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**REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE,  
INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 9-10 June 2014

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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

### Place and date of the meeting

1. The first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC pursuant to resolution 672(XXXIV), was held in Santiago on 9 and 10 June 2014.

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain and Uruguay.

3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

4. Representatives of cooperation agencies, programmes, non-governmental organizations and private-sector bodies, whose names appear in the list of participants, also participated as observers.

### Organization of the meeting

5. The meeting took the form of three panel discussions.

### Election of the Executive Committee and adoption of the agenda

6. The following members were elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the ECLAC Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies:

<u>Chair:</u>	Chile
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Argentina
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
	Brazil
	Colombia
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Ecuador
	Guatemala
	Mexico
	Nicaragua
	Peru
	Uruguay

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 2.

7. The Conference adopted the following agenda:
1. Election of the Executive Committee
  2. Adoption of the agenda
  3. Report on the progress of regional cooperation projects on science, innovation and information and communications technologies agreed upon in the framework of the Ministerial Meeting on “Innovation and Structural Change in Latin America and the Caribbean: strategies for inclusive regional development” (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-18 June 2013):
    - Telemedicine
    - Assistive technologies
    - Additive manufacturing
    - Reverse chain for electronic and electrical devices
    - Wind and photovoltaic solar energies in distributed generation
  4. Proposed lines of action for establishing a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2015-2016 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies
  5. Other matters
  6. Adoption of agreements

## **B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **Inaugural session**

8. At the inaugural session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Hernando Muñoz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile.

9. The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and noted that setting up the Conference had been one of the most important decisions taken by the ECLAC member States, forming part of the “trilogy of equality”, given that the region’s innovation, science and technology gap, as evidenced by its structural heterogeneity, needed to be closed if it wished to achieve equality. She added that the purpose of the Conference was for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss science, technology and innovation policy and how to make progress in this field in a region that continued to import technology. The Conference could help convince governments of the need for greater investment and an integrated approach to science and technology that would secure comparative advantages for the region and serve as the basis for new proactive industrial policies and underpin social well-being. Latin America and the Caribbean needed to have a voice in these matters, as the countries of the region did not wish to stand idly by as spectators, but to be active participants in effecting technological change.

10. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile then took the floor. He alluded to the moderate rates of growth and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, despite the international economic crisis. Several structural problems, however, remained, such as a low level of investment in science and technology that continued to be below the global average. In that connection, he stressed the need to increase investment in research and development, make effective industrial policies that maintained the State's role as a catalyst and to step up cooperation between the public sector, the business world and academia with a view to ensuring sustainable and equitable development in the region. He added that this was a task that countries could not undertake in isolation, and integration between them was required for the region to position itself in global research and development networks. He hoped that the Conference would help create a regional science and technology agenda that would facilitate training for its human resources. Lastly, he proposed that the need for regional financing mechanisms to foster innovation in science and technology should be discussed.

### **Opening session**

11. The opening session, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for inclusive development", was then held. Guido Girardi, Chair of the Commission on Future Challenges of the Senate of Chile, and Katia Trusich, Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Development and Tourism of Chile, took part.

12. The Chair of the Commission on Future Challenges of the Senate of Chile began his presentation by stating that humanity would have to face up to profound changes in the twenty-first century, adding that linear thinking was in crisis because it could not explain the processes currently under way. He warned that it was becoming a century without governance, in which science was being excluded from public policymaking and no determined action was being taken to address issues such as the end of the age of oil, climate change, nanotechnology, symbiosis between man and machine and the content economy. He stressed that the major challenge of the current era was to open up access to science in order to build a more meritocratic society and go beyond the rentier approach to natural resources. He called for science and technology to be included at every stage of the education system and for increased budgets in this area. He noted that the Senate of Chile had set up a "Future Challenges" standing committee that brought together not only parliamentarians but also figures from universities, civil society and academia at large, as a forum for ongoing debate to drive the legislative process forward. He finished by stating that science could be a vehicle for integration and regional cooperation.

