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**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Santiago, 18–20 April 2018



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Santiago, from 18 to 20 April 2018. The meeting was convened by the Government of Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and under the auspices of the Commission, by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by the member States at the thirty-sixth session.

Attendance¹

2. The following States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were represented at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

3. Attending as observers were the following non-Forum-member States members of the Commission: France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain and Turkey; and the following non-Forum-member associate members of the Commission: Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were also in attendance as observers: Russian Federation and Thailand.

5. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the meeting by staff members from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Management, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO).

6. The following United Nations bodies were also represented: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

¹ See annex 5 for the full list of participants.

7. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

8. Also attending were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, Andean Community, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, Organization of American States (OAS), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ), Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and European Union.

9. The meeting was also attended by the non-governmental organizations and representatives of the private sector and academia who figure in the list of participants.

Chair

10. The second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was chaired by Mexico, the country serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

11. The Forum adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation of the second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
3. Peer learning sessions.
 - Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.
 - Participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda.
 - Platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and new challenges.
4. Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system.
6. Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Dialogues on the shift towards sustainable and resilient societies (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17).
8. Special session on artificial intelligence: accelerated technological change.
9. Other matters.
10. Conclusions and recommendations.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Norma Munguía, Director General for Global Affairs of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Patricio Victoriano, Multilateral Policy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (by videolink).

13. After welcoming the participants, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development consolidated it as a collective effort of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for sharing experiences and challenges, in order to move forward together towards building peaceful, prosperous, fairer, caring and inclusive societies, in which human rights, the planet and its natural resources would be protected. She stressed that, without multilateralism, integration and cooperation, any road to sustainable development was closed off, that the inequality in the region was intolerable and that mistrust of public institutions was a problem that needed to be resolved. While both the global and regional economies were showing signs of recovery, the emergence of protectionist policies, the imbalance between the strongest and weakest economies, the effects of the technological revolution on employment and intensification of climate change remained causes for concern. Lastly, she noted that, in order to achieve sustained growth and genuine development, the region must embrace a change in consumption and production patterns and, above all, equality in all spheres.

14. The Director General for Global Affairs of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the ideal framework in which to find effective solutions to the main development challenges facing the countries and that, for its effective implementation, all sectors and stakeholders must be involved, spare no efforts and provide resources. The second meeting of the Forum provided an opportunity to discuss common targets, share good practices and benefit from peer-to-peer learning. Words must be translated into concrete actions and strategies in order to leave no one behind, by strengthening institutions, linking economic growth and trade to sustainable development, using technology and innovation to improve living conditions and mobilizing public and private resources. She also expressed appreciation for the work of ECLAC, which for 70 years had contributed to the development of the region by preparing documents, coordinating activities and strengthening relations among the countries.

15. The Multilateral Policy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile said that the 2030 Agenda was a strategic road map to move towards overcoming poverty in all its forms and dimensions and that, while governments were primarily responsible for implementing it, the process should also include all relevant stakeholders and, in particular, encourage the participation of public stakeholders and various civil society actors and coordination among them. The Forum's particular value lay in the fact that it was an exercise carried out by countries at a similar level of development, which also drew attention to the regional nature of the implementation of the Agenda. Lastly, he referred to the situation in Chile, where a new institutional framework—the national council for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—had been created to carry out a national analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), although, as in other countries, the Agenda was linked to decades-old public policies.

16. In her message, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations described the Forum as a vital contribution to advance implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the region and beyond, as well as addressing the specific needs of middle-income countries, Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries. Platforms such as the Forum highlighted the role of the regional commissions in enhancing coordination and collaboration among governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. She remarked upon the need to enhance cohesion among the regional commissions, United Nations country teams and a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, to strengthen the reform efforts and help Member States to address increasingly complex challenges. Lastly, she commended the region on its leadership in presenting voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum and conveyed her wishes for a successful meeting.

Presentation of the second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (agenda item 2)

17. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the document *Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,² prepared by the ECLAC secretariat pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 700(XXXVI). She drew particular attention to the different statistical capacities in the region to follow up the SDGs and to the benefit of incorporating new data sources and other data producers, such as central banks and even the private sector, in order to create a statistical environment in which big data could be managed, among other things. The authorities on statistical matters in the region were the national statistical systems and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. With regard to environmental matters, the region had lost forest cover and vast tracts of land were arid or desert. South America had the lowest productivity in the world, so thought must be given to an agricultural paradigm that would allow food to be produced, future food demands met and ecosystems restored and made more resilient. Meanwhile, the urban sprawl had expanded in the region and cities needed to be rendered liveable and sustainable, a key element of the 2030 Agenda. She also noted that production and consumption patterns must be changed and pollution and solid waste reduced. The higher number of extreme weather events was a serious problem in South America and the Caribbean and, in the latter subregion, climate change resilience must be increased. The report stated that there was a need to improve access to electricity, close the gap with regard to the use of renewable energy and reduce energy prices. It also drew attention to the benefit of moving towards a progressive tax regime and combating tax avoidance and evasion, which would allow resources to be used to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Latin America had not increased its share of world trade in goods and services, and regional integration was crucial in that regard. Promoting the digital agenda and improving the quality

² LC/FDS.2/3.

of broadband access would facilitate the region's transition to a digital age. Lastly, United Nations agencies in the region were supporting the efforts of the 33 countries to achieve the SDGs.

18. Juan Somavía, Ambassador and former Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), said that the Forum was a bold attempt to change the future of Latin America and the Caribbean, a region that was ideally placed to play a leading role of sustainable development. The region had had few opportunities in the past to reflect upon joint solutions that would promote sustainable development. ECLAC had defined a strategy of sustainable development with equality at the centre. When defining the policies to be implemented to achieve the SDGs, the countries should also carry out a strategic analysis of their advantages. Integrating the three dimensions of development —economic, social and environmental— was fundamental. He remarked on the limited awareness among the region's population of the issue of sustainable development or the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and that the United Nations and the resident coordinator system could start a regional conversation in that regard. Lastly, he said that action by the United Nations in general and in implementation of the 2030 Agenda must exercise sensitivity in looking at the problems described in the report and at expectations of the policy responses.

19. In the ensuing discussion, several participants noted the need to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda among the population of the region, given the importance of civil society participation, in particular by young people. While some economic and social variables in Latin America had improved, extreme poverty and unemployment had increased, inequality and discrimination persisted and the indicators were worse for indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples, a situation that must change as a matter of urgency. The structural causes of inequality should be eliminated so that the SDGs did not become mere declarations of intent. It was also pointed out that the 2030 Agenda could not be achieved without the transfer of technology, without new, additional, predictable and concessional resources, and unless developed countries met their official development assistance targets. Many participants underscored the fact that institutional frameworks and financing were important for achieving the Agenda, and that using gross domestic product (GDP) as a criterion for measuring progress in its implementation did not reflect the different regional realities. Synergy among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the work of the resident coordinators was indispensable for achieving the Goals.

Peer learning sessions (agenda item 3)

20. These sessions were divided into four thematic panels.

Panel 1: Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

21. Panel 1 was moderated by Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General for Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the panellists were Nicola Virgil-Rolle, Director of the Economic Development and Planning Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas; Edison Alleyne, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Drainage of Barbados; Deniese Sealey, Assistant Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; and Anselm Caines, Director of the Department of Sustainable Human Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

22. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) said that the statements made during the side event on the identification of data sources for SDG indicators in the Caribbean had underlined the particular challenges facing the subregion owing to the paucity of data management. He also said that given the subregion's vulnerability to yearly climate events and the lack of resources, many States —already heavily indebted— had to borrow to rebuild. It was

therefore essential to find ways to mobilize resources to address the continuum of financial challenges and find opportunities to develop the countries. He then introduced the panellists and invited them to share some of the specific difficulties in their countries, as well as successes and suggestions on the way forward.

23. The Director of the Economic Development and Planning Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas said that her government had launched an action plan for development, centred on the national development plan and aligned with the SDGs, and highlighted the need to address national realities while ensuring political neutrality and inclusiveness, with strong private sector and civil society participation. The challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda included aligning national development with the SDGs, particularly in the public sector; financing for development through the most efficient use of internal budget resources and matching external resources to needs, especially for graduated countries which should be open to requesting resources and sharing best practices; and continued public sector strengthening, through reforms to ensure implementation of the SDGs. It was also necessary to change the mindset of governments, regarding which stakeholders to involve in development; of the private sector, which should understand its role as responsible producers and financiers of development; and of civil society, which should see itself as an agent for change and a service provider.

24. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Drainage of Barbados said that his country faced challenges related to insufficient resources, financial pressures stemming from the fiscal deficit and public debt, the need for capacity-building and adequate human resources in ministries and departments responsible for implementing the SDGs, insufficient private sector buy-in and sluggish GDP growth. Barbados had implemented a strategy to ensure adequate foreign-exchange reserves to reassure foreign investors and guarantee payment of its external obligations, while maintaining the value of its currency. Preparations had also begun for a national growth and development strategy aligned with the 2030 Agenda and activities to build development planning capacities. The government was drafting a fiscal policy in line with the Agenda to clarify the country's available resources and commitments, especially with regard to debt payments. It had also agreed to formally accept the offer of technical assistance from ECLAC to incorporate the SDGs into national development processes, address the institutional and capacity needs of national statistical systems to support policy planning and the use of indicators, and establish a national mechanism to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

25. The Assistant Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that, in addition to the aforementioned traditional challenges, there were other new ones. They included barriers to trade and restricted market access owing to the application of non-tariff barriers by some countries; de-risking measures and tightening of correspondent banking rules that limited CARICOM countries' access to global payment and financial systems, weakening critical domestic financial and banking services; migration, which led to brain drain and depleted human capacity and the quality of the labour force, with a concomitant impact on economic development and family life; the absence of legislative and regulatory structures for universalizing the benefits of foreign direct investment; insufficient work at the national, regional and international levels to secure the necessary partnerships to achieve the SDGs; the lack of appropriate technology and capacities to improve infrastructure resilience and the marginalization of men as a result of women's empowerment.

26. The Director of the Department of Sustainable Human Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis said that the SDGs confirmed that development should not be viewed through a single prism, but through its social, human and environmental dimensions. The challenges facing his country included poor understanding and awareness of sustainable development and the SDGs among the population; inadequate data collection and an insufficient follow-up and evaluation framework, as well as the need to increase information-sharing and policy convergence among different government entities; and the unavailability of

financial resources in SIDS. Resolving those problems would require creative means of enhancing the appeal of the SDGs and the broader concept of sustainable development, particularly among young people; greater efforts to build statistical capacities, by equipping the relevant ministries with data collection staff and disseminating data to the appropriate departments; and leveraging information and communications technologies to manage and publish data, as well as strengthening the incorporation of e-government strategies and centralized, accessible information management databases.

27. The participants spoke of the importance of climate change adaptation measures, as well as intraregional and interregional solidarity, technical assistance and alternative forms of cooperation among countries. Some Caribbean States were considered to be high-income countries, and therefore had no access to loans. However, the impact of natural disasters could have disastrous consequences for their economies. It was proposed that a rapid assessment methodology for disaster-affected countries should be created to reflect more accurately the reality on the ground, or a temporary classification that would facilitate their access to concessionary loans and thus their recovery. The participants also discussed the usefulness of establishing a working group on the Caribbean within the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Meanwhile, Latin American cooperation agencies should show true solidarity with the Caribbean by establishing a resilience fund. ECLAC considered the Caribbean a priority and called upon the international banks to reduce the external debt of the countries of the subregion by supporting the debt for climate change adaptation swap initiative. The Commission was also working in close collaboration with the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other bodies to adopt concrete measures to revise the classification of SIDS as middle-income countries. The support of member States would help to expedite that reclassification.

Panel 2: Participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda

28. Panel 2 was moderated by Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination of Argentina, and the participants were Álvaro García, Director of the Office for Planning and Budget of Uruguay; Nadine Brown, Manager of the Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica; Isidoro Santana, Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic; and Miguel Angel Moir, Secretary General for Planning of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala.

29. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination of Argentina said that the intersectoral coordination effort in her country had been arduous but had been facilitated by the pre-existing institutional arrangements. It had encompassed the subnational level, with an emphasis on participation and consensus-building. The National Council for Social Policy Coordination coordinated 20 ministries through 6 commissions, grouped by priority strategic areas, with a view to defining and prioritizing the Goals in each of those areas. The strategy for participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda involved, among others, social and workers' movements; faith-based organizations, through a network for discussion of the ethical and moral dimensions of the 2030 Agenda; the academic sector, especially universities; and the private sector, coordinated through Argentina's Global Compact Network, in the framework of which good practices were exchanged and business forums had been held to address themes such as employment, poverty and investment.

30. The Director of the Office for Planning and Budget of Uruguay highlighted the tradition of social participation in Uruguay and recent government achievements, including poverty reduction and wealth redistribution, the adoption of a rights-based agenda and the fact that all the electricity consumed by the country came from renewable sources. The SDG coordination system in Uruguay had been built on existing platforms and agencies, and the Goals were monitored through social dialogues with a wide range of entities

and individuals. He also noted the importance of territorial considerations and drew attention to the activities carried out in the different territorial departments of the country to disseminate information on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as a result of which issues such as the situation in rural areas, job creation or communication and infrastructure problems had come to the fore. He referred to the work carried out with employers' organizations and in linking the national budget with the SDGs, as demonstrated by the open government initiative and participation in the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT).

31. The Manager of the Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica explained that the implementation and follow-up process of the SDGs in her country was guided by the Medium-Term Socioeconomic Policy Framework of the National Development Plan Vision 2030 Jamaica, whose road map aligned national priorities with the SDGs. Civil society was represented at all levels and the political directorate had fostered inclusiveness to ensure that no one was left behind. Communication with civil society played a critical role, and the country had launched a three-year initiative aimed at enhancing inclusiveness and accountability. Various activities had been held in 2017 with non-State actors, whose contributions had been included in the voluntary national review. Challenges remained in the areas of public education on and awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which new communication strategies were seeking to address. Lastly, she said that financing must be secured from public agencies, with a focus on aligning national priorities with the SDGs.

32. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic said that his country was one of those that had created new institutions to monitor and implement the 2030 Agenda, namely, the High-level Inter-Agency Commission for Sustainable Development. When the 2030 Agenda was adopted, his government had already embarked upon the process of formulating its national development plan, so the Commission had sought to ensure convergence between the plan and the SDGs. To prepare the road map to implement the Agenda, his country had availed itself of the joint approach of the United Nations Development Group, known as the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy (MAPS). The business sector was being made aware of the process and the fact that sustainable development could be profitable, for example, in the area of alternative energy sources. Support was also being provided to non-profit civil society organizations so that they could participate in efforts to achieve the SDGs and awareness-raising and knowledge-generating initiatives were being carried out with academic institutions. Lastly, he recalled that financing was one of the most serious problems faced by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the process.

33. The Secretary General for Planning of SEGEPLAN of Guatemala said that a pre-existing body, the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR), and SEGEPLAN were responsible for implementing the SDGs in his country. With the assistance of ECLAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), a methodology had been designed to integrate the SDGs into the national development plan, with work also under way at the subnational level. The second step had been to define roles and identify those responsible and necessary competencies, in which areas inter-agency coordination had been more complex. The necessary financing would be raised only through transparency and open government initiatives on the expenditure side or through a comprehensive tax reform on the revenue side. Partnerships for development were critical because they provided the framework for initiatives among the government, civil society and the private sector, and gave continuity to the process, which should be based on State policies that transcended government terms of office. Lastly, a follow-up and oversight body must be created to supervise implementation of the SDGs and to ensure that what was planned was reflected in the budget and that information was managed efficiently by producing indicators to measure progress.

34. In the ensuing discussions, there were calls for more prominence to be given to the work of local governments in the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as for efforts to adopt a more local approach to the SDGs, given that territories were different and that the process needed to be adapted to their particular realities. Citizen participation in the establishment of planning, implementation and follow-up mechanisms would help to ensure the visibility of different population groups, such as women, children, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants. The participants discussed the need to incorporate the human-rights perspective into the implementation of the SDGs and to ensure citizens' awareness of the 2030 Agenda so that they would engage with achieving it. To that end, a communication strategy was needed that would reach the different territories, since the main means of communication were not the same everywhere. Lastly, it was suggested that prioritizing certain SDGs could represent a weakness in relation to the holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the regional context.

