



## THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF ECLAC

Havana, 7-11 May 2018

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Thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission  
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Havana, 7-11 May 2018

### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

- A. Organization of the thirty-seventh session
- B. Provisional agenda
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ECLAC





## **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

The thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held at the Palacio de Convenciones de la Habana, from 7 to 11 May 2018. By resolution 714(XXXVI), adopted at the thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City in 2016, and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 2016/13, the member States accepted the offer extended by Cuba to host the session. The meeting is being held in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2017-2018.<sup>1</sup>

The session is the most important event of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for the consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and an opportunity to review the progress of the Commission's activities. In consultation with the host country, the theme selected for this session is the inefficiency of inequality, which is addressed in a document that ECLAC makes available to its member countries.

The session also enables the Governments of member States to examine the secretariat's report on the Commission's activities and thus apprise themselves of the work accomplished by ECLAC during the two preceding years. Furthermore, through the programme of work that the Governments adopt and the calendar of conferences they approve, they also define the mandates that will guide the Commission's work in the future.

The following annotations to the provisional agenda provide background information on each of the proposed items and suggestions regarding their consideration at the session. In this respect, it may be useful to recall resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, which states that, in order for the session to be fully successful, Government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered.

## **B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
3. Seminar commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC.
4. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session.
5. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-sixth session.
6. Information on the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> ECLAC resolution 698(XXXVI).

8. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020.
9. Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development.
10. Committee on South-South Cooperation.
11. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *The Inefficiency of Inequality*.
12. High-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality”.
13. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities.
14. Consideration of the request of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of ECLAC.
15. Other matters.
16. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

### **C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **1. Election of officers**

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect from among the representatives a chairperson, two or more vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. It is customary for the Commission to be chaired by the head of the delegation of the host country. It should also be noted that rule 20 provides that the chairperson or vice-chairperson shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member country by whom she or he was accredited.

It is suggested that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should have its own presiding officers, consisting of a chair, two or three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

It is proposed that the selection of the presiding officers for the session should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 7 May 2018 from 5.30 to 6 p.m. in room 5 of the Palacio de Convenciones.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda<sup>2</sup> for their consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. The representatives of member States may formulate observations and suggest such modifications as they consider appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

It is suggested that the agenda should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 7 May.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/SES.37/1/Rev.4.

### **3. Seminar commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC**

In order to launch the official activities commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC, the secretariat has organized this seminar in which the following former Executive Secretaries of ECLAC will participate: Enrique Iglesias (1972-1985), Gert Rosenthal (1988-1997), José Antonio Ocampo (1998-2003) and José Luis Machinea (2003-2008), together with other prominent guests.

### **4. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session**

The secretariat will submit a report to the delegations summarizing the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved by the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), under its programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

#### **Working document:**

- Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017 (LC/SES.37/7)

### **5. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-sixth session**

The chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Commission have been invited to report briefly on the activities carried out by those bodies and intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-sixth session:

- Statistical Conference of the Americas, by the representative of Chile
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Uruguay
- Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Mexico
- Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Uruguay
- Committee on South-South Cooperation, by the representative of Mexico
- Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), by the representative of Peru
- Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, by the representative of Costa Rica
- Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Colombia
- Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Paraguay

#### **Reference document:**

- Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-sixth session (LC/SES.37/DDR/1)

## **6. Information on the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

A representative of the Presiding Officers of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean will report on the adoption of the Regional Agreement (San José, 4 March 2018), and on the work ahead until the Agreement is opened for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

### **Working documents:**

- Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CNP10.9/5)
- Final Act (LC/CNP10.9/4)

### **Reference document:**

- Report of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CNP10.9/6)

## **7. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020**

### **Working document:**

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2018-2019 (LC/SES.37/8/Corr.1)

The secretariat will submit for consideration the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for 2020, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

The overall purpose of the ECLAC programme of work is to promote the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of Latin America and the Caribbean through continuous international cooperation, by undertaking comprehensive research and analysis of development processes and providing the relevant normative, operational and technical cooperation services in support of regional development efforts. The mandate for the programme, which falls within the purview of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI), by which the Council established the Commission for the purpose of contributing to and coordinating action towards the economic and social development of the region and strengthening economic relationships among the countries of the region as well as worldwide. In 1996, by virtue of ECLAC resolution 553(XXVI), the Commission was instructed, inter alia, to collaborate with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination.

