



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.4123
14 January 2016
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**DOCUMENT PREPARED IN FULFILMENT OF RESOLUTION 695(PLEN.16-E)
OF THE SIXTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A.	BACKGROUND.....	1-11	3
B.	NAME AND NATURE OF THE INSTRUMENT	12-16	4
C.	MANDATE OF THE REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	17-26	5
D.	MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION BY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	27-28	7
E.	RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FORUM AND OTHER REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND SCHEMES	29-30	7
F.	CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION	31-33	8
G.	INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING REGIONAL INDICATORS	34-36	9
H.	BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS	37-39	10
Annex 1	695(PLEN.16-E) FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	-	11
Annex 2	MAIN BODIES AND MEETINGS OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM.....	-	13

A. BACKGROUND

1. The establishment of regional forums on sustainable development in most regions, in response to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),¹ constitutes a critical step in fostering regional voices on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, and providing a clear link with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

2. As noted in paragraph 72 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

3. In this regard, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has said that regional reviews and the regional forums on sustainable development will provide a critical overview of progress, challenges and major policy issues in each region and facilitate regional voices on issues of common interest. The outcomes of these regional reviews would be discussed in a dedicated High-Level Political Forum segment.

4. In this same line, in paragraph 13 of resolution 67/290, the General Assembly “acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate”.

5. The sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 16 April 2015.² The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Government of Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to resolution 694(PLEN.30), adopted at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, held in New York on 19 and 20 March 2015.

6. The single agenda item of the sixteenth extraordinary session was consideration of the draft resolution entitled “Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development”, presented at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC (New York, 19 and 20 March 2015).

7. The representatives examined the draft resolution sponsored by Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, following informal consultations with representatives of the member States of ECLAC at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and adopted resolution 695(PLEN.16-E).³

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288.

² See ECLAC, *Report of the sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)* (LC/L.4021), Santiago, 2015.

³ See text of the resolution in annex 1.

8. In resolution 695(PLEN.16-E), the Committee of the Whole decided “to launch a regional consultation process aimed to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016”.

9. The Committee also decided “that the regional consultation process will define the mandate, structure, operational modalities, and expected outcomes of the forum, taking into account the outcome of the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development agenda, and in accordance with the priorities and mechanisms related to sustainable development established by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States”, and that the consultation process would define, inter alia, modalities for the participation of other relevant stakeholders; relation of the forum with other regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms and schemes related to the post-2015 development agenda; contribution to development and national capacity-building for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including through south-south cooperation; measurement tools for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda, including through regional indicators,⁴ and budgetary implications.

10. Lastly, the Committee of the Whole requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, by December 2015, a report with recommendations on the issues to be defined in the regional consultation process.

11. The present report has been prepared by the secretariat in compliance with the mandate handed down in resolution 695(PLEN.16-E), with a view to facilitating the consultations among ECLAC member countries on the creation of a regional forum on sustainable development.

B. NAME AND NATURE OF THE INSTRUMENT

12. The secretariat proposes that the forum be named Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. The secretariat proposes that the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean be established by virtue of a resolution adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, to be held in Mexico City from 24 to 27 May 2016. Such a resolution would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for endorsement.

14. The secretariat proposes that the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean be established as a new intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Commission, and thus become part of the intergovernmental architecture of ECLAC.

15. The intergovernmental architecture of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) comprises the ECLAC session, its highest-level decision-making body, the Committee of the Whole and 10 subsidiary bodies: (i) the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee; (iii) the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social

⁴ With respect to the regional indicators, at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC the countries asked the Commission to provide technical support for the Latin American countries participating in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG) and to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Planning; (iv) the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; (v) the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; (vi) the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies; (vii) the Committee on South-South Cooperation; (viii) the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ix) the Committee of High-level Government Experts; and (x) the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee.⁵

16. It is suggested that the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean meet within the framework of the ECLAC session and the Committee of the Whole, that its meetings last for two days and that it be chaired by the chair of the ECLAC session.