Panel 3: Platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

35. Panel 3 was moderated by Adolfo Ayuso, Director-General of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Office of the President of Mexico, and the participants were Felipe Castro, Director of Follow-up and Evaluation of the National Planning Department of Colombia; Javier Abugattás, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Centre for Strategic Planning of Peru; Etzon Romo, National Secretary of Planning and Development of the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) of Ecuador; and Nelson Wilfredo Amaya Larromana, Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.

36. The Director-General of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Office of the President of Mexico said that the panel would focus on platforms that could be used to follow up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda regardless of changes in government. In Mexico, the Specialized Technical Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals had been established by the previous administration but had been maintained as it was under the umbrella of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography. He underscored the effect of internal and external factors on follow-up processes and noted that the current Forum, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development, were examples of such platforms. He referred to a joint Cuban-Mexican project creating a network to build national capacities to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda, with the dual purpose of strengthening governments' institutional capacities and establishing methodologies and initiatives related to South-South and triangular cooperation. He said that the aim was not to form new structures, but to provide a space for peer learning, discussions with experts and sharing of planning and monitoring tools, and looked forward to the initiative being submitted to member States for their consideration at the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC.

37. The Director of Follow-up and Evaluation of the National Planning Department of Colombia said that an institutional framework was needed that would support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that would allow policy decisions to be made, stressing that data availability was not enough: policymakers must be engaged as well. His country had established a commission composed of a group of entities, including the Ministries of Finance and Planning, among others, and the national statistical office and, as a starting point, the SDGs had been incorporated into the national development plan. He stressed the importance of setting targets at the subnational level, with more ambitious ones in the areas that were lagging furthest behind so that, in addition to attaining better national averages, territorial gaps could be closed. He also said that it was important to have an open data system accessible to all citizens, to facilitate social oversight of the progress made in achieving targets and public ownership of the Agenda.

38. The Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Centre for Strategic Planning of Peru said that implementing the 2030 Agenda and monitoring the SDGs was not only a statistical task, but must also be incorporated into policies and plans. His country was building on existing institutions and mechanisms, including the national planning system and the national statistical office, and was in the process of developing a State vision based on a long-term, comprehensive approach, aligned to the greatest extent possible with the 2030 Agenda. That vision did not refer explicitly to the SDGs, their targets and indicators, rather its long-term approach would cover the SDGs implicitly, incorporating the Goals and targets into the work plans of public institutions. His country also had an information system available to all citizens, which set out all the functions of the State and to which some of the main goals were being added.

39. The National Secretary of Planning and Development of the SENPLADES of Ecuador said that his country had mainstreamed the SDGs into the National Development Plan 2017-2021. The SDGs were monitored by existing institutions, the national statistical office was supervising the measurement of indicators and SENPLADES managed the National Information System, which was the platform for following-up the SDGs and was open to the public. The national statistical system needed to be strengthened, including by building capacities to gather information and to produce and disseminate indicators. He remarked upon Ecuador's commitment to promoting the use of administrative records in the production of official statistics and noted that, in relation to the importance of disaggregation of information by territory, Ecuador had territorial development plans and specific cross-cutting programmes. Among the challenges faced, he drew attention to the need to involve civil society so that it could play an empowered role in the process.

40. The Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador said that the priorities of his country's five-year plan coincided with the 2030 Agenda, so it had been decided to use existing monitoring mechanisms, instead of creating new ones. The Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President was responsible for planning at the national level. He explained that, with a view to implementing and following-up the SDGs, ministries were both suppliers and users of data in a monitoring system, which allowed progress and challenges to be identified so that decisions could be made based on the proposed objectives. He noted that the preparation of the voluntary national review had enabled El Salvador to improve coordination within the government and with the agencies of the United Nations system, and said that the government hoped to include other stakeholders linked to sustainable development, such as the regions, academia and civil society, as producers and users of information.

41. In the discussion that followed, participants highlighted aspects that were common to national efforts to follow up the SDGs, reflect on the process, adapt agendas and establish the necessary coordination. They stressed that data should be of high quality, reliable and interoperable, both to support follow-up efforts and to ensure that the process was sufficiently transparent. In addition, they highlighted the role that region's extensive administrative records could play, as well as the importance of digitizing them and improving their quality and coverage. Data also needed to be disaggregated, in order to leave no one behind and have broad statistics to identify the sectors that were lagging furthest behind. Among the strategies aimed at encouraging civil society to take ownership of the SDGs, the availability of open data was mentioned as a tool for social oversight. They also spoke of the need to move towards the development of big data, the data revolution and the digitization of institutions' available information, so that everyone could access it. Attention was drawn to the contribution that the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC could make to several of the aforementioned issues.

Panel 4: Continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and new challenges

42. Panel 4 was moderated by Alfredo Moreno, Minister of Social Development of Chile, and the participants were Raúl Montiel Gastó, Coordinator of the Environment Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay; Enrique Villa da Costa Ferreira, National Secretary for Social Coordination of the Government Secretariat of the Office of the President of Brazil; and Olga Sánchez, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica.

43. The Minister of Social Development of Chile said that SDGs were the responsibility of the State, not of a government, and it was important to build on the actions of previous administrations to avoid having to start anew and fail, as had happened in the past. The Government of Chile had established agreements in five key areas that must be addressed in a cross-sectoral approach: childhood, citizen security, the Araucanía region, health, and economic development and poverty. He also stated that Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) differed from the others in that it required concerted and cross-cutting action by the various stakeholders founded on partnerships, not just as a State task. He emphasized the importance of that notion, as States were not all-powerful, resources were limited and the population's needs and expectations increased over time. Therefore, the contribution of all sectors was vital in order to identify the problems requiring priority attention and to resolve them.

44. The Coordinator of the Environmental Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay said that only through a participatory process would the Goals of the 2030 Agenda be met. Therefore, his government had carried out various activities with different sectors, such as training workshops to raise awareness of the SDGs among the public sector, a forum with the private sector to highlight the importance of its participation, and a course for students from the diplomatic academy to involve academia. It had also organized youth activities, such as meetings with agricultural students to encourage them to participate in their communities. The greatest challenges included disseminating information about the 2030 Agenda, since a large proportion of the population was still unaware of it; strengthening institutional architecture and capacities; planning and drafting public policies through participatory processes; and ensuring collaboration between outgoing governments and incoming ones, to reaffirm that implementing the 2030 Agenda should be a State policy.

45. The National Secretary for Social Coordination of the Government Secretariat of the Office of the President of Brazil mentioned two major challenges facing his country. First, raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda among the central, national and subnational levels of government, as well as civil society. He said that all stakeholders were responsible for implementing the Agenda, so it was essential to disseminate it and to establish both international and intra-territorial partnerships. Second, adapting SDG targets, given that certain targets had already been met and others were not necessarily applicable in certain contexts, while for others, the measurement and quantification of the targets must be improved and the efforts needed to achieve them defined. Therefore, an analysis for each target in each territory would help to develop policies and budgets that were more in line with reality. Lastly, he said that the Agenda could not be implemented without financial resources, so concrete actions must be taken in that regard.

46. The Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica said that, at the planning stage, it was important to analyse the national situation in relation to the definition of the targets, the activities that had been undertaken and the challenges that arose, and to take stock of the country's statistical capabilities, to assess whether the mechanism to monitor and evaluate implementation of the SDGs was effective. Another major issue for her country had been establishing a community of different stakeholders—including non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector—that could agree on a set of clear and precise principles. The authorities had worked with the technical secretariats and spatial

planning units to inform those stakeholders about the 2030 Agenda, not as an international agenda that Costa Rica had adopted, but as a national agenda shared with other nations. Lastly, she stressed that it was important to have an institutional and citizen oversight network to ensure that successive governments complied with their State obligations and maintained the pace of work undertaken in previous stages.

47. In the discussion that followed, participants stressed the importance of devising territorial development strategies, in which municipalities and provinces identified their particular needs. They also stressed that cooperation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries would allow the region to make a more meaningful contribution at the international level, thus regional integration was essential. In addition, they spoke of raising awareness of the contributions of environmental policies to the economic and social dimensions. The compartmentalized approach must be replaced with one that integrated the three dimensions into the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda and that included environmental authorities in the bodies responsible for coordinating that implementation, to ensure the adoption of environmentally-friendly solutions and break the vicious cycle that hindered development—a vision that was already set out in several countries' voluntary national reviews. Lastly, they identified inequality as the core problem and proposed that the targets should be adapted to explicitly include a reference to reducing inequality in different areas.

Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 4)

48. This session was moderated by Olga Sánchez, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Gaspar Frontini, Director of International Cooperation and Development Policy of the European Commission; and Philippe Orliange, Regional Representative for Brazil and Argentina of the French Development Agency (AFD), participated in the session.

49. The Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica underlined the importance of having a shared agenda for the whole planet, with a view to achieving the Goals by 2030, bearing in mind the individual specificities of the countries. She noted the long history of relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, the encouraging and diverse spaces for exchange on the 2030 Agenda, and the fact that many shared the difficulties of middle-income countries. She also highlighted the fact that the European countries participating in the session were members of ECLAC. The proposed points for reflection in the dialogue included the mechanisms and measures that countries adopted for implementing the SDGs, the institutional frameworks established for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, the follow-up measures applied, challenges faced and examples of successful experiences, as well as the involvement of different sectors of society and partnerships within and between countries.

50. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, said that implementing the 2030 Agenda in his country was a State commitment and that a major step had been the creation of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which comprised representatives not only of government, but also of civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as parliamentarians and academics. He indicated a number of prerequisites for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the State's long-term commitment, beyond one government term of office; the involvement of multiple stakeholders, not just public authorities; the design of comprehensive and cross-cutting policies; the availability of data and indicators and a technical agency for regular and transparent measurement and evaluation; the promotion of regional and

international cooperation to exchange experiences and lessons learned and to push for and mobilize resources; the focus of regional and international agencies on each country's specific needs and challenges; the alignment of budgets with the priorities of the Agenda; the ongoing adaptation and updating of the regulatory legal framework; and the existence of public information programmes, to ensure transparency.

51. The Director of International Cooperation and Development Policy of the European Commission said that all the relevant European Union agencies had been involved to ensure coordination at a sufficiently high level, that a multi-stakeholder platform had been created and that, as a first step, existing programmes and policies had been analysed to determine to what extent they were aligned with the SDGs. The approach of the new strategic document of the European Union for the period 2020-2030 would be based on the SDGs and EUROSTAT would play a key role in monitoring the Agenda by preparing annual performance reports. The new European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2017, was based on five fundamental principles in order to leave no one behind: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The means of implementation were one of the main challenges and, in that sense, the European Union had renewed its commitment to provide 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance, but that was not enough. He stressed the need to involve the private sector, mobilize domestic resources and combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, and said that forms of cooperation must be established with countries with different national contexts, such as middle-income countries.

52. The Regional Representative for Brazil and Argentina of the French Development Agency said that shared analyses conducted by Europe and Latin America indicated that institutional arrangements and mainstreaming would be major hurdles. Efficient international cooperation for the implementation of the SDGs had to be based on actions at the national level, which required new and different institutions. He identified three core challenges to the implementation of the Agenda: credibility; the need to act with the poorest countries; and international cooperation with other countries, especially middle-income countries. Regarding follow-up measures, he noted the importance of social pressure and said that the countries must move beyond the preparation of periodic reports. An interesting alternative was peer review by a group of examining countries, which could be carried out at the regional level. To continue the implementation process, a renewed social compact was needed that would take into account what the international community wanted to achieve, how to do that and what reforms were necessary. He stressed the importance of the institutional framework for public policies and the need to involve institutions that naturally adopted a medium- or long-term approach, such as development banks. He also said that subnational territories were important, as it was there that the highest levels of social innovation were seen.

53. In the statements that followed, reference was made to different national experiences, which highlighted factors such as nominating high-level leaders responsible for coordinating implementation of the 2030 Agenda; holding dialogue and consultation processes in which different sectors of society participated, including local authorities; incorporating the SDGs at all levels within the framework of a State vision that transcended governments and mainstreaming them into budgets; and selecting all new programmes and projects based on their alignment with and specific contribution to the SDGs. Participants also noted that it was important to carry out independent, regular and technical monitoring, to provide evidence-based reports and foster accountability, as adequate data were essential to establish trust with society.

54. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the proposal to establish a regular biregional dialogue on the SDGs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, which would allow stakeholders to identify regional and global issues on which they could collaborate, such as SDG bonds, taxation, the digital revolution or energy. That dialogue could take place within the framework of the summits between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system (agenda item 5)

55. This session was moderated by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and a special statement was made by Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The following representatives of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDC-LAC) also made statements: César A. Núñez, Regional Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and President a.i. of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC); Elkin Velásquez, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); María Cristina Perceval, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Miguel Barreto, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme (WFP); and Lenni Montiel, Director a.i. for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

56. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the United Nations reform under way focused on three areas —peace and security, development and administration— and included the Secretariat, as well as the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the system. This reform was taking place at a critical juncture, as the current geopolitical context put pressure on multilateralism and regional conflicts abounded. Nonetheless, Latin America and the Caribbean remained a region of peace and ECLAC, an intergovernmental platform in which the 33 countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region took part equally and equitably to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission also provided technical cooperation and advice at the request of member countries. She said that to understand the economic history of the region, it was necessary to know the history of ECLAC thinking over its 70 years of fruitful work, and reiterated its longstanding and continued commitment to accompanying the countries of the region on the road to development.

57. In her statement, the Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the 2030 Agenda was the boldest agenda for humanity and that the Member States had given the Secretary-General a clear mandate to reform the United Nations development system in its resolution 71/243, with a view to making it more efficient, cohesive and accountability in order to deliver on that Agenda. In response to that mandate, seven keystone reforms had been proposed: a new, demand-driven country teams tailored to meet the specific development priorities and needs; a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, with stronger capacity, leadership, accountability and impartiality; a coordinated, reprofiled and restructured regional approach to better support work on the ground; renewed spaces for Member States to guide system-wide actions and bring greater transparency and accountability for results, at the country level; a stronger institutional response by the Organization and a system-wide approach to partnerships for the 2030 Agenda; specific steps to accelerate the system's alignment with the Agenda through a strategic framework; and a funding compact to bring better quality, quantity and predictability of resources, increased accountability and transparency and enhanced capacities of the system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. All this would be complemented with a stronger role for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). A dual reform approach had been proposed, optimizing collaboration and synergies at the regional level and revamping of United Nations assets in the region. The regional commissions would play a crucial role in those reforms and would work in closer collaboration with the United Nations Development Group and country teams in future. Lastly, this was not simply a matter of bureaucratic changes, but of carrying out a reform that would make the United Nations capable of implementing the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

58. Next, the Regional Director of UNAIDS and President a.i. of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC) said that progress had been made in the region on the 2030 Agenda, including the creation of new inter-institutional mechanisms to coordinate and formulate development plans that took the SDGs into account, reviews of national budgets to finance the SDGs and stronger policies combining the three dimensions of sustainable development. However, there were still many challenges. UNDG-LAC proposed that several approaches should be adopted: the gender approach, which facilitated the identification of social constructs that made discriminatory situations with regard to employment, wages and political participation seem normal; the intercultural approach, which sought to prevent indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples falling behind the rest of the population; the life cycle approach, which highlighted the interplay between the life cycles in human development and the need to invest in childhood; the territorial approach, as 80% of the region's population lived in cities, which posed challenges in terms of urban sustainable development; the environmental approach, essential to the development of one of the world's more biodiverse regions; and the inclusive approach, involving stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector, which was fundamental to work in a coordinated manner with a shared perspective and priorities to meet the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

59. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN-Habitat drew attention to the need to reduce vulnerabilities, especially the effects of climate changes, and to integrate efforts to promote development and combat poverty. This required a combination of local and global initiatives. The recent adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters was a very important step, but it needed to be back up by national capacities. He then referred to examples of initiatives for achieving the SDGs on urban and environmental issues, such as income transfers to encourage environmental conservation and initiatives that linked sustainable human settlements to environmental protection. He said that cities were compatible with sustainable development, if the right actions were undertaken to that end. UN-Habitat had presented methodological proposals to improve the design of interventions, and the New Urban Agenda offered a framework for action and development aimed at reducing vulnerability by improving the design of urban spaces, in alignment with economic growth and sustainable development. Lastly, he insisted that more modern and comparable indicators needed to be used at the national level to form a more accurate picture of urbanization processes in the region.

60. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made particular reference to the situations of vulnerability in which a high percentage of children and adolescents in the region found themselves. She said that investment in early childhood, a crucial development period, was essential. There was agreement on that and it was positive that the United Nations system in the region was speaking with one voice on that issue. She underlined that Goal 4 on education had a multiplier effect on Goals 2 (ending hunger), 3 (ensuring healthy lives) and 16 (promoting peaceful and inclusive societies). She recalled that education went beyond the school system, as young people aged between 15 and 19 risked ending up in precarious jobs and in poverty, and emphasized that action in the area of comprehensive sexual education was also necessary, considering that early pregnancy rates were much higher in the lowest income quintiles, among indigenous girls and girls with few years of schooling. She noted the high numbers of girls and young women who were victims of violence, which caused them to lose the advances of the first years in the second decade of life. She also noted that adolescents were agents of change and innovation, and that the current generation of 15- to 24-year-olds was the most educated and had achieved the greatest ever gender parity.

61. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme (WFP) said that it was generally understood that nutrition affected any development strategy. Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region that had achieved the hunger eradication target and those efforts should now be focused on improving nutrition education and combating malnutrition. He referred to the high economic cost of malnutrition and the need to promote nutrition education and foster a change in habits and overcome poor nutrition problems in urban populations. Peoples' ways of life could not be improved while economic transfer programmes failed to address climate change adaptation and nutrition education. He also stressed the importance of incorporating small rural producers into the market by means of rural development integrating the social, economic and environmental components, bearing in mind that development also meant integrating the rural and the urban. He recalled that poverty affected one in every two people in rural areas, compared with one in four in cities, and that this ratio had barely changed since the 1990s. He stated that new patterns of equitable rights and inclusion were needed; in addition, the fact that the systems were failing to distribute wealth meant that they had to adapt in order to meet the SDGs.

62. The Director a.i. for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that one of the challenges facing the region was to approach tasks from the perspective of the 2030 Agenda. Social protection was a human right and its exercise depended on the existence of agile social protection mechanisms, which had to be funded in a context of informal labour conditions, bearing in mind that the more widespread informality was, the more difficult it was to ensure that people had access to social protection. Social systems should perform an equalizing function, but in the region the poor remained poor after taxation mechanisms had been applied. Unemployment rates for women, indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples and persons with disabilities in the region were very high and inclusive social policies were necessary to promote formal work and adequate income levels for all. In the particular case of women, it was necessary to facilitate economic integration, tackling the roots of the problem through education, access to jobs that generated a livelihood, the improvement of care services and the redistribution of unpaid work in the family between women and men, as well as by promoting upward labour mobility and formal work. Affirmative action policies were needed to achieve change and to support specific vulnerable groups.

63. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the efforts needed to implement the 2030 Agenda exceeded countries' individual capacities and that the United Nations agencies in the region and the resident coordinators in the countries must act in conjunction and in coordinated manner. Statistics influenced public investment decisions, so data must be disaggregated to the territorial level to reflect heterogeneity and allow comparability among countries. The Forum promoted dialogue on best practices and advisory services for countries, and the adoption of affirmative action policies that would break the inertia. Regional agreements, such as the recently adopted Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, complemented national environmental protection capacities. Participants also noted that countries' needs must be linked to decisions adopted under the auspices of the General Assembly and called upon countries to impress that upon their permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York.

Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

64. The participants in this session were Javier Cortés, Director of the United Nations Global Compact for Local Networks in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America; Kinnon Scott, Senior Economist in the Poverty and Inequality Unit of the World Bank Development Research Group and World Bank Global Lead for Welfare Measurement; Carlos Eduardo Frickmann Young, Associate Professor of the Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; and the following representatives of civil society: Dean

Lermen, Secretary for Human Rights of the Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC); Marisa Viana, Executive Coordinator of Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ); and Oriana López Uribe, Executive Director of Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud.

65. The Director of the United Nations Global Compact for Local Networks in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America underscored the importance of private sector participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the opportunity this offered to companies, since it provided very clear Goals and targets with which to align their business models and practices. That alignment could be instrumental in accessing public funding or contracts, so companies should be clear in making their interlocutors aware of their commitment to sustainability. He said that companies should make that commitment part of their business models and those that did not would compromise their viability, since markets could not prosper in societies where citizens did not enjoy basic rights and resources. Lastly, the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda was an ideal platform for businesses to share knowledge and experiences and access new contacts and tools.

66. The Senior Economist in the Poverty and Inequality Unit of the World Bank Development Research Group and World Bank Global Lead for Welfare Measurement spoke about the three main areas in which the World Bank was working to implement the 2030 Agenda. Firstly, the Bank supported initiatives to improve the availability and use of data, and to foster innovation in data collection, recognizing the importance of open data and open government for civil society oversight. Secondly, it was redefining its financing for development strategy to attract private sector investment in order to make better use of public resources, by removing obstacles to private sector participation in financing for development and mitigating the sector's perceived risks. Lastly, the Bank was creating partnerships with both its traditional partners and new ones, to address the complex and interrelated nature of the SDGs.

67. The Associate Professor of the Institute of Economics of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro said that a society's future was the result of what that society envisaged for itself, but there was still a lack of consensus on solutions to the new generation of social, economic and environmental problems posed by sustainable development. Academics had ideas in that regard, but needed forums for reflection and advocacy such as those provided by ECLAC. It was important to incorporate sustainability into fiscal policies from the outset, for example by charging for the use of natural resources or adopting principles such as polluter pays. He also referred to the possibility of using incentives such as taking municipalities' performance into account when allocating resources or rewarding businesses for innovation or finding solutions to social and environmental problems. Lastly, he said that it was imperative to update national statistical systems to include issues that had arisen in the last 50 years.

68. The floor was then given to Dean Lermen of the Latin American Blind Union (ULAC) of Colombia and Marisa Viana, of Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ) of Brazil. In representation of civil society, they presented a proposal for a mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development for the consideration of the countries (see annex 3). This mechanism had been adopted by consensus at the meeting of civil society held on Tuesday, 17 April, with the aim of helping to guarantee the right of civil society in the region to participate and access information. Next, Oriana López, of Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud, read out a statement, which noted that, inter alia, progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region had been limited and denounced the constant attacks on democracy and human rights defenders, public-private partnerships that exploited natural resources, and violations of the rights of the most vulnerable groups. They therefore demanded a new economic model, greater accountability on the part of companies and governments and greater participation of citizens in decision-making. They also urged governments to comply with the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and to ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

69. During the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the need to disseminate the 2030 Agenda among young people, requested the effective participation of trade unions in the permanent mechanisms to implement and follow up the SDGs, and said that gender equality must be achieved as a precondition for development. They also mentioned that the dialogue session had provided governments with a clearer idea about the support they could expect from the international organizations when implementing the 2030 Agenda, and had made the international bodies more aware of countries' needs, which would allow them to better coordinate a response. ECLAC embodied the regional dimension of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and provided a space for discussion, offering all stakeholders the opportunity to engage in a deep and productive dialogue and share good practices.

Dialogues on the shift towards sustainable and resilient societies (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17) (agenda item 7)

70. This session was divided into three round tables.

Round table 1: Economic challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda

71. Round table 1 was moderated by Lenni Montiel, Director a.i. for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the participants were Ileana Núñez Mordoche, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; Alejandra Corchuelo Marmolejo, Deputy Director of the National Planning Department of Colombia; and Jorge Coronado, member of the Board of the Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights (LATINDADD).

72. The Director a.i. for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) underscored the importance of the issues to be discussed that day. ECLAC had prepared a rich analytical document, the *Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The round table participants had been well chosen, as they included representatives of a country that was already implementing a development model that incorporated the three dimensions (Cuba), one of the pioneering countries of the 2030 Agenda (Colombia) and an institution that promoted tax justice (LATINDADD). He recalled the devastating effects of hurricanes in the region, emphasizing that they highlighted the comprehensiveness of the 2030 Agenda, compared with a model that appeared to focus on dealing with the effects of these events instead of anticipating them. He said that the presentations to follow would offer an opportunity to hear about, respectively, how an island country faced the challenges of climate change within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the efforts to improve the focus of public intervention and address institutional strengthening, and the role of taxes and the distributive approach in advancing towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in a balanced manner.

73. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that, despite the progress made in various economic indicators, Latin America received far fewer resources than were needed to address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. Given that shortfall, budgets should be aligned with public policies that sought to obtain resources to implement the Agenda. All new and regular resources must therefore be mobilized and developed countries must honour their official development assistance commitments. In addition to North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation could also contribute to the implementation of the Agenda by providing stable and predictable resources. She added that climate change and the magnitude of natural disasters had obliged countries to reallocate resources earmarked for the Agenda. She described the steps that Cuba was taking to promote activities to implement the 2030 Agenda and said that the region had various mechanisms that could be used for that purpose, establishing synergies that would leave countries better placed to face that challenge.

74. The Deputy Director of the National Planning Department of Colombia noted the region's resilience in the face of the vagaries of the economy, but said that it continued to rely on the exploitation of natural resources and that the demographic dividend was coming to an end. In that context, there was a need to rethink the region's economic development by identifying new sources of growth and forms of production to allow green growth, which would link the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda within the circular economy. To that end, countries must diversify their production matrices through products and services with greater value added that were part of global production chains, to ensure greater access to international financing and technologies; implement policies to support science, technology and innovation, which were the means to achieve many of the SDGs; and create conditions that promoted private sector engagement. Challenges included the need to ensure international cooperation to control tax evasion, build simple tax systems that promoted the formalization of employment, strengthen the multilateral trade system to keep economies open, and implement the agreements at the global level.

75. The member of the Board of LATINDADD raised the question of whether resources existed to implement the 2030 Agenda and said that countries had ceased to receive large sums that could be used for that purpose. Taxation was the main social inclusion tool and the region's persistent inequality was linked to the tax structure, in particular a very low tax burden, a highly regressive tax system, fiscal incentives that were not linked to development targets, very low income and capital gains taxes, and alarming levels of tax evasion, in addition to illicit financial flows, which represented significant lost tax revenue. That situation led to a loss of trust between the governing classes and the governed, which should be addressed through a society-wide discussion. He proposed an agenda that included, among other aspects, fiscal oversight for international corporations, efforts to combat tax opacity, a tax system that promoted inclusivity by focusing on progressive taxes, an end to tax privileges, mechanisms to ensure oversight and the quality of social spending, and promoting the role of the Group of 77 in the governance of international taxation, to provide a multilateral space in which to discuss tax systems.

76. In the discussion that followed, the participants reiterated that taxation was key to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the countries of the region and that many had not yet established adequate, progressive tax systems. They suggested that, instead of focusing attention on the informal sector's failure to observe tax obligations, the spotlight should be turned on the most privileged sectors, as they were the ones that had effectively stopped paying taxes. Faced with the problems created by weak taxation and the flight of resources from many of the region's economies, greater emphasis must be placed on the rule of law as an enabler of development, through law enforcement, legal certainty and the fight against crime, including financial crime.

Round table 2: Social challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda

77. Round table 2 was moderated by Esteban Caballero, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the participants were Marina Arismendi, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay; Catalina Restrepo, Executive Director of the Cooperation and Investment Agency of Medellín and the Metropolitan Area (ACI) of Colombia; and Nisia Trindade Lima, President of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) of Brazil.

78. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) explained that the aim of the round table was to link the social dimension to the SDGs that would be prioritized at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in New York in July 2018, and noted that sometimes the journey was more interesting than the destination. Next, he provided some examples of that link, such as the relationship between social development and environmental sustainability in cities and urban settlements, the positive effect of improved access to water and sanitation

and the reduction of working hours and unpaid work on gender equality or the way in which some countries' social development policies concentrated on the effects of natural disasters.

79. The Minister of Social Development of Uruguay stated her belief that social development was not possible without an intersectoral, inter-institutional and coordinated approach between the State and civil society. The relationships among institutions must be robust and transparent and not affected by changes in government or holders of public office, if effective policies were to be pursued. It was a complex task that had to be shaped continually and that would promote the efficient allocation of resources and prevent overlap among plans and programmes. Given that the social, economic and environmental dimensions were interdependent and not only had a cause and effect relationship, but also complemented each other and created synergies, the various ministries and institutions must coordinate their efforts.

80. The Executive Director of ACI of Colombia said that Medellín was an example of a city that had undergone a profound transformation in recent years, in which innovation and information and communication technologies had played a fundamental role by creating a link between social development and economic development. One of the main factors behind that transformation had been the work undertaken in conjunction with the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, regardless of changes in government. The cornerstones of that work had included education, through school programmes and investment in scholarships and forgivable loans for university students; the promotion of peace and coexistence; a public policy for economic development based on competitiveness and science and innovation as the engine of development, as well as partnerships between academia and the business sector to create jobs; and, lastly, environmental protection measures, such as modernizing public transport fleets, encouraging commuters to use the cable car and paying inhabitants of the rural areas around Medellín for environmental services.

81. The President of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) of Brazil noted the central role of science, technology and information in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and their usefulness for policies and society. She said that when the system prioritized the well-being of all, economic growth led to development. For that to happen, however, the political will had to exist to pursue that objective. Health was not a sectoral issue, but a cross-cutting one, which was directly related to rights such as access to water, sanitation, good-quality housing, and a healthy environment. She explained that an intersectoral and holistic response had been needed to tackle the Zika virus epidemic. As part of that response, scientific research had helped to diagnose and understand the disease, and the follow-up of cases of children born with microcephaly had helped to detect deficiencies in the health system and in the transport network, particularly in poor and vulnerable areas.

82. In the concluding reflections, the participants stressed that efforts and dialogue must be promoted among multiple stakeholders from the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It was essential to raise awareness of the Agenda among the different levels of government, as well as among all the stakeholders involved. However, an important challenge was the definition of roles and, more particularly, raising awareness of the need for each stakeholder to play their part. Trust needed to be restored in institutions and participants noted that the selection processes for the leaders of those institutions could create mistrust. They also mentioned how the quality of social infrastructure disproportionately affected women and girls, and how municipal authorities must address problems related to violence and inequalities to ensure that cities provided women with opportunities. Lastly, they cited a number of examples of South-South cooperation on health monitoring and of efforts to strengthen statistical systems in order to follow up the social pillar of the 2030 Agenda.

Round table 3: Environmental challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda

83. Round table 3 was moderated by Leo Heileman, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the participants were Rodolfo Lacy Tamayo, Undersecretary for Planning and Environmental Policy of the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) of Mexico; Rodrigo Benítez Ureta, Undersecretary for the Environment of Chile; and Julio Berdegué, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

84. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expressed appreciation of the opportunity to reflect on the environmental challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing that they were considerable. He underscored the need to address the expected growth in demand for natural resources over the next few years, without eroding the availability of those resources for future generations. Economies and societies were not efficient in that area, but policies could promote a shift towards resource efficiency, which also had the potential to improve people's living conditions. He highlighted the importance of improving the environment to address other challenges, such as poverty; the need for policies based on a holistic vision of the social, environmental and economic dimensions; the close link between the environment and human rights; and the need to change consumption and production patterns as a crucial factor in achieving the other SDGs, particularly with respect to climate change.

85. The Undersecretary for Planning and Environmental Policy of SEMARNAT of Mexico referred to Mexico's experience, saying that the idea of green growth had been incorporated into the national development plan and that a structural reform undertaken in 2012-2013, with green growth as a cross-cutting factor, meant that activities and programmes were evaluated from an environmental perspective. He added that precise indicators had been identified and adapted to national realities by linking environmental targets to productivity indicators, in order to promote new production methods, such as organic agriculture and nature tourism. He said that the first environmental reform had been a fiscal one and that the reform of the energy sector had also been very important, driving investment in renewable energy and creating green jobs. Among the lessons learned, he drew attention to the fact that green growth could be an inherent strength, that the solution of global problems required leadership in multilateral forums to promote the environmental agenda and that inclusion should be organic, in the sense of not only convening the stakeholders to discussions, but also proactively taking their opinions into account and supporting the necessary processes.

86. The Undersecretary for the Environment of Chile referred to a series of environment-related initiatives that his country was undertaking. With regard to SDG 11, he pointed to the existence of rules on particulate matter emissions and sustainable heating programmes, efforts to mainstream electromobility in public transportation, the recently enacted Recycling Promotion Act and the reduction in the use of plastic bags. In connection with SDG 12, production processes would be improved through regulations on the management and recovery of waste, for example, in the tyre, oil and battery industry, and the State was seeking to integrate sustainability criteria into public procurement processes. With regard to SDG 13, he said that a bill on climate change was being drafted and that there were national and sectoral adaptation plans. Regarding SDG 14, he drew attention to the creation of marine protected areas, although it was still unclear how these would be managed, and, in connection with SDG 15, he said that progress had been made in updating environmental standards and in setting investment standards with environmental considerations.