The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme is structured around 13 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, implemented through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

The basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the programme of work for 2020 were drawn from the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

## **8. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020**

Pursuant to resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC at its fourteenth session, held in November 1980, the focal point around which meetings of the Commission are organized is the biennial session. It was decided, as set down in that resolution, that sessions should be held in even-numbered years so as to coincide with the two-year budget programming cycle established by the United Nations General Assembly. It was also agreed that at each session the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the following session should be considered and that, whenever possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting should be specified.

At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission considered the document entitled “Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2017-2018. Note by the Secretariat”.<sup>3</sup> Following consideration of that item, the Commission decided, by virtue of resolution 698(XXXVI), to retain the existing intergovernmental structure and pattern of meetings and to approve the calendar of conferences for the aforementioned period.

Pursuant to this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table (contained in the annex to the document “Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019–2020. Note by the secretariat”<sup>4</sup>), which lists the scheduled meetings for the period 2019-2020 in accordance with the mandates adopted by the Governments at meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

### **Working document:**

- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019–2020. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.37/9)

## **9. Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development**

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will present the document *The Caribbean Outlook*, prepared by the secretariat. In addition, the representative of Saint Lucia will report on the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Saint Lucia in April 2018. Next, there will be a round table on the topic “Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development”, in which the representatives of the Caribbean members and associate members of ECLAC will have the opportunity to comment on and discuss the specific problems facing Caribbean countries and territories, such as vulnerability to climate change, natural disasters, high levels of indebtedness and the situation of least developed countries and small island developing States.

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<sup>3</sup> LC/G.2666(SES.36/9).

<sup>4</sup> LC/SES.37/9.

**Working document:**

- The Caribbean Outlook (LC/SES.37/14)

**10. Committee on South-South Cooperation**

The Committee on South-South Cooperation will meet in the afternoon of Wednesday 9 May. The work of the Committee will be organized according to the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC.
4. Panel on the challenges faced by middle-income countries ahead of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, March 2019).
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.

**Working documents:**

- Provisional agenda (LC/SES.37/5)
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/SES.37/6/Rev.1)
- Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.37/10)
- Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium (LC/SES.37/11)

**Reference documents:**

- Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.5/2)
- Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.6/3)
- Draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.7/PINF)
- Middle-income countries: A structural-gap approach (LC/G.2532/Rev.1)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/72/297)
- Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/71/318)
- South-South cooperation (A/RES/72/237)

## **11. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *The Inefficiency of Inequality***

The secretariat will present the document on Thursday, 10 May at 9.30 a.m. in room 4 of the Palacio de Convenciones.

In the document, ECLAC draws attention to the urgent need for a political big push to overcome the region's economic lag compared to the rest of the world. To that end, the region needs to move away from a culture of privilege towards a culture of equal rights. Inequality is inefficient. It imposes a high cost on our societies in terms of economic growth, wasted human resources and talent, quality of life, social relationships and political systems. ECLAC therefore proposes that equality is a driver of sustainable development, promoting innovation, higher productivity and environmental protections.

### **Working documents:**

- The Inefficiency of Inequality (LC/SES.37/3-P)
- The Inefficiency of Inequality. Summary (LC/SES.37/4)

### **Reference documents:**

- Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails. Summary (LC/G.2433(SES.33/4))
- Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary (LC/G.2525(SES.34/4))
- Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future. Summary (LC/G.2587(SES.35/4))
- Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary (LC/G.2661(SES.36/4))

## **12. High-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality”**

With a view to fostering in-depth consideration of the central theme of the thirty-seventh session, the secretariat has invited ministers, representatives of member States, eminent scholars and distinguished experts to participate in a high-level seminar on this subject. This seminar, which will be held on 10 May, will be divided into four panels, which will discuss the main themes examined in the document.

Each panel's presentations will be followed by a general discussion. In accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the representatives of the member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be opened to other participants.

## **13. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities**

In the morning of 11 May, ECLAC and the Government of Cuba have organized a dialogue with a number of ministers of foreign affairs of the region and political figures, to reflect upon the main issues being examined at the session.

**14. Consideration of the request of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of ECLAC**

**Working document:**

- Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.37/13)

**Reference documents:**

- Report of the thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole (LC/PLEN.32/INF)
- Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat (LC/L.4258(PLEN.32/3)/Rev.2)

**15. Other matters**

This item provides for consideration of any other issues which delegations may wish to raise.

**16. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session**