13. The Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Development and Tourism of Chile then took the floor. After giving thanks for the invitation to attend, she stated that Chile's growth in recent years had been based on its natural resources, together with a period of trade liberalization, institutional strengthening, sound macroeconomic management and a deepening of the financial markets. This had led to sustained growth of around 5% of GDP over the past 25 years and had made Chile a model for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the country had not been able to increase the sophistication of its exports and lagged behind in terms of skilled labour and productivity and had limited innovation capacity and low levels of public and private-sector spending on research and development (R&D). She also warned that GDP was concentrated in the mining regions, widening the economic gap with regions with a lower volume of natural resources exports, which were therefore poorer, giving rise to a North-South dynamic and depriving Chile of social capital. Chile was working to establish an agenda for productivity, innovation, growth and production diversification, which presented great economic potential and was expected to boost productivity and exports. A budget of US\$ 1.5 billion had been set aside for the agenda, which would cover business innovation, public

innovation and a public-private social innovation programme. The programme aimed to support entrepreneurship, develop a more inclusive, fairer economy and improve people's quality of life.

14. Clélio Campolina, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil, then gave a lecture entitled "Regional integration and scientific and technological development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

15. The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil reflected on the crisis and changes in the world order, the technology race, the sixth Kondratieff cycle, the limited nature of Latin American integration and the role of cooperation in education, science, technology and innovation, as well as a summary of Brazil's policy on education, science and technology. He stressed that science and technology policies should focus on promoting growth, competitiveness and the well-being of humankind, adding that without science there would be no future. He gave a warning on the growing presence of China in the world economy and manufacturing exports, highlighting its commitment to the production of scientific assets. He then explained the concept of Kondratieff cycles, explaining that the sixth such cycle was under way, consisting of information and communications technology (ICT), nanotechnology, biotechnology, genetic engineering and new energy sources. He believed that the door was open for the region to take advantage of this new cycle, but it first had to improve its low level of integration and economic complementarities. He finished by stressing the importance of education policies for science, technology and innovation and their role in creating opportunities for deepening the academic, scientific and technological relations between the countries of the region.

16. The panel on innovation, growth and regional cooperation was moderated by María Elena Boisier, interim Chair of the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) of Chile. The panellists were René Ramírez Gallegos, Secretary for Higher Education, Science and Technology of Ecuador, Ruth Ladenheim, Secretary of Planning and Policy on Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina, Danilo Alonso Mederos, Vice-Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, and Denise Saint-Jean, Director of the Programme on Advanced Human Capital Training at CONICYT of Chile.

17. The panellists stressed the importance of cooperation on intellectual property, reviewing arrangements for the regional accreditation of universities and fostering the establishment of a development bank to finance research projects on biodiversity and bio-knowledge. Discussions also focused on whether it was necessary not only to increase the size of the labour force but also to improve its quality. It was pointed out that human resources could be directed towards strengthening the production sector—which necessitated establishing an active dialogue with universities—and expanding research capabilities at State and local levels. The possibility of promoting regional centres for science, technology and innovation was discussed and the need to open up access to science, via lifelong learning and mutually reinforcing links between education and science and technology, was stressed. Challenges in the field of human resources included the requirement to focus efforts on areas of common interest and to tackle the brain drain and gaps in access to ICT. Calls were also made to address shortcomings in the teaching of English and to step up collaboration between national human resources training programmes.

18. After the lunch break, the panel on opportunities for collaboration on technological innovation was held. It was moderated by Gonzalo Rivas, Chair of the National Council for Competitiveness Innovation (CNIC) of Chile. The panellists were Luis Lima, Presiding Minister of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Paraguay, Allan Ruiz, Vice-Minister of Telecommunications of Costa Rica, Omar Barreneche, Executive Secretary of the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) of Uruguay, Patricio Aguilera, Manager of Innova, Production Development Corporation

(CORFO) of Chile, Jesús Arturo Borja, Director of International Evaluation and Cooperation of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico and Marita Brömmelmeier, Chief of the Economy and Employment Division of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

19. The panel highlighted the following areas for potential collaboration in technological innovation: promoting business incubators, venture capital provision, teacher and student mobility, incentives for research networks, exchanges between reviewers, establishing industry outreach centres, promoting tax exemptions, launching risk-pooling programmes on technological innovations and setting common regulatory standards. It was also pointed out that innovation concerned many areas of the public sector, and the value of partnerships between government, business and academia was therefore stressed. The public sector could contribute both by fostering innovation policies but also by incorporating innovation into its internal processes by means of eGovernment, thus bringing transparency and accountability. Cultural barriers to innovative thinking and the need for targeted policies to accelerate technological development and for unwavering political support constituted some of the challenges in this area. The importance of benchmarking was stressed in promoting healthy competition and exchanges of experiences and in setting up clusters linking companies with research institutes and education institutions. Lastly, it was pointed out that regional intervention should be complementary to efforts made at the national and private-sector level.