87. The Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO said that, in addition to including some environmental Goals, the whole 2030 Agenda was related to the environment, as no progress could be made in any sphere without taking into account the relevant environmental considerations. The environmental, social and economic challenges were interrelated. The difficulty of establishing a virtuous link between the economic and environmental dimensions meant that environmental considerations often came second, because of institutional failures arising from underlying inequality. For example, he noted that one path to sustainable water use (SDG 6) was to limit its use in agriculture, but that would conflict with the need to increase food production to achieve food security for a growing population (SDG 2). An environmental social compact was therefore needed to establish new development paradigms capable of overcoming the conflict between the economic or social and environmental dimensions and to move towards creating synergy among them.

88. During the ensuing discussion, attention was drawn to the need to address the expected growth in demand for natural resources over the next few years, without eroding the availability of those resources for future generations. Participants said that economies and societies were inefficient in that area, but that policies could promote a shift towards resource efficiency, which also had the potential to improve people's living conditions. They noted that the environment must be improved to address other challenges, such as poverty, and that there was a close link between the environment and human rights, and they reiterated the need for policies based on a holistic vision of the social, environmental and economic dimensions. The participants highlighted the importance of the twenty-first meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in the second half of 2018 in Argentina, which would provide a crucial opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and address issues relating to climate change and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in Kenya in March 2019, would also provide an opportunity to address sustainable production and consumption. The participation of local governments, within the framework of coordination of different levels of government, was crucial, as was the role of scientists in the implementation of the SDGs. Lastly, participants emphasized the relevance of constructing a new environmental governance that would go hand in hand with fiscal and financial changes, and of analysing the interaction between SDGs using the appropriate metrics.

Special session on artificial intelligence: accelerated technological change (agenda item 8)

89. This session was moderated by Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. José Ramón López-Portillo, co-founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies of the University of Oxford; Giovanni Stumpo, Chief of the Unit on Investment and Corporate Strategies of ECLAC; and José Manuel Salazar, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO), participated in the session.

90. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico proposed that ECLAC and the United Nations analyse the changes implied by exponential technologies and artificial intelligence. In Mexico, 18 uses of artificial intelligence that would have an economic and social impact had been identified. Two models were being used at the global level: one centralized, in which governments promoted that sector along with companies, and the other decentralized, in which the sector was promoted by private companies. Regarding the development of a plan of action for Latin America and the Caribbean in that area, the region had to learn more about the subject and its implications; the United Nations and ECLAC should collect, analyse and disseminate data on the subject to the countries of the region; and the countries should analyse options relating to public policies, governance and regulation, as well as share best practices and promote education that fostered innovation, as part of a collective effort targeting possible regulatory frameworks to address the impacts of artificial

intelligence and technological change. He proposed creating a group that would analyse that subject and seek support from the region for the permanent integration of the technology issue into the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

91. The co-founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies of the University of Oxford said that, for the first time in history, not only humans' physical skills, but also their cognitive skills, were being rapidly surpassed by smart, capable machines, which represented a radical change in economic, social, political, cultural, biological and cognitive terms. Institutions changed in a linear manner, whereas advanced technologies were changing exponentially. Digitization and artificial intelligence were optimizing organization, management, hiring processes and the monitoring of professional and manual workers' productivity. There was a shift in client relations and in firms' foresight and planning capacities. In the case of manufacturing, artificial intelligence had increased robots' skill and flexibility, allowing them to take on more and more economic activities and niches. A noticeable effect in developed countries was the fall in new sources of work, which was putting pressure on labour markets, wages and companies' standards of administrative and productive efficiency. Technology by itself was neither good nor bad; people were responsible for using it to achieve the SDGs. The region was especially well placed to make a technological leap; however, inequality, socioeconomic polarization and the low educational standards of their labour forces meant that most countries were ill-equipped to adapt to the technological innovations coming from the rest of the world or to generate their own. Latin America and the Caribbean urgently needed to reposition its development model and reconfigure the role of the State to spread the benefits, and not only the risks, of technological progress. The right use of digitization systems and artificial intelligence should enable the public and private sectors to collaborate more effectively to achieve the SDGs.

92. The Chief of the Unit on Investment and Corporate Strategies of ECLAC referred to the document *Data, algorithms and policies: Redefining the digital world*, recently published by ECLAC for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society of Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that the speed of technological change and advances in artificial intelligence had affected consumption and production patterns. However, those shifts were happening very quickly in developed countries, while developing countries were lagging behind. Digital flows had grown at an exponential rate, but traditional, financial and commercial flows were increasing much more slowly. The relationships between goods and services were changing, for example, digital technology was increasingly part of the automobile production chain, and that process had been concentrated in the hands of a few through mergers and acquisitions of companies, which posed challenges in terms of redistribution. Data collection and processing had become a means of creating value as production chains and services had changed. The challenge was ascertaining which players were best placed in that new context, so establishing partnerships among countries and accelerating the spread of the digital economy would be key. Lastly, he pointed out that the need for a new governance model and for international multilateralism, as well as a regional digital market.

93. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of ILO referred to the speed with which technologies evolved and their disruptiveness as important elements to be considered in connection with sustainable development in the region. The speed of technology uptake and the readiness of people, families, businesses, governments and public institutions must be taken into account. There was evidence of acceleration in three areas: the dynamics of job creation and destruction; the obsolescence of labour skills, which posed challenges for education and vocational training systems; and the change in business models. There was also a risk of greater inequality, given that technology was one of the main drivers of income polarization and concentration. To mitigate the risks, a revolution was needed in education and learning to improve employability, production development policies should be implemented to boost labour demand, digital and broadband infrastructure should be created and labour institutions should be

redesigned. The contribution of ECLAC to reflection on those issues was invaluable to the achievement of sustainable development in the region.

94. In the question-and-answer session that followed, participants said that technology and artificial intelligence could ensure that resources were used more efficiently by, for example, developing new energy sources, and that the State had a role to play in the reorganization of businesses. Production and the future of work were two sides of the same coin and education systems had to prepare people for the labour market. Lack of understanding of the technology setting could lead people to crises of confidence and difficulties in adapting. It was thus very timely that ECLAC should focus on the issue in the region.

Special statement on the importance of the regional dimension in the 2018 and 2019 meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

95. In her special statement on the importance of the regional dimension in the 2018 and 2019 meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, Irena Zubcevic, of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, noted the complexity of the links between the SDGs and the regional and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. The submission of voluntary national reviews was very valuable, as these provided an overview of the follow-up and monitoring of the Agenda at the country level. Regional forums such as the current one were essential in bringing the different and specific issues of each region to the global level, and the report to be prepared for the 2019 meeting would consider in detail the various matters that were specific to the region, including the science-policy interface.

Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 10)

96. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 700(XXXVI), the Forum adopted intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which are attached hereto as annex 1. In addition, a Summary of the Chair of the Forum was prepared, which is attached as annex 2.

Side events and meetings

97. A number of side events and meetings were held in the framework of the second meeting of the Forum. The programme of these events figures in annex 4.

Closing ceremony

98. At the closing ceremony, statements were made by Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Ileana Nuñez, Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

99. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a participatory, inclusive, open, democratic and productive space for all participants, and very timely because it reaffirmed the collective commitment to attain the 2030 Agenda. It also offered an opportunity to exchange views on the challenges and difficulties in its implementation. The Forum revealed the transformative will of a region with great strengths and major challenges ahead, such as migration, the rise of technology and artificial intelligence, financing difficulties, deficiencies in the training of human

resources, the lack of opportunities for young people, women and the most vulnerable groups, inequality and public policy inertias. A major challenge was the public's lack of awareness of the Agenda. It had been a great satisfaction for Mexico to chair the Forum for two years, a role that would subsequently be performed by Cuba. Lastly, he said that ECLAC was a collective asset of Latin America and the Caribbean that brought together, inspired, challenged and encouraged the countries of the region.

100. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba congratulated Mexico for its work as Chair of the Forum and said that her country stood ready to support the Forum over the coming years. She also reiterated the invitation to ECLAC to hold its thirty-seventh session in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018.

101. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that it had been a fruitful, intense and successful week, thanks to the efforts of all. ECLAC would continue to support the countries of the region—particularly the Caribbean countries—on the path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, united in the purpose of eradicating the culture of privilege. A Latin American and Caribbean narrative had been constructed in which all people were the subjects and not the objects of policies, and future generations must inherit a new development paradigm. Lastly, she reminded participants that the ECLAC secretariat dared to imagine and dream of just and sustainable societies.

Annex 1

**INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

We, the Ministers and high representatives gathered at the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago de Chile, from the 18th to the 20th of April, 2018:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind, including its Goals and targets, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental—, and stress that it is people-centered, universal and transformative and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, being reaching the furthest behind first and empowering those in vulnerable situations crucial to sustainable development,

2. *Reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda that supports and complements it, and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions to achieve its targets; recognize the synergies of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, the SAMOA Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recommend further strengthening of multilateral cooperation at the regional and global levels for the effective implementation of the aforementioned instruments; welcome the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations Development System at the regional level, aiming to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterate the need that their activities are carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities,

3. *Reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof,

4. *Stress* the importance to continue to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in situation of conflict and post conflict,

5. *Reiterate* the call to the United Nations Development System, in consultation with international financial institutions, to address the specific development needs of middle-income countries through, *inter alia*, an accurate response to their needs, taking into account variables that go beyond *per capita* income criteria; recalls that 73 per cent of the world's poor population is concentrated in these countries where cooperation can have a multiplying effect to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals; and look forward to actively participate in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its 73rd Session to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

6. *Recognize* that the follow-up and review at the regional and sub regional levels of the 2030 Agenda can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, and that the resolution 700(XXXVI) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) established the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development, as a regional mechanism to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

7. *Welcome* efforts at all levels to implement the 2030 Agenda and recognize that after almost three years of implementation, our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. However, given the challenges for the region to achieve sustainable development, in particular poverty, inequalities, high global debt and reduced levels of international cooperation, we underscore the need to accelerate both the pace of implementation and raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, to secure our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership,

8. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and note with appreciation the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the sustainable development framework by 2030, resulting from the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and underscore that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the protection and full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in this regard recommend further streamlining a gender approach into national sustainable development policies and strategies,

9. *Stress* the need to take all measures necessary in order to leave no one behind, while respecting and promoting all human rights for all, including social protection and equal access to quality essential public services for all,

10. *Take note with appreciation* ECLAC's second annual report on regional progress and challenges on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, which provides an evidence-based analysis on opportunities and challenges for our consideration and informs some individual and collective actions carried out by our countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, even under an uncertain economic environment constraining the mobilization of resources, and take note of its recommendations to promote inter alia a structural progressive change from a sustainable development perspective, including the set of Sustainable Development Goals that will be reviewed in depth at the 2018 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development related to SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, and Goal 17 reviewed annually,

11. *Reaffirm* the commitment to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and welcome the launch of the International Decade of Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028; recognize that in addition to access to energy, it is still needed to ensure that it is affordable, reliable and sustainable; reiterate the commitment with sustainable urban development, recognizing that more than 80 per cent of the population of the region live in urban areas, and look forward to the regional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2036; reiterate the commitment to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and that people in our region have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, and recognize the need to promote a structural progressive change towards sustainable development to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce deforestation, combat desertification, land degradation and drought, foster strategies for the sustainable use

of natural resources and ecosystem services in the region, and look forward for, *inter alia*, the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, on 17 June 2018, to be hosted by Ecuador,

12. *Commend* the 14 countries of the region that have already presented voluntary national reviews at the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC, and the 8 countries preparing to do so in 2018, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these 19 countries —of which 3 are presenting a second review— in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, including by integrating it into their national strategies and adjusting institutional set-ups; recommend further volunteering and engaging in the upcoming High Level Political Forum, and look forward to the appropriate allocation of time both, for presentations and feedback from peer ministers,

13. *Welcome* the continuous efforts of countries from our region to implement the 2030 Agenda through its mainstreaming in public policies, institutional arrangements, and national and subnational follow-up and review, and the establishment of twenty national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and encourage these countries to further deepen their national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to engage in in-depth knowledge sharing with peers and partners throughout the region,

14. *Acknowledge* the contribution of ECLAC and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to the indicators of the region in the second report, and recommend its contribution for the next one, and welcome the results of the 9th Statistical Conference of the Americas and its important contribution to advance in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, ensuring that no one is left behind,

15. *Welcome* the ongoing process to strengthen and adapt the United Nations Development System to better support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and agree with the need stated by the Secretary General to revamp regional structures and look forward to consider the options for longer-term restructuring of the regional assets of the UN to be presented by the Secretary-General avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach; strongly commend the work carried out by ECLAC through its 70 years of existence and its continued effort to support country-led processes; commit to ensure that ECLAC functions and mandate are fully recognized and maintained, particularly its crucial role in the regional dimension of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and urge the Commission to fully engage in the Secretary General's initiative to revamp the regional assets in benefit of country-led processes and increase, within its mandates, regional initiatives to leave no one behind,

16. *Recognize* the importance of the environmental dimension as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and the role of multilateral institutions and agreements that set the global environmental agenda, promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system; and also recognize the role of regional fora on environmental action, such as the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and its contributions for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

17. *Recognize* the need to adopt a broader and more people-centered and inclusive preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, ensuring that the policies and practices cover multiple risks and people in vulnerable situations in our region, including by realigning the disaster financing to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, as well as to promote post-disaster recovery and reconstruction in order to improve efficiency, predictability and speed of response; and further welcome ECLAC's proposal of debt swaps for climate adaptation that address the unsustainable debt burden of the Caribbean economies affected by disasters, while creating a resilience fund to facilitate investment in climate adaptation thereby reducing their vulnerability,

18. *Take note* of the adoption of the “Escazú Regional Agreement” on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica, which constitutes an important step forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and invite all governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider becoming a member of the Agreement, which will be open to signature from the 27th of September 2018,

19. *Reaffirm* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

20. *Commit* to continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO),

21. *Note with concern* that, despite some improvement in the global and regional economy, this recovery has not been shared among all countries and sectors; and that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to concessional finance, particularly for middle-income countries. In this regard, emphasize the importance for countries of the region of Official Development Assistance, call the developed countries to fulfill their ODA targets, and reiterate the importance to increase climate financing, which is additional to ODA; and further recognize the necessity of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including national efforts, international and regional cooperation that supports policies and programmes to increase investment in sustainable development; taking into account that every country has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity,

22. *Further recognize* that inequality, or even a rise in inequality, remains pervasive in countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, and that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

23. *Reaffirm* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, and recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, encourage to align private sector incentives with national public goals towards long-term investment according to national realities and capacities, including innovative financing instruments and approaches, to bridge the region’s structural inequality gaps and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

24. *Recommit* to a redoubling of its efforts to substantially curb illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion, transnational organized crime and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international and regional cooperation, to reducing opportunities for tax avoidance,

25. *Reaffirm* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation and welcomes the contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development; stress the importance of triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise; and *look forward* to a successful outcome of the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 20-22 March 2019,

26. *Reaffirm* the importance of mobilizing for our region financial and nonfinancial resources and capacity building for the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, and further recommend to increase international and regional cooperation, inter alia, for the development of endogenous science and technology,

27. *Reaffirm* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in this regard, welcome the ongoing discussions in the I and II Forum on the impact of artificial intelligence on accelerated technological change in sustainable development; look forward to the Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean which will include a panel on emerging technologies for productivity and inclusion; as well as to the 21st Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, that will hold a high-level round table on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and to the Third Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which will include a session on the impact of rapid technological change, including in cases in which changes may occur at an exponential pace, on the achievement of the Sustainable Developing Goals, in order to further elaborate regional recommendations within the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; and urge the operationalization of the United Nations online platform as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs,

28. *Recognize* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, as well as for follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing its goals and targets, taking into account different national, realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities; and that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

29. *Welcome* the contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region, and the participation according with the resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia at the Second Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind,

30. *Request ECLAC* to prepare an updated version of the progress report for the third forum and present it one month in advance, recommend the Presidency of the 37th Session of ECLAC to submit the second progress report, along with the present conclusions and recommendations with a Summary of the Chair, as regional contributions to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, as well as to the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for their due consideration,

31. *Express* our deepest appreciation to the Chair of the 36th session and ECLAC for organizing and hosting the second meeting of the Forum of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

Annex 2

**SUMMARY OF THE CHAIR OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM
OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

INTRODUCTION

At the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the member States adopted resolution 700(XXXVI), sponsored by Mexico, establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), its targets and means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, and convened under the auspices of the Commission.

