarked that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should take into account the situation of older persons.

Information on the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

50. Carmen Isabel Claramunt, representative of the Presiding Officers of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the session was an ideal opportunity to confirm the values and vision shared by the countries of the region and reflected in the outcome of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee, held in San José in 2018. At that meeting, countries had adopted the “Escazú Agreement”, after almost six years of negotiations in which there had been active participation of civil society. She said that the Agreement —the region’s first binding agreement on environmental matters— not only truly reflected the region’s specificities, but it also facilitated the construction of societies that were ever more democratic, participatory and inclusive and ready to meet safer and more ambitious welfare thresholds. The objective of the Agreement was to guarantee the full and effective implementation in the region of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation in that area. The Agreement was a milestone in the construction of true environmental democracy. It was an innovative instrument that contributed to empowerment of citizens and guaranteed the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters. Latin America and the Caribbean, as a region that was extraordinarily rich in natural resources but highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, was called upon to play a crucial role in such matters. She concluded by calling on all the countries of the region to ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. The representative of Chile said that it was a very important Agreement in terms of the participation of civil society, which his country had spearheaded from the beginning. He noted that one of the fundamental aspects of the Agreement was the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters and that it contributed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. He reiterated the call to the countries of the region to sign the Agreement. The representative of Paraguay acknowledged the leadership of ECLAC, under whose auspices the nine meetings of the negotiating committee had been held. He said that Paraguay had pushed for a binding agreement in the interest of access to information and the protection of environmental defenders. He highlighted the participation of the public throughout the negotiation process and called on the countries of the region to sign the Agreement. The representative of Colombia said that her country had made every effort to agree on a viable text that was tailored to the realities of the region while still being ambitious. There was a need to strengthen national capacities to implement the Agreement,

and information and communication technologies were key in that regard. She suggested adopting an awareness-raising strategy to help the region's many stakeholders to comprehend the scope of the Agreement. She also noted the need to strengthen relevant institutions and step up mobilization of resources and called for the ratification of the Agreement by the countries.

52. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), congratulated the member States of ECLAC and civil society upon the adoption of the Regional Agreement. She described it as a major achievement and said that it had been very rewarding for ECE, in its capacity as secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, to provide assistance to ECLAC in supporting the negotiations. This represented a great example of cooperation and ECE stood ready to continue working with ECLAC during the process of ratification and entry into force of the Agreement.

53. The Executive Secretary thanked countries that had served as Chairs of subsidiary bodies, which she described as valuable forums for dialogue. She welcomed the region's negotiation —under the leadership of Chile and Costa Rica, Colombia, Jamaica and Brazil— of a historic agreement, the first legally binding instrument on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in the region. It represented a paradigm shift, because it enabled civil society participation and guaranteed their right to access environmental information. Lastly, she stressed that it was vital for the region's private sector to play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020 (agenda item 8)

54. The secretariat submitted the proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020 for consideration by delegations, and it was adopted as reflected in the annex to resolution (XXXVII).

Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development (agenda item 9)

Presentation of the report on the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

55. Ubaldo Raymond, Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia, in his capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), presented the report on the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee. He said that the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, held on the theme "Promoting climate resilience and sustainable economic growth in the Caribbean", took an actionable approach to the most pressing challenges facing the subregion: vulnerability to climate change, high debt burdens and de-risking. It was also noted that the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative was the best hope for a realistic solution. The ECLAC publication, *The Caribbean Outlook*⁷ was deemed to offer a dynamic framework for pursuing sustainable development in the Caribbean as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. The Committee also reflected on Caribbean participation in the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and welcomed ECLAC assistance in strengthening institutional infrastructure to facilitate policy coherence and integrated development planning and in building the data production capacity of national statistical systems in support of evidence-based policy planning.

⁷ LC/SES.37/14.

56. The Committee had also considered ways to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the regional coordinating mechanism for implementation of the SIDS agenda. The ECLAC subregional headquarters in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, provided key support in the preparation of the Caribbean's five-year review of the Samoa Pathway. Other areas of work of immeasurable value to the subregion included damage and loss assessment, with assessments conducted in the five countries hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 and training provided to member States upon request. ECLAC had also provided analysis on development issues in the areas of women's empowerment, ageing and older persons, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, improving export performance and strengthening regional integration.

Presentation of the report The Caribbean Outlook

57. The report *The Caribbean Outlook* was presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who, reiterating the Commission's resolve to giving the Caribbean high priority and all the support possible, said that the social, economic and environmental challenges must be addressed comprehensively for the 2030 Agenda to be implemented in the subregion. The subregion's major challenges included persistently weak economic growth and an unsustainably high debt level. Debt relief and the mobilization of resources for the Caribbean were essential, hence the need to bring creditors to the table. Among the social challenges, focus must be given to youth unemployment, which compounded social ills; higher unemployment rates among women, even though women outperformed men at all educational levels; non-communicable diseases, which had a high economic cost; low investment in and efficiency of the education system; and the emigration of tertiary educated persons. The subregion faced myriad environmental challenges and their middle-income status limited them to commercial loans for rebuilding. It was therefore essential to build capacity and resilience and implement funding mechanisms that were accessible to all, regardless of income status. She invited other international agencies to join efforts and seek ways to build value chains and overcome the legal constraints to credit.

Round table: Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development

58. The round table featuring Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Parnell Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Ubaldo Raymond, Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia; and June Soomer, Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

59. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda said that it was possible to promote deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America through the expansion of trade and investment with Latin American partners. Despite trade liberalization and debt restructuring efforts, Caribbean economies maintained low growth, were constrained by high levels of public debt—with some States showing public debt-to-GDP ratios over 100%—and had limited resources for investment. Trade within and outside the region remained weak and free trade agreements and other agreements had failed to deliver on the intended results. There was little movement up the value chain, with imports declining since 2005 and exports that were concentrated in the United States, the European Union and the subregion. Caribbean countries specialized in few products—mainly agricultural products, mineral resources and foreign exchange from tourism. The private sector would do well to increase investment in various subsectors and the subregion must spare no effort to improve export and trade performance, by

leveraging its marginal comparative advantage with Latin America stemming from an increasingly high complementarity in goods and services. Trade agreements were a necessary but insufficient condition: the Caribbean must tackle structural rigidities and shift from low-technology, primary-product-based production systems. There was a need for a cross-regional strategic framework to address supply-side capacity constraints and for a coherent private sector embedded industrial policy geared towards expanding exports at the intensive and extensive margins if the Caribbean was to continue along a path of trade-led growth, economic diversification and export expansion. Given the high degree of export specialization and concentration, a regional platform to diversify economies was necessary; that would also require harmonization of incentives and guarantees of financing, among other export strategies. It would also be useful to develop a framework for periodic gathering of market intelligence and a mechanism for disseminating those results. Moving forward, industrial policy should focus on South America as the most viable option to place the subregion on the path to sustainable development.

60. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that the region was connected by common challenges and vulnerabilities, and he hoped that ECLAC would help to unite the region in its resolve to overcome those challenges. He welcomed the Commission's unwavering focus on equality as a driver of long-term development and praised the adeptly presented research and analysis in *The Caribbean Outlook*. While communication, coordination and cooperation were significant hurdles to engagement with Latin America, those issues could be solved as member States had a responsibility to promote integration. Language was a particularly important barrier and he was among the many Caribbean nationals who had not embraced the opportunity to communicate in the languages of their neighbours. However, a significant requirement for promoting integration was harmonization of legislative and other measures to create an environment conducive to the transfer of goods and investment. It was necessary to develop systems with clear procedures that assisted companies with export formalities and to facilitate the movement of persons within the region. There were simple, yet fundamental steps the region could take to enhance cooperation, such as improving airlinks or concluding open skies agreements, which were indispensable to the creation of new routes and opening of new markets. The past inability to modernize transport, ICT and energy infrastructure had had an adverse effect on the subregion's productivity and competitiveness, limiting its participation in regional or global value chains. Given the Caribbean's disproportionate dependence on tourism, policies to attract tourism and investment and reciprocity agreements should be actively pursued in formal trade agreements. Jamaica fully supported all the measures pursued by ECLAC and would play its part in promoting integration with Latin America. A more contextual and accurate classification system was needed, since the current per capita GDP method was based on the false presumption that middle-income status obviated the need for loans and assistance and did not take vulnerabilities into account. The region as a whole must approach collaboration with the understanding that climate resilience must not focus solely on rebuilding and restoring, but enabling countries to withstand uncontrollable and inevitable climate events. The analysis provided by ECLAC could identify practical solutions not merely to help the subregion, but with the notion that a stronger Caribbean meant a stronger Latin America and vice versa.

61. The Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia said that the economic structures of the Caribbean could be divided into two groups: commodity-based and service-based. Most countries of the subregion were heavily reliant on tourism from North America and the United Kingdom, making them extremely vulnerable to recession and economic realities in those regions. Language barriers were indeed an issue, as the ease of communication affected one's choice of tourism destination. Student and/or teacher exchange programmes and cultural exchanges could be established and would help to break down barriers, facilitating movement within the region for employment and other purposes.

62. The Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), welcoming the Commission's "Caribbean first" policy, underscored the importance of addressing racial and gender inequalities. Small island developing States continued to be excluded from the international table and the issue of vulnerability relegated to discussions on middle-income countries, although the subregion had proven that leadership, achievement and ability were not determined by a country's size. Gender inequality denied women leadership roles and condemned them to poverty and vulnerability. There could be no sustainable development when inequality imposed invisibility on 50% of the region's population. The countries of the subregion had pioneered regional integration. ACS, which embodied the notion of Caribbean belonging and orientation, had been established as a unique, non-political space for development and cooperation, regardless of member States' ideological differences. It had mapped 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into its work programme, established a Directorate with responsibility for sustainable development and was implementing mechanisms for strengthening collaboration with other regional organizations.

63. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Brazil said that it was frustrating that the longstanding difficulties outlined still existed and were aggravated by climate change. The strides made in gender equality in education were proof that change was possible, but there remained the challenge of translating that progress into equal access to the labour market, which could be achieved through regulations geared at protecting women similar to those implemented in the Brazilian public sector. The representative of Canada reiterated his delegation's satisfaction with the commitment of ECLAC to the Caribbean and the country's resolve to address economic resilience and concessional finance in the Group of Seven. Canada remained convinced that an inclusive approach was the only way to ensure equality.

Committee on South-South Cooperation (agenda item 10)

64. The report of the Committee on South-South Cooperation is included as annex 1.

Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *The Inefficiency of Inequality* (agenda item 11)

65. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, presented *The Inefficiency of Inequality*.⁸ Next, Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre, and Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, commented on the document.

66. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the argument put forward in the document was that equality was a foundational value of development, meaning that it was a non-negotiable principle focused on a rights-based approach. It also played an instrumental role in fostering sustainable development. There was convergence between equality and efficiency, although that relationship was complex. Productivity and inequality were inversely correlated, while the link between equality and investment was positive. Equality was efficient because it gave rise to inclusive institutions and a culture that rewarded innovation and effort, and not social class, ethnicity, gender or the political connections of economic actors, especially in a context where the technological revolution called for higher levels of education. Equality strengthened democracy because it improved public goods; when public goods were deficient, people tended to stop believing in institutions. Inequality created a culture of privilege with three defining features: people perceived differences as natural, power and inequality structures were highly resistant to change, and this inertia was perpetuated by actors, institutions, rules and practices, guaranteeing asymmetries in multiple areas. The technological revolution was dominated by major leading companies that were very disruptive and barely depended on the development of physical infrastructure; the organization of industries was

⁸ LC/SES.37/3-P.

changing, especially owing to robotics and artificial intelligence. Moreover, financialization and increasing financial fragility hampered investment because of uncertainty and instability. Inequality also created barriers to education and access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and opportunities to produce public goods and stimulate public investment were decreasing as a result of tax evasion. Territory and the environment also reflected inequality, through a model based on natural resource extraction, the lag in infrastructure investment that affected competitiveness, and urban segregation.

67. The Executive Secretary also remarked that inequality was not inevitable and mentioned some strategic guidelines to ensure progress in the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: social, economic and environmental. With respect to a macroeconomy for development, it was necessary to apply macroprudential policies that impeded the accumulation of fragile financial structures and prevented asset and credit bubbles, manage cross-border capital flows to maintain financial stability and shield public investment from the ups and downs of economic activity and prevent it from being used as an adjustment variable during downswings. Capacities had to be equalized to increase productivity through universal social inclusion policies, the reformulation of education systems in light of rapid technological change, and the building or strengthening of social protection and care systems. There was a need to strengthen investment and industrial and technological policies centred around an environmental big push and to guide the technological revolution towards a new development model. These goals could not be achieved by merely combining national efforts; regional integration was essential to propose new agreements that reduced financial, technological and trade asymmetries at the global level.

