



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Distr.  
LIMITED  
LC/L.3940  
8 January 2015  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Antigua, Guatemala, 19-20 June 2014

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) held their twenty-fourth meeting on 19 and 20 June in Antigua (Guatemala).

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

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, and Trinidad and Tobago.

3. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in Brasilia on 22 November 2013, were as follows:

Co-chairs:	Ecuador and Guatemala
Members:	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago
Host country:	Chile

## **B. AGENDA**

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES.
2. Towards a regional planning agenda that takes into account the prospective post-2015 development agenda.
3. Review of the ILPES report of activities and programme of work, 2014.
4. Constitution of the Ad Hoc Working Group Established Pursuant to Resolution CRP/XIV/02.
5. Consideration and adoption of the agreements of the Presiding Officers.

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete list of participants, see annex 2.

## C. PROCEEDINGS

### Opening session

5. At the opening session, statements were made by Ekaterina Parrilla, Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES, and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

6. The Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala welcomed the participants and said that the purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the Regional Council for Planning as a political forum in order to move forward with a development planning agenda in the region, with a long-term perspective and participation by civil society. This also meant strengthening real coordination among the different subregional cooperation forums and planning authorities in the region.

7. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC recalled the twenty-fourth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, held in Brasilia in November 2013. On that occasion, support had been expressed for the medium-term strategy of ILPES, geared towards strengthening the regional dimension of development planning and promoting Latin American and Caribbean thinking on the subject. The Presiding Officers' main purpose at the present meeting was to discuss a programme of work<sup>2</sup> and agree upon a joint vision of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean and strengthen the Council as a regional institution specializing in that area.

#### Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

8. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

#### Towards a regional planning agenda that takes into account the prospective post-2015 development agenda (agenda item 2)

9. The Chief of ILPES presented the proposal "Towards a regional planning agenda that takes into account the prospective post-2015 development",<sup>3</sup> prepared by the Institute. The proposal sought to strengthen the role of the Regional Council for Planning as a permanent forum for dialogue, consultation and exchange between the planning authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to consolidate the impact of planning on the region's public policy agenda.

10. He then explained that the proposal would give rise to three complementary products: a programme of work, a publication on the status of and prospects for regional development planning in the region, and a repository of development plans. The programme of work would be carried out jointly by planning authorities and ILPES on the basis of common development planning objectives (poverty eradication, reduction of inequalities, sustainable development, regional information systems, among others). The publication on the status of and prospects for regional development planning in the region would contain a diagnostic analysis of the common elements of the development plans of the countries, as well as a comparative analysis of these plans, identifying methodologies, tools, best practices and lessons

<sup>2</sup> In the discussion the term "plan of action", was used, but it is proposed to use "programme of work". This terminology will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers.

<sup>3</sup> LC/L.3834(MDCRP.24/3).

learned in planning processes. It would also examine the challenges and standards for the construction of a regional agenda for development planning, taking into account discussions and agreements on the post-2015 development agenda. The repository of development plans would have smart search and analysis systems for compiling information on common development objectives and available instruments, and for furnishing a system that would serve to monitor the objectives pursued in planning tools.

11. During the subsequent discussion, the representative of Colombia said that the proposal reflected the concerns the region had raised and offered Colombia's support for the tasks envisaged. She also invited all the countries to take part in the event the Government of Colombia was organizing to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the national system for evaluation of public management results (SINERGIA). She also expressed her Government's willingness to organize internships in planning and public administration, as a way to strengthen horizontal cooperation and advance the practice of planning in the region. The representative of Guatemala said that his country would be interested in being one of the case studies for the analysis of regional development planning status and prospects to be prepared by ILPES. Guatemala's experience in terms of land use planning could be of interest for the study, because of its system for classifying municipal performance, among other reasons. With respect to the programme of work, he requested information on the timing and proposed that specific results should be required within established deadlines. He also requested that the publication include a section with proposals. The representative of Ecuador emphasized the need for rapid action on building the post-2015 development agenda and said that the goals proposed should be set high (rather than as thresholds) with ambitious targets. The diagnostic analysis should explicitly consider the region's heterogeneous management models, with a view to public policymaking for creative solutions on issues such as the new financial architecture, liquidity recycling and the formation of regional value chains. The repository should be the start of an information system on planning in the region, capable of carrying data and knowledge in a dynamic manner. The representative of Argentina expressed satisfaction with the programme of work and referred to the importance of analysing real planning processes, including dispute settlement on issues such as local management of natural resources, for example. The representative of Chile noted that the analysis should include a review of the current status regarding public management.