The second meeting of the Forum was held in Santiago, from 18 to 20 April 2018, chaired by Mexico, and convened under the auspices of the Commission. The meeting of the Forum was open to member States of the Forum and observers, the United Nations system, regional and subregional bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society.

The purpose of the meetings of the Forum was to share experiences and best practices among the Latin American and Caribbean countries regarding actions taken to implement the SDGs in the region.

1. Presentation of the Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean¹

The Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reflected the progress made by the region regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, namely, all countries had a medium-term development vision; the practice of planning had made a comeback, as had that of designing a national inter-institutional and intersectoral framework; and the regional architecture for implementing the 2030 Agenda had been strengthened; the SDGs had been integrated into national development plans and public budgets; transparency and open government had been afforded importance; and new spaces for dialogue between government, business, academia and citizens had been created. The challenges to be overcome included the difficult political situation at the global level, an increase in conservative movements and the re-emergence of nationalist currents in the world, which made it difficult to mobilize resources and consolidate international cooperation projects. Fiscal spending

¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/FDS.2/3), 2018.

had declined and global wealth was becoming more concentrated, which increased inequality. Corruption and public institutions' lack of credibility were eroding the path towards achievement of the SDGs.

The countries of the region now had a broader range of institutions responsible for coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and they had identified planning and monitoring mechanisms for the SDG indicators. National statistical capacities had become stronger for measuring various indicators. However, efforts must be redoubled to strengthen statistical capacities for those indicators for which information was not available or was not measured according to the necessary parameters or level of disaggregation. Other agencies, such as central banks, needed to be involved in those efforts so that their data could be used to advance development goals. The collection, analysis and dissemination of big data was an essential tool that complemented official statistics; the joint work of the statistical and geospatial communities represented a significant contribution to the drafting of evidence-based public policies. It was also envisaged that the private sector would play an important role in data processing and analysis in the region. The authorities on statistical matters in the region were the national statistical systems and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

The report also drew attention to the most important challenges facing the region, such as forest cover loss, falling productivity and the need for liveable and sustainable cities and to change consumption and production patterns, control pollution in large cities, improve solid waste management and electricity access and increase the use of renewable energy, which would have a positive impact on the cost of power generation. Urgent and effective action must be taken to prevent the increasing number of extreme climate events, especially in the Caribbean, where building resilience to climate change was a pressing issue. On the tax front, steps should be taken to move towards a progressive regime and combat tax evasion and avoidance. The region's share of trade in goods and services needed to be increased, and intraregional trade integration needed to be strengthened to counteract the effects of external uncertainties. Promoting the technological and digital agenda would play a decisive role in achieving the SDGs in the region; and the speed and quality of broadband connectivity were issues to be resolved as part of the fourth industrial revolution. The report warned that the environmental big push would require the region to make a great effort of political leadership, governance, capacity-building and institution-building, as well as changing the conversation between State, the market and society.

The second meeting of the Forum represented an effort to change the future of Latin America and the Caribbean and reflected the political will of the countries, at a time when the region was in a position to show leadership in sustainable development. Three topics were crucial in that regard: the participation of citizens in the process of achieving the SDGs; developing a strategic people-centred vision, which ECLAC had defined as sustainable development with equality, and an analysis of each country's strategic advantages in the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The SDGs demanded a holistic approach to public policies. As elements necessary for the achievement of the SDGs in the region, the member States present at the meeting drew attention to the involvement of civil society as a whole and of subregional governments; the mobilization of public and private resources; a change in production and consumption patterns; the transfer of technology and new, additional and predictable resources of all kinds under favourable conditions for developing countries; the elimination of unilateral coercive measures; the evolution of labour markets; reconsideration of GDP as an indicator of progress towards the Goals; rural transformation; efforts to achieve an environmentally-friendly economy; and permanent monitoring of equality.

2. Peer learning sessions

The peer learning sessions addressed the following topics: (i) challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean; (ii) participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda; (iii) platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals; and (iv) continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and new challenges.

With regard to the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, countries drew attention to their particular difficulties, such as shortage of resources to finance the implementation of the SDGs, compounded by inefficiencies and corruption. De-risking policies were affecting correspondent banking and remittances in the Caribbean, restricting the countries' access to payment systems and global financing, risking the viability of their banking services and threatening to cut them off from the global financial system. Raising awareness of the contents and scope of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs among various sectors of society would help build understanding of the link between the SDGs and the efforts needed for national development. There was also a need for capacity-building and adequate human resources to ensure the effective implementation of the SDGs, in addition to which national labour forces were being affected by migration. One of the key challenges facing the Caribbean was the impact of climate change and vulnerability to natural disasters, as well as constraints on resilience-building owing to the lack of appropriate technology and capacity.

The proposals discussed for addressing those challenges included enhancing statistical capacity and knowledge-sharing partnerships, as well as the use of information and communication technologies for e-government. The various agencies operating in the Caribbean also needed to be better coordinated to formulate more effective strategies that support faster recovery after disasters. Redefining the classification system for disaster-affected countries would make it easier for them to obtain concessional financing in line with their real situation. ECLAC had proposed making the Caribbean a priority and called upon the governors of international banks (IMF, World Bank and IDB) to reduce the external debt of the countries in the subregion by establishing a resilience fund. ECLAC was working with the European Union and OECD to change the criteria for the classification of middle-income countries, which could be achieved with the support of member States.

The panel on participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda discussed actions taken in the countries of the region to open spaces for dialogue with civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders. Citizen participation in the establishment of implementation mechanisms helped to ensure the visibility of women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants. It was essential to mainstream the human rights perspective in the implementation of the SDGs. Citizens' awareness of the 2030 Agenda was essential for ensuring their commitment to its implementation. The business sector also needed to become aware of the possibilities and gains offered by the activities related to SDG issues—in the area of alternative sources of energy production, for example—and actively participate in implementation. Academia played a crucial role looking forward, because of its work in raising awareness and shaping studies and knowledge. The work of States with local governments was critical, given that territories were different and therefore required different treatments. It was also important to have appropriate sources of financing for work in support of the SDGs, in particular from tax sources. The process towards the achievement of the Goals should be based on State policies that extended beyond the terms of government mandates. The management of statistical information and institution-building were challenges for the region. Public policymaking and the engagement of all sectors were essential in moving towards the achievement of the SDGs, to which all the countries of the region were committed.

With respect to platforms for monitoring the SDGs, there was a need to build on existing measuring and monitoring systems, and to make further progress in strengthening the framework for aligning national development goals with the SDGs. It was important to place systems within an institutional context, as SDG monitoring was not merely about compiling statistics, but rather about coordinating public policies. Information needed to be integrated into a system accessible to citizens, not only to statisticians and policymakers. Given the availability of administrative records in the region that would serve for SDG monitoring, progress must be made in improving their quality and digitization. Data interoperability, open data and open sources, as well as the use of common standards among countries, would help to reduce costs and make the region more independent in that regard, as well as enhancing accountability and transparency.

With regard to continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and new challenges, it was emphasized that SDG implementation needed to be a policy of State, not of the sitting government, so that transitions between administrations would not hamper their achievement. The existence of institutional networks and citizen participation mechanisms would help to make sure that was the case. SDG 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development required concerted, cross-cutting action by the range of stakeholders; only a participatory, intraterritorial and whole-of-government process would suffice to give continuity to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The environmental dimension needed to be just as integrated into development policies as the social and economic dimensions, as had been reflected in the voluntary national reports. Some countries of the region had already met certain SDG targets; others were not necessarily applicable in certain contexts. In still others, it was necessary to improve measurement and quantification of the targets and define the efforts needed to achieve them. In that regard, an analysis of the situation for each target in each country would facilitate the development of policies and budgets more in line with reality. Lastly, obtaining the necessary financing was one of the main challenges for continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3. Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The purpose of this dialogue was to exchange experiences and best practices between the two regions regarding the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, essential requirements for the effective implementation of the SDGs included a long-term commitment on the part of the State beyond the term of a single government; the engagement of all stakeholders, in particular the private sector and civil society; the design of cross-cutting policies; the existence of a non-political technical body to perform the measurement and evaluation of progress regarding implementation; regional and international cooperation, especially for experience-sharing and resource mobilization; the alignment of action by regional and international organizations with the realities of each country; linking national budgets to the priorities of the Agenda; regular updating of the local and national legal framework; the development of communication strategies to democratize the content of the 2030 Agenda and to promote transparency and engagement by the State.

In the case of Europe, it was noted that the Goals and the values of the 2030 Agenda were very close to those of the European Union. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, where Europe had supported their achievement in other countries, the SDGs represented a universal agenda for the solution of shared problems and required the participation of all countries, regardless of their level of development. The European Union had created a high-level institutional structure responsible for promoting and coordinating the implementation of the SDGs in close collaboration with society and with the representation of different interests. The Goals had been incorporated into the European Union's cooperation policy, in line with SDG 17. The adoption of the new European Consensus on Development represented a collective vision of development policy that reflected the 2030 Agenda and involved cooperation with the countries of the region.

Actions have also been undertaken in Europe to raise awareness of the SDGs and their importance. Europe had much in common with Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of the diagnoses carried out and the centrality afforded to institutional arrangements and the challenge of mainstreaming. Implementing the SDGs required international cooperation to be closely linked with actions at the national level, which implied a different institutional structure than had operated thus far. In that regard, it was important to involve the institutions that naturally looked to the medium and long term, such as development banks. Challenges to international cooperation included the need to support the poorest countries and middle-income countries alike and to increase financing for development, particularly by mobilizing resources through national sources and private investment. The necessary incentives must therefore be provided, which could be achieved only if appropriate public policies were in place. There were similarities in the follow-up measures adopted in various countries. In that regard, society played a significant role as it encouraged accountability. Ensuring continuity required a renewed social compact on the targets to be achieved and the reforms needed to do so.

It was noted that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda required genuine commitment that emerged through dialogue and deliberation between governments and society as a whole. Just as high-level leadership was essential to ensure that all national strategies were in line with development goals, so too was the participation of all stakeholders, based on the principle of shared responsibility and with independent and regular monitoring, evidence-based reporting and accountability. Peer review was also a valuable monitoring tool.

4. The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system

The United Nations was carrying out a reform of the peace and security pillar, the development pillar and its administration, which included the Secretariat, as well as the system's funds, programmes and specialized agencies. ECLAC and the system agencies complied with the mandates emanating from the member countries. ECLAC was an intergovernmental platform in which the 33 countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region took part equally and equitably, and in which countries from outside the region also participated; its subsidiary bodies enabled progress to be made in the region on specific topics. The Commission also provided technical cooperation and advice at the request of member countries. Over the course of its 70-year history of fruitful work, ECLAC thinking had been intrinsic to the economic history of the region. The commitment of ECLAC had been and was still to support the countries of the region on the road to development.

At a time when multilateralism was under pressure from the global political context and the world was facing challenges such as inequality, climate change and conflicts, the United Nations must continue to partner efficiently with countries to achieve development, and for that its bodies must work in a cohesive, effective and accountable manner, guided by results. To that end, a reform is needed to establish a new generation of country teams that could respond to national needs; strengthen the resident coordinator systems with greater capacity, leadership, accountability and impartiality; adopt a coordinated, region-wide approach to face transborder challenges; renew spaces for Member States to guide the system's actions, with greater oversight, which would improve transparency and accountability with regard to results at the country level; lead the Organization to adopt an institutional response and a system-wide approach to partnerships for achieving the Agenda; take concrete steps to accelerate the system's alignment with the 2030 Agenda through a strategic framework; and adopt a financing compact to improve the quality, quantity and predictability of resources, in exchange for greater efficiency, transparency and accountability of the results across the system. That reform would be complemented by strengthening the role of the Department

of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). A dual approach has been proposed, which included optimizing collaboration and synergies at the regional level and renewing United Nations assets in the region. The United Nations reform would allow the Organization's activities to meet the needs of its Member States. The fundamental role of regional platforms such as ECLAC and its important work with other regional commissions was also highlighted.

Progress had been made in the region with regard to the 2030 Agenda, such as the creation of new inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, the formulation of development plans that take the SDGs into account, the review of national budgets to finance the SDGs and the expansion of policies that combine the three dimensions of sustainable development. However, countries had yet to overcome challenges related to, among other things, discrimination, in particular against indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples; gender inequalities; sustainable human developments; nutrition, especially in early childhood; the development of rural communities; and the strengthening of social security mechanisms, which were topics that bodies such as the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC), UN-Habitat, WFP, IFAD, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, had explored in the work at the regional level. In addition to addressing the regional challenges together based on inter-agency collaboration, the work of the Resident Coordinators and the country teams was indispensable. The United Nations must support countries' activities and they in turn must ensure that their concerns are reflected in the documents submitted to the General Assembly.

5. Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

During these dialogues the speakers underscored the importance of participation by the private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the opportunity the Agenda offered for firms to align their business and corporate practices with the SDGs, which provided very clear complementary goals and targets. Business commitment to sustainability, which was rewarded by investors, needed to be part of business models and firms neglecting that compromised their viability, as markets could not prosper in societies that failed to respect the basic rights of their citizens. Firms should convey that commitment in a transparent manner to their interlocutors, including government and investors.

International financial institutions contributed to improving the compilation and use of data for the benefit of open government. It was important to crowd in financing from the private sector by eliminating barriers to its participation in financing for development. The complexity of the SDGs required the formation of effective partnerships with a greater number of partners, both traditional and new. Academia should provide spaces for reflection and impact to develop ideas and solutions for the new challenges of sustainable development.

Civil society organizations emphasized the importance of disseminating the 2030 Agenda among young people, the effective participation of trade unions in the permanent mechanisms of implementation and follow-up of the SDGs, and the central objective of achieving gender equality across the board as a necessary condition for development. One of the main results of the Forum was the outstanding role played by civil society in organizing and creating a mechanism for participation in the Forum of the Countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a consensual, participatory and democratic manner, which enabled that key stakeholder to contribute more effectively to regional efforts related to the 2030 Agenda.

The Forum offered the opportunity for a profound and productive dialogue on the progress made by countries and the challenges they face in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The meeting had allowed the governments to share their experiences and learn from the experiences and best practices of different countries and stakeholders, as well as the strategies that various international organizations had implemented to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The meeting had also allowed international agencies to gain a better understanding of countries' needs, creating a space for mutual learning and identifying opportunities for cooperation and collaboration. ECLAC was at the forefront of the regional dimension of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and played a fundamental role in supporting States' efforts to strengthen that space for exchange to offer all stakeholders the opportunity to listen to and learn from each other and share good practices.

Several participants drew attention to the creation and consolidation of the Forum as an important space for fruitful dialogue and mutual learning, compared to the global mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, namely the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Major progress had been made with regard to the format and modalities of the Forum, and, more importantly, awareness of the topics and issues raised at the second meeting of the Forum.

6. Dialogues on the shift towards sustainable development and resilient societies (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17)

These dialogues took the form of three round tables, which examined the economic, social and environmental challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to the economic challenges, Latin America had made progress on drawing up a set of indicators, although the resources obtained fell woefully short of what was actually needed, which represented a major challenge when aligning budgets with the public policies aimed at achieving the SDGs. All available resources must therefore be mobilized for the countries of the region and developed countries must honour their official development assistance commitments. South-South and triangular cooperation could also contribute to achieving the Agenda, although it was not a substitute for North-South cooperation. Climate change and the magnitude of natural disasters had had negative consequences for the region, forcing resources that could have been used to achieve the SDGs to be redirected to recovery efforts. To that end, synergies must be established among the countries of the region, which must reiterate the same message in international forums on those issues. The region had proved resilient in the face of external economic shocks, despite its ongoing dependence on natural resources and low-value-added exports. The 2030 Agenda required countries to transition to a green economy and a circular economy, in which science, technology and innovation were a cross-cutting element for achieving several of the SDG targets. Conditions must be created for the private sector to participate in the development process, tax systems must promote greater equality and illicit financial flows must be addressed. The international consensus on development needs within the framework of the Agenda must be translated into support.