68. The Director of the OECD Development Centre underscored some of the points made in the report: first, he mentioned the ethical dimension, which differed from the prevailing economic vision. Second, he said that equality was closely linked to politics and that the middle class was very vulnerable, which gave rise to political tensions; the ECLAC report correctly emphasized the culture of privilege and the importance of the sense of belonging to a political community. Third, people's expectations had grown and were not always met, and there was a perception that technology would replace many jobs, which had eroded trust in the State. Willingness to pay taxes had also declined, thus weakening the public sector's ability to provide services. The economic structure was tied to inequality, and that was the main point of the report. The report also discussed territorial inequalities, which had a significant economic impact; the territorial development model comprising direct subsidies and direct assistance to companies had to be changed, as it did not always produce multiplier effects. Likewise, international cooperation could not be restricted to limited and conditional financial transfers only; rather, there was a need for global public goods, which were more complex than cash transfers. He said that the report was an extraordinarily rich resource as it addressed the different dimensions of inequality, particularly the cultural dimension.

69. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that solid economic and social analyses were characteristic of ECLAC, and that was evident in the report, which gave continuity to the idea of placing equality at the centre of the analysis. According to the report, integration and cooperation mechanisms could help to solve the problems of inequality. Latin America and the Caribbean faced uncertainties, structural deficiencies and technological gaps, and had to join the fourth industrial revolution. Inequalities in access to education and health were very costly and social and macroeconomic policies in favour of equality had to be promoted. Capacity-building and innovation were important, as was building a culture of equality in accordance with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Although Cuba did have inequality problems, its society was fairly equitable, despite the embargo imposed on the country. Cuba had made progress in health, education and social policies in recent years, and the ability to cooperate was not limited to countries with considerable resources: cooperation had to be based on solidarity.

70. In the discussion that followed, several representatives said that the areas of action proposed in the document represented the region's key needs with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals. The paths to development had to be based on new ways of thinking and conditions of equality, that is equality of opportunities and not of outcomes. ECLAC was recognized for its firm commitment to seeking innovative methods to help member countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and as the main organ of the United Nations for the promotion of socioeconomic development in the region, which over the previous 10 years had encouraged an approach that acknowledged that policies in favour of equality were not only be fair, but also economically efficient.

High-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality” (agenda item 12)

Panel 1. Growing tensions of globalization

71. This panel was chaired by Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and the panellists were Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Rolando Cordera Campos, Coordinator of the Development Studies Programme at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Susana Malcorra, Chair of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ronaldo Costa Filho, Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil, and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Director of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford.

72. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba introduced the participants of the first panel of the high-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality”, on the growing tensions of globalization.

73. The Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) emphasized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required a massive investment push and alerted that the prevailing neoliberal policy agenda, increasing financialization and market concentration of today's hyperglobalized world did not provide the enabling economic environment to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Instability, insecurity, informalization, indebtedness and inequality, among others, were not incidental but instrumental to the workings of hyperglobalization and had led to secular stagnation in the advanced economies and boom and bust cycles almost everywhere. Even after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, these problems had not been seriously tackled because of the vicious cycle of concentration of political and economic power under hyperglobalization. As a result, delivering on the 2030 Agenda would require what UNCTAD termed a “Global New Deal” with four avenues of action: reflation, regulation, redistribution and economic rights. The challenge of articulating these at the global level implied a new narrative of multilateralism. In this regard, he recalled the Havana Charter, remarking that its ambitious aims contained many of the elements of an agenda for multilateral collaboration of the sort needed to deliver on 2030 Agenda.

74. The Coordinator of the Development Studies Programme at the National Autonomous University of Mexico said that *The Inefficiency of Inequality* was an excellent document that represented the culmination of the ECLAC document series focused on equality starting in 2010. He indicated that democracy was largely dependent on a revolution in values and wondered what role public ethics should play in that respect. He noted that in light of the recent weakening of international trade, multilateralism had to be defended and reformed. Since the liberal trade regime had not led to equitable progress in all countries, he wondered whether it was possible to regulate globalization through multilateral institutions. Development meant addressing the theme of ethics and culture; as long as there was no global government,

nation States were useful and necessary, but there was a need for constitutional, democratic and social States that protected and provided for the most vulnerable.

75. The Chair of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO stated that after the Second World War, a model that combined liberal democracy and capitalism had emerged, and appeared to be successful, especially after the fall of the Berlin Wall; integration and trade showed encouraging signs and starting in 2000, a record number of people had been lifted out of poverty. Governments reacted to the serious crisis in 2008 by intervening in markets and injecting funds into some major sectors, but did not match this with assistance to SMEs and ordinary citizens. It was believed that if they had not reacted in that way, the crisis would have been worse than that of the 1930s. In the Western world, factories were closed and opportunities disappeared, and the citizens who were affected associated those consequences with globalization and distanced themselves from its representatives. Technological disruption went unnoticed and the focus remained on globalization. Technological disruption went unnoticed and the focus remained on globalization. Corruption widened the rift and the notion of the self-satisfying elite became more evident, which led people to question policies and demand measures to counteract the effects of globalization, such as the closure of borders to trade and to people. Isolation from the rest of the world was considered the only means of protection: that was the challenge facing multilateralism. In that context, the 2030 Agenda was especially relevant, as it focused on people, the planet and prosperity.

76. The Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil said that globalization was not a new phenomenon, but a long-term economic process in which increased productivity, infrastructure improvements and economies of scale had boosted economies. It should not be forgotten that globalization, along with multilateralism, had generated stability, peace, growth and development over the past 70 years. The main explanation for the disenchantment observed was the disconnect between citizens and their political representatives and the perception that institutions lacked legitimacy. He mentioned the example of the World Trade Organization, whose rules were often the result of compromise in difficult situations, and did not completely satisfy anyone. He noted that the existing situation created risks for stability and growth, but that the solution was multilateralism.

77. The Director of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford said Brexit had shown dissatisfaction with a globalization model that was increasing tensions in trade and migratory flows. It had also highlighted the opposition of many citizens to supranational governance. This opposition also existed in other countries. Dissatisfaction with institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund was also an issue in Latin America. The importance of local and national forums for policy discussion had become clear: this was where democratic legitimacy was conferred. Moreover, employment was created at the local level. He wondered what role international organizations should play. They should generate resources, promote more effective regulation in key areas and generate ideas. He referred to two processes that reflected the existing contradictions: (i) the consolidation of China as an international power could create room for new regulation in areas such as industrial policy; and (ii) the deep crisis of social democracy in much of the world, which complicated ties between national and international spaces. He said that strengthening supranational institutions was more important than ever, but that new emphasis should also be placed on national spaces.

78. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba commented that globalization had different impacts and that the challenge was to harness it to drive innovation and attract foreign capital. That phenomenon had to be further analysed to obtain benefits.

Panel 2. Investments, technologies and productivity for sustainable development

79. This panel was chaired by Salvador Pardo Cruz, Minister of Industry of Cuba, and the speakers were José Ramón López Portillo, Co-Founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies at Oxford University, Álvaro García, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay, Juanita Rodríguez Kattah, Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia, Juan T. Monegro, Vice-Minister for Industrial Development of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs of the Dominican Republic, Juan Carlos Parra Fonseca, Deputy General Manager of Corporación Financiera Nacional BP of Ecuador, and Yolanda Martínez, Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico.

80. The Minister of Industry of Cuba said that while the Latin America and Caribbean region had gone some way towards catching up technologically, indicators of innovation and technology access were not good. The task of innovation was to drive economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. There was an urgent need to adopt industrial and technological development policies that took account of environmental impacts. He added that production and consumption patterns were unsustainable and needed changing. It was also necessary to adapt the education system to the needs of the labour market and disseminate new technologies. He said that the panel would debate the new role of industrial and technology policies to forestall widening asymmetries. He mentioned the severe harm caused to the Cuban economy by the economic, trade and financial embargo that had been maintained by the United States for 56 years. Nonetheless, Cuba's progress had not halted and the country had created infrastructure of its own. Cuba had succeeded in narrowing the technology gap and had made real progress with its pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and health services.

81. The Co-Founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies at Oxford University said that the contribution of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC had given a new impetus to the subjects of investment, technology and productivity. In view of the concentration of capital needed to develop technologies, it was understandable that there should be a degree of inequality. Inequality became inefficiency when it deprived the majorities of opportunities and condemned them to underdevelopment and exploitation. The progress of technology improved people's well-being, but the transition was uncertain because there was an elite that derived exceptional advantages from technology. He said that the progress of institutions was linear while that of technologies was exponential, with artificial intelligence at the forefront. He added that the low educational standards of the region's population had left it at a disadvantage, turning it into a taker rather than a maker of cutting edge technologies. Governments therefore needed to give the matter priority and strive to ensure that the benefits of technology were socialized and not just the costs. Lastly, he said that ECLAC ought to compile information, identify best practices and decide what strategies would take it towards its goals, especially where health and education were concerned, to which end the State needed to play a new role and adopt a new conception of the development model.

82. The Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay remarked that the ECLAC report had shown that equality and efficiency were complementary in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. He indicated that his country had achieved unbroken economic growth over the previous 15 years, accompanied by income redistribution and better environmental stewardship. A rights agenda had also been pursued, with a particular focus on gender and diversity. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development had served as a guide, including when it came to care of older adults, persons with disabilities and early childhood. Regarding the environment, Uruguay generated a large percentage of its electricity from renewable sources. Investment was constrained by the fiscal situation, and transparency in this regard was crucial. As for technology, the speaker was optimistic. For example,

artificial intelligence, robotization and blockchains represented a great opportunity for progress, and convergence between the physical and digital worlds was crucial. Meanwhile, digitalization contributed to a cleaner environment, although it did raise concerns about possible data manipulation. Productivity was also critical, and the Latin America and Caribbean region had ground to make up on this. In conclusion, he said that the future could not be seen through the eyes of the past.

83. The Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia said that equality meant equality of means, opportunities, capacities and recognition. She mentioned the Live Digital plan, a State policy applied in Colombia to connect the country, which had increased the connectivity of municipalities and access to computing. She said that the aim was to move from the consumer Internet to the industrial Internet. A digital education programme had also been set up for people who had traditionally not used digital technologies and for persons with disabilities. She said that Colombia applied an open data policy and an observatory had been created to track the evolution of the digital industry. She added that social transformation was leading to the fourth industrial revolution and that the Latin America and Caribbean region could only resolve its structural problems through emerging technologies.

84. The Vice-Minister for Industrial Development of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs of the Dominican Republic said that the region must not be left behind in the new technological revolution. He wondered whether his country had the right industrial and technology policies to make the most of the new technological situation and said that the Dominican Republic was not clear enough about the new paradigm and that existing institutions needed reforming. The starting point was to raise education system standards, and there was a need to build more and better capacities for the formulation, regulation, development and follow-up of public policies, without duplicating functions. Good governance had to be created and technology and industrial policies had to be better coordinated. The Dominican Republic had had unbroken economic growth over the previous three decades, but few high-quality jobs had been created and the wealth generated had been badly distributed. He added that many people were still shut out from opportunities. The industry share of GDP had fallen substantially, by contrast with services. The important thing was to improve the well-being of the population, to which end more and better industrial and technology policies needed to be implemented.

85. The Deputy General Manager of Corporación Financiera Nacional BP of Ecuador said that the goals set could not be achieved without planning. He believed it was important to improve institutions and firms' technology absorption capacity. Ecuador had made progress with renewable energies, private investment and banking, and also with ICTs and institutions. He spoke of the need to channel savings into productive investment, create enabling conditions for basic infrastructure and bring about a change in the energy matrix. Formerly a sectoral approach had been followed, with functions being assigned to each of the ministries, but now there was a perceived need for them to be more closely interrelated. Ecuador had made considerable progress over the 2013-2017 period in the spheres of electronic government, infrastructure, renewable energy use, connectivity and gross fixed capital formation and financial market development. The fibre optic network had also expanded greatly and now connected the whole of continental Ecuador. He highlighted the importance of the role of SMEs and digital platforms. He believed it was necessary to enhance the complementarity of the Latin America and Caribbean region as a single bloc. Lastly, he underlined the importance of public-private partnerships to finance infrastructure and urged the democratization of access to financing using mechanisms such as seed capital and venture capital.

86. Yolanda Martínez, Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico, said that inequality was the great challenge and highlighted the lack of borders in the digital world as a positive. There needed to be a constantly renewed State-level strategy to capitalize on ICT use. Just 17 countries in the Latin America and

Caribbean region had a digital agenda as State policy. In Mexico, there was now a recognized constitutional right to Internet access. A legal obligation for the State to have a digital inclusion policy had also been established. She said that it was now a priority for Mexico to make 100% of its government services available online. At the regional level, there needed to be a digital economy strategy so that there would be greater earning opportunities for all. Also essential was the transformation of education and health care. Technology could be used to promote citizen participation. She highlighted the role of connectivity, which could be financed through public-private partnerships. The different countries' regulations should be compatible to facilitate the flow of information. Innovation should not be constrained and Internet use should not be limited to consumption. Lastly, the speaker remarked that the open data policy was contributing to the fight against corruption and that Mexico's national digital strategy was aligned with implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

87. By way of a commentary on the presentations, Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), said that one of the fundamental issues in the 2030 Agenda were partnerships, especially between governments and the private sector, with a view to attracting the investment needed for sustainable development, for example in high-quality infrastructure and in cutting edge technologies. It was possible in this way to contribute to the eradication of poverty by guaranteeing access to public services, pursuing resilience to climate change and dealing with the risks facing disadvantaged groups.

