



ECLAC

Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.3782
21 February 2014
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Brasilia, 22 November 2013

CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraph Page</i>	
A.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1-3	3
	Place and date of the meeting	1	3
	Attendance	2-3	3
B.	AGENDA.....	4	3
C.	SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	5-20	4
Annex 1	Resolutions	-	9
Annex 2	List of participants.....	-	13

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) was held on 22 November 2013 in Brasilia.

Attendance¹

2. 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) participated in the meeting: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

3. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the thirteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in 2007, were as follows:

Chair:	Brazil
Members:	Colombia (first Vice-Chair) Chile Cuba Dominican Republic (second Vice-Chair) Guatemala Paraguay Spain Trinidad and Tobago
Rapporteur:	Uruguay

B. AGENDA

4. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the fourteenth 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 thirteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.

¹ For the complete list of participants, see [online] www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/crp-ilpes/noticias/noticias/2/51842/P51842.xml&xsl=/crp-ilpes/tpl/p1f.xsl&base=/crp-ilpes/tpl/top-bottom.xsl.

3. Review of the medium-term strategic proposal for ILPES cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Contributions to the reflection on the activities of ILPES.
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
6. Election of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES for the period 2014-2017.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

5. During the opening session, statements were made by Esther Bemerguy, Secretary of Planning and Investment at the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil, on behalf of Miriam Belchior, Minister for Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Council for Planning, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

6. The Secretary of Planning and Investment at the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil welcomed the participants and said that the purpose of the meeting was to reach a common vision for building inclusive development in the region, and to discuss how integration could contribute to countries' development and help solve problems that were holding back regional development. She mentioned that issues had arisen in regional forums such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and encouraged participants to think about the larger challenges posed by regional integration. She hoped the matter of aligning national and regional positions would be an ongoing topic of discussion in the present forum. As planning ministers, participants should endeavour to identify opportunities and key issues in the process of seeking greater convergence between political and planning standpoints. She hoped that their work would be productive and would culminate in a programme of work that addressed those concerns.

7. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC called to mind the words of Celso Furtado, the first Minister for Planning of Brazil and one of the main formulators of ECLAC thinking, who said that development concerns the goals of life. The Regional Council for Planning had been convened for the first time in several years, thanks to a process of reflection at ECLAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). This had included conducting missions to the countries so to be able to resume work and understand what was happening in the region and in the rest of the world. New integration forums had been set up in Latin America and the Caribbean, while new investment and planning challenges had arisen. Equality and inclusive development were a common thread and all countries aspired to more egalitarian societies. The world and the international community were reorganizing the post-2015 development agenda and Latin America and the Caribbean would play an important role in determining it. The present meeting was particularly timely, since ECLAC and ILPES were in a position to offer the region a better service, and the countries could take ownership of the forum and use the available resources to construct a development planning agenda, based on successful experiences in the region, which would be entered in the repository of national development plans that ILPES was proposing to create. The Executive Secretary said that the Council could be a place where those plans could be visualized and analysed, as had been the case in other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC.

that offered an opportunity to compare national experiences and methodologies. The idea would be to use planning to put together policies that made headway towards equality. She welcomed the fact that some groups were already at work, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN) and the Council of Planning Ministers (CONPLAN) of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA). ILPES had accumulated a wealth of experience, in addition to its background as an institution that had trained many supervisors in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was a good time to offer the Institute's knowledge and willingness to strengthen planning and to provide the countries with a regional reference centre for thinking and experiences. Lastly, she wished the participants a fruitful and constructive day of work.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

8. 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 thirteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning (agenda item 2)

9. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented a report of the main ILPES activities carried out during 2008-2013. To illustrate the Institute's work, he emphasized themes that were new and that responded to the countries' requests. He delivered a presentation on ILPES work from the perspective of the services it provides: as a centre for disseminating information, knowledge and learning on planning and public administration; as a body that fosters cooperation on best planning practices; and as a meeting point for dialogue, exchanging experiences and discussing the use of planning as a public policy tool. Over the six-year period, ILPES had published more than 70 documents on development planning and management in Latin America and the Caribbean, delivered training courses to over 10,000 participants, organized no less than 100 seminars for experts, public officials and decision-makers, and run dozens of technical cooperation projects.

Review of the medium-term strategic proposal for ILPES cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

10. The Deputy Executive Secretary then referred to the medium-term strategic proposal for the Institute's cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which focused on strengthening the regional dimension of social and economic development planning in Latin America and the Caribbean. ILPES was proposing to develop a knowledge management tool for planning; and details of the design for a repository of development plans were provided in an audiovisual presentation. ILPES also proposed to promote a new culture of integration by developing planners' capacities to consider the regional perspective. Lastly, the Institute proposed to strengthen planning competencies among civil society actors, such as labour and trade-union associations, in order to enhance social participation in planning processes.