Financing for development challenges facing the region included the existence of highly regressive tax systems, incentive schemes that were not clearly linked to development targets, alarming levels of tax evasion, and illicit financial flows (which were not necessarily derived from illegal activities, but rather were the result of foreign trade that had dodged tax liabilities), which meant that countries did not receive substantial resources that could have helped to finance the implementation of the SDGs. Faced with the problems created by weak taxation and the flight of resources from many of the region's economies, greater emphasis must be placed on the rule of law as an enabling factor for development, through law enforcement, legal certainty and the fight against crime, including financial crime.

One of the social challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda was inter-institutionality. Progress could not be made down the path to sustainable development or in the fight against inequality without ongoing inter-institutional and intersectoral efforts. Inter-institutionality must be robust and transparent and not affected by changes in government or holders of public office, to ensure that effective policies could be pursued. It was a complex task that had to be shaped continually and that would promote the efficient allocation of resources and prevent overlap between plans and programmes. Social issues were not confined to the social sphere, in the same way that economic and environmental issues were not confined to those spheres. They were interdependent dimensions that not only had a cause and effect relationship, but which also complemented each other and created synergies. That was why coordinated efforts among the different ministries and institutions was fundamental. It was also essential to promote efforts and dialogue among multiple stakeholders from the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society to achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The participation of civil society and stakeholders at the subnational level was of particular importance.

Efforts must be made to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda among the different levels of government, as well as among all the stakeholders involved. However, an important challenge was the definition of roles and, more particularly, raising awareness of the need for each stakeholder to play the role assigned to them. Attention was also drawn to the importance of restoring trust in institutions and to the fact that those same institutions must take the lead in that regard. When the system privileged the well-being of all, economic growth produced development and, for that to happen, a political project was needed that pursued that objective. Science, technology and innovation created a link between social development and economic development, creating an enabling environment that would benefit education and training, which were crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to the environmental challenges, attention was drawn to the need to address the growing demand for natural resources in the next few years, without eroding the availability of those resources for future generations. Economies and societies were inefficient in that regard, but policies could promote a shift towards efficient resource use. The indicators used to measure progress included green employment and green growth as cross-cutting factors to measure which actions could generate changes. It was essential to link environmental targets with productivity indicators, for example by applying subsidies to sustainable production activities. Environmental matters had to be approached from a long-term perspective.

The 2030 Agenda, more than having environmental goals, was environmental as a whole, because progress could not be made on health or industrialization without taking the relevant environmental considerations into account. There was an unbreakable link between environmental challenges and social and economic challenges. Where it was difficult to reconcile economic and environmental aspects in a positive manner, very often the environmental aspect lost out, owing to institutional design failures rooted firmly in inequality. For example, given that 60% of water went to agriculture, one way of moving towards its sustainable use (SDG 6) would be to limit the use of water in agriculture, but that conflicted with the need to increase food production to achieve food security for a growing population (SDG 2). To move away from the need to choose between the economic and the social, on the one hand, and the economic and the environmental, on the other, a culture of collaboration needed to be created between the three dimensions, a process that had to be done at the territorial level.

7. Special session on artificial intelligence: accelerated technological change

In this session it was remarked that the new technologies, especially artificial intelligence, represented a deep shift that impacted the production, labour, social and political fields. The region was engaging in analysis and discussion on the matter, both at the regional level and within the United Nations. The region needed to be more informed about the subject and its implications; the United Nations and ECLAC should compile, analyse and disseminate information in that regard to the countries of the region, while the countries should analyse options in relation to public policies, governance and regulation, and exchange best practices and foster education systems that promoted innovation. All that should form part of a collective effort to develop regulatory frameworks to address the impacts of artificial intelligence and the technological shift. It was proposed to create a Group of Friends of ECLAC to analyse that topic and to seek the support of the region overall following its recent inclusion as a permanent item on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly.

For the first time in history, not only human's physical skills, but also their cognitive skills, were being rapidly surpassed by smart, capable machines, which represented a radical transformation in economic, social, political, cultural, biological and cognitive terms. Institutions changed in a linear manner, whereas advanced technologies changed exponentially. Digitization and artificial intelligence were optimizing organization, management, hiring and the monitoring of the productivity of professional and manual workers. There was a shift in client relations and in firms' predictive and planning capacities. In the case of manufacturing, artificial intelligence had increased robots' skill and flexibility to address more and more economic activities and niches.

A noticeable effect in the developed countries was the reduction in new sources of work, which was putting pressure on labour markets, wages and companies' standards of administrative and productive efficiency. It was possible that a sudden deindustrialization could occur in the region's maquila sectors. Technology by itself was neither good or bad; it was our responsibility to use it in the service of achieving the SDGs. While some affirmed that exponential technological change would continue to be led by the explosion of artificial intelligence, others concluded that rapid change would cause unstoppable socioeconomic risks. Regardless of those views, there was still time to forge the future we wanted.

The region was especially well placed to make a technological leap; however, inequality, socioeconomic polarization and the low educational standards of its labour force meant that most countries faced particular challenges of whether to adapt to the technological innovations coming from the rest of the world or generate their own. Latin America and the Caribbean urgently needed to reposition its development model and reconfigure the role of the State to spread the benefits and not only the risks of technological progress. The right use of digitization systems and artificial intelligence should enable the public and private sectors to collaborate more effectively to achieve the SDGs.

ECLAC had performed analyses of data, algorithms and policies, looking at digital technologies as tools for the achievement of the SDGs. The speed and disruptiveness of those technologies was an important consideration to bear in mind when undertaking activities to promote the region's sustainable development. It was necessary to analyse the speed with which technologies had developed and the readiness of individuals, families, firms and the government and public institutions to adapt to them and put them to beneficial use.

There was evidence of acceleration in three areas: the dynamics of employment creation and destruction; the obsolescence of labour skills, which posed challenges for education and vocational training systems; and the change in business models. There was also a risk of increased inequality, given that technology was one of the greatest drivers of income polarization and concentration. To mitigate the risks,

specific learning and education activities should be implemented in all sectors and for all age groups aimed at greater employability. Production development policies should also be adopted that galvanize labour demand, create digital and broadband infrastructure and redesign labour institutions. The contribution of ECLAC to reflection on that subject had helped to broaden the spaces for discussion on the matter and would continue to generate valuable inputs that would benefit and help countries to evaluate and prepare for the effects of technological change, artificial intelligence and automation.

8. Conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The conclusions and recommendations were submitted to the plenary for consideration and adopted unanimously. They will be presented by the Chair to the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will take place in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018.

Annex 3

Mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development¹

Mecanismo de participación de sociedad civil en la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible y en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible

Objetivo:

Contribuir a la garantía del derecho a la participación de forma significativa, democrática, sistemática, amplia, diversa y sostenida, y al derecho a la información de la sociedad civil organizada en torno a la implementación, monitoreo, reporte y evaluación de la agenda de desarrollo sostenible en la región y las plataformas relacionadas a la misma bajo el marco de Derechos Humanos, igualdad de género y criterios de sustentabilidad ambiental.

Objetivos específicos

- Facilitar y coordinar la vinculación y participación significativa y permanente de sociedad civil con CEPAL y con los Estados Miembros en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre Desarrollo Sostenible, así como en todo el proceso del diseño, implementación, monitoreo, reporte y evaluación de la agenda de desarrollo sostenible en la región y las plataformas relacionadas a la misma.
- Generar un espacio de rendición de cuentas entre gobiernos y sociedad civil sobre la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible en la región de América Latina y el Caribe.
- Desarrollar estrategias efectivas con diversidad de actores y gobiernos para la implementación de la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible en la región de América Latina y el Caribe.
- Organizar y coordinar la participación de la Sociedad Civil para garantizar diálogos efectivos y formales con los gobiernos, agencias de las Naciones Unidas y comisiones para el seguimiento regional de la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible, incluyendo la participación efectiva y amplia en el Foro de los Países.
- Promover la vinculación regional entre las agendas de desarrollo, reconociendo que el Consenso de Montevideo es la base que definirá la implementación de la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible
- Promover la interrelación del seguimiento a la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible entre el Nivel Regional y Global

Principios transversales:

- Marco de Derechos Humanos y su progresividad.
- Igualdad de género, No Discriminación y Paridad
- Criterios de sustentabilidad socioambiental
- Interdependencia de las tres dimensiones del desarrollo (Social, Económica y Ambiental).
- Transparencia y Rendición de cuentas.
- Enfoque Intergeneracional e Intercultural.
- Agendas Regionales de Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo.

En el marco de esta región, el Consenso de Montevideo tiene una dimensión de principio transversal por ser un logro de la región y un aporte para el mundo.

Descripción:

- Acceder a todos los documentos de negociación desde su generación, negociación y aprobación,
- Proponer insumos a ser considerados formalmente parte del proceso,
- Participar significativamente en todo el proceso de las negociaciones
- Participar en el diseño de las metodologías de trabajo y de los programas oficiales
- Participar e intervenir en sesiones y plenarias con asientos formales.

¹ A translation by the secretariat follows immediately below.

- Organizar y participar eventos paralelos.
- Promover procesos de trabajo que respondan a necesidades de movilización y política identificadas en la región.

Integrantes del mecanismo de participación

Organizaciones, colectivos autónomos, movimientos sociales y redes locales, nacionales y regionales que trabajen por la justicia social, económica y ambiental, y en cualquiera de las tres dimensiones del Desarrollo Sostenible. Las anteriores deben adherirse al compromiso de hacer avanzar la agenda bajo los principios de progresividad de los Derechos Humanos e interdependencia de las tres dimensiones del desarrollo, y al documento de principios de participación de sociedad civil aprobado en el primer Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible.¹

Coordinación

Se propone que la coordinación esté integrada por un representante y un alterno de cada subregión, de cada grupo y de cada grupo temático, de estos representantes se conformará la mesa de vinculación.

Subregiones:

- América Central, Caribe Hispanoparlante y México
- Caribe Anglófono y Francófono
- Zona Andina
- Cono Sur

Grupos

- Niñas, niños, Adolescentes y Jóvenes
- Mujeres
- Personas adultas mayores
- Personas afro-descendientes
- Personas agropecuarias de pequeña escala, rurales y costeras
- Personas con discapacidad
- Personas con VIH y personas afectadas por el VIH
- Personas defensoras de derechos humanos y territorios
- Personas LGBTI
- Personas migrantes y desplazadas por desastres o conflictos
- Pueblos indígenas
- Redes, colectivos, organizaciones y plataformas de ONG.
- Sindicatos y personas trabajadoras, trabajadoras del hogar y trabajadoras sexuales

Grupos temáticos:

- Economías sociales y solidarias

¹• El Marco internacional de Derechos Humanos,
 • La Perspectiva transversal de Igualdad de género,
 • La perspectiva de Interculturalidad y de intergeneracionalidad
 • La Protección del medio ambiente y ecosistemas,
 • La justicia económica, social y ambiental
 • La Agenda 2030 en su integralidad,
 • El Consenso de Montevideo y su Guía Operativa.
 • La Convención de Naciones Unidas sobre los derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad.
 • Y otros instrumentos de Derechos Humanos (convención de la UNESCO contra la discriminación en la enseñanza
 • El protocolo adicional a la convención americana sobre derechos Humanos en materia de derechos económicos sociales y culturales “protocolo de San Salvador”
 • La Convención relativa a la lucha contra las discriminación en la esfera de la enseñanza

- Educación, academia, ciencia y tecnología
- Justicia ecológica y ambiental

*Se sugiere la rotación de cada representación (A definir: cada 2 o cada 3 años, de forma escalonada). De igual forma, cada grupo tendrá que diseñar y presentar su documento de gobernanza con base en los principios transversales de este mecanismo, así como con base en el documento de sociedad civil aprobado durante el primer Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible

Dado que facilitarán y gestionarán la voz de los grupos, se debe asegurar la gobernanza, transparencia y la rendición de cuentas en la lógica de la auto-organización, así como la pluralidad, la articulación y el balance entre las tres dimensiones del desarrollo.

- Mesa de vinculación

La Mesa de Vinculación será la encargada de garantizar que la sociedad civil de la región esté en todos los espacios regionales relevantes de seguimiento a la Agenda 2030, a través de una comunicación hacia CEPAL, Estados Miembros y Presidencia del foro.

Mantener un canal de información permanente y constante para la toma de decisiones y el aviso sobre los acuerdos adquiridos.

Vinculación

El mecanismo estará en constante contacto con CEPAL, Estados Miembro y Presidencia del Foro para asegurar el involucramiento y la participación efectiva del mecanismo en los procesos y negociaciones intergubernamentales relacionadas con la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible en la región

Facilitará la participación de OSC en procesos regionales, sub-regionales y globales con el fin de presentar las posiciones y perspectivas regionales relacionadas con el desarrollo sostenible, asegurando que dicha participación sea relevante para la incidencia, organización y movilización de la sociedad civil organizada con la CEPAL.

Recomendaciones para la Comisión Transitoria de Operatividad del Mecanismo

- Comisión transitoria de seguimiento e implementación del mecanismo que asiente en los próximos 6 meses la base para la operatividad de este mecanismo. Por razones de transparencia, se recomienda que quienes formen parte de esta comisión no se postulen a la coordinación de ninguno de los grupos definidos para este mecanismo.
- Marcos de gobernanza y términos de referencia
- Definir proceso para el diseño de los marcos de gobernanza y términos de referencia de los grupos que conforman el mecanismo, respetando el principio de auto-organización de cada uno de los mismos.
- Se envía anexo con insumos para la siguiente comisión.

Anexo de recomendaciones para la Comisión Transitoria de Operatividad del Mecanismo

- Comisión transitoria de seguimiento e implementación del mecanismo que asiente en los próximos 6 meses la base para la operatividad de este mecanismo. Por razones de transparencia, se recomienda que quienes formen parte de esta comisión no se postulen a la coordinación de ninguno de los grupos definidos para este mecanismo.
- Marcos de gobernanza y términos de referencia
- Definir proceso para el diseño de los marcos de gobernanza y términos de referencia de los grupos que conforman el mecanismo, respetando el principio de auto-organización de cada uno de los mismos.

Comunicación

Mantener comunicación constante con CEPAL y los Estados Miembros para asegurar el involucramiento y la participación en todos los procesos y negociaciones relacionadas con la agenda de desarrollo sostenible en la región, así como el acceso a información oportuna y la recepción por parte de CEPAL de los insumos en política del mecanismo.

Entre OSC – a través de lista amplia de correo electrónico y teleconferencias. A través de las personas representantes de redes coordinadoras regionales o movimientos.

Con la CEPAL y Gobiernos Sede – a través de las personas representantes en nuestra estructura de coordinación, para los efectos de los espacios de seguimiento regional.

Sostenibilidad y elementos necesarios para implementar el mecanismo

Fondos para la Autogestión del mecanismo.

Servicio de teleconferencia.

Recursos para contratar consultorías para la elaboración de informes desde sociedad civil.

Contar con espacios amplios para reuniones y foros para garantizar la participación amplia de Sociedad Civil (traducción, accesibilidad para los Foros y los documentos que se discutan o deseen aprobar).

Asientos formales con voz a todo lo largo del proceso, y con posibilidad de participar de forma continua (en el Foro y entre foros)

Qué ponen las OSC

- Lista de correos
- Servicio de teleconferencias
- Parte de los recursos para asistir a reuniones y foros
- Capacidad de producir position papers e informes anuales alternativos que identifiquen desafíos y oportunidades a nivel nacional y regional.
- Capacidad técnica para hacer recomendaciones a gobiernos y participar en paneles y eventos paralelos

De la CEPAL

- Comunicación oportuna para garantizar la participación efectiva de OSC en los procesos de seguimiento de la Agenda 2030
- Espacios de reunión durante reuniones y foros para OSC
- Parte de los recursos para asistir a reuniones, intersesiones y foros.
- Acceso a los documentos y sus borradores a todo lo largo del proceso
- Acceso a las sesiones formales e informales como contrapartes del proceso

De las Agencias de Naciones Unidas

- Parte de los recursos para asistir a reuniones y foros
- Oportunidades de Incidencia sobre temas específicos relevantes para la región.