12. During a second round of statements, the representative of Brazil said that his country had developed a repository of sectoral, state and municipal plans, which it was pleased to make available to ILPES and the member countries. It was necessary, he said, to look for ways to integrate existing repositories and suggested 2040 as a time horizon for building a joint regional vision.<sup>4</sup> The representative of the Dominican Republic enquired into the priorities for tackling planning challenges in the region and asked ILPES to look into what conditions would be needed to make planning functional and effective. The representative of Paraguay said that the repository should not be static, but should offer a view of the history and evolution of the subject. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago supported the idea of depositing planning tools in a regional repository to safeguard continuity vis-à-vis political changes. She also suggested including applied public policy research as a tool for driving change.

#### Review of the ILPES report of activities and programme of work, 2014 (agenda item 3)

13. The Chief of ILPES referred to the 2014 report on the Institute's programme of work<sup>5</sup> prepared by the secretariat. He recalled the document distributed at the meeting of the Council in November 2013, described the strategic areas of work and the list of activities updated to May 2014, and presented the programme of activities for the rest of the year.

<sup>4</sup> During a later discussion, a date of around 2035 was proposed.

<sup>5</sup> LC/L.3839(MDCRP.24/5).

14. During the discussion, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed an interest in having ILPEs publications cover the English-speaking Caribbean countries and offered to host courses in English in Trinidad. The representative of the Dominican Republic pointed to the need to develop capacity-building for stakeholders involved in land-use planning, as well as for central government staff.

15. The Chief of ILPES indicated that the Institute's work at the subnational level was always conducted at the request of, jointly with, or authorized by the national government. The secretariat explained the criteria for ILPES to undertake work at the local level and suggested that the Presiding Officers discuss this point, in order to identify common criteria for ILPES collaboration with subnational entities.

16. In reference to the discussion on work by ILPES at the local level, the delegate of Argentina said that it was important for the Institute to be aware of the diverse situations on the ground in the region, to make sure that its handbooks would reflect the variety of problems that existed. She called upon ILPES to continue working in different areas at the local level and on the countries to share their experiences and prepare initiatives for social and territorial inclusion. The representative of Brazil referred to the challenge of making public policies cater to very different territories and recommended distance education as a tool. The representative of the Dominican Republic suggested a mechanism to enable countries to share their experiences on local development. In relation to the Commission's *Handbook for Disaster Assessment*,<sup>6</sup> he said that assessing the impact of natural disasters was very important to his country and asked about the possibility of skills transfer in that area. The representative of Ecuador agreed on the importance of ILPES working at the local level, and asked the Institute to prepare a strategy proposal to support national planning bodies in their work with local authorities. The representative of Colombia recalled that the Institute's resources were limited and had to be directed towards strategic priorities, which might not always include local activities. The representative of Guatemala suggested that cascade training methods could usefully be employed. Lastly, the representatives expressed thanks for the report on the activities carried out and took note of the initiatives scheduled.

Constitution of the Ad Hoc Working Group Established Pursuant to Resolution CRP/XIV/02  
(agenda item 4)

17. The Chief of ILPES briefly presented the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group Established Pursuant to Resolution CRP/XIV/02, as set forth in the document LC/L.3835 (MDCRP.24/4). He explained that the Institute had four main sources of financing: an allocation from the regular budget of ECLAC, established in 1974; the Regular System of Government Financing set up in 1983; the mobilization of earmarked international technical cooperation funds; and, lastly, the matriculation fees paid by participants in training courses. He then recalled the medium-term strategic proposal for ILPES presented at the fourteenth meeting of the Council in November 2013 and suggested that the Institute needed an adequate financing framework. In this regard, this was the time for the Presiding Officers to set up a working group to analyse the strategy for financing the Institute and to prepare proposals for the Council to consider.