C. MANDATE OF THE REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

17. It is suggested that the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean be set up as a regional intergovernmental body in order to establish the regional and subregional review framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that, like the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, it should, at the regional level, “provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges”.⁶

18. It is also recommended, therefore, that the Forum be the regional body that reports to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 67/290.

19. It is suggested that the Forum conduct regular reviews, upon the direction of the member States, on the follow-up and fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including means of implementation, and that the outcomes of these reviews be reported to the regional review segments of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. It is recommended that a meeting be held annually at the ministerial level.

20. The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean would be a voluntary forum for countries that so wish to report regularly on progress towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and progress achieved with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

⁵ See details on the main bodies and meetings of the ECLAC system in annex 2.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 67/290, par. 2.

21. The subsidiary bodies of ECLAC⁷ will report to the Forum on the activities conducted within their respective purviews in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also expected that other meetings, such as the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will report at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

22. As provided in the case of the High-Level Political Forum, it is suggested that the Forum “shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries [...], with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments and that they will recognize the particular challenges facing the middle-income countries in achieving sustainable development”.⁸

23. The Forum may provide general guidelines to the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM),⁹ which comprises the organizations of the United Nations system in the region and is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations jointly with ECLAC. For example, during the period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the RCM prepared a number of follow-up reports in coordination with ECLAC.¹⁰ The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for its part, could issue future guidance on cross-cutting themes, priorities or any other issue of interest or concern to the member countries arising in the regular reports on the progress of the SDGs in the region.

24. The secretariat considers that three types of report will be necessary: one including the regional inputs for the global review on the progress of sustainable development in the region; a second detailing progress in the region towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (which it is suggested should be annual, assuming that each edition will focus on one or several specific SDGs); and a third, consolidated progress report, to be prepared every five years.

25. The agreements of the Forum could be specific resolutions containing direct mandates for the secretariat or political declarations, or both.¹¹

⁷ The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Committee of High-level Government Experts, and the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 67/290, par. 11.

⁹ The Regional Coordination Mechanism was established by virtue of ECOSOC resolution 1998/46.

¹⁰ See ECLAC, *The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective* (LC/G.2331-P), Santiago, 2005; *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at gender equality and empowerment of women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2352), Santiago, 2007; *Millennium Development Goals. Progress towards the right to health in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2364), Santiago, 2008; *Millennium Development Goals: Advances in environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2428-P), Santiago, 2010; *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with equality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and challenges* (LC/G.2460), Santiago, 2010.

¹¹ In the framework of ECLAC, political declarations have been termed “consensuses”; see, for example, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013, or the Quito Consensus (2007), Brasilia Consensus (2010) and Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

26. It is suggested that the Forum be governed by the provisions set forth in the Rules of Procedure of ECLAC.¹²

D. MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION BY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

27. Although the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean would be a subsidiary body of ECLAC and therefore an intergovernmental entity, it should also be a multi-stakeholder body, thereby opening up the opportunity for other stakeholders (institutions or organizations) from civil society and the private and academic sectors to offer guidance. It is suggested that the Forum agree at its first session upon rules of procedure or terms of reference to govern multi-stakeholder participation, bearing in mind the provisions set forth in this respect for the High-Level Political Forum in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 67/290.

28. With a view to strengthening the contribution and the visibility of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, it is suggested that the Chair of the Economic and Social Council be invited to take part in the Regional Forum.

E. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FORUM AND OTHER REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND SCHEMES

29. Resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) established that the Forum should take into account the priorities and mechanisms related to sustainable development established by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).¹³ It is suggested that the secretariat be handed down a mandate, jointly with the Chair of the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, to liaise with the CELAC Quartet¹⁴ in order to identify opportunities for complementarity, cooperation and synergy. Considering, also, that the annual rotation of the Pro Tempore Chair of CELAC is known in advance, it is suggested that one or two of the countries comprising the CELAC Quartet be invited to join the Presiding Officers of the Forum.

30. It is recommended that an official instance be established within the framework of the Forum for the participation of the chair or secretariat, as the case may be, of the various regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms and schemes, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), among others.