Panel 3. The inefficiencies of inequality

88. This panel was chaired by Roberto Morales Ojeda, Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba, and the panellists were Kang Kyung-wha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea; Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina; Ana Olivera, Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, and Alberto Enríquez Villacorta, Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and Planning of the Office of the President of El Salvador.

89. The Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba said that inequality had been recognized as one of the main challenges and that his country had carried out agrarian reform, followed by a literacy campaign and a health campaign. Great progress had been made in education and life expectancy and a number of diseases had been eliminated. Cuba had also cooperated with other countries through the deployment of trained medical personnel.

90. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea noted that her country considered ECLAC a valuable partner and referred to the Korea-ECLAC cooperation fund, which was used to pursue research and activities in areas of common interest, such as economic development, public policies and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Minister commended ECLAC on proposing equality as a core value of sustainable development since 2010 and on advocating structural changes and societal compacts. She referred to the paradigm of people-centred economy adopted by her Government, which aimed to invest in people and boost job creation, innovation and fairness by, among other things, increasing the minimum wage, expanding employment in the public sector and supporting SMEs. The Minister remarked that the Republic of Korea would continue to share its experiences and cooperate with the countries of the region in three main ways: the promotion of accessible education for disadvantaged groups to reduce educational inequality, initiatives to improve water and sewerage treatment infrastructure and health care systems for rural communities and low-income groups, and the strengthening of SME capabilities. She expressed appreciation for the continued and strong support of the Latin America and the Caribbean region for establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Lastly, she counted on ECLAC to continue strengthening its role in economic and social development and reiterated her country's commitment to working with ECLAC and its members States to this end.

91. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina said that poverty was a phenomenon with multiple causes. In Argentina, between 2016 and 2017, there had been a significant reduction in inequality and in the percentage of the population below the poverty line, thanks in part to a number of income transfer policies. There had also been progress in infrastructure, renewable energy, transport and housing, and in this regard she made reference to the national habitat plan. In the area of gender-based violence, she highlighted the fact that Argentina had implemented a national action plan to prevent, combat and eliminate violence against women. She also mentioned a national early childhood plan and the universal health-care coverage system as mechanisms to bridge the gaps between different population groups. Finally, she stressed the need for more and better democracy, and the importance of the key element of trust

92. The Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay said that the struggle for equality was an ethical commitment which required political will and an implementation plan. The inefficiencies arising from this inequality affected the well-being of the population and the region's development possibilities. The quality of services, education and health was weakened as a result of inequality. Moreover, it led to segregation in the territory. Education was key and early childhood represented a person's first window of opportunity. She was in favour of a comprehensive approach under a national care system that took into account health and education. Child care should be linked with food, education and employment opportunities for women, something which required resources and the involvement of various government departments. This would enable children to thus access quality education. Inequalities resulted in undeniable costs to society. There was a need for complementarity between the social and the economic dimensions, as well as the necessary institutional framework. Violence and drug trafficking in the region also had to be analysed, given their impact with respect to inequality.

93. The Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and Planning of the Office of the President of El Salvador said that his country had sought to place the individual at the centre of development and thus, at the heart of public management. The 2030 Agenda had complemented and enriched the development plan promoted in his country. Profound social and territorial inequality had long existed in El Salvador, as a result of a State built around the specific interests of certain privileged economic groups. The policies implemented in previous years had been sectoral and fragmented and there was a need for a profound transformation of the State. This important work had to be undertaken not only by the State but also by citizens, the business sector, the academic sector and other actors. An equalizing and participatory State had to be built. Transparency was another a necessary condition for efficiency and equity, which were threatened by corruption. The State's relationship with nature and culture also had to change. Moreover, there was a need for transformation in public administration. In this regard, he highlighted the important work carried out by the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD). Finally, he noted that emerging technologies could be a good tool for achieving greater integration, as long as they were used to promote equality.

94. In the comments that followed, a representative of Juventud Latina said there was a need to change mindsets, to show solidarity towards others and to fight the culture of privilege. People had to be committed to change and not tied to corrupt interests. Equality called for leaders to show passion, patriotism and solidarity. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stressed the importance of gender equality and said that there was a breakdown of consensus, including in the area of gender equality and family, and therefore more attention had to be paid to this aspect.

95. The Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba remarked that inequality was a constraint to development and constituted productivity losses with high costs for societies. Transformative people-centred public policies were needed.

Panel 4. Territories, infrastructure and the environment: a space for the environmental big push

96. This panel was chaired by Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, and the panellists were Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Mauricio Bejarano, Vice-Minister for Mines and Energy of Paraguay; Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Undersecretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina; Isaac Castillo, Undersecretary for Energy of Panama; Pedro Álvarez Icaza, Coordinator General of Biological Corridors and Resources of the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico; and Lucía Ruíz, Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru.

97. The Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba said that for her country, the connection between inequality, territorial development, infrastructure gaps and the environment was of great importance. The countries of the region had convened 70 years ago to address the challenges posed by development, but in recent years major environmental problems had emerged. Rising sea levels and global temperatures were a reality. On one hand, developed countries were generating pollution, while on the other, the poorest developing countries, which polluted less, were the most affected by the pollution. In 2017 the Caribbean had been hit by destructive hurricanes and Cuba also suffered from the effects of climate change, such as drought. She welcomed the proposal to create a resilience fund for the Caribbean and to promote more sustainable development. She said that Cuba had a people-centred health and education system and a national plan for biodiversity. The State had invested in infrastructure and sought to reduce the pollution of bays. Efforts were also being made to reduce the vulnerabilities of specific areas and to enhance security with respect to the population, infrastructure and tourism. She stressed the need to end the unsustainable use of natural resources, and particularly their overexploitation by large transnational corporations.

98. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay said that in terms of receiving foreign direct investment, his country had gone from next-to-last in the region to second or third, but that its environment and infrastructure had been tested as a result. With respect to the environment, he highlighted the importance of water and the challenge of capturing rainwater to avoid losing it to the oceans. In 2009, the law on national water policy had defined a new institutional framework for water management and a series of regulations to protect water sources and their preservation and appropriate use had been enacted. He added that although drinking water coverage in the country was good, the challenge was ensuring that water, as well as sanitation and drainage, was accessible to all. As energy production could generate pollution, the share of renewable energies in the energy matrix had been increased. The aim was to incorporate mitigation, adaptation and ecosystem services into housing and the provision of public services. Lastly, he believed that Uruguay was on the right path, but gains had to be consolidated and innovative initiatives had to be developed. In this regard, experience-sharing among countries in the region was of great importance.

99. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica said that although the subregion had no control over its geography, behaviours, planning processes and development infrastructure in the region could be modified. Resilience-building must therefore focus on the capacity to absorb the impacts of extreme weather events without losing development momentum. The Government of Jamaica was implementing a legal framework to discourage harmful environmental conduct and improve waste management. The inability of graduated countries to access concessionary funding made it difficult to encourage the investment needed for the environmental big push. Nevertheless, Jamaica was stepping up investment in wind and solar energy to continue to diversify its energy mix. The country and the region were ready to undertake the smaller thrusts—including government regulations, zoning, education and awareness-raising—required for the environmental big push. ECLAC could conduct studies on the use of

urban spaces in building resilience and capacity and facilitate technology exchange and technological innovation to achieve goals. It must also continue to be a voice for reducing the impact of climate change on countries that contributed the least to but were most affected by it. Putting the Caribbean first meant that no member State would be left behind.

100. The Vice-Minister for Mines and Energy of Paraguay said that his country was located in the heart of America and that energy integration was a key component of its energy policy to 2040 and required infrastructure. The aim was to consolidate Paraguay as a hub of regional and subregional energy integration. Almost all the country's electricity was generated by hydraulic sources and efforts were being made to diversify the mix. In order to eliminate inequalities, the entire population had to benefit from energy security and access. He was in favour of promoting the use of bioenergy. Paraguay planned to help reduce greenhouse gas production by using biofuels. A target had been set to stop using wood from non-certified forests by 2045, to avoid deforestation. Paraguay was a member of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Finally, he mentioned the strong energy integration of Paraguay with Argentina and Brazil.

101. The Undersecretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina said that his country reflected significant territorial inequalities. For example, in the north of the country, almost 40% of the population lacked access to drinking water. A management model had been developed that took into account Argentina's federal structure and the fact that infrastructure management depended on decisions made according to sector and territory. Since 2015 Argentina had a strategic territorial plan in place that constituted a State policy. The challenge was to transform planning into concrete projects and to measure the outcomes. Another major concern was that that transformation would take place in cities, which were home to 94% of the population. City planning had to ensure that infrastructure was suited to population density. Argentina had launched an urbanization plan to shape major areas of infrastructure, such as drinking water and sanitation. As a result, municipal governments had developed a large number of projects and there was a transparent website which allowed citizens to follow those projects.

102. The Undersecretary for Energy of Panama said that the region was facing a period of profound changes in energy and the economy against the backdrop of climate change, environmental issues and technological advances. These changes involved human activity, which was surpassing the limits of environmental sustainability. Deterioration was caused not only by carbon emissions, but also by soil and ecosystem degradation stemming from the use of low-cost fuel and the linear economy: extraction, transformation and waste. Humankind was in a transition period, marked by considerable volatility in the prices of energy and other commodities. Moreover, new actors—for example China—had emerged, not only in energy production but also consumption. He noted that the growth of renewable sources had facilitated the reduction in energy prices. Public policies had to be formulated to transform the environmental threat into business opportunities and to prepare for the transition to the possible replacement of hydrocarbons with other energy sources. The State had to forge a political consensus to support the development of renewable technologies and the circular economy. In addition, he highlighted the need to encourage cooperation among countries.

103. The Coordinator General of Biological Corridors and Resources, National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico said that the region continued to show high levels of inequality, which had also increased globally. He noted that in Mexico, the most biodiverse areas were also the poorest. Some areas had also experienced considerable environmental deterioration, in addition to poverty and marginalization. In 20 years large quantities of natural resources had been lost, but income had not increased for most of the population, which demonstrated the unequal distribution of wealth. Some comprehensive initiatives had been implemented in the framework of the Meso-American Biological

Corridor that had succeeded in reducing the rate of deforestation. Biodiversity played a fundamental role in the lives of human beings.

104. The Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru said that to speed up regional integration changes, it was important to create more forums for reflection and to promote the sharing of experiences. There was a need for an environmental approach that would ensure low-carbon growth to minimize environmental impacts. Environment ministers were having to provide teaching on environmental policy across other government portfolios. A cross-cutting approach was needed to include the environmental approach in all government projects, incorporating the environmental and climate change perspectives into management policies. She added that global commitments needed to be translated into action at the local level. She stressed the importance of the private sector for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. The taxation aspect was also relevant: Peru, for example, had increased taxes on the fossil fuels that generated the most pollution. Although these measures were supported by indigenous peoples, civil society and the academic sector, non-conventional renewable energies were an unresolved issue in many countries.

105. In the discussion that followed, the Executive Secretary of ECE said that housing and urbanization were important for sustainable development. People had to have access to affordable housing. She added that cities were public goods where the rights of all were guaranteed. In order to achieve the corresponding SDG, investments had to be increased. The representative of Brazil expressed concern about the scant attention paid to biofuels and the fact that several Caribbean countries that were vulnerable to natural disasters were unable to access concessional loans as they were considered middle-income countries. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) commended the placing of the environment at the centre of the discussion on sustainable development. There was an urgent need for change, as demand for water and food was expected to increase significantly. Millions of people in the region were suffering directly as a result of environmental issues. An integrated approach was required to generate positive synergies. Moreover, there was a need for stronger environmental citizenship. The Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba said that the identification of inequalities in the region reflected extreme poverty and strong territorial polarization. Pollution in urban areas had also had a negative impact. Regional integration was a driver for improved energy efficiency. Finally, she said that the commodity export model, which added no value, should be overhauled, but the challenge was finding a way to do so.

Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities (agenda item 13)

106. Following a special statement by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, a dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities was held on the global and regional challenges of multilateralism, the role of ECLAC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was chaired by Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba and statements were made by Fernando Huanacuni Mamani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; María Fernanda Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador; Parnell Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

107. In her special statement, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations referred to the repositioning of the United Nations development system to be more accountable, cohesive and transparent in supporting delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, she commended the region's role in placing the specific sustainable development challenges of middle-income countries on the global agenda, as well as the dilemma of how to leave no one behind when multidimensional poverty and inequality were rising, even amid falling income poverty levels. For this, it was essential to strengthen institutions to achieve structural change and to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and participation to build a democratic framework in line with national development priorities. Global partnerships were needed to maximize the impact of development financing, including international taxation cooperation to eliminate illicit flows and tax evasion; at the same time, the international financial architecture needed to better reflect the shift in global economic and political power towards developing and middle-income countries. Lastly, the Deputy Secretary-General remarked that the global community was counting on the region's continued innovation and creativity to address global common challenges.

108. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba said that obstacles to multilateralism were increasing, such as the use of force, violations of treaties and international law, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, the use of new financial, judicial, cultural and communication tools to destabilize governments and restrict the right of peoples to self-determination and the distortion of the concepts of peace and sovereignty. The countries of the region were facing major challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, while Latin America had made progress in a number of economic variables related to the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, poverty and inequality were on the rise and the financial resources received by the region were inadequate, hence the essential need to mobilize new, additional and predictable resources. He also stated that ECLAC could help in addressing the region's economic challenges.

109. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that given that a country's driving force was its people and that globalization had a negative impact on the most vulnerable sectors of society, and in the light of the historical debt accumulated, States must redefine their role, transforming their nature and the political role of society. There was a need for a political transformation that placed the poor at the heart of State decisions, society must take control of its own destiny from the State, and citizens must turn constituted power into constituent power. There was also a need for economic transformation through political decisions founded on the idea of restoring State ownership of natural resources through nationalization, and tackling climate change resulting from predatory capitalism through new economic policies that aimed to protect Mother Earth and shift the paradigm, from an individual dehumanizing and disjointed one to a collective articulated one. The Plurinational State of Bolivia called for a rebuilding of identity based on ancestral values, such as "good living" or "living well". Lastly, citing an Aymara saying, the Minister invited all member States to move forward together, to leave no one behind, to ensure that everyone's needs were met and that no one would want for anything. It was possible to make that happen.

110. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said that the complexity of the global and regional situation required actions and policies that transcended borders, hence the importance of multilateralism and regional bodies such as ECLAC. It was imperative for the United Nations to adapt to new needs and provide tangible results in the areas of peace and security, development and management. It was vital to move towards a more democratic, efficient and multipolar global system and towards a more just and equitable world. She recalled the affirmation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the opening of the session that rising inequality had become the face of globalization and generated discontent, intolerance and social instability, especially among young people. She highlighted the different activities that were undertaken in the region in matters relating to each Sustainable Development Goal and stressed the need for financing to achieve them. It was also necessary to develop a work plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to achieve the objectives of technology transfer and capacity-building in climate change adaptation and mitigation for

developing countries, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. Lastly, the Minister remarked that multilateralism, which was under threat as never before, was the only way to build and maintain peace and sustainable development. Regional integration mechanisms must therefore be strengthened.

111. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that while the session was devoted to the inefficiency of inequality, failure to consider the significant development cost of insecurity arising from criminal activity, including transnational crime, trafficking in persons and illicit arms transfer placed the region's development at risk, with direct and indirect impacts on planning. There was an inversely proportional relationship between the implementation of the Goals and crime, as it forced the region to allocate funds to public safety instead of investment needed to achieve the Goals. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to collaborating with ECLAC member States and noted that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had discussed and was moving towards capacity-building to combat illicit trade in guns and ammunition and border security. Despite its fiscal constraints, Jamaica had allocated an unprecedented share of its budget to national security, understanding that security was pivotal to growth and the sustainable development of the nation and the region. Lastly, he said that technology and innovation should be used not just to put in place resources, but for intelligence and information both to reduce crime and to improve national and regional planning.

112. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay spoke of the role of multilateralism and of the basic agreements achieved in the region concerning the importance of human rights, democracy, the self-determination of peoples and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He said that the Sustainable Development Goal that was most emblematic of multilateral cooperation was the one related to climate change. He reiterated his country's commitment to the Paris Agreement, illustrated by the fact that its energy matrix was based primarily on renewable energies, with only 4.5% coming from thermal energy, representing a major step towards the achievement of that Agreement. He highlighted the value of ECLAC publications as an authoritative reference and said that the document on the inefficiency of inequality exposed chronic gaps in the countries of the region, but also showed that there were opportunities to reverse negative trends and consolidate the positive in order to achieve development with equality, through access to education and health. Cooperation must not be allocated solely on the basis of economic criteria, but rather should reflect a dynamic, diverse and multidimensional reality that called for enhanced cooperation, solidarity, dialogue and greater understanding and the building of bridges to improve the quality of life of those who had conferred the responsibility of governance on State authorities.

113. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the work of ECLAC in the area of equality. The greed of power brokers had made it necessary to defend multilateralism and international forums should not be used to praise governments that defended imperialist unilateralism. They should be occasions for unity in diversity and building development strategies together. He cited the text of the foreword of the ECLAC position document: "social gaps and lags have a negative impact on productivity, fiscal policy, environmental sustainability and the spread of the knowledge society. In other words, inequality is inefficient and is an impediment to growth, development and sustainability", and added that inequality was a product of colonialism and neocolonialism—which had structural repercussions—, the lack of investment in the poorest, the unjust distribution of wealth and the lack of political participation in the design, implementation, assessment and renewal of policies founded on respect for human rights. Despite threats and imperialist sanctions against his country, progress had been made on rights such as housing, social protection, education and primary health care, with the support of Cuba. Equality was a core value for his country and the 2030 Agenda was indispensable and could not be postponed. There could be no equality of opportunity without equality of conditions. He reiterated his country's commitment to South-South

cooperation, which was a pillar of collective action for equality. He concluded by saying that Latin America and the Caribbean would continue to be a zone of peace and a region of hope.

114. The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said that major powers reneged on their commitments, spurred by iniquitous globalization that concentrated wealth among the richest and placed an unsustainable drag on development. The ECLAC position document made a compelling case for the economic and developmental cost of the inequality of means, opportunities, capacities and recognition. The international architecture hindered the development of small island developing States. A one-size-fits-all approach was not enough; the region must acknowledge and plan for the unique specificities of island economies and vast new resources were needed to achieve the internationally agreed climate security and development targets. ECLAC was vital in that regard, and while its current “Caribbean first” posture was a welcome act of historic redress, it must uphold its role in shaping post-colonial discourse and use its talents to assist in generating resources targeted to the developmental needs of its membership. ECLAC must demonstrate, through scholarship and rigorous analysis, that a broken financial system did not need regulation, but reinvention, to address its core inequality. He concluded by saying that the Commission must promote and defend economic ideas that benefit regional growth and development and ensure that economic thinking from the region helped to define rather than describe its developmental realities.

115. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Government of Cuba for its organization of the session and the Government of Chile for hosting the Commission’s headquarters, indicating that it had been the Ambassador of Chile, Hernán Santa Cruz, who had proposed the idea of establishing a Latin American Economic and Social Commission to the Economic and Social Council 70 years before. The Latin American and Caribbean region had a role to play at a time when multilateralism was threatened; hyperglobalization was exacerbating inequalities and challenges could not be addressed with a one-size-fits-all model —each country chose its own path independently. ECLAC was devoted to the mandates entrusted to it and the initiative to place the Caribbean first was a reflection of its deep commitment. She reiterated that investment, productivity and equality were positively linked and that there was a need to move from a culture of privilege to a culture of equality, break away from the distribution of cooperation on the basis of per capita GDP and to seek a new concept of cooperation with the international community and cooperation partners. Lastly, she stated that ECLAC wished to be at the forefront of thinking, but also serve as a forum for dialogue that placed emphasis on the region’s identity.

116. Statements were also made by Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ronaldo Costa Filho, Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil, Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda, Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Jairo David Estrada Barrios, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Fernando García Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain, and María del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, Undersecretary of State for Cooperation and International Promotion of Honduras.

117. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that his country had served as Chair of ECLAC and of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. He referred to several challenges, including ensuring that actions taken were long-term State commitments that transcended changes of government; the participation of all and the formulation and implementation of cross-cutting policies aimed in particular at women, children, older persons and indigenous peoples; the establishment of national technical evaluation mechanisms to measure progress and identify challenges in a timely manner; more effective promotion of financial resources (including

fiscal resources), technical cooperation programmes and the sharing of experiences and best practices; and the alignment of the United Nations system with each country's priorities, and of national and local budgets for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

118. The Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil emphasized the importance of multilateralism and the need to work on reducing multilateral and international inequalities, since multilateralism formed the basis for peace and stability. Lastly, he thanked ECLAC for the report *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and the Deputy Secretary-General for her role in the consultations on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

119. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda drew attention to the obligation of States to protect multilateralism and expressed satisfaction at the Caribbean first policy of the Commission. He said that the survival of small island developing States required partnerships and resources and remarked that assessment and recovery of losses from natural disasters were essential. Antigua and Barbuda had suffered the destruction of 90% of its infrastructure in the recent hurricanes, which showed that climate change was a reality and a threat to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the subregion.

120. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador said that, although the region had made progress, it was always worthwhile to examine new challenges and learn about the experiences of other regions in order to promote South-South cooperation. El Salvador had made great progress in reducing inequality, poverty and chronic undernutrition and by 2018 would be free of illiteracy. Two factors threatened these advances, however: climate change and economic fluctuations. He reiterated that strong multilateralism was fundamental for the progress of countries, as had been shown by the role of El Salvador as Pro Tempore Chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Lastly, the Vice-Minister took the opportunity to report that the Summit of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and the European Union would take place in Brussels on 16 and 17 July.

121. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala said that multilateralism was a vital development tool. Issues such as migration, human rights and climate change must be addressed through dialogue and collective negotiation. His country was committed to the 2030 Agenda, which provided a road map for eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment; to meet that major challenge, Guatemala had established institutional arrangements for the effective implementation of the Agenda. He also said that it was essential to continue dialogue on the graduation criteria applied to middle-income countries so as to converge towards a cooperation system that was comprehensive and without exclusions, one that incorporated differentiated schemes and options for all countries. Lastly, he welcomed the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean ("Escazú Agreement"), which was a milestone for the region.

122. The Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain said that inequality was an ongoing cause of concern in the region and, as the ECLAC position document indicated, equality led to efficiency, strengthened democracy and increased productivity. Inequality had to be addressed through greater inclusion of women, reducing the horizontal inequality that young people, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants endured. The culture of privilege hindered social mobility. He said that the structural gap approach was the answer to the middle-income trap and that official development assistance should continue to be provided to the region. Graduation did not do justice to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as countries that had made progress should not be penalized for their development. New concepts such as development in transition were more in line with the reality of the region and changing times.

123. The Undersecretary of State for Cooperation and International Promotion of Honduras said that achieving the 2030 Agenda was a shared goal. She underscored the need to mobilize resources and said that would require the support of the international community, which was often limited. Developed countries must comply with their official development assistance commitments and multilateral development banks must take into consideration the challenges that middle-income countries faced. She spoke of the need to ensure a gradual transition towards and from middle-income status and to develop a more comprehensive measurement system that reflected the heterogeneous economic and social realities of middle-income countries.

124. In the discussion that followed, several representatives stressed that Latin America and the Caribbean had always believed in strong multilateralism that respected the differences and benefited from the similarities between countries. Solutions to poverty were multifaceted and it was important to take into account the multidimensional and comprehensive nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Although international cooperation could not be the only solution, there was a need to revise the criteria for distribution. They stated that ECLAC had done prolific work in its 70 years of existence and had a role to play in the future of development.

125. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), speaking on behalf of the Regional Directors of the United Nations system present, who joined in commemorating the Commission's seventieth anniversary, said that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responded as one to the call to support national objectives and their links to the 2030 Agenda. UNFPA also reiterated the call for multilateral engagement to focus on the population and development agenda. Latin America and the Caribbean was in a unique position, having at its disposal the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the most advanced instrument of its kind. He called for full support at the highest level for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subsidiary body of ECLAC, which would hold its third session in Lima from 7 to 9 August 2018.

Consideration of the request of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of ECLAC (agenda item 14)

126. With respect to the request by the Government of France that French Guiana be admitted as an associate member of ECLAC, the Commission decided to admit French Guiana as an associate member as set forth in resolution 726(XXXVII).

Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session (agenda item 16)

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

Closing ceremony

128. At the closing ceremony, statements were made by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba.

129. In her closing remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General commended the Commission's role as a regional think tank and forum for policy discussion, placing equality at the centre of the development debate and integrating the three dimensions of development in its analytical framework. She fully shared the Commission's conviction regarding the need for a new development cooperation paradigm, in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a principle that she intended to promote in operationalizing the reform of the United Nations development system. Lastly, the Deputy Secretary-General thanked and congratulated Cuba and ECLAC for the organization of the session, which she was confident would mark an important milestone in the region towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda, and expressed the support of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system for the Commission's work in this direction.

130. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the session now ending was a historic one because it marked seven decades of the Commission, it had convened four former Executive Secretaries and had been attended by the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, which testified to Cuba's institutional commitment. The attendance of both the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who had expressed his firm support for the work of ECLAC, and the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, had been a major landmark. With regard to the Caribbean, ECLAC was committed to supporting the subregion on the basis of an integrated approach. The Latin American and Caribbean were aware of their diversity and were committed to preserving the space provided by ECLAC for fraternal and respectful dialogue to jointly explore routes towards the development of their peoples and forge convergent visions.

131. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba remarked that the ECLAC session that now concluded this week of intensive and fruitful work had been honoured for the first time by the presence of a Secretary-General of the United Nations. The work of ECLAC reflected the thinking of prominent Latin American economists and the grew stronger every day. It was vital for the Commission to continue to provide evidence-based theoretical and technical analyses to enable the region to deal with the tensions caused by globalization, climate change and an unsustainable global economic system, and to tap the opportunities offered by the technological revolution. In this respect, the 2030 Agenda would be a guide for the coming years. Cuba looked forward to serving as Chair of ECLAC, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the Committee on South-South Cooperation, with special attention for the Caribbean subregion and in the firm conviction that a future of justice and equality was possible.

D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

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

717(XXXVII) HAVANA 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,¹

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,²

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,³

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,⁴

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 four sessions,

Bearing in mind that the guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 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 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 fields,⁵

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

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

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

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

⁵ LC/SES.37/8.

*Having reviewed the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and its summary, prepared by the secretariat, which complements the trilogy of equality,*⁶

1. *Takes note of the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* 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 building national economic and social development capacities;*

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.*

⁶ LC/SES.37/3-P; LC/SES.37/4.

718(XXXVII) ECLAC CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020

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 2019-2020, as set forth in annex 7 of the relevant document,¹

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

2. *Also reaffirms* 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;

¹ See *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020. Note by the secretariat* (LC/SES.37/9).

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-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution.

**ECLAC CALENDAR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES
FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020**

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2019	Twenty-second session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 580(XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council of Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC and ILPES regular budget
2019	Thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC	United Nations Headquarters, New York ^b	Economic and Social Council Resolution 106(VI) (para 3); ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14) and 489(PLEN.19)	Regular budget
2019	Nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile ^b	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2019	Third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Preparatory meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	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 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	Regular budget of ILPES and ECLAC
2020	Twenty-third session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2020	Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2020	Fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b
2020	Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	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 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget

^a Place to be determined.

^b Date to be determined.

719(XXXVII) 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 2001,¹

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, 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 2030,²

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, has held three meetings of the Presiding Officers: the fifty-fourth meeting in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016,

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

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

the fifty-fifth meeting in Santiago, on 26 and 27 May 2017, and the fifty-sixth meeting in Havana, on 5 and 6 October 2017,

Having in mind the outcomes of and commitments adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,³

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,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, and the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the fifty-fourth meeting, fifty-fifth meeting and fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016, in Santiago on 25 and 26 May 2017, and in Havana on 5 and 6 October 2017, respectively;

3. *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;

4. *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;

5. *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, machineries for the advancement of women as well as relevant civil society organizations;

6. *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 of the Commission, as well as in the work related with the organization and follow-up of the Regional Conferences and the support provided to the Governments;

³ See *Report of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.54/3), *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.55/4) and *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.56/3).

7. *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 on 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;

8. *Calls for* active participation in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Chile in 2019;

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

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

11. *Takes note* of the efforts made by Governments to create a regional fund in benefit of women's and feminist organizations and movements to support projects aimed at contributing to the achievement of equality, the autonomy of women and the realization of their rights throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Montevideo Strategy in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women.

**720(XXXVII) 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 sixteenth meeting in Lima, on 12 November 2017,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,¹

1. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held in Lima on 12 October 2017;

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. *Acknowledges* the importance of public management and planning for development as instruments to carry forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning for their contributions to the regular system of Government funding, which provides financing for a large share of the Institute's programme of work, and urges the other States to consider joining that the Regular System of Government Financing, in conformity with their respective normative frameworks, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

5. *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;

6. *Decides* to convene the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning in the Dominican Republic in the second half of 2018, and the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in the second half of 2019.

¹ See *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/CRP.16/6).

**721(XXXVII) 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 ninth meeting in Aguascalientes (Mexico), from 14 to 16 November 2017,¹

Taking into account also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its fifteenth meeting from 14 to 16 June 2016 and its sixteenth meeting from 4 to 6 April 2017; as well as the Joint Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas' Member Countries and Members of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM-Americas) on 5 April 2017,

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

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,

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,

¹ See *Report of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.9/7).

² See *Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4235), and *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.16/5).

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, to be held in 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 ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017, and of the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of its Executive Committee, held in Santiago from 14 to 16 June 2016 and from 4 to 6 April 2017, respectively;

2. *Also takes note* of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018-2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;³

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. *Expresses* its support for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the appropriate intergovernmental body to create the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, to foster the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

³ LC/CEA.9/8.

722(XXXVII) 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 June to 30 June 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development,¹ 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”,² 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 second session in Montevideo, from 25 to 27 October 2017,

Considering that, on that occasion, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective report,³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017;

2. *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

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

² See General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

³ See *Report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CDS.2/4/Rev.1).

and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimension of sustainable development;

3. *Takes note* of the undertaking to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that address the region's structural inequalities and the new challenges arising from technological change and the necessary transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, with a focus based on rights, gender equality and the life cycle and an approach of universalism that is sensitive to differences, within the general framework of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries, including small island developing States, upon request, in their efforts to develop new methodologies and instruments for measuring multidimensional poverty, deprivations and vulnerability, as well as strengthening existing ones;

5. *Urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the challenges related to the sustainability of the financing needed to close gaps in access to comprehensive social protection systems and universal social services;

6. *Notes* that the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Panama in 2018, jointly with the tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is convened by the United Nations Development Programme.

723(XXXVII) 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 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-sixth session of the Commission, two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the third meeting, from 4 to 6 October 2016 in Santiago, and the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 7 to 9 November 2017 in Santiago,¹

Considering that the Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development² was welcomed at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015,

Considering also all relevant regional 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, where was adopted the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”,

1. *Takes note* of the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers at their third meeting, held in Santiago from 4 to 6 October 2016, and at their special meeting, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017, which are reflected in the respective meeting reports;

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 Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

¹ See *Report of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4295) and *Report of the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDP-E/4).

² LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

3. *Welcomes* the offer of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held from 7 to 10 August 2018, with a view to monitoring the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and calls for active participation in the session;

4. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular Mexico in its capacity as Chair, and its willingness to remain in this position until the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* the countries to make every effort to send inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the third 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 civil society organizations and academia involved in the process of implementing the Montevideo Consensus;

6. *Takes note* of the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, adopted at 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 2017³;

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and another relevant United Nations agencies, within the framework of their mandates, to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, upon request and in accordance with their national priorities, in following up the Intergovernmental Conference on International Migration, which will take place in Morocco in December 2018, and looks forward to its possible outcomes.

³ See *Report of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRE.4/4).

**724(XXXVII) 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 1978,¹

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 the 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,

Bearing in mind that since the preceding session of the Commission, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its second session in San José, on 12 and 13 September 2016,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,²

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,

¹ See chap. I of *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1).

² See *Report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4276).

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. *Welcomes* the ongoing discussions in the first meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on the impact of artificial intelligence on accelerated technological change in sustainable development and upcoming discussions on this topic;
3. *Looks forward* to the rapid operationalization of the United Nations online platform as a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes.

**725(XXXVII) 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,¹ 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 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,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, six meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the fourth in Santo Domingo from 9 to 12 August 2016, the fifth in Santiago from 21 to 25 November 2016, the sixth in Brasilia from 20 to 24 March 2017, the seventh in Buenos Aires from 31 July to 4 August 2017, the eighth in Santiago from 27 November to 1 December 2017, and the ninth in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

Having been apprised of the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

1. *Takes* note of the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica, which constitutes an important step forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, invites all governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider becoming a member of the Agreement, which will be open to signature from 27 September 2018, and request the secretariat to update member States on further developments in that regard.

¹ A/CONF.216/13.

**726(XXXVII) ADMISSION OF FRENCH GUIANA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that paragraphs 3(a) and 4 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean state that, “Any territory, or part or group thereof, may on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission,”

Recognizing that French Guiana enjoys strong economic, cultural and social ties with the rest of the region and that it is committed to strengthening these links wherever possible,

Aware that associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean will contribute strongly towards achieving this goal,

Welcoming the request made by France that French Guiana be granted associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Decides* that French Guiana shall be granted associate membership in the Commission.

727(XXXVII) 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 eighteenth meeting in Port of Spain on 19 May 2017, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-seventh session in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on 27 April 2018, and that, on those occasions, they adopted conclusions and resolutions, which appear in their respective reports,¹

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 2010,²

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 fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable to the consideration of key issues on the sustainable development agenda of Caribbean small island developing States, including the challenges posed by a high debt burden,

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

¹ See the resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC* (LC/CAR/2017/5).

² 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).

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;

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-seventh session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the conclusions reached at the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

728(XXXVII) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2020

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind 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,

Bearing in mind 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”¹ 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,²

Recalling 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,

Considering the Reports of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all”³ and “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet”,⁴

Taking into account the *Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017*,⁵

Taking into account also that the thirty-seventh session of the Commission is the occasion for the relevant intergovernmental review of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020,⁶

Having reviewed the outcomes and activities of the previous biennium and the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the presentation on the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, 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 its thirty-sixth session,

Having reviewed also all aspects of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, 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, 2020 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation

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

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

³ A/72/492.

⁴ A/72/684-E/2018/7.

⁵ LC/SES.37/7.

⁶ LC/SES.37/8.

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 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,

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, 2020, in its entirety, which, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held in the plenary session and the guidance provided by the resolutions adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production of the 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 2020 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, as well as from internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

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 decline in 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 from January 2016 to December 2017* 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;

7. *Decides* that the Committee of the Whole is the appropriate body to review and adopt the annual programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the years falling between years in which sessions of the Commission are held;

8. *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;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

**729(XXXVII) 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,

1. *Takes note* of the Cartagena de Indias Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;¹
2. *Urges* regional and international bodies and agencies working in the area of policies on information and communications technologies to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), fostering coordination and integration of efforts;
3. *Calls upon* all member States to participate in the Preparatory Meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Ecuador in 2019, and the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Brazil in 2020;
4. *Thanks* the Governments of Ecuador and Brazil for their offer to give continuity to the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) process and to host the forthcoming ministerial meetings on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019 and 2020, respectively;
5. *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;
6. *Recognizes* the importance of universal access to information and communications technologies, as well as of infrastructure, including broadband connection, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms the need to promote public policies for this purpose;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the sixth 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.

¹ See the draft report of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CMSI.6/PINF).

730(XXXVII) COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/31 of 27 July 2012, which reaffirms the importance of staying fully engaged in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,

Bearing in mind that the resolution reiterates the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to ensure the continuity and momentum of that process, and reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders,

Highlighting the contents of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held from 1 to 3 December 2009, in which the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as the regional commissions, were requested to assist developing countries in establishing or strengthening existing South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence and enhancing closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern,

Recalling paragraph 44 of the document *Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme*,¹ prepared by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which states that the proliferation of South-South cooperation programmes and activities across the United Nations system points to the need to move from fragmented and ad hoc reporting to more systematic, standard and comprehensive reporting mechanisms and to the need for improved quality of data and analysis, in particular in the planning, programming, reporting and follow-up of South-South cooperation activities,

Considering General Assembly resolution 68/230, which invites the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, and technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level,

Recalling 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 based primarily on national official data sources,

¹ SSC/17/2.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/313, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, which, inter alia, commits Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 71/318, entitled “Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation”, resolution 72/237 entitled “South-South cooperation” and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “State of South-South cooperation”,²

Bearing in mind also that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation have held three meetings: the fifth meeting in Santo Domingo, on 11 January 2017; the sixth meeting in Mexico City, on 25 April 2017; and the seventh meeting in Santiago, on 17 April 2018,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the respective meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation;³

2. *Also takes note* of the *Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium*;⁴

3. *Further takes note* of the *Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat*;⁵

4. *Reiterates* paragraph 4 of resolution 709(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and requests the secretariat of the Commission to continue supporting, within the framework of its existing mandates, the Governments of the region in the design of methodologies to follow up on South-South cooperation;

5. *Recognize* that the United Nations system is the multilateral forum par excellence in which to contribute to the redefinition of the way that development is measured, taking into account the national priorities of each country, and emphasize the multidimensional approach to development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the discussion on the criteria used to guide the various modalities of international cooperation, with a view to leaving no one behind;

6. *Invites* the countries to participate, with the support of the secretariat, in the calculation of structural gaps, as a valuable tool for helping to measure and visualize development levels in each country beyond per capita income;

² A/72/297.

³ *Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation* (LC/MDSS.5/2); *Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation* (LC/MDSS.6/3); and draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.7/PINF).

⁴ LC/SES.37/11.

⁵ LC/SES.37/10.