11. During the subsequent debate, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico, El Salvador, Paraguay, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Panama and Brazil.

12. The representatives raised a number of concerns. These included municipalization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), since a new development agenda was already being considered, and the participation of communities in formulating municipal development plans. A representative of the

Caribbean asked for more documents to be translated into English. She also said that it was important to link planning to structural change and to production chains, productivity and innovation in science and technology.

13. There was general agreement on the importance of planning as a policy tool, built upon public participation, and on the role that ILPES could play in the institution-building process. Some representatives described national experiences in that area but said that capacity building was needed to ensure that development plans and projects meshed more closely with regional integration projects.

14. With regard to human resources and planning, some representatives commented that new economic models were on the horizon and that discussions were needed to determine the right profile, hence specific elements would have to be incorporated into courses. New leaders would need to be trained within a context of public participation and ILPES could provide some guidance on the basic training citizens would need. Using technology to support the training process for supervisors would be a comparative advantage; for example, ministerial dialogues could include discussions among technicians via videoconference. Most countries welcomed the ILPES proposal to create a repository, as it would provide useful technical information for national development processes.

15. The Deputy Executive Secretary said that training was an important matter. ECLAC had put forward a new State-market-society equation, for which social stakeholders would need to be able to engage in dialogue at a more technical level. The region was seeking a more sustainable development process, which would require long-term plans, covenants with least some room for negotiation, and trained social stakeholders. A culture of integration was essential, consisting not of the sum of the parts but rather of progress towards a new culture. Borders had to be overcome, which was not easy, since it was a question of mentality. ECLAC believed that the repository was a way to strengthen planning since it constituted a mechanism for transferring countries' knowledge and for heightening the visibility of national development and planning efforts. He reiterated the Commission's willingness to revise the programme and receive inputs.

Contributions to the reflection on the activities of ILPES (agenda item 4)

16. The Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) presented an overview of ILPES financing from its origins to the present day. The Institute had four main sources of funding: an allocation in the ECLAC regular budget, established in 1974; the Regular System of Government Financing, which dated from 1983; the mobilization of resources earmarked for international technical cooperation activities; and lastly, enrolment fees paid by training course participants. The Chief of the Institute described government contribution trends over the past few years and the future outlook, which highlighted the strategic importance of strengthening the four pillars of the Institute's financing in order to be able to fulfil the mandates conferred by the Governments of the member States.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 5)

17. The representatives adopted the resolutions contained in the annex to the present report.

Closing session

18. During the closing session, statements were made by Eva Maria Cella Dal Chiavon, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil, and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

19. The Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil said that planning was experiencing a renaissance as part of a development strategy that had equality at its core. The fact that the meeting had been attended by 17 countries testified to the political will to discuss planning again, strengthening its central role in development. The meeting had been held at a critical time in response to society's demands. She cited Celso Furtado, who said that development had to include the economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres; if it didn't, it wasn't development. A new, effective culture of regional integration was essential to provide strategic unity as a basis for collective action in pursuit of regional development.

20. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Government of Brazil and the member States and highlighted the importance of conducting a round of talks with the countries prior to the meeting. The first dialogue had been held with Brazil and ECLAC proposed to continue and expand upon it, on the basis of the mandate conferred by the Regional Council for Planning and with its political support. In fact, the meeting had been an exercise in sharing policies and visions, given that each country had its own specific characteristics, which was what made Latin America and the Caribbean such a richly diverse region. The region needed to find its identity and engage more with the rest of the world. ECLAC would continue to work towards equality, since that was valued by all the countries regardless of the political colour of their governments. Planning was essential, as it would ensure that this process continued and was sustained into the future.