¹² See ECLAC, *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.1403/Rev.9), Santiago, 2015.

¹³ This is an issue to be addressed within CELAC, probably under the auspices of the Pro Tempore Chair, which will be assumed in January 2016 by the Dominican Republic.

¹⁴ The CELAC Quartet comprises the country serving as Pro Tempore Chair of the body, the countries that served or will serve in that capacity immediately before and afterwards, and a representative of the Caribbean Community.

F. CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

31. Inasmuch as the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is at the cusp of the intergovernmental architecture of ECLAC, its decisions will help to strengthen the guidelines contained in the mandates that the subsidiary bodies hand down to the secretariat in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specific mandates already exist in this regard, for example, resolution CRP/XV/01 adopted by the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) at its fifteenth meeting,¹⁵ which “acknowledges the importance of public management and planning for development as instruments to carry forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region and, in this context, requests the Institute to continue to pursue applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training related to the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in planning for development”.

32. Another example of recent mandates in this area is the Mitad del Mundo Declaration¹⁶ adopted at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held in Quito in November 2015, in which the member countries agreed to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to generating good-quality statistics for monitoring national agendas and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Urge* the governments of the region to bolster their commitment to sustaining and strengthening national statistical systems, establishing legal frameworks to ensure the professional independence of national statistical offices, consolidate the leading role of official statistics and guarantee the necessary human, technological and financial resources;
3. *Highlight* that it is indispensable to use and facilitate access to a broader range of information sources and take advantage of administrative records and other non-traditional sources, including geospatial information, preserving data confidentiality and consistency with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
4. *Recognize* the need for metrics that go beyond traditional measurement paradigms and that contribute to the process of designing, monitoring and evaluating public policy;
5. *Call upon* the international community to channel resources towards efforts to strengthen national statistical systems through cooperation, technical assistance and financial support;
6. *Urge* the member countries to develop plans to foster the culture of statistics among different stakeholders in society.

33. In this regard, the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean would act as a regular forum for dialogue between the member States in relation to the Commission’s programme of capacity-building and would provide support for the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

¹⁵ Held in Yachay (Ecuador) on 19 November 2015.

¹⁶ See the Mitad del Mundo Declaration of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <http://cea.cepal.org/sites/default/files/cea8-mitad-del-mundo-declaration.pdf>.

**G. INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
INCLUDING REGIONAL INDICATORS**

34. As part of the intergovernmental architecture of ECLAC, the Forum would benefit from the activities relating to the establishment of the regional monitoring framework, including the regional indicators that the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, as a subsidiary body of the Commission, is currently developing in accordance with the global indicators being discussed within the United Nations Statistical Commission for subsequent endorsement by the General Assembly.

35. In effect, the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held in Santiago, from 26 to 28 May 2015, elected the Latin American members of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators (Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico) and of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring (Argentina, Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia).¹⁷

36. At its eighth meeting, held in Quito, on 17-19 November 2015, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC adopted resolution 9(VIII),¹⁸ which includes a set of mandates relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the working groups of the United Nations Statistical Commission (Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring). In this regard, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC:

1. *Acknowledges* the work carried out by the member countries of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring and urges them to continue representing the region in the global process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Recognizes* the need to work together, within a new governance framework, to prepare a regional implementation plan with a view to gradually covering the information requirements deriving from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Also recognizes* the importance of the regional space as an apt platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region;
4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as secretariat of the Conference, to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
5. *Urges* the international community and the General Assembly to strengthen the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as secretariat of the Conference, by

¹⁷ See ECLAC, *Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC* (LC/L.4063), Santiago, 2015.

¹⁸ See resolution 9(VIII) adopted at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC [online] <http://cea.cepal.org/sites/default/files/cea8-resolution-19nov.pdf>.

providing additional resources with a view to creating capacities through institution-building, training and exchange of experiences, as well as by incorporating a geographical perspective into the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Recognizes* the need to work together to develop an outline for a governance mechanism for the treatment of private data in official statistics.

H. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

37. At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the secretariat will present a position document entitled *Horizons 2030: Equality in the Centre of Sustainable Development*,¹⁹ which builds on the reflections on equality and sustainable development set forth in the documents presented at the last three sessions of the Commission, collectively known as the “equality trilogy”.²⁰ The mandates for the coming bienniums will derive from the review of this position document.

38. The adoption by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²¹ has had implications right across the programme of work of the United Nations, in general, and the ECLAC system, in particular, for the next 15 years. At the global level, the Secretary-General will prepare a report for the consideration of the General Assembly before the end of its seventieth session, in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, in which critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review will be outlined.²²

39. The ECLAC secretariat shall include the financial implications of the establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for incorporation into the report that the Secretary-General will present to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly in March 2016.

¹⁹ The position document for the thirty-sixth session examines the main challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean in the economic, social and environmental spheres. There is a growing consensus within the international community that the current development pattern is unsustainable. This is borne out by a number of indicators: rising inequality in the countries, slow and weak recovery in the global economy and trade, and environmentally unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, which are jeopardizing the well-being of future generations. On the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals and in light of global economic trends, ECLAC considers the policies and partnerships that the region will need in order to move towards a development path capable of ensuring greater equality and environmental sustainability. The document prepared by the secretariat argues that the collective provision of new global public goods is required to guarantee stable growth with inclusion, the creation of good-quality employment and environmental stewardship. It also makes regional and national policy proposals geared towards an environmental big push, in the framework of a renewed relationship between the State, the market and society.

²⁰ *Compacts for Equality: Towards a sustainable future* (LC/G.2586(SES.35/3)), 2014; *Structural Change for Equality: An integrated approach to development* (LC/G.2524(SES.34/3)), 2012; and *Time for Equality: Closing gaps, opening trails* (LC/G.2432(SES.33/3)), 2010.

²¹ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²² For further details on global estimates, see United Nations, *Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*. Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/589), New York, December 2015.

Annex 1

**695(PLEN.16-E) FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the ability of regional frameworks to complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,²³ and emphasizes that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,²⁴

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which urge the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,²⁵

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries, and *recognizing* the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and middle-income countries,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 69/214, which acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension and invite the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through regional annual meetings, with the involvement of other regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,²⁶

Bearing in mind that the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as achieving a balanced integration of the different dimensions of sustainable development, are essential tasks for the countries of the region, and that such tasks will be defined in the context of the post 2015 development agenda to be adopted in the September Summit,

1. *Decides* to launch a regional consultation process aimed to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016;

²³ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 97.

²⁴ *Idem*, para. 100.

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 9, and General Assembly resolution 66/288, para. 83.

²⁶ General Assembly resolution 67/290, para. 13; General Assembly resolution 69/214, para. 9.

2. *Also decides* that the regional consultation process will define the mandate, structure, operational modalities, and expected outcomes of the forum, taking into account the outcome of the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development agenda, and in accordance with the priorities and mechanisms related to sustainable development established by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. The following issues, inter alia, related to the proposed regional forum, should be defined at the regional consultation process:

- Modalities for the participation of other relevant stakeholders.
- Relation of the forum with other regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms and schemes related to the post 2015 development agenda.
- Contribution to development and national capacity building for the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, including through south-south cooperation.
- Measurement tools for the achievement of the post 2015 development agenda, including through regional indicators.
- Budgetary implications.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to issue, by December 2015, a report with recommendations on the issues to be defined at the regional consultation process.