7. *Welcomes* the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the Governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Invites* the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to consider convening a regional interactive dialogue on the priorities of the region, at United Nations Headquarters in New York on a date to be agreed, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019;

9. *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;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of this resolution at the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held in the framework of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

731(XXXVII) SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 by virtue of which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established,

Reaffirming its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 106(VI) retain their full validity,

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 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,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner,

Bearing in mind 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 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the agreements and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Considering the broad interest shown by countries in the work of the Commission, which has been reflected in to the admission of new member States such as Germany (2005), Japan (2006), Norway (2015), the Republic of Korea (2007) and Turkey (2017), as well as the following associate members: Bermuda (2012), the Cayman Islands (2008), Curaçao (2012), Guadalupe (2012), Martinique (2012), Sint Maarten (2014) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (2006),

Recognizing that the Commission has aligned its draft programme of work and priorities of the ECLAC system for 2020, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Having been informed by the Chair of the thirty-sixth session on the conduct and outcome of the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City in 2017 and in Santiago in 2018, respectively, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), which established the Forum as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's report *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet*, which proposes significant changes to improve the coordinating role of the United Nations development system,¹*

1. *Reaffirms* the important contributions to the region made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission —the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean— in the areas of gender equality, cooperation and development, planning, statistics, population, science and technology, South-South cooperation and social development, among others;

2. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the documents prepared by the secretariat *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary,² presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission, *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary,³ presented at the thirty-fourth session, *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary,⁴ presented at the thirty-fifth session, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*, presented at the thirty-sixth session, and *The Inefficiency of Inequality*, presented at the thirty-seventh session, as well as the first and second editions of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,⁵ submitted at the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as a contribution to the framework of regional analysis that identifies the gaps and challenges in relation to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. *Reaffirms* 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 ability to act 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;

4. *Recognizes* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

¹ A/72/684-E/2018/7.

² LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

³ LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

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

⁵ LC/L.4268(FDS.1/3)/Rev.1 and LC/FDS.2/3.

5. *Emphasizes* 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;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing process to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to provide better support to Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, agree with the Secretary-General that the regional structures need to be revamped and look forward to examining the options for longer-term restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations to be presented by the Secretary-General, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach; commend the work carried out by ECLAC in its 70 years of existence and its continued efforts to support country-led processes; commit to ensure that the functions and mandate of ECLAC are fully recognized and maintained, particularly its crucial role in the regional dimension of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and urge the Commission to fully engage in the Secretary-General’s initiative to revamp the regional assets in the interest of country-led processes and increase, within its mandate, regional initiatives so that no one is left behind;

7. *Recall* the fundamental characteristics of the activities for development of the entities of United Nations development system, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 1 February 2017, inter alia, their neutrality and their ability to respond to the development needs of countries in a flexible manner.

732(XXXVII) 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 2014-2024,¹ 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 resolution 711(XXXVI) on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC,

Bearing in mind the forthcoming review of progress towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review to be held no later than December 2019, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/232,

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,²

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;

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/137.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

2. *Requests* the secretariat to support the regional review by landlocked and transit countries in Latin America in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and relevant regional actors, through the preparation of analytical studies, and the organization of the regional meeting not later than before December 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.

733(XXXVII) FORUM FOR EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION TRUST FUND

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that the Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) aims to promote cooperation, better understanding, and political and economic dialogue between East Asia and Latin America¹ in order to achieve more effective, cooperative, and fruitful relations in all areas,

Recalling that in the Busan Declaration of 31 August 2017, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of FEALAC reinforced their determination to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation, deeper economic integration and to accelerate economic recovery through, inter alia, the establishment as a funding mechanism to support FEALAC-wide projects that promote inter-regional cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of a multi-donor trust fund (“FEALAC Trust Fund”),

Taking note that several members States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund and several other member States have pledged to also make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to support other FEALAC-wide projects,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of a FEALAC multi-donor Trust Fund as a financing for development instrument that combines South-South and Triangular Cooperation for mutual benefit and for the common goal of development;

2. *Acknowledges* the voluntary contributions made so far and encourages other member States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to make additional voluntary contributions to the Fund so as to make it possible for ECLAC and ESCAP to carry out further initiatives aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to carry out with ESCAP interregional projects financed by the trust fund aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and contributing to the development of both regions in the areas agreed by the Trust Fund Steering Committee.

¹ The Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) is an association of 36 countries from East Asia and Latin America that came together for the first time to form an official and regular dialogue channel between the two regions. (East Asia: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

Annex 1

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. The Committee on South-South Cooperation met as scheduled on 9 May 2018 during the thirty-seventh 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: Cuba
 Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay

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-sixth session of ECLAC.
4. Panel on the challenges faced by middle-income countries ahead of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019).
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.

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

3. Mexico, in its capacity as outgoing Chair of the Committee, presented a report on South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, summarized in the corresponding note by the secretariat.¹

Panel on the challenges faced by middle-income countries ahead of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019) (agenda item 4)

4. The panel was chaired by Ileana Núñez, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Ernesto Pfirter, Ambassador of Argentina in Cuba, Agustín García-López, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Jolita Butkeviciene, Director of Development Coordination for Latin America and Caribbean of the European Commission, and Fernando García Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain.

¹ LC/SES.37/10.

5. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that it was an honour for her country to serve as Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the biennium 2018–2020 and continue the work previously carried forward by Mexico. She expressed her conviction that South-South cooperation was a valuable tool for finding solutions to the problems shared by the region's countries, and that it was more than a complement to North-South cooperation. In its role as Chair, Cuba would seek to promote national integration and full inclusion of the Caribbean, in line with the Commission's political and strategic vision of "Caribbean first". She noted that millions of people in the region—the most unequal in the world—lived in extreme poverty. In addition, climate change posed great challenges, especially for the Caribbean. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development required integrated action by the region's countries. The pillars for cooperation among countries were eradicating poverty, adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects, and encouraging pro-equality social policies. Cuba would seek coordination and synergies between the Committee on South-South Cooperation and other regional or subregional mechanisms and agencies, within or outside the United Nations system, with the aim of making actions in the region more effective. The Vice-Minister stressed the importance of commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and of continued constructive dialogue between the countries of the region, in a different context than 40 years ago. Finally, she reiterated the need for stable and predictable financial resources to support national efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Cuba, in its commitment to cooperation among the peoples and nations of the region, offered to share its experiences and ratified its willingness to work on the basis of respect for diversity, so that together all could achieve sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, leaving no one behind.

6. The Ambassador of Argentina in Cuba remarked that the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries would take place in a context characterized by economic growth and relatively modest trade flows, the return of geopolitical calculations and a shift towards protectionist policies, all of which posed great challenges for multilateralism. The 2030 Agenda represented a paradigm shift that implied, among other things, replacing the donor-recipient concept with that of countries in partnership for development. The new regional landscape of South-South cooperation had led to the institutional and operational updating of the United Nations, which was the point of reference and primary multilateral forum for these discussions. Regarding middle-income countries, the time had come to change both the rationale of official development assistance (ODA) based on per capita income, and the graduation criteria, which favoured an incomplete conception of development focused on combating extreme poverty and disregarded other dimensions of sustainable development. Instead, the notion of "development in transition" took into account ongoing discussions in middle-income countries about the criteria for measuring development, and the implications in terms of distribution of ODA. Thus, it was essential to hold comprehensive discussions on sustainable and differentiated financing mechanisms. The complexities of the global context required the involvement of various stakeholders to contribute new rationales based on multisectoral partnerships. Marking the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would be a reaffirmation of the historic commitment of the countries of the South to multilateralism, peace and development, as well as an opportunity to analyse the comparative advantages of South-South and triangular cooperation, which should not necessarily imply the dilution or withdrawal of traditional cooperation. Triangular cooperation should be construed on the basis of equality between the parties, political dialogue and institutional coordination, rather than being viewed as a complement to bilateral cooperation. Challenges included developing institutions at the national and regional levels, improving regional coordination, promoting triangular cooperation and strengthening mechanisms for joint implementation and shared governance, improving monitoring and evaluation

systems, and other aspects that could be discussed in depth on the occasion of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires in March 2019.

7. The Executive Director of AMEXCID said that Cuba had shown outstanding solidarity and cooperation with others and stressed the importance of dialogue, the exchange of good practices and innovation in cooperation. He also commended ECLAC for its contribution to thinking and analysis on cooperation matters in the region. There were global challenges —such as climate change— that States could not solve on their own, which made multilateralism increasingly important. There was a need to break with the prevailing paradigms to achieve horizontal cooperation among the countries of this diverse and heterogeneous region. The notion of measuring development on the basis of per capita income was outdated: some Caribbean nations were considered high-income countries, but suffered the severe consequences of natural disasters, thus, measurements of development needed to consider vulnerability to such events. The Executive Director remarked that horizontal cooperation was not a substitute for traditional cooperation, nor did it play a merely complementary role. Cooperation action had to be aligned with the priority needs of partner countries. Results-based planning was also important, as well as the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of cooperation actions. He added that cooperation should be part of foreign and multilateral policies of State and that the participation of all stakeholders in inclusive partnerships had to be encouraged. Triangular cooperation should be regarded as cooperation between three partners (both countries and organizations), as exemplified by the cooperation between Mexico and Central America on food or migration of unaccompanied children. Lastly, he put forward a proposal for a network to build national capacities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation referred to a publication by his office entitled *Acción Sur-Sur: de Cuba para el mundo* (“South-South in Action – From Cuba to the World”) the first of this series in Spanish, which highlighted the important role of various Cuban agencies in South-South cooperation. Referring to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in March 2019, he said the Conference would be open to non-governmental stakeholders and other international agencies. The Secretary-General had been requested to present a report as the basis for discussions at the Conference, and the role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been adopted as the overall theme, with related subthemes including the comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, challenges to and strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, sharing of good experiences and best practices, and enhancing the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, Member States had been invited to submit documents to the Conference, and a working group had been planned to coordinate the interaction among them. The Conference would be a driver for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as more and better South-South cooperation was needed given that traditional forms of cooperation would not be sufficient.

9. The Director of Development Coordination for Latin America and Caribbean of the European Commission highlighted the history of joint work between ECLAC and the European Union. She noted that Latin America was one of the most proactive regions in matters of South-South and triangular cooperation, with innovation capability evident in its people and institutions. The European Union was seeking mutual support in finding sources of national and regional innovation to address shared global challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There were opportunities for cooperation in the framework of triangular cooperation as well as strategic approaches to partnership with the region. Triangular cooperation, which involved the cooperation of all countries, offered the possibility of building strategic partnerships based on shared interests, and of protecting and strengthening multilateralism. The European Union wished to be at the forefront of triangular cooperation as it encouraged the mobilization

of funds and resources, offered an opportunity to overcome the North-South divide, created an ambitious partnership model and provided a common platform for dialogue towards the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. She recalled that while the challenges to development had not disappeared, they had changed, and that there was a need to find adaptable solutions; for example, the transition to higher levels of income did not mean that the need for cooperation no longer existed, but rather that the European Union should seek new strategies and tools for cooperation. The new concept of development in transition suggested that development did not necessarily follow a rationale based on numbers and economic theories, but rather included subjective aspects such as trust, expectations of citizens, and global or regional agendas. Triangular cooperation offered the opportunity of going beyond the donor-recipient notion and the North-South agenda, but this required joint efforts in the search for solutions. Finally, she noted that the European Union would remain committed to cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean: the region's notable economic and social development results, together with its intellectual, institutional and leadership resources, meant it was ideally placed to respond to the development challenges of the twenty-first century, for the benefit of all.

10. The Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain remarked that although most of the world's economies were growing at a significant pace, the advent of nationalism and populism revealed a certain malaise. He added that, while democracy in the region was a consolidated asset, since 2000, 11 presidents had failed to complete their mandates. In addition, the middle classes now had greater expectations and demanded from the State greater transparency and quality public services, for example in water and sanitation, health, education and security. Cooperation could play an important role in this regard. He noted that Latin America had always pursued multilateralism and that the time had come to hold a summit between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. It was necessary to look beyond the donor-recipient and developed-developing country paradigms, and beyond the use of per capita income of middle-income countries as the criterion for cooperation, as this measure alone was not a true indicator of development. In recent years, South-South bilateral, triangular and regional cooperation initiatives had been increasing in number. To further reduce structural gaps, the region's countries needed triangular cooperation, non-refundable financial resources, concessional financial resources and technology transfer.

11. In the statements that followed, the representatives emphasized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his Government had a growing interest in expanding economic cooperation and exchanging development experiences, and that it had expanded its cooperation efforts in health, culture, security, trade and investment. He remarked that Germany was one of the largest international donors for sustainable development activities at the global level and, in Latin America and the Caribbean, had supported climate change mitigation initiatives in particular. He added that Germany would continue cooperating with middle-income countries in the region. The representative of Uruguay reaffirmed the importance his country attached to South-South cooperation. Throughout the world there was support for a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, affording the same importance to economic, social and environmental aspects. Measurements of development had evolved and the traditional measure of gross domestic product was strictly economic and had many limitations. The representative of Brazil said that his country joined others in recognizing the work of ECLAC and noted that cooperation should be based on the needs of the recipients, beyond the importance of triangular cooperation itself. The representative of Honduras stated that South-South cooperation was essential for her country and that financing remained a challenge. The representative of Panama recognized that South-South and triangular cooperation were of great importance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that to do so it was necessary to adapt to new trends, adjusting supply and demand to new regional and global needs. She further stressed the importance of knowledge- and experience-sharing between countries within the framework of the

2030 Agenda. The representative of Costa Rica underscored how important the work of ECLAC was for her country, as it provided guidance for policymaking and for progress in interregional understanding, and highlighted Costa Rica's cooperation activities with Spain, Germany, Mexico and Chile.