20. The panel on institutional frameworks for regional cooperation was then held. It was moderated by Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC and the participants were Gerson Gomes, Director of the Centre for Strategic Management and Studies (CGEE) of Brazil, Gonzalo Arenas, Director of International Relations of CONICYT of Chile, Álvaro Atilano Senior Executive of the Office of the Vice-President for Energy of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Pablo Angelelli, Senior Specialist of the Competitiveness and Innovation Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Ben Petrazzini, Senior Programme Specialist of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and Annalisa Primi, Senior Economist of the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

21. The topics discussed by the panellists included the importance of undertaking work at the micro level on science and technology. It was noted that several regional cooperation initiatives were under way on science, technology and innovation, with various different action plans and monitoring mechanisms. There was therefore a need for synergies and joint coordination bodies so as to make more efficient use of resources. One area of cooperation in which more needed to be done was financing, and the will to cooperate, both now and into the future, had to be reaffirmed. Emphasis was placed on the need to set up scientific and academic networks supported by ICTs, to address issues in the long term by setting ambitious targets and making high-level commitments and to foster close collaboration with the production sector. Lastly, support for the School for Policymakers in Science, Technology and Innovation was reiterated, and held up as a central challenge in helping the region move forward.

Report on the progress of regional cooperation projects on science, innovation and information and communications technologies agreed upon in the framework of the Ministerial Meeting on “Innovation and Structural Change in Latin America and the Caribbean: strategies for inclusive regional development” (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-18 June 2013) (agenda item 3)

22. Ione Egler, Consultant of the Centre for Strategic Management and Studies (CGEE) of Brazil then gave a presentation on production integration in Latin America by means of regional projects on science, technology and innovation. The aim of the programme had been to identify R&D and infrastructure facilities, together with productive and institutional capacities with a view to running integration projects for

the economic, social, technological and environmental development of the region. The fields selected in the first stage were assisted technology, additive manufacturing (3D printing), recycling of electrical and electronic waste, telemedicine and technological development in non-conventional renewable energies. She then gave details of the background, objectives and the expected outcomes and impact of the programme, the participating countries and the estimated costs of its initiatives. Future activities would include holding thematic meetings with the focal points of the partner countries, coordination activities with funding agencies and the drawing up of profiles for projects in new fields selected by the ministers of science, technology and innovation. She concluded her presentation with a schedule of activities for 2014 and a rundown of the focal points for the various topics in each country.

Proposed lines of action for establishing a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2015-2016 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies (agenda item 4)

23. The participants of the first session of the ECLAC Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies examined the document *Proposed lines of action for establishing the 2015-2016 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in science, innovation and information and communications technologies.*<sup>2</sup>

Adoption of agreements (agenda item 6)

24. The representatives of the countries participating in the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC adopted the Santiago Declaration, which has been attached as annex 1.

### **Closing session**

25. In the closing session, statements were made by Gabriel Rodríguez, Director for Energy, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Chile, and Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC.

26. The Director for Energy, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Chile stressed the need for the region to build a critical mass if it wished to be an influential player at global level in the field of science, technology and innovation, adding that it was the responsibility of the participants to ensure that these issues figured on the political agendas of their countries. The Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC then thanked both the delegates for attending and the Government of Chile for supporting the Conference.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/L.3830.



