



UNITED NATIONS



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.3487
4 June 2012

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

New York, 28 March 2012

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twenty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 March 2012.

Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Spain, United States and Uruguay.

Election of Presiding Officers

3. The Committee of the Whole of ECLAC elected the following Presiding Officers for the twenty-sixth session:

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Brazil
<u>Vice-Chairpersons:</u>	Cuba and Grenada
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mexico

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. Ambassador María Luisa Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, in her capacity as Chair of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole, welcomed the delegations to the meeting and declared the session open. She then recalled that the Committee of the Whole is the meeting of all of the States members of ECLAC, traditionally held at United Nations Headquarters to review progress on the activities of the Commission between sessions. She noted the informational nature of the meeting in a particularly active year for ECLAC, with several meetings of its subsidiary bodies to be held over the coming months and the thirty-fourth session to take place in San Salvador on 27 to 31 August 2012.

C. AGENDA

5. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Election of Presiding Officers
 3. Economic and social overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and outlook for 2012
 4. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2010-2012
 5. Activities conducted by ECLAC in support of intergovernmental agencies and organizations concerned with integration in the region
 6. Thirty-fourth session of ECLAC (San Salvador, 27-31 August 2012)
 7. Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

D. PROCEEDINGS

Economic and social overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and outlook for 2012 (agenda item 3)

6. In her presentation on this item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC expressed her concern over the fragile international economic environment, especially in the euro zone, where growth could be a negative 0.5% in 2012. She said that the developing countries are increasing their weight in the global economy, but they are still not the engine of global growth. She added that economic power is shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from North to South. Overall, economic ties with China and Asia and the Pacific are strengthening, and South-South links are very important. Growth in the developing countries is increasingly dependent on China and India. South-South trade, which has soared (especially since 2007), could surpass North-North trade in 2017. This is a significant trend, as are South-South investment and the role played by trans-Latin and trans-Asian companies.

7. The Executive Secretary said that over the next 10 years, two thirds of the world's middle class will be in the so-called BRICS (Brazil, Russian Federation, India and China) and could well become the centre of global demand because that is where major economic and social transformation is taking place. Current global governance does not reflect the growing relative importance of the emerging economies, and this is a source of strain in global negotiations. She said that the developed economies' share of world GDP has gradually been decreasing and that ECLAC expects that the emerging economies' share of world GDP will grow in 2013-2014. The same will be true of South-South trade, which will surpass North-North trade in 2017.

8. In addressing the question of where Latin America and the Caribbean is today, the Executive Secretary noted that the counties are more prudential in macroeconomic terms than in the past. She stressed that regional growth is slackening but remains above global economic growth. She emphasized that region posted 4.3% growth in 2011 and is expected to grow by an average 3.7% in 2012. The

performance of Latin America and the Caribbean reflects improved terms of trade, especially for commodity- and natural-resource-exporting countries. In most countries, inflation is very low and in the single digits.

9. Latin America and the Caribbean has made great strides in the fight against poverty. From an extremely high poverty index of 48.4% in 1990, the region brought the level down to 30.4% in 2011. The extreme poverty index has fallen to 12.8%. The region has 174 million persons in situations of poverty, of which 73 million are living in extreme poverty. The region has also made substantial inroads against inequality, especially in Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Unemployment has been brought down, and enormous efforts have been made, especially between 2010 and 2012, to step up public investment. For the region to overcome its asymmetries in telecommunications, energy and transport, it should invest an estimated 5.7% of GDP in infrastructure. That is two percentage points above the current level of investment. Another unresolved issue in Latin America is taxation, both the tax burden and the tax structure. And the region has yet to achieve international insertion with the rest of the world.

10. The Executive Secretary emphasized that Latin America and the Caribbean has immense wealth, remarkable assets and abundant natural resources. But its great weakness is its production structure, because the region's economic strategy is based on comparative advantages alone, not on competitive advantages. She noted the need for a development strategy geared more towards export and production platforms that can generate more and better-paid jobs. This calls for production diversification allowing for the creation of clusters with regional and global value chains and improved natural resource governance to make the level of royalties on natural resources much more balanced region-wide. She added that natural resource governance is perhaps one of the most important issues that Latin America and the Caribbean must address in the future if it is to turn this abundance into productivity. She added that the region's biggest unresolved issue is productive convergence: the ties between low-productivity sectors and high-tech ones and those that are already on the technological frontier. ECLAC is working on a document to be presented in El Salvador explaining how to put macroeconomics, macro prices, exchange rates and interest rates at the service of the real economy. The fight for nominal stability should be a fight for real stability, for co-evolution with macroeconomic policies for the sake of much more targeted production development policies that put science and technology higher on the agenda.