De los Gobiernos

- Incluir a OSC en Delegaciones Oficiales
- Incluir a integrantes de los Mecanismos Nacionales representantes de OSC en las Delegaciones Oficiales
- Recursos para la participación de los miembros de las delegaciones oficiales.
- Institucionalizar y fortalecer progresivamente la participación de OSC y del mecanismo en el Foro y entre Foros en las resoluciones y decisiones que deriven del mismo

De la presidencia del Foro

- Garantizar la aplicación del Marco de Derechos Humanos, igualdad de género, sustentabilidad ambiental, transparencia y rendición de cuentas, enfoques intergeneracional e intercultural principio de participación dentro del Foro y entre Foros
- Apoyar a CEPAL con la implementación de los espacios de participación dentro del Foro y entre Foros

Del País o instancia Anfitriona

- Contar con espacios amplios para reuniones y foros para garantizar la participación amplia de Sociedad Civil (traducción, accesibilidad)

Cómo logramos la Transversalización

Trabajo por dimensiones de la Agenda: Social, económica y ambiental. Más un grupo de trabajo en garantizar la transversalidad y la interdependencia entre dimensiones, objetivos y metas. Los 17 ODS tienen que ser incorporados a uno de éstos grupos. Estos grupos generan el seguimiento. Cada uno tiene su coordinación única o compartida.

Operatividad entre foros del Mecanismo de Participación.

Con este mecanismo se propone un **proceso operativo** que fortalece el trabajo entre redes/movimientos y a su vez brinda lineamientos generales para el seguimiento de los compromisos que con cada Foro regional se vayan adquiriendo desde las OSC.

Se parte de una propuesta planificada de actividades estratégicas, y de un acuerdo en la región sobre algunos lineamientos generales, esperando así contribuir a estrategias de colaboración más adecuadas; a una mayor transparencia; y al logro de aprendizajes y avances más efectivos en función de la Agenda 2030. Las OSC en América Latina y el Caribe reconocemos la importancia de contar con una planeación colaborativa congruente con nuestros intereses y con nuestro trabajo como protagonistas o actores clave del desarrollo sostenible en nuestra región. Por lo tanto, más allá de acciones de consulta, intercambio, transferencias y diálogos, entre otros métodos para la integración de insumos e información en los foros, es igualmente relevante poder responder al término de un foro regional: *¿qué sigue?* y *¿cómo y cuándo lo llevamos a cabo?*

En términos generales, considerando un tiempo operativo entre foros de once a doce meses, la base de la planeación se propone como lo siguiente:

Temporalidad (a partir de la conclusión de un foro regional)	Actividad Estratégica	Actores Responsables	Resultado esperado
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Bimestre 1: Post Foro	Comunicación e Internalización de acuerdos o compromisos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Órganos de coordinación OSC-CEPAL ·Órganos o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país ·Gobiernos nacionales (órgano de coordinación de la Agenda 2030 en cada país) · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conocimiento de los acuerdos logrados en el foro · Adopción o adecuación de los acuerdos en agendas regionales o planes de trabajo de las OSC vinculadas al sistema de participación y de los gobiernos nacionales así como de las agencias de NNUU de la región.
	Definición de estrategias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Redes o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, colectivos, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Estrategias vinculadas al seguimiento de acuerdos
	Participación e incidencia en planeación local o subregional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro · Instituciones locales o subregionales (gobierno local) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Visibilización local de compromisos adquiridos · Estrategias locales adecuadas y congruentes con acuerdos regionales
Bimestre 2: Propuestas	Definición de propuestas o proyectos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, mesas de trabajo, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Proyectos o propuestas integrales y actualizadas considerando los nuevos acuerdos, compromisos o necesidades identificadas como región desde la sociedad civil.
Bimestre 3: Implementación	Desarrollo de actividades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avances en el logro de la Agenda 2030

Bimestre 4: Medio Término	Desarrollo de actividades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avances en el logro de la Agenda 2030
	Identificación de avances Comunicación de avances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Órganos de coordinación OSC-CEPAL · Órganos o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país · Gobiernos nacionales (órgano de coordinación de la Agenda 2030 en cada país) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avances en el logro de la Agenda 2030 · Transparencia · Fortalecimiento de colaboración y de redes
	Monitoreo/revisión de avances institucionales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos temáticos, colectivos, comunitarios, iniciativas, mesas de trabajo, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Transparencia · Corresponsabilidad efectiva
Bimestre 5: Implementación	Desarrollo de actividades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avances en el logro de la Agenda 2030
Bimestre 6: Preparación para el foro y participación directa	Convocatoria para integrar información y propuestas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Órganos de coordinación OSC-CEPAL · Redes o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Convocatoria abierta e inclusiva

	Sesiones locales de preparación	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSCs · Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, mesas de trabajo, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro · Redes o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Información relevante sobre avances, experiencias y aprendizajes locales.
	Integración de información	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Redes o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reporte de avances de la implementación de la Agenda 2030 desde la perspectiva y experiencia de la sociedad civil con un enfoque integral aplicado.
	Comunicación y propuestas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Redes o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro · Órganos de coordinación OSC-CEPAL · Gobiernos nacionales (órgano de coordinación de la Agenda 2030 en cada país) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conocimiento sobre el avance desde la perspectiva y experiencia de la sociedad civil. · Propuestas de agenda y participación en el foro
	Acuerdos previos al Foro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Órganos o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro · Órganos de coordinación OSC-CEPAL · Gobiernos nacionales (órgano de coordinación de la Agenda 2030 en cada país) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Construcción de confianza en el proceso pre-foro (legitimización de estrategias de inclusión y representatividad efectiva de la sociedad civil en el foro) · Acuerdos de participación

	Participación en el Foro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Órganos o unidades coordinadoras por subregión o país ·Redes ·Grupos o coaliciones temáticas, comunitarios, iniciativas, etc. · El Mecanismo diseñado para el Foro ·Mesas de trabajo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Participación efectiva de la sociedad civil
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Líneamientos generales de operatividad entre foros:

· Las *Actividades Estratégicas* se entienden como aquellas actividades que se llevan a cabo a partir de los acuerdos y/o compromisos adquiridos en el foro regional; esto es entre las organizaciones de la sociedad civil asistentes y/o representadas en el Foro y la CEPAL, así como otras agencias de Naciones Unidas presentes en el foro. Las actividades estratégicas deben visualizarse como aplicables a la región, y no necesariamente coinciden o se refieren a las actividades internas de cada OSC o grupo representativo de la sociedad civil.

· El resultado último de la planificación de actividades estratégicas se concentra en cumplir los *compromisos acordados* en los Foros regionales y lograr *mayor efectividad en la participación* de las OSC durante los días del foro y en el proceso global de implementación de la Agenda 2030 en cada país o subregión.

· Considerando que la Agenda 2030 promueve un enfoque integral incluyente con base en el reconocimiento y respeto de los derechos humanos reflejado en la interrelación de los 17 ODS, es importante considerar que los intereses particulares o temáticos de las OSC así como desde grupos de población vulnerable se sumen a las estrategias y actividades acordadas conjuntamente. Dicha suma no deberá disolver la relevancia de los temas o poblaciones particulares; deberá fortalecer la congruencia de una agenda conjunta y una visión común.

· Las actividades de comunicación e internalización de acuerdos o compromisos será una labor primeramente realizada por aquellas OSC que atiendan o tengan representatividad en los Foros o que sean parte de este sistema de participación. Aunque la CEPAL y las instancias de gobierno tiene un rol en estas comunicaciones, es importante que la sociedad civil mantenga la coherencia de la participación lograda en el foro así como del seguimiento efectivo de acuerdos.

· Las estrategias sub-regionales serán la clave para el logro de los compromisos adquiridos y las actividades estratégicas como región. La escala territorial organizativa de las estrategias sub-regionales podrá entenderse como la suma de escalas locales (ej. barrios, comunidades, colectivos, municipios, departamentos, estados, cuencas) hasta una suma de escalas nacionales que atienden una agenda particular o característica territorial común (ej. amazonas, andes, caribe)

· Las estrategias sub-regionales, así como las actividades, propuestas y el monitoreo de la implementación de la agenda 2030 desde las sociedad civil, idealmente deberán ser congruentes con otras agendas regionales o compromisos de país. Esto fortalecerá su impacto y evitará la duplicidad de esfuerzos.

· A partir de la comunicación e internalización de compromisos, es importante lograr la visibilización

de los mismos en los espacios de incidencia correspondientes al campo de acción de cada OSC. Esto fortalecerá el potencial de participación efectiva de la sociedad civil ante las agendas regionales y locales vinculadas al avance de la Agenda 2030.

·Los Actores Responsables se refieren a aquellos actores de los que se espera una labor activa para realizar la actividad estratégica y lograr los resultados. Podrán sumarse o desagregarse más actores siempre que estos tengan un compromiso con la realización de la actividad al nivel o espacio territorial que les corresponda.

·A partir de los compromisos adquiridos durante el Foro, toda organización de la sociedad civil participante en este sistema podrá desarrollar propuestas, proyectos o iniciativas que contribuyan tanto al cumplimiento del compromiso adquirido como a la implementación de la Agenda 2030. Dichas propuestas serán responsabilidad de la OSC que las origine.

·Si bien la temporalidad es desagregada en bimestres, esto *no debe obstaculizar o delimitar* la realización de la actividad estratégica. Es decir, puede extenderse o reducirse según se considere necesario y siempre y cuando se logren los resultados esperados para el siguiente Foro.

·Si bien cada OSC mantiene su gestión de conocimiento o sistematización de sus experiencias, es importante generar información de los avances como región desde la sociedad civil. Considerando la escala, esta labor podrá realizarse desde las redes que mantienen alto grado de representatividad o que tienen mayor experiencia en la integración y análisis de información de la región. Es importante contar con un espacio o plataforma virtual compartida, confiable y accesible para la integración de dicha información. Idealmente la sistematización de experiencias deberá ser congruente con los indicadores relacionados con los 17 ODS en sus diversas escalas, priorizando de lo local a lo regional.

· Las actividades de observación y monitoreo sobre los procesos de implementación de la Agenda 2030 desde lo local a lo regional estarán vinculadas a los planes y acuerdos que cada país sostenga ante la Agenda 2030. De esta observación podrán emitirse recomendaciones tanto a las instancias de gobierno correspondientes como a agencias de NNUU.

·De acuerdo a los avances y las actividades realizadas, las OSC participantes de este sistema generarán acuerdos previos para el trabajo orientado a la participación directa en el siguiente Foro.

·Durante la participación en el Foro, las OSCs asistentes representativas de este sistema de participación, llevarán y compartirán los avances y propuestas acordadas de manera interna; y siempre respetando la visión, experiencia e intereses de los grupos de la sociedad civil que no consigan estar presentes en el Foro.

Translation by the secretariat

MECHANISM FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND IN THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Objective:

Contribute to ensuring the right to participation in a meaningful, democratic, systematic, broad, diverse and sustained manner, and the right to information of organized civil society regarding the implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region and related platforms within a framework of human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability criteria.

Specific objectives:

- Facilitate and coordinate the liaison and meaningful and permanent participation of civil society with ECLAC and with member States in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as well as in the entire process of design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region and related platforms.
- Generate an instance of accountability between governments and civil society on the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- Develop effective strategies with diverse stakeholders and governments for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- Organize and coordinate civil society participation in order to ensure effective and formal dialogues with governments, United Nations agencies and commissions for regional follow-up to the sustainable development agenda, including effective and broad participation in the Forum of the Countries.
- Promote regional linkage between development agendas, recognizing that the Montevideo Consensus is the basis that will define the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Promote interrelations between the regional and global level in follow-up to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Cross-cutting principles:

- Human rights framework and its progressiveness
- Gender equality, non-discrimination and parity
- Socioenvironmental sustainability criteria
- The interdependence of the three dimensions of development (social, economic and environmental)
- Transparency and accountability
- Intergenerational and intercultural approach
- Regional agendas on human rights and development

Within this region, the Montevideo Consensus forms a cross-cutting principle, as an achievement by the region and a contribution to the world.

Description:

- Accede to all the negotiating documents from their generation, negotiation and adoption.
- Propose inputs to be considered formally part of the process.
- Meaningfully participate throughout the negotiation process.
- Participate in the design of working methodologies and official programmes.
- Address and engage in formal plenary sessions with a formal place at the table.
- Organize and participate in side events.
- Promote work processes that reflect the mobilization and policy needs identified in the region.

Members of the participation mechanism:

Organizations, independent collectives, social movements and local, national and regional networks working for social, economic and environmental justice in any of the three dimensions of sustainable development. These should all be committed to advancing the agenda under the principles of progressiveness of human rights and interdependence of the three dimensions of development, and to the document on the principles of civil society participation adopted at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.¹

Coordination:

It is proposed that the coordination shall be carried out by a representative and an alternate for each subregion, each group and each thematic cluster, and that these representatives will make up the Liaison Officers.

Subregions:

- Central America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Mexico
- The English-speaking and French-speaking Caribbean
- Andean region
- Southern Cone

Groups:

- Children, adolescents and young people
- Women
- Older persons
- Persons of African descent

¹ International human rights framework,

- The cross-cutting perspective of gender equality,
- The intercultural and intergenerational perspective,
- Protection of the environment and ecosystems,
- Economic, social and environmental justice,
- The 2030 Agenda in its entirety,
- The Montevideo Consensus and its Operational guide,
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- And other human rights instruments (UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education),
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador”,
- Convention against Discrimination in Education.

- Small-scale farmers and persons from rural and coastal areas
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with HIV and persons affected by HIV
- Defenders of human rights and territories
- LGBTI persons
- Migrants and persons displaced by disasters or conflicts
- Indigenous peoples
- Networks, groups, organizations and NGO platforms.
- Trade unions, domestic workers and sex workers

Thematic clusters:

- Social and solidarity-based economies
- Education, academia, science and technology
- Ecological and environmental justice

* It is suggested that each representation rotate (to be defined: every 2 or 3 years, in a lagged manner). It is also suggested that each group should prepare and submit its governance document based on the mechanism's cross-cutting principles, as well as on the civil society document adopted at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Given that they will facilitate and manage the voice of the groups, the Liaison Officers must ensure good governance, transparency and accountability in the rationale of self-organization, as well as plurality, articulation and balance among the three dimensions of development.

- Liaison Officers:

The Liaison Officers will be responsible for ensuring that civil society in the region is present in all relevant regional forums for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, by means of communication with ECLAC, the member States and the Chair of the Forum.

They will maintain an ongoing and constant channel of information for decision-making and the conveyance of agreements adopted.

Liaison:

The mechanism will be in constant contact with ECLAC, the member States and the Chair of the Forum to ensure the involvement and effective participation of the mechanism in intergovernmental negotiations and processes related to the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region.

It will facilitate the participation of CSOs in regional, subregional and global processes in order to present regional positions and perspectives on sustainable development, while ensuring that such participation is relevant to the incidence, organization and mobilization of civil society organizations with ECLAC.

Recommendations for the Transitional Commission of the Mechanism

- Transitional Commission for monitoring and implementation of the mechanism, which will, within the next 6 months, consolidate the basis for the mechanism's operation. For reasons of transparency, it is recommended that those forming part of this Commission do not apply for the coordination of any of the groups defined for the mechanism.
- Governance frameworks and terms of reference
- Define a process for the design of governance frameworks and terms of reference of the groups that will make up the mechanism, respecting the principle of self-organization of each.
- An annex is attached with inputs for the next Commission.

Annex

**Recommendations for the Transitional Commission of the
Mechanism for civil society participation**

- Transitional commission for monitoring and implementation of the mechanism, which will, within the next 6 months, consolidate the basis for the mechanism’s operation. For reasons of transparency, it is recommended that those forming part of this Commission do not apply for the coordination of any of the groups defined for the mechanism.
- Governance frameworks and terms of reference.
- Define a process for the design of governance frameworks and terms of reference of the groups that will make up the mechanism, respecting the principle of self-organization of each.

Communications

Maintain constant communication with ECLAC and member States to ensure the involvement and participation of the mechanism in all processes and negotiations related to the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region, as well as access to timely information and receipt by ECLAC of policy inputs from the mechanism.

Between CSOs —by means of a comprehensive email list and teleconferences. Through representatives of regional coordinating networks or movements.

With ECLAC and host governments— through representatives in our coordination structure, for the purposes of regional follow-up spaces.

Sustainability and elements necessary to implement the mechanism

Funds for self-management of the mechanism.

Teleconference service.

Resources to hire consultants for the preparation of civil society reports.

Provision of broad spaces for meetings and forums to ensure the broad participation of civil society (translation, accessibility of meetings of the Forum and documents to be discussed or adopted).