Annex 2

MAIN BODIES AND MEETINGS OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main spheres of competence, aims and terms of reference
Commission, session	1948	Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI)	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every two years	All economic and social issues in accordance with para.1 of the Commission's Terms of Reference. See also rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure relating to the provisional agenda for any session.
Committee of the Whole, regular and special sessions	1952	Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) (para. 3)	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Meetings in years in which no Commission session is held. Special sessions convened by the Executive Secretary when necessary	Since it was set up, the Committee of the Whole has held 34 meetings. At regular sessions, issues similar to those dealt with at Commission sessions are discussed. In accordance with the agreement adopted by the Commission in 1969, ^a special sessions are convened by the Executive Secretary in compliance with the procedure set forth in rule 1(b) of the ECLAC Rules of Procedure when the situation calls for the adoption of a resolution by the Commission.
ECLAC sessional committees	1948	Rule 53 of ECLAC Rules of Procedure	All ECLAC member States and associate members	As required during sessions of the Commission	The Commission may assign to sessional committees any matter within its sphere of competence not already assigned to an existing body in the system. A sessional committee on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions was set up at the twenty-second session, and the Commission, by resolution 611(XXX), decided to change its name to Committee on South-South Cooperation. A sessional ad hoc committee on population and development was set up at the twenty-fifth session.
Regional intergovernmental conferences	-	Generally, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission or the Committee of the Whole	All ECLAC member States and associate members	As required	Specific issues. In many cases, these are regional meetings preparatory to or in follow-up to world conferences of the United Nations on the relevant issue.

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main spheres of competence, aims and terms of reference
Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean ^b	1977	Decision adopted on 21 November 1977 by the Committee of the Whole at its eleventh special session	All ECLAC member States and associate members	At least once every three years	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development. Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001. Quito Consensus adopted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	2000	ECLAC resolution 580(XVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every two years	Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Policies on statistics and statistical activities in the countries of the region. To promote the development and improvement of national statistics and their international comparability and promote international cooperation on statistical issues. To draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities.
Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	1971	ECLAC resolution 310(XIV)	Developing countries which are members of ECLAC	At a suitable date, at least once a year, normally before the session of the Commission or as required	To act as a forum for analysing the factors involved in implementing and evaluating the objectives of the International Development Strategy in Latin America (ECLAC resolution 310(XIV), para. 5).
Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean ^c	2012	Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every two years	Follow-up and review of issues relating to population and development, including the Regional Plan of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, international migration and matters relating to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations.
Regional Council for Planning (ILPES)	1974	ECLAC resolution 340(AC.66) Eighth special session of the Committee of the Whole	Countries of Latin America	As required	To act as the guiding governmental body for ILPES activities in the matters within its purview. To serve as a consultative body to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in planning matters. To review the ILPES work programme.

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main spheres of competence, aims and terms of reference
Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	1952	ECLAC resolution 9(IV)	Countries of Central America and Panama	Once a year. Special sessions may be convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC	To serve as a consultative and advisory forum for Central American integration.
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	1975	ECLAC resolution 358(XVI) CDCC Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure (E/CEPAL/1022)	Countries within the sphere of competence of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, together with Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and other Caribbean countries as they attain independence	Once a year. Special concessions may be convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC	CDCC Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure, adopted by ECLAC resolution 600(XXX).
Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies	2012	ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Once a year	To contribute to the progress of science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region.
Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	2014	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	All ECLAC member States and associate members	Every two years	To promote the development of national policies on social development, bearing in mind national requirements and recommendations made by specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; To further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and institutions and international and regional agencies to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of social development; To examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on poverty measurement, inequality and structural gaps, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission; To exchange experiences in relation to

Main intergovernmental bodies and meetings	Date set up	Legislative basis	Membership	Periodicity	Main spheres of competence, aims and terms of reference
Ad hoc meetings of Government-appointed experts	-	Rule 24 of ECLAC Rules of Procedure. ECLAC resolution 401(XVIII) and other decisions	States members of ECLAC, depending on the topic and available resources	As required	social matters and support and provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums, and to contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.
Seminars, forums, round tables and other meetings convened by the Executive Secretary pursuant to mandates from Governments	-	Rule 24 of ECLAC Rules of Procedure. Various ECLAC resolutions, including 401(XVIII)	Experts invited by the secretariat, depending on the topic and available resources	As required	Specific issues stemming from the programme of work adopted by the Commission or programmes coordinated with other intergovernmental bodies.

^a E/CN.12/841/Rev.1, paragraph 490.

^b Formerly called Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The seventh Regional Conference (Santiago, November 1998) approved the change of name.

^c Formerly called the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee approved the change of name at its meeting held in July 2012 in Quito.