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Thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission
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26–28 October 2020

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECLAC
AND THE OUTCOMES OF OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS
SINCE THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION***

* This report includes meetings held up to 30 July 2020. The outcomes of meetings held thereafter will be issued separately.

INTRODUCTION

The attention of the member States is drawn herein to the reports containing the agreements and resolutions adopted by the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and by the major intergovernmental meetings convened since the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, held in Havana in 2018. At that session, the member States reaffirmed in resolution 731 (XXXXVII) the important contributions to the region made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission as well as the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its ability to act as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States.

Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020 and the resultant postponement of some meetings, the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC continued to comply with their programme of work, convening a number of virtual briefings, examples of which are also described below.

I. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

- **Report of the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 19–21 November 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45229/S2000149_en.pdf
- **Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 3–4 October 2018)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44499/S1900112_en.pdf
- **Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 27–28 March 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44672/S1900501_en.pdf

Virtual meetings

24 March–15 April 2020: Meeting of authorities of national statistical agencies

Through the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, six virtual meetings of national statistical offices and institutes were held, organized by ECLAC, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, to assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in evaluating the impact of the pandemic on statistical operations.¹ ECLAC reported on the results of a questionnaire sent previously to NSOs and central banks to ascertain the effects of the health emergency on the functioning of statistical institutions. Twenty countries responded

¹ See “Conectados RTC” [online] <https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/en/conectados-rtc>.

to the survey and all reported being in a health emergency of some kind. The commitment of the NSOs and the standing of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC facilitated this work at a distance.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Report of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 27–31 January 2020)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45870/S2000518_en.pdf
 - Position document: *Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios*
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45037/S1900722_en.pdf
- **Report of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 30–31 July 2018)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44335/1/S1801164_en.pdf
- **Report of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 22–23 January 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44620/1/S1900381_en.pdf
- **Report of the fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 28 January 2020)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45739/1/S2000444_en.pdf

Virtual meetings:

8 April 2020: Briefing of Ministers and high-level authorities of machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean: The response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis from a gender perspective

Organized by ECLAC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); convening representatives from 29 countries in the region. ECLAC presented the document *The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the care crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean* and a mapping of initiatives by Latin American and Caribbean governments to address the gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Report of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 9–10 October 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45227/1/S2000141_en.pdf

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Report of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45266/S2000234_en.pdf
 - Position document: *Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda*
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44844/S1900578_en.pdf
- **Report of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 23 April 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44704/1/S1900589_en.pdf
- **Report of the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, 12 September 2018)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44399/1/S1900013_en.pdf

Virtual meetings:

2 and 21 April 2020: The role of Social Development Ministries in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the participation of ministers and secretaries of social development. The meeting took place in two sessions: the representatives of the Latin American countries met on 2 April and those of the Caribbean countries on 21 April. Between them, the two meetings convened 29 representatives of member States and 10 representatives of associate members.

8 April 2020: Technical meeting on challenges and needs of the ministries of social development vis-à-vis the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the meeting was to share lessons learned, exchange experiences and identify areas of mutual technical assistance and international cooperation on urgent issues and aspects identified by governments regarding care of the population in the pandemic.

5 May 2020: Virtual technical meeting "From health emergency to socioeconomic crisis: seeking alliances and social protection responses from Ministries of Social Development to the COVID-19 pandemic".

The purpose of this meeting, convened by the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in conjunction with ECLAC, was to create spaces for collaboration and cooperation to enable ministries to consider and prepare for moving from an emergency response towards medium- and long-term social protection strategies.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

- **Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (Port of Spain, 17 May 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44660/1/LCCAR2019_6_en.pdf

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

- **Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (Montevideo, 29–30 August 2019)**
https://crp-ilpes.cepal.org/17/sites/crpilpes17/files/19-01203_crp.17_report.pdf
 - Position document: *Planning for sustainable territorial development in Latin America and the Caribbean.*
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44732/1/S1900438_en.pdf
- **Report of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (Santo Domingo, 30 August 2018)**
https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/19-00041_mdcrp.27_report.pdf

COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- **Report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (Santiago, 17 April 2018)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43606/1/S1800485_.pdf
- **Report of the eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (Santiago, 3 October 2018)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44334/1/S1801166_en.pdf
- **Report of the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (Santiago, 23 April 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44803/S1900766_en.pdf

II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF ECLAC

- **Report of the thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole (New York, 27 February 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44639/S1900430_en.pdf
- **Report of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee of the Whole (New York, 15 October 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45264/S2000214_en.pdf

COUNTRIES SIGNATORY TO THE REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Report of the first meeting of the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (San José, 11–12 October 2019)**
https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45074/S2000024_en.pdf

Virtual meetings:**15 April 2020: virtual informative session of the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The purpose of the meeting was to present the central elements to be considered for the drafting of the proposed rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.

29 April 2020: Escazú Agreement: rules relating to the structure and functions of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance

The purpose of the meeting was to present the main elements to be considered for the preparation of the proposed rules relating to the structure and functions of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**Virtual meeting:**

17 June 2020: Virtual high-level meeting on digital technologies in the time of COVID-19. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences and challenges in the use of digital technologies to tackle COVID-19 and to discuss the opportunities provided by these technologies and the design of policies that facilitate economic recovery and a return to normality.

CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**Virtual meeting:****7 May and 28 May 2020: Briefing of ministers and high-level authorities of ministries and governing bodies of science, technology and innovation**

The objectives of the meeting were to analyse the economic, social and technological situation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis; to exchange information on the main initiatives in the area of science, technology and innovation undertaken by the region's governments in the current crisis; and to promote regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation initiatives for a coordinated response to the crisis, drawing on lessons learned from the region and other parts of the world.

2 July 2020: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC

The objectives of the meeting were to present a proposal for regional cooperation in science, innovation and information and communications technologies (ICTs); to agree on a work plan for regional cooperation in science, innovation and ICTs; and to promote regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation initiatives for a coordinated response to the crisis, drawing on lessons learned from the region and other parts of the world.