Formal seats at the table with the right to speak throughout the process, and possibility to participate continuously (during and between meetings of the Forum).

On the part of CSOs

- List of emails.
- Teleconference service.
- Part of the resources to attend meetings and forums.
- Capacity to produce position papers and alternative annual reports identifying challenges and opportunities at the national and regional levels.
- Technical capacity to make recommendations to governments and participate in panels and side events.

On the part of ECLAC

- Timely communication to ensure the effective participation of CSOs in processes of follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.
- Spaces for CSOs to meet during meetings of the Forum and other meetings.
- Part of the resources to attend meetings and forums.
- Access to documents and their drafts throughout the process.
- Access to formal and informal sessions as counterparts of the process.

On the part of United Nations agencies

- Part of the resources to attend meetings and forums.
- Opportunities to impact on specific topics relevant to the region.

On the part of governments

- Include CSOs in official delegations.
- Include members of national mechanisms representing CSOs in official delegations.
- Resources for the participation of members of official delegations.
- Progressively institutionalize and strengthen the participation of CSOs and the mechanism in Forum resolutions and decisions, in and between meetings of the Forum.

On the part of the Chair of the Forum

- Ensure the implementation of the human rights framework, gender equality, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability, intergenerational and intercultural approaches and the principle of participation in and between meetings of the Forum.
- Support ECLAC in the implementation of spaces for participation in and between meetings of the Forum.

On the part of the host country or body

- Provision of ample spaces for meetings and forums to ensure the broad participation of civil society (translation, accessibility).

How do we achieve mainstreaming?

Work by dimensions of the Agenda: social, economic and environmental. Plus a working group on ensuring transversality and interdependence between dimensions, goals and targets. The 17 SDGs must all be incorporated into one of these groups. These groups generate follow-up. Each will have sole or shared coordination.

Operation of the Participatory Mechanism between meetings of the Forum

This mechanism is proposed as an **operational process** that strengthens work between networks/movements, while also providing general guidelines for monitoring the commitments acquired by CSOs with each meeting of the regional Forum.

The starting point is a proposal of planned strategic activities and certain general guidelines which have been agreed upon in the region, with the aim of contributing to better collaboration strategies; greater transparency; and the achievement of more effective learning and progress in terms of the 2030 Agenda. As CSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean, we recognize the importance of collaborative planning consistent with our interests and our work as protagonists or key actors of sustainable development in our region. Therefore, beyond consultation, exchange, transfer and dialogues, among other methods for the inclusion of inputs and information at meetings of the Forum, is also important, at the conclusion of a meeting of the regional Forum, to be able to answer the questions: *What comes next?* and, *How and when do we do it?*

In general terms, taking 11 to 12 months as the time available for operation between meetings of the Forum, the planning base proposed is as follows:

Timeframe (from the conclusion of the meeting of the Forum)	Strategic activity	Responsible parties	Expected outcome
Months 1–2: After the meeting of the Forum	Communication and internalization of agreements or commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO-ECLAC coordination bodies • Focal point bodies or units by subregion or country • National governments (coordinating body for the 2030 Agenda in each country) • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the agreements reached at the meeting of the Forum • Adoption or adaptation of agreements in regional agendas or work plans of CSOs linked to the participation system and of national governments, as well as of United Nations agencies in the region
	Definition of strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point bodies or units by subregion or country • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies linked to the follow-up of agreements
	Participation and impact on local or subregional planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum • Subregional or local institutions (local government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local awareness of commitments acquired • Appropriate local strategies that are consistent with regional agreements
Months 3–4: Proposals	Definition of proposals or projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive and up-to-date projects/proposals considering new agreements, commitments or needs identified at the regional level from within civil society.
Months 5–6: Implementation	Conduct of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
Months 7–8: Mid-term	Conduct of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
	Identification of progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO-ECLAC coordination bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

Timeframe (from the conclusion of the meeting of the Forum)	Strategic activity	Responsible parties	Expected outcome
	Communication of progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point bodies or units by subregion or country • National governments (coordinating body for the 2030 Agenda in each country) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency • Strengthening of collaboration and networks
	Monitoring/review of institutional progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency • Effective co-responsibility
Months 9–10: Implementation	Conduct of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
Months 11–12: Preparations for the meeting of the Forum and direct participation	Call to integrate information and proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO-ECLAC coordination bodies • Focal point networks or units by subregion or country • The Mechanism designed for the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and inclusive call for information and proposals
	Local preparatory sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, working groups, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum • Focal point networks or units by subregion or country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant information on progress, experiences and lessons learned at the local level
	Integration of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point networks or units by subregion or country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective and experience of civil society with an applied comprehensive approach
	Communication and proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point networks or units by subregion or country • The Mechanism designed for the Forum • CSO-ECLAC coordination bodies • National governments (coordinating body for the 2030 Agenda in each country) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of progress from the perspective and experience of civil society • Proposals for the Forum agenda and participation

Timeframe (from the conclusion of the meeting of the Forum)	Strategic activity	Responsible parties	Expected outcome
	Agreements prior to the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point bodies or units by subregion or country • The Mechanism designed for the Forum • CSO-ECLAC coordination bodies • National governments (coordinating body for the 2030 Agenda in each country) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence-building in the pre-Forum-meeting process (legitimization of inclusion strategies and effective representation of civil society in the meeting of the Forum) • Agreements on participation
	Participation in the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point bodies or units by subregion or country • Networks • Thematic groups or coalitions, collectives, community initiatives, etc. • The Mechanism designed for the Forum • Working groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective participation by civil society

General guidelines for operation between meetings of the Forum

Strategic activities are understood to be those activities that are carried out on the basis of agreements and/or commitments acquired at meetings of the Forum; this is between civil society organizations present and/or represented at the meeting of the Forum and ECLAC, as well as other United Nations agencies attending the Forum. Strategic activities must be viewed as applicable to the region, and not necessarily coincide with or refer to domestic activities of each CSOs or representative group of civil society.

The final outcome of planning of strategic activities focuses on fulfilling the *commitments agreed upon* at the meetings of the Forum and on *making the participation of CSOs more effective* during the Forum meeting and in the overall process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in each country or subregion.

Considering that the 2030 Agenda promotes a comprehensive approach based on recognition of and respect for the human rights reflected in the interrelation of all 17 SDGs, it is important to consider that CSOs' particular or thematic interests, as well as those of vulnerable population groups, are in addition to the strategies and activities jointly agreed upon. This additiveness should not detract from the importance of particular subjects or populations; rather, it should make the common agenda and common vision more consistent.

Activities aimed at the communication and internalization of agreements or commitments will be a task mainly for those CSOs that attend or are represented at meetings of the Forum or those that are part of this participation system. Although ECLAC and government bodies have a role in these communications, it is important that civil society be consistent with their participation in the Forum and with effective follow-up of agreements.

Subregional strategies will be key to fulfilling the commitments made and carrying out strategic activities as a region. The organizational territorial scale of subregional strategies may be understood as the sum of local scales (e.g. neighbourhoods, communities, collectives, municipalities, departments, States, basins) up to a sum of national scales that address a particular common territorial agenda or characteristic (e.g. Andes, Amazonia, Caribbean).

Subregional strategies, as well as activities, proposals and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the part of civil society, should ideally be consistent with other regional agendas or commitments. This will enhance their impact and avoid duplication of efforts.

Following the communication and internalization of commitments, it is important to ensure their visibility in the areas of impact targeted by the action of CSO. This will strengthen the potential for effective participation of civil society in regional and local agendas linked to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

Responsible parties are those expected to work actively to carry out the strategic activity and achieve results. Other responsible parties may add their efforts, or efforts may be disaggregated, providing that there is a commitment to the activity within the appropriate level or territorial area.

On the basis of the commitments made at meetings of the Forum, all civil society participants in this system may develop proposals, projects or initiatives that contribute to both the fulfilment of the commitment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These proposals will be the responsibility of the CSO producing them.

The division a priori of the timeframe into two-monthly periods *should not hinder or limit* the pursuit of the strategic activity. In other words, times may be extended or shortened as deemed necessary and subject to the achievement of the expected results by the next meeting of the Forum.

Although each CSO continues to manage its own knowledge and systematize its own experience, it is important to generate information on progress as a region from within civil society. Considering the scale, this may be achieved through networks that are highly representative or are more experienced in integrating and analysing information in the region. It is important to have a shared space or virtual platform that is reliable and accessible for bringing together such information. Ideally, experiences should be systematized in a way that is consistent with the indicators related to the 17 SDGs at their various levels, ordering priorities from the local to the regional level.

Observation and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the local to the regional level will be linked to each country's plans and agreements in relation to the 2030 Agenda. This observation process may result in recommendations for both relevant government bodies and United Nations agencies.

In accordance with the progress made and activities carried out, CSOs participating in this system will generate prior agreements concerning the work on direct participation in the next meeting of the Forum.

During participation in the meeting of the Forum, the civil society organizations representing this participation system will convey and share progress and the proposals agreed internally; always respecting the vision, experience and concerns of civil society groups that are unable to be present at the meeting of the Forum.

Annex 4

SIDE EVENTS AND MEETINGS**PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME****Monday, 16 April**

- 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Civil society coordination meeting.
(Medina Room)
- 10 a.m. – noon Presentation of studies in the framework of the project Mujeres Negras del Cono Sur su retrato en preto y Blanco. Organized by Colectiva Mujeres.
(Celso Furtado room)
- 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. South-South cooperation and the 2030 Agenda: challenges of civil society in LAC: Organized by Mesa de Articulación, Acción Internacional.
(Room 1 - ILPES)
- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Speed geeking session: How can statistical and geospatial data be integrated into the 2030 Agenda using contributions from civil society? Ideas and tools. Organized by the Geocensos Foundation.
(Fernando Fajnzylber Auditorium)
- 1.30 – 6 p.m. Training workshop on alternative reporting. Organized by Mesa de Articulación, Acción Internacional.
(Room 1 - ILPES)
- 3 – 6 p.m. ECLAC-OHCHR meeting with Resident Coordinators ‘Synergies between human rights and the SDGs: Focus on leaving no one behind and meaningful participation’. Organized by the Office of the Executive Secretary and OHCHR.
(Celso Furtado Conference Room)

Tuesday, 17 April

- 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Discussion meeting of the secretariats of intergovernmental regional mechanisms. Organized by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission.
(Medina Room)
- 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rural societies in Latin America and the Caribbean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Organized by FAO, FIDA and WFP.
(FAO Auditorium, Avenida Dag Hammarskjöld 3241, Vitacura, Santiago)
- 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Latin America and the Caribbean civil society consultation prior to the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.
(Celso Furtado room)

- The environmental big push in the Forum for Sustainable Development. Organized by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division and GIZ.
(Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium)
- 9 a.m. – 6.30 p.m. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG follow-up in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the Division for Gender Affairs.
(Fernando Fajnzylber Auditorium)
- Latin America and the Caribbean VNR countries. Organized by DESA and ECLAC.
(Room 2 - ILPES)
- 10 a.m. – noon Meeting with the resident coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the Office of the Executive Secretary.
(Raúl Prebisch Conference Room)
- Health as a key pillar for achieving the 2030 Agenda: SDG3 in Latin America. Organized by the Social Development Division of ECLAC, ISAGS/UNASUR and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz).
(Room 1 - ILPES)
- 12.30 – 1.30 p.m. The voices of youth and the 2030 Agenda. The CONCAUSA Initiative. Organized by the Social Development Division of ECLAC, UNICEF-Chile and América Solidaria.
(Z-407)
- 2 – 5 p.m. Seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation. Organized by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission.
(Executive Meeting Room)
- 2.30 – 4.15 p.m. Planning as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda: tools, instruments and methodologies. Organized by ILPES.
(Z-407)
- 2.30 – 6 p.m. Meeting of the United Nations system RCM. Organized by the Office of the Executive Secretary.
(Raúl Prebisch Conference Room)
- 6.30 – 8 p.m. The future of pension systems in a changing world of work. Organized by the Social Development Division of ECLAC and ILO.
(ILO Auditorium, Avenida Dag Hammarskjöld 3177, Vitacura, Santiago)

Wednesday, 18 April

- 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. The environmental big push in the Forum for Sustainable Development. Organized by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division and GIZ.
(Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium)
- 1 – 2 p.m. Land degradation neutrality in the 2030 Agenda (SDG 15.3). Organized by UNDCC.
(Medina Room)

- 1 – 2.30 p.m. From commitments to implementation: gender equality in sustainable development. Organized by the Division for Gender Affairs.
(Celso Furtado room)
- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in Latin American and Caribbean cities. Organized by the Office of the Executive Secretary.
(Fernando Fajnzylber Auditorium)
- The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice on Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean—a tool for addressing the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Organized by ECLAC, the Government of Chile, the Government of Costa Rica and The Access Initiative.
(Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium)
- Dialogue on the identification of data sources for SDG indicators in the Caribbean. Organized by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.
(Z-407)
- 6.30 – 8 p.m. Heightening the visibility of Afrodescendent persons in the 2030 Agenda with a view to leaving no one behind. Organized by ECLAC, PAHO and UNFPA.
(Celso Furtado room)

Thursday, 19 April

- 1 – 2.30 p.m. The role of the business sector in generating sustainable production and consumption patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by ECLAC and the Global Compact.
(Celso Furtado room)
- Unleashing the potential of partnerships and participation to promote human rights and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Organized by OHCHR.
(Fernando Fajnzylber Auditorium)
- Presentation of the global report by UN-Women: “Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Organized by UN-Women.
(Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium)
- The importance of access to information to achieve sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the ECLAC Hernán Santa Cruz Library and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).
(Hernán Santa Cruz Library)
- “Beat plastic pollution: innovative solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean”. Organized by ECLAC and UN-Environment.
(Room 1 - ILPES)

Interdisciplinary science for the knowledge economy and fulfilment of the SDGs, the importance of youth. Organized by the Latin American Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology Network.

(Medina Room)

Progressing towards a regional social development agenda. Working meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the Social Development Division.

(Executive Meeting Room)

Population dynamics and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

(Z-407)

Friday, 20 April

1 – 2.30 p.m.

Informative session: Progress regarding the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration from the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the Offices of the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations.

(Raúl Prebisch Conference Room)

Comprehensive vision of the 2030 Agenda. Organized by Independent Research Forum represented by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Latin America Center for Rural Development (RIMISP).

(Celso Furtado room)

National follow-up schemes in the implementation of the SDGs. Organized by the Government of Colombia.

(Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium)

Recognizing the whole-of-society approach to the SDGs through integration of volunteerism data in voluntary national reviews. Organized by United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

(Room 1 - ILPES)

Engaging scientists in the Latin American and Caribbean region to support the implementation of the SDGs. Organized by: The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS).

(Medina Room)

Annex 5

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
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TURQUÍA/TURKEY

Representante/Representative:

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C. Miembros asociados de la Comisión que participan en calidad de observadores Associate members of the Commission participating as observers

CURAÇAO

Representantes/Representatives:

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- Ana Luz Van den Ende, Policy Advisor

SAN MARTÍN/SINT MAARTEN

Representante/Representative:

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D. Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas que participan en calidad de observadores States Members of the United Nations participating as observers

FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Representante/Representative:

- Denis Vinokurov, Segundo Secretario, Jefe de la Sección de Prensa, Embajada de la Federación de Rusia en Chile, email: vinokurov.embrus@gmail.com

TAILANDIA/THAILAND

Representante/Representative:

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United Nations Secretariat**

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Departamento de Gestión/Department of Management

- Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Controller

Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales (DAES)/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

- Luisa Karst, Representante, email: luisa.karst@un.org
- Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, email: zubcevic@un.org

Comité Asesor del Consejo de Derechos Humanos/Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

- Mario Coriolano, Vicepresidente, Defensor ante la Suprema Corte de la Provincia de Buenos Aires,
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Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial/Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- Pastor Elías Murillo Martínez, Miembro, Ginebra, email: pastormurillo77@hotmail.com

Oficina de las Comisiones Regionales en Nueva York (OCRNY)/Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO)

- Amr Nour, Director, email: nour@un.org

**F. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

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Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Servicios para Proyectos (UNOPS)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNISDR)/United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Oficina del Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/ World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- Anna Coates, Chief, Equity, Gender and Cultural Diversity
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H. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations

Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI)/Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)

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Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF)/ Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

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Comunidad Andina (CAN)/Andean Community

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Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe/Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean

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