11. She said that the region's tax burden, at 18.4%, is low and that part of the problem is the tax structure, which is marked by under-collection and inefficient collection. The region also has to resolve the issue of high tax evasion rates and widespread exemptions. Social expenditure should have a greater redistributive impact on production and investment and in the social sphere. In closing, she stressed that social equality, economic growth and environmental sustainability are not incompatible. But these three pillars must be tackled at the same time, in macroeconomic conditions that mitigate volatility, stimulate productivity and favour inclusion. Growth needs equality; equality needs growth. The consumption of goods and services should be promoted to make it the engine of the economy. It is also important to build human capacities and address inequalities in rights and social benefits so as to attain greater convergence. In addition to jobs, one of the keys is keeping wages high.

12. The delegations from Argentina, Cuba and Mexico then took the floor to thank ECLAC for its support for the countries of the region, and especially for its activities in support of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

13. Ambassador Jorge Valero, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, read his remarks.¹ Ambassador George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, made a statement on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, thanking ECLAC for the work that its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean has done in the subregion, and the work that ECLAC is doing in support of CELAC.²

14. The delegations from Spain and the Republic of Korea acknowledged the crucial role that ECLAC plays in the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2010-2012 and Activities conducted by ECLAC in support of intergovernmental agencies and organizations concerned with integration in the region (agenda items 4 and 5)

15. Pursuant to the suggestion made by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, agenda items 4 and 5 were taken up together.

16. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, Luis Fidel Yáñez, explained the architecture of the intergovernmental system at ECLAC, which includes the following subsidiary bodies of the Commission: Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; Statistical Conference of the Americas ECLAC and its Executive Committee; and the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). He also referred to the work done in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, particularly the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

17. He stressed that in setting the thematic agenda for ECLAC and in its programme of work, the Office of the Secretary benefited from guidance from its member States at various levels, ranging from committees and presiding officers of its subsidiary bodies to sessions of the Committee of the Whole, ECLAC sessions and when ECLAC decisions have been brought to the attention of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. He announced the schedule of intergovernmental meetings of the Commission for 2012. At this point in the agenda, the Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Diane Quarless, took the floor to discuss the upcoming session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), which is to take place in Guyana on 31 May 2012.

18. The Officer-in-Charge of the Commission also informed the governments of the member States of activities in support of meetings and summits, such as the Summit of the Americas, Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, Summit of Heads of State and Government from Latin America and the Caribbean and from the European Union, cooperation with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and, especially, the mandates subsequent to the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in December 2011.

19. Following this presentation, Ambassador Octavio Errázuriz, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, thanked

¹ See Annex 1.

² See Annex 2.

ECLAC for its support, pursuant to its competencies, in fulfillment of the mandates emanating from the Caracas Summit held in December 2011. The text of his comments are in annex 3 hereof.

20. The delegations from Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada and Saint Lucia took the floor to second the statements made by the Representatives of Chile and Guyana and, in general, to reiterate their appreciation for the work done by ECLAC and urge it to step up its support for CELAC. The delegation from the Republic of Korea stressed the importance of integration between regions and highlighted the importance of trade between Asia and Latin America. The representative of the United States praised the region's economic performance and emphasized the key role that the private sector plays in economic growth. He also reiterated his country's commitment to expanding and enhancing economic relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thirty-fourth session of ECLAC (San Salvador, 27-31 August 2012) (agenda item 6)

21. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission reported on the preparations under way with the authorities of El Salvador for holding the most important meeting of ECLAC. He informed the delegates as to the organisation of work for the thirty-fourth session, as well as its objectives.

22. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC then provided an outline of the main document to be presented in San Salvador, focused on structural policy for development.

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (agenda item 7)

23. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division (PPOD) of ECLAC, Raúl García-Buchaca, presented the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 prepared by the Commission during the second half of 2011. He explained that the proposal is based on 13 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes to be implemented with a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach.