Annex 1

RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/01**

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), on the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), in which it endorsed the programme of work 2008-2010,

Bearing in mind resolution 635(XXXII) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-second session, in which the Commission endorsed the programme of work of ILPES for the 2010-2011 biennium,

Bearing in mind also resolution 648(XXXIII) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-third session, in which the Commission endorsed the programme of work of ILPES for the 2012-2013 biennium,

Bearing in mind further resolution 671(XXXIV) adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, in which it commended the work of the Institute, requested the Chief of the Institute to engage in a process of dialogue with a view to identifying national, subregional and regional priorities in the area of development planning, and decided to convene the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning during the second half of 2013,

Having examined, at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, the regional priorities with respect to development planning on the basis of the documents prepared by ILPES, in particular the summary of the public administration overview entitled *Panorama de Gestión Pública 2013*² and the summary of the report *Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Back to the Future*,³ which sets forth the conclusions of the Ministerial Planning Dialogues,

1. *Endorses* the report on the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), 2008-2013;⁴

2. *Underscores* that development planning is undergoing a renaissance in Latin America and the Caribbean and emphasizes the importance of coordination, evaluation and prospective analysis in driving structural change for equality;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of development planning as a tool for carrying forward the post-2015 development agenda and, in this regard, requests the Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to promote applied research, technical cooperation, advisory services and training in subjects related to the regional dimension of development, public and private investment, infrastructure, prospective analysis and the role of the State in the various spheres of development;

² DDR/2.

³ DDR/1.

⁴ (LC/L.3688(CRP.14/3)).

4. *Takes note of* the medium-term strategic proposal for the Institute's cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes:

- (a) The creation of a repository of development plans, for the purpose of: (i) serving as a forum for planning agencies; (ii) promoting the exchange of development experiences, plans, programmes and projects, legislation and planning organization; (iii) utilizing available ICT tools to enable greater sharing of resources and experiences; (iv) analysing, on an ongoing basis, the progress of planning in the region and the obstacles it faces; (v) promoting joint programming efforts at the level of the region and subregions, as well as among groups of countries, to strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean integration process; (vi) identifying joint actions for inclusion in national development plans and programmes; (vii) promoting exchanges of technical staff between planning bodies; and (viii) promoting the exchange of information and joint actions;
- (b) The promotion of a new culture of integration by strengthening the regional perspective in development planning and public administration;
- (c) Capacity-building for strengthening planning;
- (d) Extending the Institute's training activities to other key development stakeholders, such as the workforce and the trade unions;
- (e) Improved focus and cooperation with the countries of the Caribbean subregion.

5. *Expresses* its conviction that State policies should be guided by long-term aims and devote increasing attention to building visions of the future, centred on reducing inequalities in all their dimensions;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of multilevel government coordination and requests the Chief of ILPES to facilitate the creation and promotion of intergovernmental cooperation networks and the exchange of these experiences between countries of the region;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of training for strengthening public administration and planning in Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomes with gratitude the courses offered by the Institute for 2014-2015;

8. *Underlines* the importance of the Institute's collaboration with other regional and subregional planning networks, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN) and the Council of Planning Ministers of the countries of the Central American Integration System (CONPLAN-SICA), so as to capitalize on the synergies achieved by working together;

9. *Thanks* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its various divisions, national offices and subregional headquarters for the support provided to the Institute in carrying out its programme of activities.

RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/02

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/02, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), in which it reiterated that the Regular System of Government Financing was crucial for the Institute's continuing operation as an institution,

Recalling also resolution 671(XXXIV) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session, in which the Commission reiterated its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provided to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

Having examined the document Inputs for reflection on the activities of ILPES: Background on financing and resource management. Note by the secretariat,⁵ which offers a very useful perspective for the discussion on the Institute's financial resources,

1. *Reiterates* that the Regular System of Government Financing is crucial for the Institute's continuing operation as an institution;

2. *Expresses* its gratitude to those Governments that pay their contributions to the Institute on a regular and timely basis;

3. *Recommends* that a working group be created in the framework of the Regional Council for Planning to analyse the system of financing of the Institute and propose concrete measures to modernize the Regular System of Government Financing, to be submitted for the consideration of the member countries at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Council, which will be held in 2014;

4. *Urges* member States, meanwhile, to bring up to date and maintain their contributions to the Institute;

5. *Entrusts* the Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning with the task of obtaining financing for new projects to be conducted by the Institute at the request of interested countries.

⁵ (LC/L.3693(CRP.14/5)).

RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/03

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/03, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), in which it expressed its satisfaction on the election of Presiding Officers to serve on the Regional Council for Planning for the period 2007-2010,

Expressing its disappointment that the Presiding Officers have not met regularly in the period 2007-2010,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* on the election of the Presiding Officers from the following member States to serve on the Regional Council for Planning for the period 2014-2017, and instructs the Institute to hold regular meetings of the Presiding Officers: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (Co-Chair), Guatemala (Co-Chair), Jamaica, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Trinidad and Tobago;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Brazil for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the hospitality extended to delegations;

3. *Convenes* the new Presiding Officers of the Council to a meeting in the city of Guatemala during the first half of 2014;

4. *Decides* that the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute will be held in Quito, on 23 and 24 November 2015.

Annex 2

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