18. The representative of Guatemala enquired about the number of members of the working group and its profile, and suggested that the co-chairs should spearhead the activities. The representative of Colombia expressed her country's interest in participating in the working group and suggested the use of videoconferences. The representative of the Dominican Republic also expressed his country's interest in serving as a member of the group. The representative of Ecuador underscored the importance of strengthening the Regional Council for Planning and ILPES and suggested making that a goal in the terms of reference. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that her country would also be willing to

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<sup>6</sup> LC/L.3691.

participate in the working group and drew attention to the differences in fiscal years between countries, which affected the possibility of making contributions. She also suggested that gross domestic product should not be used as the sole basis on which to establish contributions. The representative of Guatemala asked how the group's work could be expedited, while the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Colombia proposed that the working group's membership should not exceed five countries.

19. The secretariat emphasized that legitimacy was a key principle in the creation of new institutionality and that the purpose was to endow the Council and ILPES with a solid financial framework for the long term.

20. Lastly, the representatives agreed to establish an ad hoc working group and requested ILPES to prepare a financing strategy proposal to be considered by the working group in the second half of 2014.

#### Consideration and adoption of the agreements of the Presiding Officers (agenda item 5)

21. The representatives adopted the agreements contained in annex 1 of this report.

#### **Close of the meeting**

22. At the closing session, statements were made by Jorge Máttar, Chief of ILPES, Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Andrés Arauz, Under Secretary General of Planning for Good Living of Ecuador (SENPLADES) of Ecuador and Ekaterina Parrilla, Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), the latter two in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Presiding Officers.

23. The Chief of ILPES expressed thanks for the generous participation of all the representatives and the hospitality of the Government of Guatemala, without which the meeting of the Presiding Officers would not have been a success.

24. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC said the meeting had been highly positive and most useful, noting that it had set forth an ambitious agenda had strengthened the credibility of the Institute.

25. The representative of Ecuador congratulated the Government of Guatemala upon the launch of the 20-year National Development Plan, known as K'atun, and praised the depth and range of the discussions. He also expressed satisfaction at having had the opportunity to ask various representatives of the region about their vision of development and said that 2015 would be a critical year for planning on the continent, for the Council of Planning Ministers (CONPLAN), the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN), among other agencies. Lastly, he expressed the hope that 2015 would be a year for looking together towards the future of development planning in the region.

26. The Secretary for Planning and Programming of SEGEPLAN, Ekaterina Parrilla, thanked the delegations of the member countries, the technical staff of SEGEPLAN and ILPES, and all the participants for making this a successful event. Lastly, she commended the evident interest in revitalizing the political room for development planning in Latin American and Caribbean and expressed satisfaction at the progress made.





## Annex 1

**AGREEMENTS**

At their twenty-fourth meeting, held in Antigua, Guatemala, on 19 and 20 June 2014, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, agreed to:

1. *Request* the Institute to prepare, for presentation at the next meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, scheduled to be held in Ecuador in November 2015, a programme of work for the countries of the region in the area of planning that incorporates a long-term vision of development for Latin America and the Caribbean, bearing in mind the diversity of the countries, and a publication on the status and prospects of regional planning for development that supports and complements the programme of work; and to implement the repository of development plans, all of the foregoing on the basis of the concept note submitted at the present meeting entitled: “Towards a regional planning agenda that takes into account the prospective post-2015 development agenda,” and the guidelines handed down by the member countries serving as Presiding Officers at their twenty-fourth meeting, as reflected in the report of the present meeting;
2. *Appoint* the following countries to serve as members of the Ad Hoc Working Group Established Pursuant to Resolution CRP/XIV/02: Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Trinidad and Tobago;
3. *Request* the secretariat to convene the twenty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, together with a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group Established Pursuant to Resolution CRP/XIV/02, in the second half of 2014, and, on that occasion, to report on (i) the progress of the documents requested in preceding paragraph 1 of these agreements; and (ii) a proposal based on the guidelines handed down at the present meeting on fulfilment of resolution CRP/XIV/02.

Annex 2

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

**ARGENTINA**

Representante/Representative:

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**GUATEMALA**

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**PARAGUAY**

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**REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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**B. Secretaría  
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