24. The proposed strategic framework is built around eight axes of thematic priorities: (a) improve macroeconomic stability and promote policies aimed at reducing the volatility and vulnerability of the region's economies and mitigating the impact of recurrent economic and financial crises; (b) boost the region's access to financing for development and the financial market, and step up efforts to improve the financial architecture at the international, regional and national levels; (c) increase the region's productive potential and narrow the gaps in order to achieve virtuous convergence through innovation and new technologies, including information and communications technologies; (d) improve the region's positioning in the world economy through trade, regional integration and cooperation; (e) promote a social pact between the State, the market and society that makes equality the focal point of development so as to reduce social risks and strengthen gender mainstreaming in public policies; (f) improve sustainable development policies, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation and adaptation, taking into consideration the outcomes of Rio+20 to facilitate their implementation; (g) strengthen public administration to enhance the role of the State in the twenty-first century, which is key to integrated development, in particular through progressive taxation policies; and (h) improve institution-building in relation to the management of global issues, cross-border matters and the provision of public goods at the regional level.

25. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division noted that the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 is grounded in the priorities and agreements emerging from United

Nations conferences and summits, particularly in economic, social and environmental spheres such as the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit and the major regional and subregional summits that have taken place in the region in recent years. He explained that the focus has been on ensuring that the Commission's strategy for mainstreaming the gender perspective is reflected in each and every one of the 13 subprogrammes. He stressed that the general strategy takes special consideration of the emergence of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and that the Office of the Secretary sees as a priority the development of new lines of work in support of CELAC and its *pro tempore* chairs, with whom work is already under way, specifically with the countries of the CELAC troika.

26. The speaker also stressed that the proposal provides for support for the expected outcomes of Rio+20 in June and the need to formalize how ECLAC monitors activities in the sphere of sustainable development. One example is the presentation of the document *Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean 20 years on from the Earth Summit* setting out the regional position of Latin America and the Caribbean in the run-up to Rio+20. He said that they would like to explore several alternatives, including the creation of a potential subsidiary body dedicated to this task. If this proposal is endorsed by the member States it would be submitted for consideration by the plenary session of the Commission at the upcoming session in San Salvador, in August 2012.

27. He also noted the interest of the Office of the Secretary in joining with the member States in exploring the possibility of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development becoming a regional conference on population and development, in view of the growing impact of population and development issues such as ageing, demographic patterns and the demographic dividend on development in the region. He noted that these issues could also be taken up in greater detail during the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.

28. After the presentation of the strategic framework, the delegation from Cuba proposed a new subprogramme geared towards facilitating the support provided by ECLAC to the activities of regional cooperation and integration bodies, making it possible to update the proposed strategic framework in the light of new developments in the region and group those activities that are spread across different subprogrammes. Adding a new subprogramme would also have concrete expression in the approval of potential additional resources for ECLAC once the strategic framework with the new subprogramme included is reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) in June and, subsequently, by the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee). This proposal was welcomed by many of the delegations present, with particularly strong expressions of support from Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile in its capacity as *pro tempore* chair of CELAC, Mexico and Nicaragua.

29. The Executive Secretary then noted that she was receiving this mandate from the countries with a sense of utmost responsibility and urgency and would therefore include a subprogramme 14 in the strategic framework and submit it to CPC for inclusion in the proposed programme of work for the period 2014-2015 that ECLAC will submit at its thirty-fourth session. She said that she would keep the delegations in New York informed of all of the steps taken by the Office of the Secretary to achieve approval at the relevant levels.

30. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting adjourned.

Annex 1

**REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS****REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA
MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
INTERVENCIÓN DEL EMBAJADOR JORGE VALERO
VICEMINISTRO DEL PODER POPULAR PARA LAS RELACIONES EXTERIORES
PARA AMÉRICA DEL NORTE Y REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS.
26º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ PLENARIO DE LA COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA
PARA AMÉRICA LATINA (CEPAL)
66º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS.**

Favor cotejar palabras del orador

NUEVA YORK, 28 DE MARZO DE 2012

Señor Presidente,

La actual crisis del capitalismo no es una crisis cualquiera, es la crisis más importante desde la Gran Depresión del 30. Se expresa, en muchos países, en recortes de la inversión social que provoca un acentuado deterioro de los derechos laborales y sociales (aumento de la edad de las jubilaciones, recorte de las pensiones, disminución del salario, pérdida de viviendas). Concomitantemente aumentan la pobreza, la desigualdad y el desempleo. En muchos países desarrollados se destruye en Estado del Bienestar.

