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High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance
of Natural Resources and Infrastructure

Santiago, 8 November 2016

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTING A SHARED REGIONAL VISION
FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

In Santiago, on 8 November 2016, the members of the ministerial delegations of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay, attending the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure, formulated and agreed upon the following recommendations for promoting a shared regional vision for better governance of natural resources and of infrastructure for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for the consideration of governments, multilateral agencies and other stakeholders in civil society, the private sector, academia in the region:

1. It is necessary to establish a government strategy that promotes a long-term shared vision of the governance of natural resources and of infrastructure for sustainable development. In this context, it is key to strengthen the institutional architecture to foster structural change in the region, in order to reconcile the transformation of infrastructure services with more suitable use of natural resources and with the new development paradigm the region will need as it moves towards the future. Governance must facilitate dialogue and the participation of public and private, academic and social stakeholders, since only together can they strengthen the democratic framework in line with national development goals.

2. The countries will need to establish long-term strategies and policies to strengthen the role of the State vis-à-vis the exploitation of natural resources, in order to attain full development with economic, environmental, social and institutional sustainability. For this it is important to focus on capacity-building in public institutions, in order to manage related conflicts, such as social, environmental and labour conflicts, in an effective manner. Regional and national institutions must also be aligned with countries' sovereign policies in order to achieve proper, effective management of the rents from extractive industries by governments and firms and, where necessary, to update fiscal frameworks to afford the State a more progressive share of revenues from natural resources, and to generate mechanisms to support saving and drive investment geared towards the achievement of full employment and sustainability. At the same time, the sustainable use of natural resources should be based on transparent and effective mechanisms to ensure the protection of the environment.

3. A new generation of public policies on infrastructure is needed, which should meet three basic conditions: (i) be integrated and sustainable, (ii) encompass a larger and better endowment of infrastructure, and (iii) ensure that infrastructure is designed and operated in a manner consistent with the aims of sustainable development. Likewise, it is necessary to tap the potential of the integration of economic infrastructure in the region, in order to provide more resilient and lower-cost subregional services, through economies of network and scope. It is crucial to establish strategic planning for investment in the sector. Higher amounts of investment are needed, and of better quality, to generate resilience and positive externalities and contribute to the progress of society. In the transport sector, the promotion and implementation of integrated and sustainable policies on logistics and mobility is an essential step for maximizing the sector's contribution to sustainable development. In order to achieve all these changes and ensure their effectiveness, public policies must be framed within a model of infrastructure governance that enables better policy integration and stronger coordination between the State, the private sector and society.

4. In order to provide follow-up to progress on the points mentioned above, a regular, systemic regional dialogue is needed as a mechanism to facilitate the development of a shared vision on the governance of natural resources and of infrastructure. National multi-stakeholder dialogues are also important to build consensus and strengthen the institutional framework for governance.

5. The ministerial delegations attending the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to design and implement a plan of work for the medium and long terms, including the following elements: (i) a research programme to facilitate the substantive discussion and the construction and application of public policy tools that include a State strategic and policy vision in this area and the participation of the private sector and civil society; (ii) technical cooperation, capacity-building and dissemination directed towards the countries of the region; and (iii) convening of the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure in a regular and systemic manner, on the basis of the outcomes and contributions of the research and technical cooperation programme.