12. The representative of Centro Sur commended Cuba on its cooperation with developing countries. He stated that South-South cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, but could serve as an example for the traditional cooperation provided by developed countries. Additionally, the latter should fulfil their commitment of decades earlier to devote 0.7% of their GDP to cooperation. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said that his organization attached importance to the exchange of technical expertise, resources and practical skills to promote rural development, as well as to promote investment between countries aimed at improving rural livelihoods. IFAD had committed to ensuring that 50% of its new country strategies should follow a South-South and triangular cooperation approach.

13. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the 2030 Agenda embodied a paradigm shift that required rethinking many aspects related to measurement and progress, which had an impact on cooperation. One of the main challenges of the 2030 Agenda were the means of implementation, especially the three pillars of financing, trade and technology; accordingly, the asymmetries with developed countries in these areas had to be reduced. The historical responsibility of developed countries regarding global challenges such as climate change should not be dismissed, and this was reflected, for example, in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. With regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the region's countries could not replace dwindling ODA flows with other external flows, such as remittances, since these were not funds for development; nor could foreign investment be counted as development financing. Development could no longer be measured by per capita GDP. Without cooperation from developed countries, it would not be possible to close gaps, for example, in tax evasion. Cooperation needs had to be measured better, not on the sole basis of per capita GDP. In this regard, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation offered an opportunity to establish better ways of measuring cooperation needs and criteria. The Executive Secretary added that the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC provided forums for identifying the demands and needs of countries. She also stressed the importance of South-South cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region and, in this regard, welcomed the contributions made by the Republic of Korea to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and by China, which had created its own cooperation agency and was tightening relations with the region. Regarding the Caribbean, the Executive Secretary referred to the pending challenge of providing the subregion with access to concessional resources and to trade under the conditions it had previously enjoyed. In closing, she remarked that the Committee on South-South Cooperation was open for all countries to take part in discussions on these issues.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 5)

14. The conclusions of the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation are reflected in resolution 730(XXXVII).

Annex 2

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

A. DOCUMENTOS DE TRABAJO/WORKING DOCUMENTS

LC/SES.37/1/Rev.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional – Provisional agenda – Ordre du jour provisoire
LC/SES.37/2/Rev.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional anotado y organización del trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones – Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the thirty-seventh session – Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire et organisation de la trente-septième session
LC/SES.37/3-P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – La ineficiencia de la desigualdad – The Inefficiency of Inequality
LC/SES.37/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – La ineficiencia de la desigualdad. Síntesis – The Inefficiency of Inequality. Summary – Inefficacité de l'inégalité. Synthèse – A ineficiência da desigualdade. Síntese
LC/SES.37/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur – Provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation – Ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud
LC/SES.37/6/Rev.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional anotado del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur – Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation – Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud
LC/SES.37/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de actividades de la Comisión de enero de 2016 a diciembre de 2017 – Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017
LC/SES.37/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proyecto de programa de trabajo del sistema de la CEPAL, 2020 – Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020

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| LC/SES.37/9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Calendario de conferencias de la CEPAL propuesto para el período 2019-2020. Nota de la Secretaría – Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020. Note by the secretariat |
| LC/SES.37/10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de las actividades de cooperación Sur-Sur llevadas a cabo desde el trigésimo sexto período de sesiones de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría – Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat |
| LC/SES.37/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de las actividades de cooperación técnica realizadas por el sistema de la CEPAL durante el bienio 2016-2017 – Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium |
| LC/SES.37/12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Documentos presentados al trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Comisión – Documents presented at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission |
| LC/SES.37/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Solicitud del Gobierno de Francia de que la Guayana Francesa se incorpore como miembro asociado de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría – Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat – Demande présentée par la France afin que la Guyane française soit admise en tant que membre associé de la CEPALC. Note du Secrétariat |
| LC/SES.37/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Caribbean Outlook |
| LC/SES.37/15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proyecto de cooperación Red para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales para la implementación y seguimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe. Nota de la Secretaría – Development cooperation project: Network for the strengthening of national capacities for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat |
| LC/CNP10.9/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acta final – Final Act – Ata final |

LC/CNP10.9/5

- Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe
- Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

B. DOCUMENTOS DE REFERENCIA/REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

LC/SES.37/DDR/1

- Informe de las actividades de los órganos subsidiarios de la CEPAL y reuniones intergubernamentales, desde el trigésimo sexto período de sesiones
- Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-sixth session

LC/G.2433(SES.33/4)

- La hora de la igualdad: brechas por cerrar, caminos por abrir. Síntesis
- Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails. Summary
- L’heure de l’égalité : combler les écarts, ouvrir de nouveaux chemins. Synthèse
- A hora da igualdade: brechas por selar, caminhos por abrir. Síntese

LC/G.2525(SES.34/4)

- Cambio estructural para la igualdad: una visión integrada del desarrollo. Síntesis
- Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary
- Changement structurel pour l’égalité : une vision intégrée du développement. Synthèse
- Mudança estrutural para a igualdade: Uma visão integrada do desenvolvimento. Síntese

LC/G.2587(SES.35/4)

- Pactos para la igualdad: hacia un futuro sostenible. Síntesis
- Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future. Summary
- Pactes pour l’égalité : vers un avenir durable. Synthèse
- Pactos para a igualdade: rumo a um futuro sustentável. Síntese

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| LC/G.2661(SES.36/4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Horizontes 2030: la igualdad en el centro del desarrollo sostenible. Síntesis – Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary – Horizons 2030 : l'égalité au coeur du développement durable. Synthèse – Horizontes 2030: a igualdade no centro do desenvolvimento sustentável. Síntese |
| A/RES/71/318 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Segunda Conferencia de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur – Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation – Deuxième Conférence de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la coopération Sud-Sud |
| A/RES/72/237 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cooperación Sur-Sur – South-South cooperation – Coopération Sud-Sud |
| A/72/297 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Estado de la cooperación Sur-Sur. Informe del Secretario General – State of South-South cooperation. Report of the Secretary-General – État de la coopération Sud-Sud. Rapport du Secrétaire général |
| LC/G.2532/Rev.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Los países de renta media: un nuevo enfoque basado en brechas estructurales – Middle-income countries: a structural gap approach |
| LC/CNP10.9/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de la Novena Reunión del Comité de Negociación del Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe – Report of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| LC/MDSS.5/2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de la Quinta Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur – Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation |

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| LC/MDSS.6/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de la Sexta Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur – Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation |
| LC/MDSS.7/PINF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proyecto de informe de la Séptima Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur – Draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation |
| LC/PLEN.32/INF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe del trigésimo segundo período de sesiones del Comité Plenario – Report of the thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole |
| LC/L.4258(PLEN.32/3)/Rev.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Solicitud del Gobierno de Francia de que la Guayana Francesa se incorpore como miembro asociado de la CEPAL.
Nota de la Secretaría – Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat |

Annex 3

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- Max José López Cornejo, Embajador de Panamá en Cuba, email: panaemba_cuba@panaemba.co.cu
- Guadalupe María Rudy Arellano, Directora General de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales, email: grudy@mire.gob.pa
- Isaac Castillo, Subsecretario de Energía, email: icastillo@energia.gob.pa
- Abdiel García, Tercer Secretario de Carrera Diplomática y Consular, Embajada de Panamá en Cuba

PARAGUAYRepresentante/Representative:

- Juan Ángel Delgadillo, Director General de Política Económica, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Teresa Barán, Viceministra de Salud Pública del Paraguay, email: secretariagravviceministerio@gmail.com
- Mauricio Bejarano, Viceministro de Minas y Energía, email: cclari@ssme.gov.py
- Raúl Antonio Montiel Gastó, Director de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: rgasto@mre.gov.py
- Hernán G. Muñoz, Funcionario de la Dirección de Organismos Económicos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- César Mercado, Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Cuba, email: cubaembaparsc@mre.gov.py
- Bernardino Cano Radil, Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Cuba

PERÚ/PERURepresentante/Representative:

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- Lucía Ruiz, Viceministra de Desarrollo Estratégico de los Recursos Naturales, Ministerio del Ambiente, email: vzaldivar@minam.gob.pe
- Claudia Giulana Betalleluz Otiura, Jefa de Cancillería, Embajada del Perú en Cuba, email: cbetalleluz@empaperu.org
- Milagros del Carmen García Moncada, Jefa, Sección Consular, Embajada del Perú en Cuba, email: mgarcia@embaperu.org

PORTUGALRepresentante/Representative:

- Fernando d'Orey de Brito e Cunha Figuerinhas, Embajador de Portugal en Cuba, email: havana@mne.pt

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Bernardino Manuel Dantas Machado de Azevedo Fernandes, Consejero Político y Jefe Adjunto de Misión, Embajada de Portugal en Cuba, email: havana@mne.pt

REINO UNIDO DE GRAN BRETAÑA E IRLANDA DEL NORTE/UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Representante/Representative:

- Antony Stokes, Embajador del Reino Unido en Cuba, email: ukincuba@fco.gov.uk

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Arthur Jeremy Russell, Policy Advisor, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, email: Jeremy.arthur@fco.gov.uk, Jeremy.arthur01@gmail.com

REPÚBLICA DE COREA/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representante/Representative:

- Kang, Kyung-Wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr

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- Kim, Sang-il, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: sikim85@mofa.go.kr
- Huh, Taewan, Director General, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr
- Yang, David Ho In, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Chile
- Kim, Sang-hoon, Secretary of the Office of the Ministry
- Lee, Sanghui, Director, Central America and the Caribbean Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Park, Sun-tae, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico
- Lee, Seo Won, Second Secretary, Division of Central America and the Caribbean, Interpreter in Cuba, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr
- Lee, Hyunseok, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: hyselee09@mofa.go.kr
- Song, Soo-hyung, Third Secretary, Latin American and Caribbean Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Park, Jae Il, Administrator, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: jipark01@mofa.go.kr

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Juan T. Monegro, Viceministro de Desarrollo Industrial, Ministerio de Industria, Comercio y Mipymes, email: j.monegro@mic.gob.do; juanmonegro@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carmen Elena Ibarra, Directora de Integración Comercial, Viceministerio de Asuntos Económicos
- Joaquín Gerónimo, Embajador de la República Dominicana en Cuba, email: jgeronimo12@hotmail.com
- Luis Maldonado, Consejero Encargado de Asuntos Comerciales, Embajada de la República Dominicana en Cuba, email: luismaldonadom@yahoo.com

SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS/SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Representante/Representative:

- Verna Mills, Embajadora de Saint Kitts y Nevis en Cuba, email: embassyskncuba@gmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Michael Sylvester Esdaille, Consejero, Embajada de Saint Kitts y Nevis en Cuba, email: embassykncu@gmail.com

SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS/SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Representante/Representative:

- Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, email: office.foreignaffairs@mail.gov.vc, svgforeign@gmail.com

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- Ellsworth John, Embajador de San Vicente y las Granadinas en Cuba, email: embsvghav@gmail.com
- Charmane Tappin-John, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de San Vicente y las Granadinas en Cuba

SANTA LUCÍA/SAINT LUCIA

Representante/Representative:

- Ubaldu Raymond, Ministro de Finanzas, Crecimiento Económico, Creación de Empleo, Asuntos Exteriores y Servicio Público, email: embslu@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Malachia Fontenelle, Ambassador, Embassy of Saint Lucia in Cuba, email: embsulu@gmail.com
- Fercinta Louisy, Foreign Service Officer, Department of External Affairs, email: flouisy@gosl.gov.lc

SURINAME

Representante/Representative:

- Alonso Blom, Chargé d’Affaires a.i, Embajada de la República de Suriname en Cuba, email: sec.amb.cuba@foreignaffairs.gov.sr

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO/TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representante/Representative:

- Lancelot Cowie, Embajador de Trinidad y Tabago en Cuba, email: embhavana@foreign.gov.tt

TURQUÍA/TURKEY

Representante/Representative:

- Ayse Berris Ekinci, Embajadora de Turquía en Cuba, email: embajada.habana@mfa.gov.tr

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Nilufer Aksoy Balci, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Turquía en Cuba, email: embajada.habana@mfa.gov.tr

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Representante/Representative:

- Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: secretaria.ministro@mrree.gub.uy

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- Ana Olivera, Viceministra del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: aolivera@correo.mides.gub.uy
- Eduardo Lorier, Embajador del Uruguay en Cuba, email: eduardo.lorier@mrree.gub.uy
- Mauricio Rompani Jurado, Cónsul del Uruguay en Cuba
- Daniel Cadenazzi, Funcionario, Gabinete del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
- Felipe Machado, Secretario, Embajada del Uruguay en Cuba, email: felipe.machado@mrree.gub.uy
- Mathias Escotto Gadea, Responsable Técnico de Cooperación, Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional (AUCI), email: mescotto@auci.gub.uy

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Representante/Representative:

- Ricardo Menéndez, Vicepresidente Sectorial de Planificación y Ministro del Poder Popular de Planificación, email: cooperaciontecnica@mppp.gob.ve

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Jorge Alberto Arreaza, Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: ayudantiadespachocanciller@mppre.gob.ve
- Rubén Darío Molina, Viceministro para Temas Multilaterales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: molina.ruben.dario@gmail.com
- Raúl Ernesto Pacheco, Presidente, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas
- Germania Fernández, Directora General de Comunicaciones y Relaciones Interinstitucionales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Jorge Álvarez, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Carlos Escalante, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Editha Johanna Briones, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Luis David Díaz Ibarra, Analista, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: Luis.diaz243@mppre.gob.ve
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- Adrián Castillo, Director General, Oficina de Cooperación Técnica y Financiamiento Multilateral, email: acastillo@mppp.gob.ve
- José Gerardo Avendaño, Viceministro para la Planificación Estratégica y Políticas, Ministerio del Poder Popular de Planificación, email: javendano@mppp.gob.ve
- Ali Rodríguez Araque, Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Vivian Alvarado Linarez, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Tawata Araujo Juan, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Marcos Andrés Parra Briñez, Segundo Secretario de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba

**B. Miembros asociados
Associate members**

CURAÇAO

Representante/Representative:

- Sean de Boer, Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, email: sean.deboer@gobiernu.cw

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Arelys M. Alves-Meulens, M.A. Policy Advisor, Director of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of General Affairs, email: arelys.alves-meulens@gobiernu.cw

**C. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat**

Secretario General/Secretary-General

- António Guterres, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas/Secretary-General of the United Nations

Vicesecretaria General/Deputy Secretary-General

- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General/Deputy Secretary-General

Oficina del Secretario General/Office of the Secretary-General

- Katrin Hett, Oficial Superior de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina del Secretario General/Senior Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary-General
- Fleur Vernat, Coordinador Ejecutivo, Oficina de la Vicesecretaria General/Executive Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
- Florencia Soto Nino-Martínez, Oficial de Información Pública, Oficina Ejecutiva del Secretario General (OESG)/Public Information Officer, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

Comisión Económica para Europa (CEPE)/Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

- Olga Algayerova, Secretaria General Adjunta y Secretaria Ejecutiva/Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, email: cristian.olarean@un.org, koch@un.org

**Oficina de las Comisiones Regionales en Nueva York (OCRNY)/Regional Commissions
New York Office (RCNYO)**

- Amr Nour, Director/Chief, email: nour@un.org

**Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Cooperación Sur-Sur/United Nations Office
for South-South Cooperation**

- Jorge Chediek, Director y Enviado Especial del Secretario General para la Cooperación Sur-Sur/Director and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, email: jorge.chediek@undp.org

Oficina del Alto Representante para los Países Menos Adelantados, los Países en Desarrollo sin Litoral y los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (OARPMA)/Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)

- Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, email: scroderus-fox@un.org
- Tishka Francis, Oficial de Desarrollo Sostenible/Sustainable Development Officer, email: tishka.francis@un.org

**D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD)/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, División de Globalización y Estrategias de Desarrollo/Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, email: richard.kozul-wright@un.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- María Alejandra Machicado Terrán, Representante/Representative, Cuba, email: mmachicado@unicef.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Esteban Caballero, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, email: caballero@unfpa.org
- Rafael Cuestas, Representante Adjunto, Coordinador Internacional de Programas/Deputy Representative, International Programme Coordinator, Cuba, email: cuestas@unfpa.org
- Marisol Alfonso, Representante Auxiliar en Cuba/ Assistant Representative in Cuba
- Dixie Edith Trinquete Díaz, Oficial de Comunicaciones, Cuba/Communications Officer, Cuba, email: trinquete@unfpa.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- José Vila del Castillo, Representante Regional para Centroamérica y el Caribe/Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean, email: jose.viladelcastillo@un.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Katyna Argueta, Directora para el País, México/Country Director, Mexico, email: katyna.argueta@undp.org
- Maristela Baioni, Representante Residente Auxiliar (Programa), Brasil/Assistant Resident Representative (Programme), Brazil, email: luisa.chagas@undp.org
- María Soledad Bauzá Salinas, Representante Residente Adjunta/Deputy Resident Representative, Cuba, email: Soledad.bauza@undp.org
- Yaima Doimeadios, Oficial de Coordinación a.i./Coordination Officer a.i., Cuba, email: yaima.doimeadios@one.un.org
- Mario Muñoz, Asesor de Comunicaciones/Adviser on Communications, Cuba, email: mario.munoz@one.un.org
- María Rosa Moreno, Oficial de Monitoreo y Evaluación/Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Cuba

- Mikiko Tanaka, Coordinador Residente y Representante Residente del PNUD/Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Guyana, email: mikiko.tanaka@one.un.org
- Rita Consuelo Vidal Bruce, Coordinadora Residente y Representante Residente del PNUD/Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Cuba, email: consuelo.vidal@one.un.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Andrea Brusco, Coordinadora Regional de Gobernanza Ambiental/Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator, Panamá, email: andrea.brusco@un.org

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Laura Melo, Representante/Representative, Cuba, email: laura.melo@wfp.org

**E. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Gerardina González Marroquín, Directora, Oficina de la OIT para México y Cuba, email: sanchez@ilo.org
- Noemie Sylvia Adeline Feix, Oficial de Empleo, México, email: feix@ilo.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- Julio A. Berdegú, Subdirector Regional, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: julio.berdegue@fao.org
- Marcelo Resende de Souza, Representante en Cuba, email: marcelo.resende@fao.org
- Sheyla Delgado, Consultora de Comunicaciones, email: sheyla.delgadoguerra@fao.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Olga Magdalena Rufins Machin, Oficial Nacional de Programas, email: o.rufins@unesco.org

**Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/
World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**

- Cristián Morales Fuhrmann, Representante en Cuba, email: moralesc@paho.org

Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Joaquín Lozano, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, Rome, email: j.lozano@ifad.org
- Paolo Silveri, Regional Economist, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, email: p.silveri@ifad.org

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Cy Winter, Principal Especialista en Inmigración y Gestión de Fronteras, Ginebra, email: cwinter@iom.int
- Sonia Karakadze Díaz, Oficial de Enlace, Cuba, email: skarakadze@iom.int

F. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations

Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América – Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP)

- David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Secretario Ejecutivo, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: secretaria@alba-tcp.org
- David Mariño, Coordinador del Área Económica, República Bolivariana Venezuela, email: secretaria@alba-tcp.org

Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)/Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- June Soomer, Secretary General, Trinidad y Tabago, email: mail@acs-aec.org
- Patricia Indra Phillip-Boodoosingh, Protocol Officer

Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF)/ Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

- Lucila Berniell, Economista Principal, Argentina, email: mberniell@caf.com

Centro del Sur/South Centre

- Adriano José Timossi, Senior Programme Officer, Ginebra, email: timossi@southcentre.int

Comunidad Andina (CAN)/Andean Community

- José Antonio Arróspide, Director General, Perú, email: jarrospide@comunidadandina.org

Consejo Monetario Centroamericano (CMCA)/Central American Monetary Council

- Domingo Javier González Hidalgo, Secretario, Costa Rica, email: achaves@secmca.org

Foro Económico Mundial/World Economic Forum (WEC)

- Marisol Argueta, Directora para América Latina, email: marisolargueta@yahoo.com

Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Mario Pezzini, Director, Francia, email: mario.pezzini@oecd.org
- José Antonio Ardavín, Jefe de la Unidad para América Latina y el Caribe, Francia, email: jose-antonio.ardvin@oecd.org
- Keiko Álvarez, Policy Analyst, Office of the Director, email: keiko.alvarez@oecd.org

Unión Europea/European Union

- Alberto Navarro, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario ante el Gobierno de Cuba, email: alberto.navarro@eeas.europa.eu
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- Stefano Manservigi, Director General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Bruselas
- Jolita Butkeviciene, Directora para América Latina y el Caribe, Dirección General para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación Internacional, European Commission

G. Invitado de honor
Honour guest

- Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Presidente de los Consejos de Estado y de Ministros de Cuba

H. Invitados especiales
Special guests

- Enrique Iglesias, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: eviglesias@outlook.com
- Gert Rosenthal, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: grosenthal61@hotmail.com
- José Antonio Ocampo, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: ocampo.joseantonio@yahoo.com
- José Luis Machinea, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: joselmachi@gmail.com
- Susana Malcorra, Presidenta de la Undécima Conferencia Ministerial de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), email: susana_malcorra@yahoo.com

I. Organizaciones no gubernamentales
Non-governmental organizations

Asociación Cubana de las Naciones/Cuban United Nations Association

- Fermín Gabriel Quiñones Sánchez, Presidente, Cuba, email: acnu@acnu.org.cu
- Yohanna Cordero, Especialista, Cuba, email: cllanuch@gmail.com
- Azalia Arias, Especialista, Cuba, email: azalia.arias@gmail.com

Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físicos Motores

- Osvaldo Hidalgo Domínguez, Vicepresidente, Cuba, email: presidencia@aclifim.cu

Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal (ACPA)

- María del Carmen Cejas Mejía, Presidenta, email: pres@acpa.co.cu
- Lisette Fernández, Vicepresidenta, email: pres@acpa.co.cu

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

- Gilberto Andrés García Batista, Presidente, email: presidente@apc.rimed.cu

Asociación Médica del Caribe

- Raúl Gonzáles, Presidente, email: ameca@ceniai.inf.cu

Centro del Cambio Global y la Sustentabilidad

- María Zorrilla, Investigadora, México, email: mariazr10@gmail.com

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

- Antonio Santana, Presidente, email: asantana@cic.co.cu

Cubasolar

- Luis Berriz Pérez, Presidente, Cuba, email: berriz@ceniaic.inf.cu
- Lázaro Eliseo Gavilán, Vicepresidente, email: gavilan@cubasolar.cu
- Carmen Campillo, Especialista en Proyectos, email: carmen@cubasolar.cu
- Alois Arencibia Aruca, Especialista en Proyectos, email: arencibia@cubasolar.cu

Cultura Ecológica

- Tomás Severino, Director, México, email: tseverino@culturaecologica.org.mx

Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre

- Liliana Núñez, Presidenta, Cuba, email: presidencia@fanj.cult.cu
- Damary Vilá, Relaciones Internacionales, Cuba, email: relacionesinternacionales@fanj.cult.cu
- Esther Velis, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales, email: esther@fanj.cult.cu

Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos

- Alina Martha Fernández Arias, Especialista, Cuba, email: especialista1@movpaz.cu

Organización de Solidaridad de los Pueblos de África, Asia y América Latina (OSPAAAL)

- Mario Manuel Molina Monteagudo, Funcionario Público, Cuba, email: americalatina.caribe@tricontinental.cu
- José Miguel Hernández, Funcionario Político, Cuba, email: africa.mediooriente@tricontinental.cu
- Lourdes Cervantes, Secretaria General, Cuba, email: jefa.politico@tricontinental.cu

Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora

- Dorotea Louise Wilson Tatham, Coordinadora General, Nicaragua, email: rmafroni@ibw.com.ni
- Maricruz Carrasco, Oficial de Proyecto, Nicaragua, email: comuni@mujeresafro.org
- Altagracia Balcacer, Coordinadora Subregional del Caribe, República Dominicana, email: abalcace@gmail.com

Unión de Informáticos de Cuba

- María Esther Alfonso Suárez, Vicepresidenta Primera, Cuba, email: maria.alfonso@uniondeinformaticos.cu
- Tatiana Delgado, Vicepresidenta, email: tatiana.delgado@uniondeinformaticos.cu

Unión de Mujeres Puertorriqueñas Negras

- Doris Quiñones, Coordinadora, Puerto Rico, email: dgqhdez@gmail.com

J. Universidades y centros académicos
Universities and academia

- Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Director, Centro de América Latina, de la Universidad de Oxford, email: diego.sanchez-ancochea@qeh.ox.ac.uk
- Doris Mercedes Samaniego Navarro, Estudiante Máster en Finanzas, Universidad de La Habana, email: dorism13@hotmail.com
- Guillermo Andrés Alpizar, Investigador, Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Mundial, Cuba, email: guillermo@ciem.cu
- José Ramón López Portillo, Confundador, del Centro de Estudios Mexicanos, de la Universidad de Oxford, email: jrlopezportillo@aol.com
- Leonardo Lomelí, Secretario General, de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), email: llomeliv@unam.mx
- Rolando Cordera Campos, Profesor Emérito, Facultad de Economía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), email: cordera@unam.mx

K. Secretaría Secretariat

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva/Executive Secretary, email: alicia.barcena@cepal.org
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto para Administración y Análisis de Programas/Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis, email: raul.garciabuchaca@cepal.org
- Mario Cimoli, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto Interino/Deputy Executive Secretary a.i., email: mario.cimoli@cepal.org
- Andrea Márquez, Directora, División de Administración/Director, Division of Management
- Pascual Gerstenfeld, Director, División de Estadísticas/Chief, Statistics Division, email: pascual.gerstenfeld@cepal.org
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