Pero la crisis económica y financiera opera no sólo como una amenaza para los países en desarrollo, sino que también les ofrece oportunidades para atacar las causas estructurales y coyunturales que les impiden lograr la justicia social y el desarrollo.

En nuestro continente se ensanchan las bases para un consenso en torno a políticas públicas que colocan la justicia social en el centro de las políticas de los Estados. Esto ha quedado claramente reflejado en la Declaración que aprobaron los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, en la Cumbre fundacional de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), celebrada en Caracas el pasado 02 y 03 de diciembre.

En América Latina y el Caribe ha aumentado la inversión social, en particular en servicios de educación, salud, pensiones y las transferencias monetarias, así como en proyectos de generación de empleo, nutrición y protección de la familia. Esto ha coadyuvado a la reducción de la pobreza y la desigualdad; a mejorar las condiciones de vida de sectores de la población, y, por consecuencia, ha tenido un impacto positivo sobre el crecimiento del PIB.

Como respuesta a la crisis económica y financieras del capitalismo, los países de América Latina y el Caribe optaron por expandir su gasto público en vez de contraerlo, como lo recomendaban las recetas del neoliberalismo. Dicha expansión permitió mitigar el aumento del desempleo y la vulnerabilidad social.

La Secretaría General de la CEPAL, Alicia Bárcena, nos ha dado buenas noticias sobre la reducción de la pobreza y la desigualdad en nuestra región, en el actual contexto de la actual crisis económica y financiera. Ha indicado, sin embargo, que aún tenemos millones de pobres e indigentes y que son ingentes los desafíos para alcanzar el desarrollo.

La CEPAL ha expresado que no es posible alcanzar el desarrollo si se sigue postergando el reclamo largamente sostenido y postergado a favor de una mayor igualdad. En ese sentido, la CEPAL señala que América Latina y el Caribe "... la desigualdad recorre cinco siglos de discriminación racial, étnica y de género, con ciudadanos de primera y de segunda categoría y la peor distribución del ingreso del mundo". Compartimos plenamente estas aseveraciones.

En América Latina y el Caribe es creciente la convicción de que el Estado juega un papel fundamental para el logro del desarrollo y el bienestar de los pueblos. De igual manera se reconocen las limitaciones de los llamados mercados para alcanzar estos objetivos.

La igualdad social y el crecimiento económico no están, necesariamente, reñidos entre sí. El crecimiento económico *per se* no es el objetivo. Sólo tiene sentido si contribuye a mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población; a alcanzar el desarrollo y a eliminar la pobreza y la desigualdad. Por su parte, la eliminación de la pobreza y la desigualdad generan desarrollo.

La CEPAL ha afirmado, en un estudio que recomiendo denominado *La Hora de la Igualdad*, que es necesario "... crecer para igualar e igualar para crecer". Ha subrayado que "El horizonte a largo plazo es igualdad social, crecimiento económico y sostenibilidad ambiental, movilizand o energía desde el Estado"

En consecuencia -sigo citando la Hora de la Igualdad - "... al Estado le corresponde un rol decisivo en la reversión de la fuerza inercial de la desigualdad que se reproduce en el seno de los mercados y las familias".

A través de un incremento sostenido de la inversión y protección social, de avances e innovaciones en materia de institucionalidad social, y del uso de sistemas de transferencia de ingresos que tiene un claro efecto redistributivo; el Estado puede contribuir a la disminución de las brechas de desigualdad y a la reducción de la pobreza.

Mi país otorga máxima prioridad a la lucha por eliminar la pobreza y superar la desigualdad. El Gobierno Bolivariano ha realizado un aumento sin precedentes en la inversión social, y en la provisión de servicios sociales en las áreas de educación, salud, vivienda, empleo ya alimentación, entre otros, que se reflejan en los indicadores que me permito mencionar:

- La inversión social pasó de 36,2% entre 1986-1998, a 62% entre 1999-2011
- La pobreza se redujo de 43,9% en 1998 a 26,7% en 2011.
- La indígena se redujo de 17,1% en 1998 a 7% en 2011.
- Según el índice de Desarrollo Humano el PNUD, Venezuela pasó de 0,633 en 1998, a 0,735 en 2011.
- El coeficiente Gini de Venezuela pasó de 0,498 en 1999 a 0,394 en 2011, el país menos desigual de América Latina y el Caribe.

