

ILPES



ECLAC



XV Meeting of the Regional
Council for Planning of ILPES

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**REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR PLANNING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)**

Yachay, Ecuador, 19 November 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) was held in the City of Knowledge, Yachay, Ecuador on 19 November 2015.

Attendance¹

2. Representatives of the following member countries of ILPES of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) participated at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

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

Co-chairs: Ecuador and Guatemala

Members: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Trinidad and Tobago

B. AGENDA

4. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.
2. Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) since the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.
3. Review of the programme of work of ILPES 2016-2017.
4. Strengthening and management of ILPES resources.
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.

¹ See the complete list of participants in annex 2.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

5. At the opening session, statements were made by Verónica Artola, Undersecretary of Planning for Good Living of the National Secretariat of Planning and Development of Ecuador, in her capacity as co-chair of the Regional Council for Planning; Ekaterina Parrilla, Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala, in her capacity as co-chair of the Regional Council for Planning; and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

6. The Undersecretary of the National Secretariat of Planning and Development welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Ecuador and said that her government was proud to host the meeting of the Regional Council for Planning for the first time in the 50-year history of ILPES. The Council had made significant progress towards strengthening planning capacities in the region over the last two years and she drew particular attention to the creation of the digital repository of development plans and the study on the state of the art and challenges of planning for development in the region. Building a shared long-term vision represented a significant challenge and she proposed that one of the aims of the meeting should be to create a work plan to that end.

7. The Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala highlighted the importance of examining and evaluating the achievements of ILPES and orienting its future efforts. She thanked ILPES for the support it provided through research, training and advisory activities.

8. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC conveyed greetings from the Executive Secretary, who had expressed her satisfaction with the outcome of the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean held the day before. With reference to the core messages of ECLAC, he emphasized the importance of planning in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a Latin American and Caribbean regional perspective. He also referred back to some of the key ideas highlighted by the planning authorities in their statements at the Conference, which were linked to new developments in planning practice in the region, including the incorporation of a long-term vision, prospective analysis and the consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

9. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Council, which adopted it without amendment.

Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) since the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning (agenda item 2)

10. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented a report on the main activities carried out by ILPES in 2014 and 2015, which had focused on strengthening the capacities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to adopting new approaches, addressing emerging issues in development planning, enhancing coordination and sharing of best practices and benchmarking between the region's governments regarding public management of development strategies. He also highlighted the revitalization of the Regional Council for Planning and the Institute's main activities in terms of research, assistance and training.

11. In the subsequent discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Paraguay and Peru.

12. Several representatives made enquiries about the proposed white paper to promote good practices in the use of planning tools and methodologies, asking why it focused on processes rather than outcomes; whether it took into account the full planning cycle, from diagnostic assessment through to the evaluation of policies and programmes; and whether it could incorporate a cost and financing analysis of the planning required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Chief of ILPES provided further details on the white paper, clarifying that it was intended as an interactive good practice guide on planning processes, tools and methodologies. He explained that the emphasis was on processes precisely in order to ensure coverage of the whole planning cycle: design, execution, follow-up and evaluation. The white paper should be open to constant inputs and updates derived from the experiences and lessons learned from implementing planning practices. It would be published in the second half of 2016, after being presented to the planning authorities for consideration.

13. Representatives also expressed interest in ILPES working with planning authorities to raise awareness about planning for development among the public, politicians and other segments of society that were not necessarily aware or convinced of the need for such planning. They asked about the work of ILPES in creating communities of practice, which were especially important to mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in local and sectoral planning, and they requested the support of ILPES to that end. The Chief of ILPES said that the Council was the forum for planning authorities to communicate and exchange experiences, lessons and best practices with a view to enriching planning in the region, and he encouraged the authorities to participate and strengthen it. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC linked the best practices that would be identified in the white paper with the benefits of establishing paradigms as useful references for planning in the region, and not as a prescriptive pattern or model to follow. To underscore the importance of planning, he recalled the words of Carlos Matus, who said that he who planned, governed, and he who did not plan was governed.

Review of the programme of work of ILPES 2016-2017 (agenda item 3)

14. The Chief of ILPES referred to the programme of work adopted by ECLAC at its thirty-fifth session, particularly subprogramme 10 on the planning of public administration, which was the responsibility of ILPES. He stressed the Institute's priorities with regard to modernizing the repository of development plans with a view to transforming it into an interactive and regional platform for dialogue and participation. He mentioned the proposal to develop a training and technical assistance programme in order to strengthen planning competencies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He referred to an exercise to build a long-term vision for development in the region and to the strengthening of planning instruments, approaches and methodologies, as core elements of the planning white paper.

15. In the discussion that followed, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru. They said that the time was right to introduce new topics into the work plan, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda and their incorporation into national planning. They requested the Institute's support to analyse the region's capacity to follow up on such a large number of targets, which required a detailed analysis of the availability of data and the relevance and priority of the indicators. They also requested the support of ILPES to calculate the amount of investment that would be needed to strengthen planning to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. Representatives also stressed the importance of continuing to work on important issues that had been addressed in recent years: the repository and its expansion to an observatory, the white paper and the creation of a long-term vision of planning for development in the region. With regard to the symposiums on planning, representatives suggested incorporating topics such as coordination of public policies, investment in infrastructure, open government in local institutions and planning to reduce territorial gaps.

17. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked all the participants for their comments and said that they would be taken into consideration. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was based on a matrix structure and was being worked on by all of the different subsidiary bodies of ECLAC. He mentioned the ECLAC proposal to create a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, to be held in Mexico City in May 2016, with a view to ensuring coordination between all the items of the Agenda and stressed the importance of strengthening competencies in planning for development.

Strengthening and management of ILPES resources (agenda item 4)

18. The Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC presented the document “The Regular System of Government Financing for ILPES: background, history and current situation” (LC/L.4074(CRP.15/6)), prepared at the request of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning at their twenty-fifth meeting, held on 12 August 2015 in Santiago, with a view to providing inputs for the discussion on the modernization of that system. The Institute had four main sources of financing: mobilization of resources earmarked for international technical cooperation activities, which dated from 1962; an allocation in the ECLAC regular budget, established in 1974; the Regular System of Government Financing, set up in 1983; and lastly, costs recovered from training courses. The regular budget of ECLAC formed the base of the Institute’s long-term financing, with voluntary government contributions as a necessary complement. He emphasized the importance of continuing to recoup costs and mobilize earmarked resources, and stressed that voluntary contributions needed to be regularized.

19. In the subsequent discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. They thanked the Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division for his report and expressed agreement with the points raised, including the importance of strengthening the Institute’s capacity through the regularization of voluntary contributions. They called for the development of innovative methods to mobilize earmarked resources.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 5)

20. The representatives of the member countries adopted the resolutions contained in annex 1.

21. The representative of Peru expressed his government’s interest in hosting the sixteenth meeting of the Council in 2017, which was welcomed by the participants.

Closing session

22. At the closing session, statements were made by Verónica Artola, Undersecretary of the National Secretariat for Planning and Development of Ecuador and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

23. On behalf of the Chair of the Regional Council for Planning, the Undersecretary of the National Secretariat for Planning and Development of Ecuador highlighted the role of planning in achieving the development goals and the importance of collective action in Latin America and the Caribbean through ILPES and ECLAC.

24. On behalf of ECLAC, the Deputy Executive Secretary thanked the Government of Ecuador for its support and excellent organization of the meeting and the member States for their active participation. Lastly, he underscored the importance of continuing to work towards building new paradigms of planning for development with equality in the region.

Annex 1

RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION CRP/XV/01**

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIV/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fourteenth meeting, held in Brasilia in 2013, in which the Council took note of the medium-term strategic proposal for the Institute's cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Council at its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings, held in Antigua, Guatemala, in 2014, and in Santiago in 2015, respectively, concerning the activities of the Institute in this framework,

Bearing in mind also resolution 679(XXXV), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima in 2014, in which the Commission noted with satisfaction the strategic priorities for the work of the Institute,

Having reviewed and discussed the role and priorities of planning for development, prospective analysis and public management in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Endorses the Report on the activities carried out by ILPES, 2014-2015;*¹

2. *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;

3. *Takes notes* of the study *The state of the art and challenges of planning for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Summary;*²

4. *Requests* the Institute, pursuant to resolution CRP/XIV/01, to continue its efforts to strengthen planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, by (i) disseminating knowledge and analysis of development plans and programmes, (ii) knowledge-sharing and collaboration regarding experiences and good practices in the use of planning instruments, methodologies and tools, and (iii) building capacities for implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region;

5. *Also requests* the Institute to incorporate methodologies for development plan finance modelling into the draft white paper on planning and to circulate the draft among the members of the Council in the first quarter of 2016;

¹ LC/L.4071(CRP.15/3).

² LC/L.4072(CRP.15/4).

6. *Asks* the Institute to circulate among the members of the Council the draft document on building development plans and programmes with a long-term vision;

7. *Also asks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare, through the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning and in consultation with member States, a proposal on the creation of a planning observatory, to be presented at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers;

8. *Further asks* the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to maintain, update and improve the digital repository of development plans on a regular basis.

RESOLUTION CRP/XV/02

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIV/02, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fourteenth meeting, held in Brasilia in 2013, in which it reiterated that the Regular System of Government Financing was an essential input for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning,

Having examined the document *The Regular System of Government Financing of ILPES: background, history and current situation*¹ and considering the progress of the work carried out by the Institute,

1. *Reiterates* that the Regular System of Government Financing is essential for the institutional continuity of the Institute, as a complement to the regular budget of the Commission;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to those Governments that make voluntary contributions to the Institute on a regular and timely basis and urges the other States to consider joining the Regular System of Government Financing, in conformity with their respective normative frameworks, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to make such arrangements as it deems necessary to obtain financing for new projects to be conducted at the request of interested countries.

¹ LC/L.4075(CRP.15/7).

RESOLUTION CRP/XV/03

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIV/03, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fourteenth meeting, held in Brasilia in 2013, in which it expressed its satisfaction on the election of Presiding Officers to serve on the Regional Council for Planning for the period 2014-2017,

Expressing its satisfaction at the two meetings held by the Presiding Officers in 2014 and 2015, in Antigua, Guatemala, and Santiago, respectively,

1. *Conveys its appreciation* to the Government of Ecuador for the excellent organization of the present meeting and for the hospitality extended to delegations;

2. *Convenes* the Presiding Officers of the Council to a meeting in Santiago in the second half of 2016;

3. *Decides* that the fifteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute will be held in Peru, in the second half of 2017.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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