## Annex 1

**SANTIAGO DECLARATION**

We, the representatives of the national agencies for science, technology and innovation of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago on 9 and 10 June 2014 for the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Recalling* resolution 672(XXXIV) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at its thirty-fourth session, by which the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies was established as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

*Recalling also* United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/235, of July 1992, by virtue of which the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was established as part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

*Bearing in mind* the Rio de Janeiro Declaration, adopted during the Meeting of Ministers “Innovation and Structural Change in Latin America and the Caribbean: strategies for inclusive regional development”, held in June 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

*Recalling* the Declaration adopted at the first Meeting of Ministers of Education of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana in February 2013,

*Recalling also* the Declaration adopted at the second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana in January 2014,

*Recalling further* the San José Declaration on Human Talent in Science, Technology and Innovation for the Competitiveness of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, adopted at the second Meeting of Senior Officials on Science and Technology of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in April 2014 in San José,

*Recalling likewise* the Montevideo Declaration and the Plan of Work 2013-2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in April 2013,

*Recalling furthermore* the agreements established in the Santo Domingo Consensus, adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in October 2013,

*Mindful* of the challenges presented by a sustainable expansion and investment process in the region as part of an inclusive social policy agenda, and of the requirements for new production capacities based on scientific and technological knowledge and innovation, taking into account the processes of innovative creation and innovative entrepreneurship alike,

*Mindful also* of the significance of science, technology and innovation in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and their relationship with inclusive and sustainable development,

*Declare:*

Our conviction that science, technology, innovation and information and communications technologies are paramount for addressing the challenges faced by the region in terms of structural change, development with inclusion, social equality and environmental sustainability;

Our conviction that regional cooperation is crucial for improving and promoting public policies on science, innovation and information and communications technologies, through a process of learning, sharing of experiences, and the setting out of common principles;

Our commitment to move forward in the process of an effective policy dialogue on science, innovation and information and communications technologies that promotes synergies, avoids the duplication of effort, and enables the targeting of resources at common priorities. To this end, the Executive Committee is urged to undertake the necessary actions for the fulfilment of this objective. Furthermore, the countries participating in this session are invited to pursue this dialogue at the ministerial meeting on science, technology and innovation, to be held in Puebla, Mexico, on 28 November 2014 within the framework of the twenty-fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government;

Our commitment to work on regional activities and projects in the areas of science, technology and innovation, within the framework of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with special attention to human resources training, sustainable technological innovation, information and communications technologies for science, research and innovation, and regional institutions;

Our commitment to bolster the presence of Latin American and Caribbean countries in global debates regarding policies on science, innovation and information and communications technologies, encouraging the active and coordinated participation of the countries, while also coordinating with other organizations and forums;

*Resolve:*

1. To promote policies on science, innovation and information and communications technologies in response to the challenges faced by the region in terms of structural change, development with inclusion, social equality and environmental sustainability;

2. To foster regional cooperation and dialogue in respect of science, innovation and information and communications technologies, within the framework of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting coordination with other regional, subregional, bilateral and multilateral forums;

3. To favour complementarities between innovation systems and education systems, in order to meet the social demands of the production apparatus and to establish long-term policies on science, innovation and information and communications technologies;

4. To support cooperation within the framework of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in order to work on regional activities and projects in the field of human resources training, technological innovation, information and communications technologies for science, research and innovation, and regional institutions;

5. To work together to ensure that the issues of science, technology and innovation are covered in the post-2015 development agenda with a view to increasing investment in areas such as human resources training, research, the implementation of innovation policies and the establishment of a regulatory framework for new technologies;

6. To incorporate the agreements of the Santo Domingo Consensus, adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially those referring to the issues covered by this Conference, such as the full integration of women in the world of science, innovation and information and communications technologies and the reduction of the gender digital divide;

7. To foster, within the framework of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the responsible use of telecommunications networks, services and applications in order to create a climate of security and trust that will promote peaceful relations and international cooperation between member States as indispensable elements for building a culture of peace, strengthening democracy and boosting development in the region;

8. To take note of the Proposed lines of action for establishing the 2015-2016 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in science, innovation and information and communications technologies,<sup>3</sup> presented by the Commission in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference and to urge the Executive Committee to consider the contributions presented by member States at the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Commission;

9. To welcome the establishment of the Executive Committee of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, comprising Chile as Chair and Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs;

10. To thank the Government of Chile for convening and organizing the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. To recognize the work of the Commission in organizing this event, and to request its collaboration in the continuation of this process, within the framework of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies;

12. To request the Government of Chile and the secretariat of the Commission, as the organizers of this first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to define in the second half of 2014 a regional cooperation agenda for submission to the Executive Committee with a view to the convening of the next meeting in the framework of the Conference.

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<sup>3</sup> LC/L.3830.

## Annex 2

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Estados miembros de la Comisión  
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## CHILE

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