Señor Presidente,

La delegación de Venezuela reconoce la excelente asesoría técnica que desde su fundación, y con el aporte de prominentes científicos sociales como Raúl Prebisch y sus continuadores, ha brindado CEPAL en materia de desarrollo, a los países de América Latina y el Caribe.

Felicita a la Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CEPAL, Dra. Alicia Bárcena, por su excelente desempeño al frente de esta institución.

Muchas gracias,

Annex 2

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUYANA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. GEORGE TALBOT
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



**DURING
THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)
NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH 2012
*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to address this Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) namely, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. CARICOM wishes to be associated with the statement delivered by Ambassador Errazuriz, Permanent Representative of Chile, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CARICOM joins colleagues in extending congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the other members of your Bureau from Cuba, Grenada and Mexico respectively, and to wish you well in the execution of your duties.

CARICOM also welcomes the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Ms. Alicia Bárcena, to New York and I wish to register the Group's appreciation for the briefings, which she provides to Latin American and Caribbean delegations whenever she is in town. Her presentation to the Committee of the Whole earlier this morning on the "Economic and Social Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and outlook for 2012" provided a broad overview of the socioeconomic situation of ECLAC Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to acknowledge, on behalf of CARICOM, the presence of Mrs. Diane Quarless, who assumed duties as Director of the ECLAC Sub-Regional Office in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in November 2011, and to convey to her our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure. We have every confidence in her ability to ensure that the priorities of the Caribbean sub-region remain central to the work of ECLAC.

We wish to place on record the high level of importance which CARICOM Member States ascribe to the Sub-regional Office and to ensuring that it is provided with the resources which will enable it to effectively address the concerns of the Member States it services. In this regard, of particular significance are the activities of the Office in relation to its support which it provides in contributing to enhancing the statistical capacity and expertise of Governments in the region; measuring progress towards the achievement of Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); its contribution to the important body of work on the implications of climate change for the vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the sub-region; its activities in support of the Barbados Plan of Action for the sustainable Development of SIDS and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (BPoA) of the Programme of Action for SIDS (MSI) and its activities in relation to natural disaster risk reduction. In this connection, we must also highlight the invaluable work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and its central role in advancing development cooperation within the sub-region. We also acknowledge the importance of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism which is tasked with monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21, BPoA and MSI in the sub-region. However, I believe we would all agree that the success of the CDCC and its Regional Coordinating Mechanism are contingent on the provision of the adequate financial and human resources.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM regards the ECLAC Sub-regional Office in Port-of-Spain as central to the work and presence of the United Nations in the Caribbean and wishes to maintain that it constitutes a mechanism through which such activities can be effectively streamlined and leveraged to the benefit of the peoples throughout the length and breadth of the region. In this connection, we must acknowledge the invaluable support that ECLAC and its Sub-regional office have provided to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as we

have sought to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). This major conference will take place in our region and it is therefore important that the wide-ranging concerns of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are addressed as the international community endeavours to secure a future that is truly sustainable.

Mr. Chairman,

We acknowledge the progress, which we have made in Latin America and the Caribbean in reducing poverty levels and reducing the levels of inequality which have been characteristic of our countries for far too long. However, there remain many social and economic challenges to which we must attend if we are to avoid reversing the gains which we have made in these areas. The size and openness of the small economies in our region continue to undermine our ability to withstand external shocks and have contributed to the fact that recovery from the global financial crisis has been uneven and growth in CARICOM has generally been much slower than that experienced by our Latin American neighbours. In this connection, we welcome the efforts which ECLAC has made in recent years to reflect the variations in economic progress and challenges within the Latin American and Caribbean group of countries and look forward to continuing to engage with ECLAC to ensure that accurate, up-to-date data continue to be available on the sub-region in publications, as well as in presentations on Latin America and the Caribbean broadly speaking. Undoubtedly, the Sub-regional office in Port-of-Spain has a central role to play in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The Member States of CARICOM look forward to attending and actively participating in two very important meetings which will take place in Guyana at the end of May. Indeed, we welcome the convening of the second Caribbean Development Roundtable, on 3th May 2012, and wish to acknowledge its importance as a forum through which we are able to exchange views on the most pressing development issues with which the Caribbean is confronted and endeavour to find appropriate policy solutions to these challenges. We also look forward to actively participating in the meeting of the CDCC which will take place on **31st** May 2012.

The Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission, which will take place in San Salvador, El Salvador, in August of this year will provide another invaluable opportunity for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to meet to exchange perspectives. You can be assured,

Mr.

Chairman, that CARICOM delegations will be well represented at that meeting. In closing, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM wishes to reiterate its support for ECLAC and to underscore its readiness to lend its voice to ensure that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its sub-regional offices are provided with the level of support needed within the context of the UN system, particularly in the face of the budgetary and other challenges which are being faced by the UN's development pillar.

I thank you.

Annex 3

REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS *PRO TEMPORE* CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR OCTAVIO ERRAZURIZ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
New York, 28-29 March 2012

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (ECLAC) at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

On behalf of the Community which I represent, we congratulate the Brazilian Chairperson, the Cuban and Grenadian Vice-Chairpersons and the Mexican Rapporteur for this session, wishing them every success in the performance of their functions.

Our congratulations also go to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Ms Alicia Bárcena, and her staff, for her dedication and continuous support to our region.

Madam Chair,

CELAC members wish to express its for the support and cooperation ECLAC is providing, within the scope of its competences, for the development and consolidation of the CELAC mandates as established at its Caracas Summit in order to advance in the political, economic, social and cultural integration process, which is a long standing and fundamental aspiration of the CELAC's member states peoples

The commission has been recognized as a decisive factor in the analysis of the main items of the Latin America and the Caribbean agenda, both by enabling our region to follow the international agenda and, especially, by organizing numerous discussions at the regional level.

ECLAC has provided valuable assistance on a wide variety of issues of high regional interest, such as the international financial crisis and the new financial architecture, complementary and cooperation between regional and subregional integration mechanisms, the study of patterns of direct investment flows to the countries of the region so as to take advantage of interregional trade agreements designed to promote intraregional investment, physical integration infrastructure, telecommunications and border integration.

In all these areas, ECLAC, at the request of CELAC, is providing support, professional and technical, for the development and implementation of the CELAC mandates.

Madam Chair,

In particular, CELAC would like to highlight the valuable support provided by ECLAC in the preparation of the first CELAC-European Union Summit, to be held in Santiago de Chile, January 2013, with the theme “Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Social and Environmental Quality Investments” At this Summit, ECLAC will help with the preparation of specific studies on issues related to the Summit’s main focus.

In this context ECLAC will organize a preparatory seminar for the CELAC-EU Summit, on “Quality Investment for Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability: an opportunity to renew and strengthen the relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean”, to be held in Santiago, next October 2012.

On the other hand, ECLAC is one of the Strategic Partners in the EULAC Foundation, which begun its operations in November last year in Hamburg, Germany ECLAC participation in the EU-LAC Foundation will focus on the topic “Investment, employment and income distribution” which coincidentally echoes the main item adopted for the Summit of Heads of State and Government in January 2013. The other regional Strategic Partner is the FUNGLODE Foundation, based in the Dominican Republic.

Madame Chair,

By concluding, allow me to reiterate our sincere appreciation for the technical, professional and logistical support given by ECLAC and its distinguished Executive Secretary, Mrs, Alicia Bárcena, to our forum and its members States, according to the guidelines and mandates of the Caracas CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government Summit.

Thank you.

Anexo 4

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

ALEMANIA/GERMANY

Representante/Representative:

- Felix Probst, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

- John Ashe, Ambassador, Permanent Mission Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations

Representante/Representative:

- Tumasie Blair, Third Secretary, Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission to the United Nations

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- Eduardo Porretti, Consejero, Misión Permanente de la Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas

BAHAMAS

Representante/Representative:

- Paulette Bethel, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Sasha Dixon, Attaché, Bahamas Permanent Mission to the United Nations

BARBADOS

Representante/Representative:

- Joseph Goddart, Ambassador, Permanent Mission Representative to the United Nations

BELICE/BELIZE

Representante/Representative:

- Janine Coye Felson, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations

BRASIL/BRAZIL

Representante/Representative:

- Leonardo Enge, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente del Brasil ante las Naciones Unidas

CANADÁ/CANADA

Representante/Representative:

- Guillermo Rishchynski, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

CHILE

Representante/Representative:

- Octavio Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

- Nestor Osorio, Embajador, Representante Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Camilo Ruíz, Embajador Alterno, Misión Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas

COSTA RICA

Representante/Representative:

- Linyi Baidal, Ministra Consejera, Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Catalina Crespo, Asesora Agregada, Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

CUBA

Representante/Representative:

- Pedro Núñez Mosquera, Embajador, Representante Permanente de Cuba ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Nadeska Navarro, Primera Secretaria, Misión Permanente de Cuba ante las Naciones Unidas

DOMINICA

Representante/Representative:

- Vince Henderson, Permanent Representative of Dominica to the United Nations

ECUADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Diego Morejón, Embajador, Representante Permanente del Ecuador ante las Naciones Unidas

EL SALVADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Carla Arias Orozco, Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente de El Salvador ante las Naciones Unidas

ESPAÑA/SPAIN

Representante/Representative:

- F. Javier Sanabria, Encargado de Negocios a.i., Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Fernando Fernández-Arias, Ministro Consejero, Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas
- M. Victoria González Román, Ministra Consejera, Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas
- Andrea González de Echavarri Fraile, Asesora, Misión Permanente de España ante las Naciones Unidas

ESTADOS UNIDOS/UNITED STATES

Representante/Representative:

- Joshua Khan, Adviser, United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Hugh Dugan, Delegate, United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations

FRANCIA/FRANCE

Representante/Representative:

- Marie Houdart, Attachée, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

GRANADA/GRENADA

Representante/Representative:

- Dessima Williams, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

GUATEMALA

Representante/Representative:

- José Briz, Representante Permanente Alterno, Misión Permanente de Guatemala ante las Naciones Unidas

GUYANA

Representante/Representative:

- George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Troy Torrington, First Secretary, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations

HAITÍ/HAITI

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Jean Claudy Pierre, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations

HONDURAS

Representante:

- José Francisco Corrales Agüero, Consejero, Misión Permanente de Honduras ante las Naciones Unidas

JAMAICA

Representante/Representative:

- Raymond Wolfe, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Angella V. Comfort, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
- Farrah Brown, Counselor, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations

JAPÓN/JAPAN

Representante/Representative:

- Tomoko, Onishi, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente del Japón ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Katsuhiko Takahashi, Ministro, Misión Permanente del Japón ante las Naciones Unidas

MÉXICO/MEXICO

Representante/Representative:

- Luis Alfonso de Alba, Representante Permanente, Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Sara Luna, Delegada, Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas

NICARAGUA

Representante/Representative:

- María Rubiales de Chamorro, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Danilo Rosales Díaz, Representante Permanente Alterno, Misión Permanente de Nicaragua ante las Naciones Unidas

PANAMÁ/PANAMA

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Alberto Alemán, Consejero, Misión Permanente de Panamá ante las Naciones Unidas

PERÚ/PERURepresentante/Representative:

- Enrique Román Morey, Representante Permanente del Perú ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Alfredo Chuquihuara, Representante Alterno del Perú ante las Naciones Unidas
- Milagros Miranda, Consejera, Misión Permanente del Perú ante las Naciones Unidas

REPÚBLICA DE COREA/REPUBLIC OF KOREARepresentante/Representative:

- Kyng-hoon Sul, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- Kim Sook, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Shin Seung-ki, Director, Latin American and the Caribbean Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Yong Koo Kang, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- Ayoun Lim, Second Secretary, Latin American and the Caribbean Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLICRepresentante/Representative:

- Virgilio Alcántara, Representante Permanente, Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Luis Lithgow, Embajador Alterno, Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante las Naciones Unidas

SANTA LUCÍA/SAINT LUCIARepresentante/Representative:

- Donatus K. St. Aimee, Embajador, Misión Permanente de Santa Lucía ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Maria Jean Baptiste, Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente de Santa Lucía ante las Naciones Unidas

URUGUAYRepresentante/Representative:

- José Luis Cancela, Representante Permanente del Uruguay ante las Naciones Unidas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Natalia Novoa, Primera Secretaria, Misión Permanente del Uruguay ante las Naciones Unidas

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

Representante/Representative:

- Jorge Valero, Representante Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante las Naciones Unidas

**B. 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
- Luis Yáñez, Oficial a cargo, Secretaría de la Comisión/Officer in Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Director de la División de Planificación de Programas y Operaciones/Chief, Programme Planning and Operations Division
- Diane Quarless, Directora de la sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/Chief, ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean