

BIENNIAL REPORT 2016-2017*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2018
SUPPLEMENT No. 20

* Includes resolutions adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, held in 2018.



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ABBREVIATIONS

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association
AMDOR	Association for the Promotion and Integration of Older Persons of Martinique
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CAT	Chilean Autonomous Central Union of Workers
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC
CEPLAN	National Centre for Strategic Planning (Peru)
CLAD	Latin American Centre for Development Administration
COMITRAN	Sectoral Council of Ministers of Transport of Central America
COMTRADE	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database
CSA	Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
CUT	United Central Union of Workers
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign direct investment
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILPES	Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEGI	National Institute of Statistics and Geography

IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEA	Institute of Applied Economic Research
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OAS	Organization of American States
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OIJ	Ibero-American Youth Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PARLATINO	Latin American Parliament
REDATAM	Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer
SE4All	Sustainable Energy for All
SEGIB	Ibero-American Secretariat
SENPLADES	National Secretariat of Planning and Development (Ecuador)
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small island developing States
SIECA	Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration
SISCA	Central American Social Integration System
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAM	National Autonomous University of Mexico
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WTO	World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION

This report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean comprises three sections. The first is devoted to issues requiring action by the Economic and Social Council or being brought to its attention; the second contains the report on the activities carried out by the Commission between January 2016 and December 2017, and the third concerns the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, held in Havana, from 7 to 11 May 2018.

ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BEING BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues requiring action by the Council

By resolution 717(XXXVII), entitled “Havana resolution”, the Commission welcomed the integrated approach to development and took note of the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality*¹ prepared by the secretariat and instructed the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries, in close cooperation with their policymakers, with a view to building national economic and social development capacities. It also called upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country’s national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

In resolution 731(XXXVII) “Seventieth anniversary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean”, the Commission reaffirmed its role 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; recognized that 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 and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, had become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; and emphasized importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations Development system by: (i) strengthening regional and subregional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits;

¹ LC/SES.37/3-P.

(ii) the need to address gaps and overlaps bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for the regional approach and that it is necessary to consider the specificities of each region and the strengths of its regional mechanisms; (iii) the need to preserve the existing functions already performed by the United Nations development system at the regional level, including current interactions between the regional economic commissions and member States; and (iv) the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commissions.

By resolution 733(XXXVII), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the establishment of a FEALAC multi-donor Trust Fund as a financing for development instrument that combines South-South and Triangular Cooperation for mutual benefit and for the common goal of development and reaffirmed its commitment to carry out with ESCAP interregional projects financed by the trust fund aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and contributing to the development of both regions in the areas agreed by the Trust Fund Steering Committee.

In resolution 726(XXXVII), the Commission decided that French Guiana would be granted associate membership in the Commission.

Other resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session

In addition, the Commission adopted the following resolutions: “ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2019-2020” (resolution 718(XXXVII)); “Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 719(XXXVII)); “Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)” (resolution 720(XXXVII)); “Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 721(XXXVII)); “Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 722(XXXVII)); Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 723(XXXVII)); “Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 724(XXXVII)); “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 725(XXXVII)); “Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee” (resolution 727(XXXVII)); “Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2020” (resolution 728(XXXVII)); “Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean” (resolution 729(XXXVII)); “Committee on South-South Cooperation” (resolution 730(XXXVII)); and “Review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024”(resolution 732(XXXVII)).

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017





MISSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

“To function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, technical cooperation services, (advisory services) training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination”.

Resolution 553(XXVI) of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, San José, 1996



FOREWORD

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is an organization fully committed to the development of this region. For the Commission, development is a comprehensive process, devised from within the region, taking into consideration the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, as well as their interrelationships.

For the last 70 years, ECLAC has contributed to Latin American and Caribbean thinking on development, and has promoted policy analysis and fostered dialogue in this regard, drawing upon its long experience and recognized capacity to monitor development issues, analyse their impact on the regional and national policy agendas, generate new ideas, proposals and policy recommendations, and provide technical cooperation services and activities that directly benefit the countries of the region.

This report on the activities carried out by the Commission during the period 2016-2017, which highlights its key achievements and contributions, is submitted for the consideration of member States in light of the accountability and transparency framework promoted by the United Nations.

During the biennium 2016-2017, the region's economies started to recover, although significant structural gaps persist and there is a risk of social deterioration. Gaps remain in access to public goods and services in health, education and transport, and efforts must be made to ensure a greater voice for the public in the policy debate. The Commission has applied its substantive capacity and flexible working methods in support of institutional and political reforms to generate a sustained growth path with increasing equality in order to secure the progress achieved during the high-growth years of the first decade of the millennium. ECLAC proposals are framed by the main ideas and policy options contained in the position document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development* adopted by ECLAC member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in May 2016. This document provides an analytical complement to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the regional perspective, and has been widely disseminated in the region and beyond.

The Commission's most recent analyses and public policy proposals have also helped to stimulate discussion on key regional development issues, including financing for development; the need for innovative sources of financing and the situation of middle-income countries; governance of natural resources; challenges in population and development; the knowledge economy, the role of innovation and access to broadband Internet connections; social protection and cohesion; labour markets; climate change; regional infrastructure; and gender issues. ECLAC has also maintained its essential role as a universal and impartial forum for the fostering of public policy debate, the exchange of good practices and the promotion of regional positions in global forums, as well as in regional and interregional summits of heads of State and government and high-level meetings.

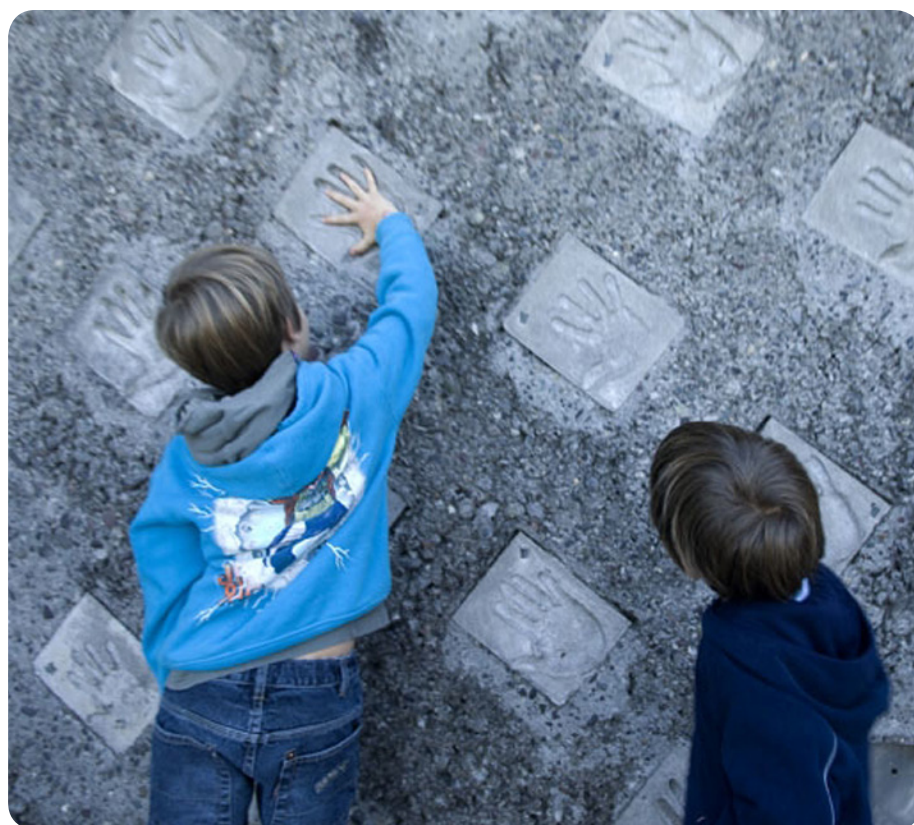


Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

ECLAC officers and technical staff have worked to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and to catalyse debate around them through the Commission's flagship publications —*Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*— and through the organization of seminars, technical workshops, training courses and expert meetings, and the delivery of technical cooperation services to member countries in a wide array of areas, encompassing the broad spectrum of economic, social and environmental sustainability issues on the region's development agenda.

ECLAC has continued to serve as technical secretariat for various intergovernmental initiatives, such as the Committee of the Whole, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Lastly, the Commission would like to thank member States for the ongoing trust and support they have placed in the institution in support of the regional development agenda.



[PART I]

INTRODUCTION

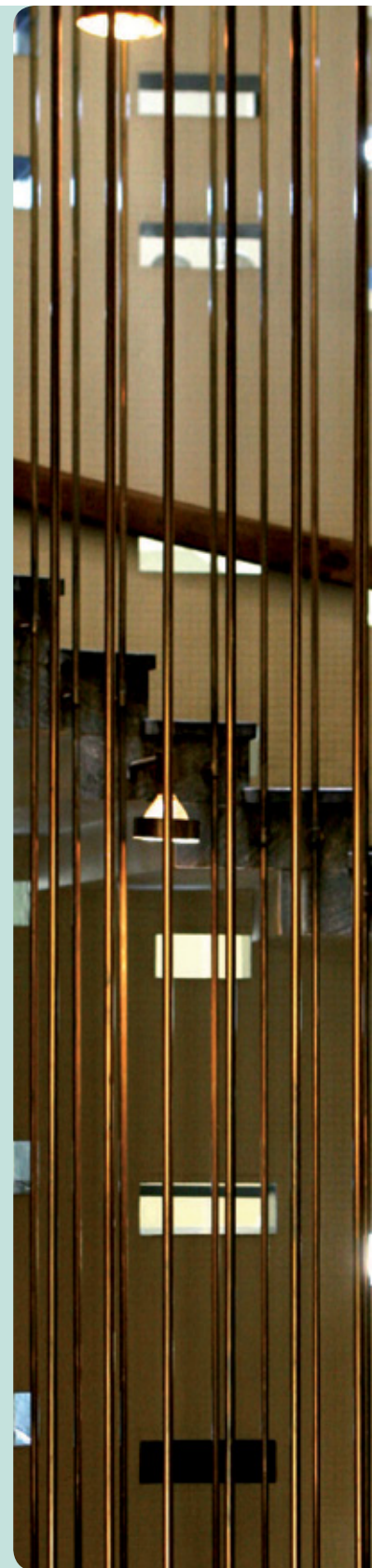
ABOUT ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) —the Spanish acronym is CEPAL— was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 and began to function that same year. By resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change its name to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in order to include the countries of the Caribbean; the Spanish acronym, CEPAL, remained unchanged.

ECLAC is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Headquartered in Santiago, Chile, it was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties between countries and with other nations of the world. The promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives. In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves the needs of the Central American subregion, together with Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; and in December 1966, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was founded in Port of Spain, to serve the Caribbean subregion. In addition, ECLAC maintains country offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo, as well as a liaison office in Washington, D.C. The 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with several Asian, European and North American countries that have historical, economic and cultural ties with the region, comprise the 46 member States of ECLAC. Thirteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members of the Commission.

Throughout its history, ECLAC has been a fervent supporter of development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission is celebrating its seventieth anniversary in 2018. For 70 years, it has been performing as a think tank on a wide variety of development issues, generating evidence-based knowledge for public policy in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Commission's ongoing concern for topics such as social justice, inequality, and sustained and sustainable growth reflects its integral approach to sustainable development and the legacy of a rich intellectual tradition. Motivated by a constant interest in emerging global issues and by the need to adapt to a changing world, ECLAC is committed to addressing challenges relating to sustainable development, climate change and the governance of natural resources, productivity and innovation, regional integration, and social issues relating to gender, youth, ageing and indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples.

Since its inception, ECLAC has been the main source of information and analysis on economic and social issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Under the early leadership of Raúl Prebisch, and with the contribution of other intellectuals from the region, ECLAC devoted itself to the task of performing a fresh intellectual analysis of the region's development challenges, based on its needs, potential and



distinctive characteristics. ECLAC continues to serve as a regional convener and facilitator in building consensus, supporting public-policy formulation to meet the development challenges facing the region, and conducting and promoting multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking at the regional and subregional levels. In this regard, ECLAC fosters a multisectoral approach to development and provides a voice to countries in special situations including middle-income countries, which constitute the majority of the region, as well as to small island developing States (SIDS).

Equally important is the role played by ECLAC in strengthening national statistical capacities, in development planning and in improving population censuses and their analysis. ECLAC continues to support the countries of the region in the critical evaluation of specific experiences that represent valuable sources of input for updating their national development agendas. ECLAC continues to develop a Latin American and Caribbean line of thought that highlights the region's unique features. One of the organization's most recent achievements is the support given to countries in the region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its means of implementation. ECLAC proposals are framed by the main ideas and policy options contained in the position document "Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development" adopted by ECLAC member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in May 2016.

ECLAC also prides itself on providing a prestigious forum for the exchange of experiences and on fostering dialogue between governments in the region, and facilitating South-South cooperation on a large scale. In this regard, special mention should be made of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in April 2017 in Mexico City. This Forum, convened under the auspices of ECLAC, allowed for the voice of the Latin American and Caribbean region to be heard at the high-level political forum held in July 2017, in New York, where the conclusions agreed upon at the Forum were presented.

ECLAC has continued its collaboration with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and with several other regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and mechanisms, in a wide range of development-related areas. The Commission reinforced its leading role as the convener of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of all the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations common system in the region, which reports to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BIENNIAL RESULTS

The regional context

The global economy and the international trading system face significant challenges marked by a weak recovery following the 2008 global financial crisis, China's low growth in commodity imports, and increasing discontent with globalization. Technological advances and low wage growth, together with the uncertain status of megaregional trade agreements, are reshaping industries and value chains. Collectively, these factors present a unique set of challenges for the region and highlight the importance of strengthening regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2017, after two years of economic contraction, the region posted slight growth of 1.3% accompanied by a higher unemployment rate, with uneven performances among countries and an increase in the regional poverty rate. Significant structural gaps persist and there is a risk of social deterioration, which raises concerns and underscores the need to rethink new policy options, with a rights-based and universal coverage approach. In this context, the 2030 Agenda represents, more than ever, a unique opportunity to bring about profound and lasting change in the prevailing development paradigm.

The region has made significant advances across a wide range of key social variables. Income inequality, while still high compared with other regions, has declined compared to the levels recorded in the last decade of the twentieth century, owing, among other factors, to strong job growth and rising wages during the first decade of the 2000s, coupled with the use of conditional transfer programmes in a number of countries in the region. However, although unequal income distribution began to ease in most countries in 2002, recent levels are not lower than in 2014. This is a difficult juncture that threatens the achievement of further progress towards the overarching objective of ending all forms of poverty everywhere and ensuring that development leaves no one behind.

In order to face the current challenges of the changing international economic order, ECLAC advocates for an indivisible and universal agenda to build a new sustainable development pattern with equality at its core, and also for balancing the equation between the State, the market and society. The region should work towards promoting convergence between different subregional integration mechanisms, creating a single digital market, implementing a regional infrastructure programme, developing regional value chains and speeding up the implementation of a trade facilitation agenda, in a context where almost 90% of the region's countries are middle-income countries, and therefore require differentiated access to the mobilization of external resources, capital markets, concessional financing and trade, and stronger instruments to attract good quality foreign direct investment. The disparities across these countries are seen in a wide range of variables relating not only to size and economic conditions but also to social situations and structural features linked to development potential and productive performance. However, this broad diversity of capacities and needs among middle-income countries is seldom considered by donor countries and multilateral agencies when prioritizing the allocation of official development assistance (ODA). As a consequence, the region's share of ODA flows has fallen substantially in the last twenty years. Hence, the concept of development used to channel cooperation resources must be revised, and there is a need for a broader, multifaceted view that not only entails improving people's standards of living but also achieving sustainable and inclusive growth, whereby the problems of social inequality and productive heterogeneity characteristic of Latin American and Caribbean countries and middle-income countries as a whole can be addressed.

The main achievements of ECLAC in 2016-2017

ECLAC continued to provide timely and relevant analysis and policy recommendations regarding development issues. The Commission worked closely with the governments in the region and other counterpart institutions to safeguard linkages between individual national experiences and regional perspectives, facilitate data comparability and exchange of good practices, and

provide effective technical cooperation services in transboundary issues within its purview. To that end, the Commission placed emphasis on analytical, normative, advocacy and capacity-building work to strengthen the design of sustainable development strategies and public policies and to facilitate the continuous monitoring of their implementation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals represent a crucial step in the building of a new and ambitious consensus among members of the international community. During the biennium, the Commission provided support to countries in the region, effectively contributing to a system-wide effort to implement the 2030 Agenda, including: (a) developing and strengthening regional and national institutions to promote policy coherence and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; (b) mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals into national planning and national fiscal frameworks and budgets, ensuring policy and institutional coherence, consistency and coordination; (c) strengthening the capacity of member States to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data, statistics and indicators; (d) supporting effective leveraging of the means of implementation; and (e) convening the annual Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development as a multi-stakeholder platform for follow up of the 2030 Agenda and promote peer review, exchange of best practices in public policies and knowledge sharing.

In this regard, the first session of this Forum, held in April 2017 in Mexico City, was one important achievement during the biennium. The Forum was convened under the auspices of ECLAC, and open to the participation of member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and representatives of civil society. The objective of the Forum was for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to share experiences and good practices, and it consisted of three segments: (a) the presentation of reports by ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies; (b) a peer review in which countries shared their experiences in voluntary national reviews; and (c) analysis of the three dimensions of development: economic, social and environmental.

The economic dimension

Against a backdrop of moderate but sustained global economic growth, higher commodity prices and greater uncertainty arising from global political risks, the Latin American and Caribbean region returned to growth, albeit modest. The regional performance reflects both external and internal factors. On the external front, growth in the global economy has consolidated at moderate rates thanks to better performances in both developed and developing economies. In this context, the stronger global economy has boosted regional exports. Regarding internal factors, domestic demand is recovering thanks to greater private consumption and government spending, while investment—the most important determinant of aggregate demand in terms of capital formation, creation of productive capacity and long-term growth—has played only a secondary role. However, the region's productivity has remained stagnant, owing largely to the lack of innovation and the slow introduction of new technologies in production processes.

With a view to bringing new elements to the discussion, one of the Commission's flagship publications, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, analyses the characteristics of the current economic cycle in the region (2009-2016) and

draws a comparison with the two preceding cycles (1990-2001 and 2002-2008). It also identifies and attempts to explain some of the determinants of the cycle and outlines possible strategies for regaining growth.

ECLAC continued its long-standing collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In joint reports, the Commission provided an analysis of the increase in unemployment in the region and of the characteristics of immigrants' entry into labour markets, underlining the importance of strengthening mechanisms for labour integration—which requires the incorporation of the gender perspective—and advocating for policies needed to foster migrant workers access to productive jobs and decent employment. In support of activities on topics relating to fiscal policy, ECLAC hosted the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth regional seminars on fiscal policy, and published two editions of *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provided an up-to-date overview of the current trends in public spending, public debt and fiscal space in the region.

With the objective of contributing to the development of the countries in the region, ECLAC presented, at its thirty-sixth session, the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development*. The proposals made in this document stem from the need to achieve progressive structural change in order to incorporate more knowledge into production, ensure social inclusion and combat the negative impacts of climate change. Also at its thirty-sixth session, ECLAC presented the document *The imperative of equality: for a sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which recognizes equality as a fundamental value in the development paradigm of the region.

With respect to the challenges that the Caribbean subregion faces in accessing external financing, ECLAC presented at the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable held in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, in April 2016, its *Proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps: a strategy for growth and economic transformation of Caribbean economies*, which calls for donors to use pledged resources from the Green Climate Fund to finance a gradual write-down of 100% of the multilateral debt stock of Caribbean SIDS held at various multilateral institutions, as well as the bilateral debt stock of member States. An agreement to contribute a fraction of such funds to resilience-building in the Caribbean based on a debt-for-climate-change swap could help to address the severe Caribbean debt situation. This proposal was well received by Caribbean member States, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and was presented at the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council entitled “Aftermath of recent hurricanes and earthquakes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda”, held in New York on 24 October 2017, and at the high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community” organized by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held on 21 November 2017 in New York. The debt swap task force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 24 November 2017.

During the biennium, ECLAC maintained its role as technical secretariat of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC, consolidating its regional leading role in this area. The second session of the Conference was held in San José, in September 2016. It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers and other senior officials representing national science, technology and innovation institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, who agreed on the need to leap forward





with the use of new technologies in the region's productive processes in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, during the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, in August 2017, countries' representatives evaluated the commitments made in the current digital agenda (eLAC2018), and outlined the areas of work and objectives of the eLAC2020 agenda, which will be submitted for approval at the sixth Ministerial Conference, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2018. The six main pillars of the eLAC2020 will be: digital infrastructure, transformation and the digital economy, digital government, inclusion and digital skills, governance for the information society and emerging technologies for sustainable development, and the regional digital market. In recognition of the work carried out in this area, the Action Plan for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) received the international and regional cooperation prize awarded by the World Summit on the Information Society.

ECLAC continued to produce analysis on industrial and production policies, including macroeconomic policies for development. Jointly with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Commission continued to publish the *Latin American Economic Outlook* and, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), it pursued its activities in the field of rural and agricultural development.

In relation to the increasingly integrated nature of world markets as a result of trade liberalization, regional integration agreements and advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs), among other factors, ECLAC organized "The Transpacific Partnership Agreement: Impacts upon Latin America and the Caribbean", a meeting that brought together experts from around the region, and the first China-CELAC High-level Academic Forum, for Latin American and Chinese academics to debate the objectives and scope of the China-CELAC 2019-2021 cooperation plan, which also generated inputs and thematic proposals for the upcoming second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and China, to be held in Santiago, in January 2018. The Commission also continued to develop research in the field of global value chains and published the 2016 edition of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the world economy*. In 2017 this flagship publication was renamed *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The first edition of this publication includes a review of the region's performance in global trade in services in general, and in modern services, since 2005. It provides an overview of Latin America and the Caribbean's share of global agricultural trade since 2000, offering policy recommendations for increasing the sector's contribution to regional development.

The social dimension

Latin America and the Caribbean faces a complex outlook in both the economic and social spheres, which threatens the achievement of the goal to eradicate poverty in all its forms and ensure that no one is left behind. The region continues to face enormous social gaps and social debts, and the challenge of reducing poverty and inequality in the coming years is inextricably linked to the new development agenda.

At the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, in October 2017, ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: Gaps, pillars and challenges*. This publication reviews the economic and social challenges that the region is facing, and argues that to overcome these challenges and to guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of the entire population, the region must advance towards a virtuous development cycle in which production diversification, progressive structural change and the environmental big push go hand in hand with inclusive social development.

Inequality remains one of the most pressing challenges for the Latin American and the Caribbean region and there is growing recognition that it is a multidimensional phenomenon. Therefore, the ECLAC notion of equality is not constrained to economic or income equality. It also covers equality in the exercise of rights and the development of capacity, the reciprocal recognition of actors, and gender, ethnic and racial equality, among other fundamental aspects. The 2016 edition of *Social Panorama of Latin America* presents an analysis of social inequality, seen as a fundamental challenge and obstacle to sustainable development. Some of the pillars and aspects of social inequality are addressed, drawing attention to how they intersect with and reinforce one another, namely, inequalities in the distribution of income (personal and functional) and property; inequalities over the course of the life cycle; time-use inequalities between men and women; and the situation of Afrodescendent populations as an example of ethnic and racial inequality. This document also analyses recent trends in the amount of public resources available to finance social policies to tackle poverty and inequality and to promote inclusive social development.

The region also continues to face major challenges in relation to women's autonomy. A persistent problem in this regard is distributive equality, which includes overcoming poverty among women (in terms of money and time, and obtaining equal pay), ending discrimination in the labour market and redressing biased or inadequate social protection. Unpaid domestic and care work is also addressed as the root of inequality based on the sexual division of labour. The progress made in this area, however, has been insufficient and slower than in other environmental, economic and social processes, leaving much work to be done to achieve the goal of more equitable and just societies. In this context, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean has been instrumental in generating information about gender relations in the region.

In October 2016, the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo. The main outcome of this meeting was the adoption by countries in the region of the *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*. This Strategy is a regional agreement that ECLAC member States will adapt to their priorities, plans for gender equality and rights, sustainable development plans, and national policies and budgets. It sets out 74 measures for the 10 implementation pillars of the regional gender agenda and encompasses all the commitments undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding women's rights and autonomy, as well as gender equality, from the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America held in 1977 to the present. In addition, the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Santiago, in May 2017, and in Havana, in June 2017, respectively.

ECLAC continued to work on promoting and securing the incorporation of population issues into the development policies and programmes of the countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, particularly with regard to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, in October 2016, to examine a proposal of indicators for the statistical follow-up to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, the principal intergovernmental agreement on population and development issues in the region. In November 2017, a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, Chile, to analyse and adopt the final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, and to present national progress regarding its implementation, as well as to discuss good practices and implementation difficulties. Finally, and as an outcome of this meeting, the proposal of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2018 was approved.

During the biennium, ECLAC also continued to provide timely analyses and to follow up on international agreements regarding demographic issues. The Commission prepared the study *Challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons*, presented at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2017, in Paraguay. The main objective of this meeting was to review progress in the commitments made by the ECLAC member States in the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the Asunción Declaration, member States asked the Commission to strengthen its activities on the matter of ageing and older persons' rights in order to help governments in Latin America and the Caribbean adopt measures that ensure the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of older persons, with the participation of civil society. ECLAC also organized, jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which was held in Santiago, in August 2017.

ECLAC provided substantial technical support to countries to incorporate population and development objectives into their public agendas, and to produce, analyse and disseminate quality statistical information as a basis for public policy design. As a result of training courses and workshops, a large number of countries benefited from advisory missions on the creation of REDATAM databases and applications, which is a technological tool developed by ECLAC and widely used in the region and beyond. Technical assistance was also provided to help countries in the region to implement good quality censuses. Finally, ECLAC has continued to support the improvement of the technical capacity of countries in the region to monitor and implement the recommendations and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as other relevant international agreements.

The sustainability dimension

During the 2016-2017 biennium, further work was undertaken on the interrelationships between economic policy, environmental protection, urban development, social equality and the economic impacts of climate change. ECLAC continued to contribute to enhancing the capacity of the region's governments to follow up on the implementation of international agreements relating to sustainable development and urban development. A notable example was the ongoing negotiations on a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, taking place among the 24 signatory countries of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2014. The discussions at the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement, held during 2017 in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November), respectively, led to agreement on the wording of the articles on access to information and participation. In the context of this process, ECLAC launched the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, which analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the full enjoyment by all persons of the rights to have access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

ECLAC continued to publish documents contributing to a better understanding of climate change issues in the region and to the design of public policies in the context of sustainable development. Special mention should be made of the publication in 2016 of the environmental performance reviews of Chile and Peru, carried out jointly with OECD, and the joint publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice*, with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Commission also provided methodological support to several countries in the region to calculate public environmental expenditure and initiated the implementation of a line of research on sustainable mining.

ECLAC has provided increased technical assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries to help them honour their commitments regarding nationally determined contributions under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Technical support was provided on climate change adaptation, urban development, sectoral impacts of climate change, environmental taxation and strengthening technical and institutional capacities. The Commission also participated actively in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016. This Conference established the pillars of the New Urban Agenda, and ECLAC made an important contribution to the discussion with the publication *Sustainable and Equitable Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Six key messages*. Finally, in the framework of the Cities Conference jointly organized with UN-Habitat, and held in Santiago in October 2017, the General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, thus contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the biennium, ECLAC provided technical assistance and advisory services to support national governments and institutions in the region in the development

of policy frameworks to promote sustainable development in the areas of infrastructure, logistics, mobility, road safety and connectivity, and in public services such as sanitation and the provision of drinking water. In terms of energy and energy efficiency, the Commission's work strengthened national capacities to develop and report on nationally established indicators, through the development of the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE) Programme, which has become a useful tool for informed and evidence-based decision-making for countries in the region. Important activities were also carried out in Haiti to support and strengthen inclusive dialogue on a national logistics and mobility policy initiated by that country's National Commission for the Modernization of Public Transport in September 2015.

One milestone in this area was Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure, organized by ECLAC and held in Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 11 November 2016. This event consisted of 10 meetings and side events on the topics of logistics, infrastructure integration and natural resources. The High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure took place in the framework of Governance Week. This event was attended by Ministers and Vice-Ministers of energy, mining, infrastructure, environment and natural resources from 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as by high authorities of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Mesoamerica Project, Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. During the event, the heads of the delegations shared reflections and experiences regarding the challenges related to the governance of natural resources and infrastructure, and ministerial delegations formulated and agreed upon recommendations to promote a shared vision for better governance of natural resources and infrastructure for Latin America and the Caribbean. This event demonstrated that the link between logistics and sustainable exploitation of natural resources is now an established concept for the region that should be addressed by public policies targeting infrastructure and natural resources.

Some of the documents prepared by the Commission in this area during the biennium deserve a special mention. *Barriers to identification and implementation of energy efficiency mechanisms and enhancing renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean and Energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean* aim to provide an assessment of the subregion's status with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as to guide the discussion on the potential obstacles to the adoption of energy-efficiency policies in the Caribbean. *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe* explains the need for new governance of the region's natural resources that ensures the sustainability of the benefits they provide. *Desafíos de la seguridad hídrica en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the definitions and scope of the term "water security" in the international debate, and *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis*, explores opportunities and challenges in increasing the energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets through electrification.

The public policy dimension

During the 2016-2017 biennium, in response to requests from countries in the region, ECLAC continued to conduct economic and social planning activities at the national and local levels, in support of State and government reform and modernization of public policymaking. The establishment of the Regional Observatory on Planning

for Development, the first of its kind, has produced significant results regarding data collection, validation of relevant information on national planning systems and the creation of planning expert networks. The Observatory will provide a long-term space for regional collective knowledge-creation and sharing, and analysis of national planning and public management systems for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will be maintained and updated with relevant data by a network of planning experts, and thus will help to produce new analytical products and enhance the virtuous circle of collective learning.

At the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, held in Lima, in October 2017, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed the importance of planning for development as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Regional Council for Planning requested that the Commission continue developing applied research and provide technical cooperation and advisory services to support the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans. During this meeting, ECLAC presented PlanBarometer, a new analytical tool developed by the Commission that aims to improve the quality of planning for development in the region.

Throughout the biennium, ECLAC continued to support regional intergovernmental bodies in planning and public management. The Commission helped to promote the Latin American Network of Public Policies for Regional Development, which convenes authorities responsible for planning and territorial development. It also supported the meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN), co-organized meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Public Investment Systems (SNIP) to promote the improvement of the quality of public investment, collaborated with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and established links with various foresight and regional development networks. The Commission also organized seminars and technical meetings. The regional seminar Planning and Public Management in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, held in Santiago, from 26 to 28 September 2016, convened government officials specializing in public policy planning and budgeting at the national or local level, as well as the private sector and civil society, and other United Nations agencies. These conferences, congresses and seminars addressed new approaches and emerging issues in planning. Finally, in the area of capacity-building, ECLAC continued to deliver international and national courses, as well as e-learning courses, on topics including results-based budgeting, evaluation of public policies and programmes, open government, project management, and planning for the 2030 Agenda.

During the biennium, ECLAC maintained its leading role in statistics. One of the focuses of the Commission's work was the strengthening of the role of national statistical offices, as leading institutions of their respective national statistical systems, to tackle the statistical challenges of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. At the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in June 2016, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was created to gather information on national statistical capacities to produce the 230 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and to coordinate horizontal technical cooperation. At its sixteenth meeting, held in April 2017, the Executive Committee reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities in 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference.



As technical secretariat of the Conference, ECLAC supported the organization of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in November 2017. In the meeting's resolutions, adopted by the 39 participating delegations, countries highlighted the importance of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the suitable intergovernmental body to produce a regional indicator framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries, with a view to support the statistical follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. At the meeting, ECLAC presented countries with a proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean that participating countries received with interest. The document seeks to contribute to stimulating and sustaining the intergovernmental dialogue within the Statistical Conference of the Americas in the coming months, to achieve a regional consensus.

Jointly with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the annual meetings (held in June 2016 and April 2017) for the promotion and coordination of national activities on geospatial information, attended by representatives of national statistical offices and the national geographic institutes, with the aim of developing projects to build national geospatial data infrastructure. The Commission also continued to support the region's countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA), by holding seminars and providing technical advisory services. Technical assistance missions, to the countries which are on other instrument for cooperation and the dissemination of methodologies, remained strong in this area, enhancing the quantity and quality of basic economic data, as well as the technical capacities for estimating national accounts. Activities carried out during the biennium included strengthening the national implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 (SEEA 2012), poverty measurements, and integrated household survey systems.

In the compilation, production and dissemination of comparable statistical indicators, CEPALSTAT, the ECLAC statistical portal and entry-point to the Commission's statistical databases, continued to be expanded and updated. This portal contains national and regional profiles that are in line with their corresponding databases, a dashboard to facilitate access to data, special web services for advanced application programming interface (API) developers (OpenData project) and a collection of infographics, among other features.

Finally, and in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, throughout the biennium ECLAC held regional workshops on the statistical perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional, subregional and national levels. In this context, the Latin American Conference: Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, held in Santiago in September 2016, gathered heads of national statistical offices, chief statisticians of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners, and other stakeholders. The aim of this Conference was to take stock of various international, regional, subregional and national initiatives for integrating and modernizing statistical systems, and to adapt the global initiative for a transformative agenda to the Latin American context.

The subregional and regional integration dimension

Throughout the biennium, advisory services, training workshops, analytical studies and policy recommendations were provided to help Central American and Caribbean countries address their most pressing development needs. Examples include the outcomes of modelling the impacts of a customs union between Honduras and Guatemala, the analysis of the impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on the textile sector, and the publication of macroeconomic performance reports at the subregional level. In keeping with the Commission's commitment to regional integration, the subregional headquarters in Mexico analysed options for the electrical interconnection of Central American countries with Mexico, drafted harmonized national electricity regulations and established an energy-efficiency database for the entire subregion. Work was also done in the development of regional methodologies for assessing food security, hydroelectric generation, and public investments under climate change scenarios, and on establishing planning frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries of the subregion, using a new methodology to reveal critical linkages and nodes among these Goals. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of ECLAC in Mexico City in April 2017, provided a great opportunity for peer learning and the exchange of best practices among national officers and representatives of government, the private sector and the civil society in the subregion.

In the area of social development, the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico led discussions on the minimum wage in that country, worked on women's labour participation, and examined the structural issues behind chronic violence in the subregion. Relevant work was done to strengthen national capacities to fight poverty and inequality, and contributed to discussions on poverty measurement, new ways to measure income inequality using fiscal and tax data, methods for determining structural gaps, and innovative ways to estimate wealth (not income) inequality in Mexico. More attention was devoted to the specific constraints on the social development of indigenous groups, and the subregional office led discussions on the feasibility of establishing a new social development pillar by promoting a universal basic income in Mexico. ECLAC also studied migration patterns among indigenous groups in Oaxaca and forged an alliance of think tanks from Mexico and three Central American countries to construct a narrative on migration that is closely linked to development models and human security and not just to security and containment concerns.

The Commission contributed to the goal of progressive structural change by updating input-output tables in several countries, and undertook a major initiative to forge value chains and to advance new ideas on industrial policies for rural areas in the subregion. The subregional office also provided support in the development of formulas for fuel pricing, the revision of the electricity tariff structure in Costa Rica, and the drafting of tax models for the customs office in Mexico.

For its part, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean facilitated regional dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration to address development issues of interest to the subregion. ECLAC also sought to respond directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States by offering technical assistance and advisory services for capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and by undertaking necessary research to guide the design and implementation of appropriate public policies. As a result, the capacity of the countries to address their sustainable development challenges



was markedly increased, as evidenced by the acknowledgement of ECLAC policy advice by specific member States on issues such as management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue, design and promotion of strategies for the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, development of the yachting sector, and restructuring of national offices for better assessment and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal implementation. Further, ECLAC remained the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by undertaking assessments in Belize, following Hurricane Earl; in the Bahamas, following Hurricane Matthew; and in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, following Hurricanes Irma and Jose. Damage and loss assessments were also conducted in Ecuador, following the earthquake of April 2016, and in Argentina, following the floods that impacted the country in March 2017.

Member States actively engaged in high-level consultations, exploring ways to strengthen subregional integration and increase trade as an effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean. Moreover, the established mechanisms for consultation and coordination of decision-making at the subregional level were used to undertake comprehensive reviews and assessments to shape subregional strategies in response to specific Caribbean concerns relating to the global development agenda. Examples of these were the twenty-sixth ministerial meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and the convening of the seminar on Women's Empowerment and Migration in the Caribbean, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which took place on the eve of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo.

In addition, specific high-level consultations were carried out in the context of strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean. Examples include a workshop —jointly organized with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat—on the development of a set of core indicators, from among the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in Caribbean Small SIDS, as well as a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Goals in national development planning. The symposium led to the identification of gaps and institutional capacity constraints in planning for the Goals.

Over the past few years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown conviction in carrying forward and sustaining their processes of regional and subregional cooperation and integration. Despite a complex economic and political context in the region during 2016-2017, this conviction has not changed. During the biennium, ECLAC provided technical and substantive inputs to regional and subregional integration organizations in support of discussions and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues, and facilitated dialogue between the Latin American and Caribbean region and extraregional actors, such as China, Europe, and the Republic of Korea. Consistently supported by ECLAC, several subregional and regional cooperation and integration processes gained in maturity and strength over the biennium.

The cooperation and integration requirements now exceed the scope of trade strategies and policies and are expanding into the spheres of production, energy, infrastructure, environment, poverty, public safety, migration and South-South cooperation, among others.

Disseminating knowledge and policy recommendations

ECLAC disseminates its research findings and institutional positions via an extensive array of publications, which include the flagship publications, series and project documents, as well as institutional books and other interdivisional publications. Its main flagship publications are: *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, and *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Visits by eminent persons to ECLAC headquarters

The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, gave a keynote lecture on 1 February 2016 at ECLAC Headquarters, where he was received by the organization's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena. During his lecture, President Erdoğan called for international collaboration to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis and the challenges to peace in the Middle East.

The President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, together with the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, visited ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 27 February 2016. During their visit, they both discussed the challenges of economic, social and environmental development in Latin America and the Caribbean with the ECLAC Executive Secretary and officials of the Commission.

On 22 November 2016, the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, attended the opening ceremony of the China-Latin America Media Leaders Summit at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. President Michelle Bachelet of Chile was also present.

In her visit to ECLAC on 24 November 2016, the Vice-President of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo, reflected on the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals as a road map to face the two big challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean: growth sustainability and inequality.

The President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, visited ECLAC on 29 November 2016. He delivered a lecture in which he called upon countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to build more egalitarian societies and emphasized the role of multilateralism in facing the challenges posed by globalization.

On 29 May 2017, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Keith Rowley, visited ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, and shared experiences and perspectives on development issues and challenges faced by Caribbean countries with the ECLAC Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretaries and Directors.

During his visit to ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, on 30 August 2017, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, delivered a lecture and advocated for deeper cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin American countries, and recognition of the ECLAC contribution to the economic development of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Implementation of the programme of work

The results achieved by ECLAC in influencing the policy agenda and debate in the region on economic, social and environmental issues were made possible by a high rate of implementation of its programme of work. A total of 97% of the planned outputs were implemented. Furthermore, in response to requests from member States, 20 outputs were carried out in addition to those planned for the biennium.

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Number of mandated outputs	Implementation rate for mandated outputs (percentages)	Number of total outputs	Implementation rate for total outputs (percentages)
Executive direction and management				
1. Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation	68	96	69	96
2. Production and innovation	51	100	54	100
3. Macroeconomic policies and growth	40	88	42	93
4. Financing for development	19	100	19	100
5. Social development and equality	36	97	40	98
6. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development	39	97	39	97
7. Population and development	72	99	72	99
8. Sustainable development and human settlements	43	98	45	98
9. Natural resources and infrastructure	40	100	40	100
10. Planning of public administration	48	100	48	100
11. Statistics	49	86	53	87
12. Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico	80	99	81	100
13. Subregional activities in the Caribbean	94	100	96	100
14. Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations	21	81	22	82
Total	700	97	720	97

PART II

MAIN RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES BY AREA OF WORK

Executive direction and management

Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation

Production and innovation

Macroeconomic policies and growth

Financing for development

Social development and equality

Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development

Population and development

Sustainable development and human settlements

Natural resources and infrastructure

Planning of public administration

Statistics

Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico

Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations

Country offices

Technical cooperation

Results-based management



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contribution to key issues on the public policy agenda

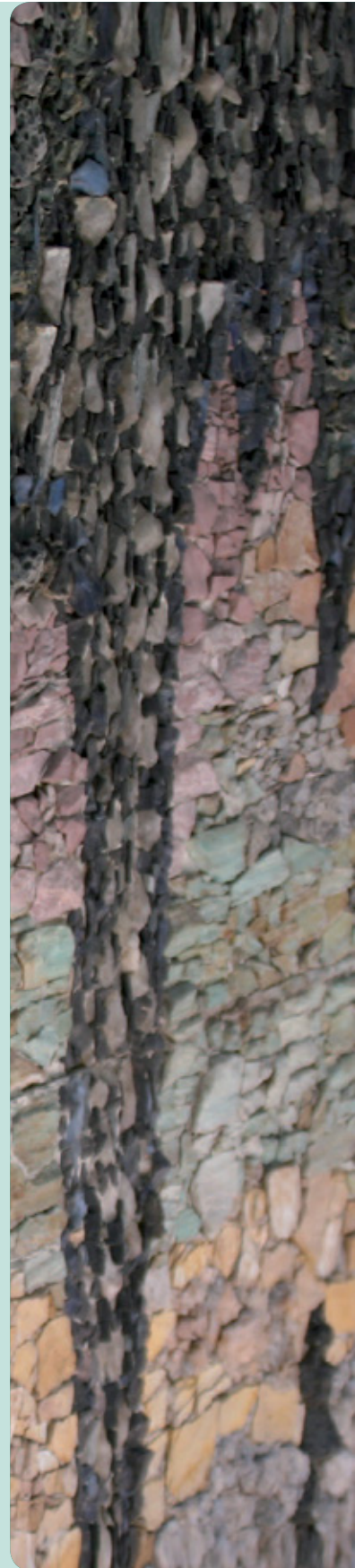
During 2016-2017, ECLAC continued to act as a catalyst and leader in highlighting the economic, social and environmental issues on the regional development agenda and in responding to the most urgent needs of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in these areas. The Commission also continued to serve as a regional forum and facilitator in fostering policy dialogue, building regional consensus on development challenges and acting as a provider of related comprehensive analysis. Lastly, it provided support for public-policy formulation, peer learning, sharing and evaluation and implemented operational activities including the provision of technical cooperation and the dissemination of specialized information and training to governments and other stakeholders.

At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Commission presented the institutional document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development*. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in a context of global paradigm shifts, the document analyses the main economic, social and environmental challenges facing the Latin American and Caribbean region. It provides an analytical complement to the 2030 Agenda from a structuralist perspective and emphasizes the specific opportunities and challenges to devise the means of implementation of the agenda from the regional perspective. Based on the Sustainable Development Goals and in light of the global economic context, the document presents policies and partnerships that can enhance the region's capacity to move towards a development path ensuring greater equality and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the need for creation of global and regional public goods to guarantee stable growth with inclusion, good-quality employment with a rights-based approach and environmental stewardship. The main messages of this document and the related policy recommendations have been channelled in other key global, interregional and regional high-level forums and summits including those taking place in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as in meetings of CELAC, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Pacific Alliance and CARICOM, the CELAC-EU and CELAC-China meetings, the Ibero-American Summit, and in the global and regional editions of the World Economic Forum.

ECLAC subsidiary bodies and key meetings

The highlights and main messages of the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development* were presented to member States at the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole held in New York on 28 April 2016. The thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole was convened in New York in January 2017 in preparation for the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

The first session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 April 2017. Convened under the auspices of ECLAC, the Forum was open to the participation



of member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and the academic sector. At the meeting, countries of the region shared their experiences, challenges and good practices on the following topics: institutional arrangements for the national follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, data and statistical challenges for the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals and national policy priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. On this occasion, the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* was presented by ECLAC as the technical secretariat of the Forum as a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2017.

ECLAC raised awareness of issues concerning innovation, science and technology with emphasis on the opportunities provided by the digital economy, at the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC, held in San José, from 12 to 13 September 2016. At this meeting, the Commission presented the document *Science, technology and innovation in the digital economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provides an overview of the main themes related to science, technology and innovation, against the backdrop of the progress of the industrial Internet and advanced manufacture and agriculture. With this report, the Commission expects to contribute to a better understanding of one of the main challenges that the region is facing, and will continue to face in the near future, namely the weak capacity of countries to absorb and create new technology paradigms to influence the entire production system. In this meeting, representatives of 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries agreed on the need to leap forward with the use of new technologies in the region's production processes in the framework of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. From 7 to 9 August 2017, the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, Chile, with the objective of analysing the progress made regarding the agreements established in the context of the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018) and in preparation for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Colombia in 2018.

The twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on 22 April 2016. The Committee welcomed the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Round Table, and endorsed the creation of an inter-agency task force to elaborate the details of a debt swap initiative in resolution 93(XXVI), "Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean". The eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in Port of Spain, on 19 May 2017, and in this meeting countries discussed the contribution of ECLAC to development in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the seventieth anniversary of the Commission and reviewed the outcomes of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. ECLAC also participated in the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Aftermath of recent hurricanes and earthquakes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda", held in New York on 24 October 2017, and in the CARICOM high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community, held on 21 November 2017, also in New York. Finally, the debt swap task force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain on 24 November 2017.

Establishment and first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

On 27 May 2016, at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC held in Mexico City, resolution 700(XXXVI), Mexico resolution on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, established the Forum as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Forum is State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is convened annually by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission, under the auspices of ECLAC.

The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mexico, and was attended by close to 800 participants from 31 member States, 27 United Nations entities, 12 intergovernmental entities, 198 NGOs, and the private sector. Its programme was divided into three segments: (1) the presentation by ECLAC of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the presentation of reports by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and by other stakeholders; (2) a peer learning session on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities among member States; and (3) an analysis with multiple stakeholders of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the regional context, and of the related policy integration challenges. Two special sessions were held on artificial intelligence and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the peer learning session, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico, having presented voluntary national reviews at the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, shared their experiences. Meanwhile, the 11 countries that presented voluntary national reviews in 2017 reported on the progress made, thus shedding more light on the regional dimension of development, and also conveying the relevance of the development agenda emerging in the global South.

For this occasion ECLAC prepared the first *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* as a contribution to the discussions. The Commission also prepared and presented the document *Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: the challenges of resource mobilization*. The conclusions and recommendations of the first meeting of the Forum, the summary of the Chair and the report, as well as the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, were submitted as regional inputs to the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development.



Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
Mexico City
26 - 28 April **2017**

The ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the subsidiary body of the Commission that contributes to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities in the countries of the region, and promotes cooperation among national statistical systems and international and regional agencies, was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017. At this Conference, which was attended by heads of national statistical institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean and experts from the United Nations and other international agencies, regional authorities urged governments of the region to bolster their commitment to sustainability and to strengthening national statistics systems, to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, specialists underscored the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information to track progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to address increasingly frequent natural disaster events, as well as to discuss priorities for a regional strategic plan in this area. During this meeting, countries welcomed the proposal of a regional indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda prepared by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda with the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat, and requested that the Group propose the framework of indicators for regional monitoring at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference to be held in 2018.

The sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ECLAC was held in Lima, from 11 to 13 October 2017. At this meeting, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed the importance of planning for development as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and PlanBarometer, developed by ECLAC and presented on this occasion.

The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago in October 2016. At this meeting, countries of the region examined a proposal of indicators for statistical follow-up to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. In November 2017, a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, to analyse and adopt the final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus.

The Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons was held in Asunción, from 27 to 30 June 2017. During this Conference, organized by ECLAC and the Government of Paraguay, participating countries unanimously adopted the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, in which they ratified States’ responsibility to ensure ageing with dignity and rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to promote, protect and respect the human rights, dignity and fundamental liberties of older persons.

In October 2016, the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo. The main outcome of this meeting was the adoption by countries in the region of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. This Strategy sets out 74 measures for the 10 implementation pillars of the Regional Gender Agenda and encompasses all the commitments undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the

Caribbean regarding women's rights and autonomy, as well as gender equality. In addition, the fifty-fifth and the fifty-six meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Santiago, in May 2017, and in Havana, in June 2017, respectively.

Further, during the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, in October 2017, ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: Gaps, pillars and challenges*. This session, convened by ECLAC, the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was attended by social development authorities from the region.

Finally, the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean were held during 2017 in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November).

Academic research and debate

ECLAC has been recognized as a regional think tank which has focused on economic, social and environmental development issues since its establishment, and was ranked by the University of Pennsylvania as the second-best think tank in Central and South America in 2015, according to the 2016 Global Go-To Think Tank Index.¹ The Commission's integrated body of work in the field of applied research, policy advocacy, and data and statistics, enriches the global debate on sustainable development issues and contributes further to institution-building among governments and other stakeholders of the region.

ECLAC has published the *CEPAL Review* three times a year since 1976, thus contributing to the discussion of socioeconomic development issues in the region by offering analytical and policy approaches, pioneering ideas and academic articles by economists and other experts and scientists in the field of sustainable development working both within and outside the United Nations. The *CEPAL Review* has full editorial independence and follows the usual academic procedures and criteria, including the review of articles by independent external referees. It is listed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), published by Thomson Reuters, and in the *Journal of Economic Literature* (JEL), published by the American Economic Association.

Throughout the biennium, ECLAC and ILO published four issues of their joint report *Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, addressing the increase in unemployment and immigrants' entry into labour markets. In conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Commission continued to publish *Challenges*, the newsletter on childhood and adolescence. The 2016 issue, "The right to free time in childhood and adolescence" is focused on the right to leisure, which is explicitly cited in article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), while the 2017 issue, "Children and disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean", analyses the social protection provided to children at times of disaster, highlighting their particular vulnerability to these phenomena and the increase in the occurrence of these events in recent times.

¹ The Global Go-To Think Tank Index is the result of an international survey of over 1,950 scholars, public and private donors, policymakers and journalists who helped rank more than 6,600 think tanks using a set of 18 criteria developed by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP).

Knowledge management and strategic communications

During the biennium, the Publications and Web Services Division disseminated publications and technical documents in support of the analysis of regional trends in sustainable development, knowledge creation and capacity-building: a crucial effort that remains at the core the Commission's work. Over 250 publications were published by the Commission, including ECLAC flagship publications, ECLAC Books, ECLAC series, *CEPAL Review*, *Notas de Población*, and several co-editions with different partners. The Division also lent support to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which generated more than 500 parliamentary documents.

During this period, the ECLAC website was revamped and updated as part of an ambitious initiative to comprehensively overhaul and modernize its structure, technology and content, in order to strengthen its strategic communication and dissemination functions. As a result, improvements have been made in terms of the site's accessibility, quality, security, topicality, relevance and consistency and the external positioning of its content, and it now has a more efficient search engine. The new website was also fully integrated with the ECLAC Digital Repository and other tools that facilitate a comprehensive approach and access to knowledge management.

This effort reflects a strategic dissemination and marketing vision that hinges on the use of online tools and services. All ECLAC publications are available as complete and unabridged texts on the Commission's website and in its Digital Repository. A wider range of platforms is being used for the electronic distribution of ECLAC documents, such as the electronic catalogue of publications, weekly and quarterly e-newsletters, applications for mobile devices and the ECLAC Publications page on social media. Publications are also being produced in e-book format and are available for purchase from online retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble and iTunes. Further achievements can be seen in the creation of thematic catalogues and new promotional materials. ECLAC has also improved its dissemination and marketing mechanisms by creating a modern system of subscribers and email marketing management (using a customer relationship management platform), which has been very successful and has in two years generated a list of more than 100,000 subscribers, segmented by thematic area, who receive monthly news about ECLAC publications.

In addition, the web services team launched a new system (using the Google analytics tool) to measure the metrics and statistics of website use, generating monthly reports that allow very precise geographic, thematic and temporal tracking and analysis. During the biennium, the site had more than 18 million visits and more than 5 million publications were downloaded. The Commission's public information strategy uses both traditional mass media and online social networks to communicate diverse activities and products targeting varied audiences at the local, regional and international levels. Produced in English, Spanish and Portuguese, ECLAC outreach materials provide newsworthy information, which is printed, broadcasted and tweeted every day, thus promoting the ECLAC brand and mission as a substantive think tank that addresses development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ECLAC Public Information Unit, which is responsible for the design and implementation of this strategy, covered all the Commission's main meetings and disseminated ECLAC publications. The increased coverage of ECLAC activities can be measured through the number of references in the mass media, including leading global financial newspapers and magazines, and global television networks, such as The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Cable News Network (CNN), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and CCTV of China.

During 2016-2017, more than 66,500 media clippings on the Commission's work were recorded, helping to position the organization as one of the leading think tanks in the region. The implementation of a robust new social media strategy proved to be a challenging and time-consuming task. ECLAC has kept abreast of technological change and its social media accounts reach a community of hundreds of thousand followers, that have been critical in enhancing the Commission's influence and positioning in the region. At the end of the period, 627,201 followers had joined ECLAC conversations on Twitter and Facebook, both in Spanish and English, while ECLAC videos and photos on YouTube and Flickr had accumulated almost 2,340,000 views.

Digital Repository

The ECLAC Digital Repository was officially launched on 6 May 2014 by the Hernán Santa Cruz Library. More than 39,000 ECLAC publications —from the first one released in 1948 to the most recent— can be consulted and downloaded from the repository. The repository significantly increases the visibility and impact of the Commission's work. Between December 2016 and November 2017, more than 2,200,000 documents were downloaded by users from all over the world. The repository also guarantees the preservation of the Commission's intellectual heritage in the long term. With the work of more than 9,000 authors in five languages, it is open to all users, and may be of particular interest to policymakers, researchers, scholars and students. In total, the official documents on file exceed 2.5 million pages.

As a result of this effort by the Hernán Santa Cruz Library, it is now possible to search and download the full text of all ECLAC publications and official documents, which include institutional books, annual reports, joint publications, series, magazines, bulletins, and documents from conferences and meetings, as well as multimedia resources.

CEPAL Review

The *CEPAL Review* was founded in 1976 as the Commission's academic journal. It is published three times a year and has full editorial independence, following the usual academic procedures and criteria, including the review of articles by independent external referees. The *CEPAL Review* focuses on the economic, social and environmental development of Latin America and the Caribbean, presenting both theoretical analysis and policy recommendations.

During 2016-2017, over 60 articles were published in issue Nos. 118 to 123 of the Spanish version of the *CEPAL Review* (corresponding to issue Nos. 117 to 122 of the English version). These articles were written by prestigious professors and researchers from key universities and research centres in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by renowned researchers from outside the region. The main topics covered in 2016-2017 were macroeconomics for development, inequality, education, trade, multidimensional time use, multidimensional poverty, agricultural productivity, connectivity, innovation and productivity, disasters, and foreign direct investment. A total of 56,010 article downloads from the ECLAC website were recorded over the biennium. Since 2011, the *CEPAL Review* has been the top ranked journal produced in the region, according to the Journal Citation Reports of Thomson Reuters.



SUBPROGRAMME 1**LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMY,
INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION****[1]****MARIO CIMOLI**

Officer in Charge of the Division of International Trade and Integration

INTRODUCTION

During the biennium, work under this subprogramme focused on analysing trade relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and its main trade partners, global trade negotiations, regional and global supply chains, regional integration, intraregional trade, agricultural trade, trade in services, trade facilitation, dispute settlement, international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building, and the intersection between trade and climate change.

ECLAC continued to publish the flagship report *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean* (formerly known as *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* until 2017) on an annual basis. The 2016 edition focused on the slowdown of global economic growth, the backlash against globalization, mega-regional negotiations, the role of China in the global economy, and intraregional trade. In 2017, the publication focused on the recovery of the current international context and of trade in the region, the increasingly important role of trade with China, challenges to developing countries, trade in services, and trade in agriculture.

Several noteworthy events were organized under the subprogramme throughout the biennium, including a seminar on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and its impacts on Latin America and the Caribbean, which brought together experts from around the region to examine the economic and legal impacts of the agreement, and the first China-CELAC high-level academic forum, in which Latin American and Chinese academics debated the objectives and scope of the China-CELAC 2019-2021 cooperation plan. The Division was also instrumental in the creation of a new multiannual biregional fund with the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

Additionally, several important studies were published including *Opciones para la convergencia entre la Alianza del Pacífico y el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR): la regulación de la inversión extranjera directa*, *La irrupción de China y su impacto sobre la estructura productiva y comercial en América Latina y el Caribe*, "Posibles efectos económicos y sociales de la profundización de la Unión Aduanera entre Guatemala y Honduras", *The Pacific Alliance and its economic impact on regional trade and investment: Evaluation and perspectives*, *Trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report 2017*, and *Crisis y debates sobre globalización crisis en Europa y los Estados Unidos: implicaciones para América Latina*. In addition to an extensive number of publications, the Division carried out several technical

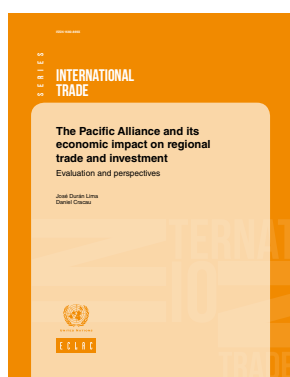
assistance and capacity-building activities that benefited numerous countries in the region including Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the activities carried out under this subprogramme strengthened the capacities of public institutions and organizations in the region by providing technical assistance and advisory services. Institutions in member States of the Pacific Alliance have begun analysing the feasibility of developing and adopting policies to support fisheries trade based on advisory services delivered by the subprogramme to Ministries of Foreign Trade. A public-private dialogue was established in Ecuador to analyse the environmental footprint of tuna exports, and Costa Rica strengthened its capacities to design policies that promote production linkages between the export sectors and the rest of the economy, through increased employment. Capacity-building workshops were also held in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to increase the capacity of national officers in addressing novel global trade challenges such as the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), improving customs valuation methods and creating authorized economic operator programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the technical assistance and cooperation provided for the study on the energizing potential of the Costa Rican export sector, entitled "El potencial dinamizador del sector exportador costarricense: encadenamientos productivos, valor agregado y empleo". This study is an invaluable input for this Ministry's efforts in developing public policy on foreign trade and investment.

Alexander Mora Delgado, Minister of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica, December 2016



THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT: EVALUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

The entry into force of the Additional Protocol to the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance in May 2016 marked an important step towards the regional integration efforts of its four members: Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. A core objective of the Pacific Alliance is to serve as a platform for economic and trade integration between Latin America and Asia-Pacific. It is, therefore, particularly important to evaluate current economic developments in Latin America and their impact on these integration efforts. Data on bilateral goods trade flows at the product and sector level, together with the study of services trade and of foreign direct investment, reflect the strong links within the Pacific Alliance. They also reveal the potential to increase members' participation in regional and global value chains.

Within the framework of the Development Account project entitled "Enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade", national workshops were held in Colombia, Ecuador, and Jamaica on the

evaluation and negotiation of inclusive free trade agreements. National workshops with a specific focus on the Caribbean were held in Jamaica in June 2016 and in December 2017; two workshops were organized in Ecuador—one in Quito and one in Guayaquil—in April 2017; and a workshop was held in Bogota, Colombia in May 2017. These workshops covered the use of quantitative methods to evaluate the effects of preferential trade agreements (PTAs), the negotiation steps of a PTA, and the presentation of case studies. Technical assistance was also provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, and a specific study on the evaluation of the economic and social impact of a possible trade agreement between Jamaica and Central America, Mexico and the countries of the northern Caribbean was prepared by ECLAC, serving as the basis for national authorities to consider adopting policies for more inclusive and equitable trade. Finally, Guatemala and Honduras implemented a trade facilitation programme to deepen their customs union; Ecuador signed a multiparty trade agreement with the European Union (which includes Peru and Colombia); and Jamaica is considering changes to its trade policy. In general, the project trained over two hundred government officials, from beneficiary countries as well as Chile, Honduras, Guatemala and Peru, among others. The project concluded with a regional workshop in Lima, in November 2017, and an interregional symposium on PTAs and inclusiveness in Bangkok, in December 2017.

The following studies supported the implementation of these activities: (i) *Manual on foreign trade and trade policy: Basics, classifications and indicators of trade patterns and trade dynamics*; (ii) “Evaluation of the possible impacts of a free trade agreement between Ecuador and the European Union”; (iii) “Possible economic and social effects of the deepening of the Guatemala-Honduras customs union”; (iv) “Effects of the endogenous shock of trade on employment and wages of Colombia manufacturing firms”; and (v) “Evaluation of the economic and social impacts of possible trade negotiations between Jamaica and Central America, Mexico and the countries of the Northern Caribbean”.

On behalf of the Director General of DANE, Mauricio Perfetti del Corral, and of the entire team, I would like to thank you for your organization and running of the workshop on trade policy, value chains and social indicators, held last week in Bogotá. For the DANE technical team and the entities assisting the national government, it was a great forum for learning which allowed an active exchange of knowledge and experience among all the participants.

Angélica María Palma Robayo, Coordinator, Technical Cooperation and International Relations, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia, 24 May 2017

Throughout 2016-2017, the Division, jointly with the ECLAC national office in Buenos Aires and the subregional office in Mexico City, also implemented the Development Account project entitled “Input-output tables for trade and industrial policy in Central and South America”. As a first important step in the enhancement of the use of input-output tables (IOT) for industrial and trade policies, *The South American input-output table: Key assumptions and methodological considerations*, a manual on the compilation and harmonization of national IOTs for Latin American countries, was published. In the framework of this project, several regional workshops took place for the MERCOSUR, the Andean Community of Nations and Central America subregions. In March 2017, a seminar on the analysis of value chains with input-output matrices in the case of Uruguay and MERCOSUR was held in Montevideo, and in August 2017 the Division organized

a workshop held in Buenos Aires, for officers from the central banks, national statistical institutes and ministries of economy of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Finally, in August 2017, ECLAC presented the South American input-output matrix for the year 2005 and the Andean subregional input-output matrix for 2005 and 2011 in a workshop held in Quito, Ecuador. This workshop reviewed fundamental methods in the analysis of IOT and integrated practical examples to support the work of public officials. Participants included national officers from central banks and national statistical institutes of the countries of the Andean Community, as well as officials from the Central Bank, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Tourism, National Secretariat of Planning, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Industry and Productivity, Banking and Internal Revenue Service of Ecuador. Officials from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), UNASUR, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also participated. A complementary review of the availability of relevant statistical data in the remaining countries of the region has shown that the data required for the compilation of the subregional and regional IOTs appear to be accessible. Thus, a preliminary subregional IOT for the Andean Community comprising Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, has been created and will serve as a methodological model for the development of the subregional and regional IOT.

I am grateful for the support provided by ECLAC [...] for the seminar on the launch of the input-output matrix for South America and the Andean Community [...] which was attended by more than 500 people. [...] we realized the importance of taking advantage of the process of developing these instruments to collaborate on the preparation of an analysis document that optimizes the Andean input-output model, particularly for the analysis of subregional integration.

Walker San Miguel Rodríguez, Secretary General of the Andean Community of Nations, 5 September 2017

Finally, and in the context of a Development Account project jointly implemented by the five regional commissions entitled “Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration”, advisory services delivered to Costa Rica provided national authorities with elements on how to improve the transfer of data flows and implement electronic invoicing to reduce the time and costs associated with international transactions and foster trade in the subregion. In addition, a workshop on the experience of national trade facilitation committees in South America was held in June 2016 in Santiago, Chile, and brought together government representatives to discuss progress and challenges in developing the institutional obligations of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Another important area of work during the biennium was sustainable development. The Division explored the link between sustainable development and job creation at the sixth Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research on Services (REDLAS), held in Costa Rica in September 2017, which highlighted the potential impact of automatization on services production, trade and the labour markets in Latin America and the Caribbean, and provided different policy options for stakeholders in Costa Rica on addressing challenges and strengthening country responses.

With respect to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the activities carried out under the subprogramme have placed export innovation at the centre of support programmes offered by various trade promotion organizations (TPOs)

throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In collaboration with TPOs and the regional SME promotion agency (CENPROMYPE), the Division organized activities that could support SMEs in accessing new international markets through increased innovation and competitiveness. ECLAC has developed a methodology that coordinates support for SME exports. This tool, Export Innovation for SMEs, includes six steps: (i) an innovation diagnostic survey, (ii) the identification of gaps in this field, (iii) the search for solutions (through studies, training and recommendations), (iv) the creation of an innovation plan, (v) the exploration of financing, and finally, (vi) implementation. This methodology was presented in March 2017 during a subregional workshop in Honduras, to the professionals of the SME centres of eight countries of the region and was coordinated by CENPROMYPE. The Division was also able to identify gaps between the supply of export promotion and financial assistance products and demand from SMEs. In addition, it prepared and disseminated a document entitled *El aporte del comercio justo al desarrollo sostenible*, on the contribution of fair trade to shaping policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

In broad terms, the activities undertaken in environmental sustainability helped small- and medium-sized producers to measure and mitigate the carbon and environmental footprint of their exports. This translates into more globally competitive exports and helps to meet sustainability requirements in markets that impose high import standards such as the European Union. Achievements in this area include the training of technical experts and the publication of the document *Defining product environmental standards in international trade*, a guide that explains the methodology created by the European Union to measure the environmental footprint of coffee production. Honduras is an example of a successful country experience, where the Division has coordinated public, private and academic institutions to develop a pilot programme to collect data and calculate the environmental footprint of coffee using the European Union methodology; and the experiences of experts from Colombia and Costa Rica, with whom the Division has collaborated closely, represent best practices in the region.

DEFINING PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Latin American and Caribbean Network on the Environmental Footprint of Coffee is a unique case of participation by public and private sector stakeholders from developing countries in the definition of environmental standards in the European Union. The purpose of this initiative is to involve stakeholders in defining standards that will affect their trade and competitiveness in the European market, rather than simply adapting and obliging coffee suppliers to adjust once standards are implemented. Although this process was interrupted in 2016 owing to a dispute among European industry stakeholders, the broader Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) programme of the European Union for 10 other food products and 14 industrial products is still ongoing. Final results of this process are expected in 2017 and 2018. This document originates from a concern about the environmental sustainability and competitiveness of Latin American food exports to the European market. Its purpose is also to contribute to the trade-related Sustainable Development Goals.



ECLAC organized several noteworthy events during the biennium. A seminar on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its impacts on Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 5 April 2016 in Santiago, in collaboration with the General Directorate of International Economic Relations (DIRECON) of Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goal of the meeting was to help the region evaluate the impacts of the TPP not only in terms of access to new markets but also by weighting its contribution to countries' diversification of production and exports, to the processes of regional integration, and to the transition towards a digital economy. The TPP meeting brought together chief negotiators from Chile, Mexico and Peru to discuss challenges and opportunities arising from the trade agreement. Representatives of civil society and other experts were also present to engage in a dialogue about the economic and social impact.

In Santiago in April 2016, the Republic of Korea and CELAC explored new forms of cooperation in a seminar held at the request of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC. In addition, the first China-CELAC High-Level Academic Forum, held in Santiago, in October 2017, generated inputs and thematic proposals for the second meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and China in Santiago, in January 2018. The Forum addressed issues relevant to the bilateral relationship, considering trends in the international arena, with an aim to deepen ties between China and the region.

Relevant ECLAC publications covering economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and China and, jointly with ILO, the labour situation in the region, provided countries in the region with valuable information on regional integration and value chains. About 93% of the readers of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* acknowledged having benefited from its analysis and policy recommendations on trade and export development. In addition, *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, launched in October 2017, highlights some key global uncertainties for the region in the short and medium term, in order to help the region's governments to formulate effective public policies to cope with the continued economic slowdown, lagging global trade, technological progress and the need for regional integration. The flagship provides a detailed account of the region's performance and policies in trade in agricultural products and services.

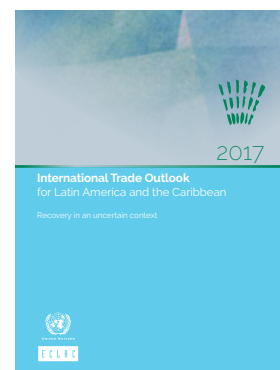
The Division also published the following documents: *Economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and China: Opportunities and Challenges*, which presents an overview of the dynamic trade relations between China and the region, policy recommendations on how the region can improve the benefits of Chinese cooperation funds, diversify trade and boost investment flows. The report *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean* provides an analysis of South American countries' participation in value chains, including employment related to exports, benefiting national authorities and other stakeholders. Finally, the document *Evaluation of the possible impacts of a free trade agreement between Ecuador and the European Union* analyses the macroeconomic, sectoral, and social impacts of such an agreement, providing quantitative support to the policymaking process and the country's negotiations with the European Union.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

In 2016-2017, cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea focused on international trade and sustainable development. With regard to the internationalization of SMEs and innovation, the Division published two

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OUTLOOK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RECOVERY IN AN UNCERTAIN CONTEXT

This first edition of *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, which is the continuation of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* with a new title, contains three chapters. The first chapter describes the current international context and the recovery of trade in the region. Despite the recent upturn in global growth, the medium-term international context remains uncertain, with unanswered questions regarding the sustainability of the recovery of the world economy, challenges to traditional trade posed by the digital revolution and the emergence of political movements in developed countries. In turn, these factors could impact policies to promote investment and productive diversification. Chapter II reviews the region's performance in global trade in services in general and in modern services in particular, since 2005. Modern services are those traded mainly over the Internet, such as telecoms, computer and information services; financial services; insurance and pension services; royalties; and other business services. Latin America and the Caribbean is still a marginal player in global modern services trade, accounting for just 2% of exports in this category, although it is the fastest-growing segment of global trade. The chapter examines the experience of the region's larger economies with respect to services exported indirectly through incorporation into manufacturing exports, in whose competitiveness they are crucial. Chapter III provides an overview of Latin America and the Caribbean's share of global agricultural trade since 2000 and offers some policy recommendations for increasing the sector's contribution to regional development. It highlights the specificities of various subregions and countries through a range of indicators (net exporters and importers, the weight of the agricultural sector in total exports and imports, composition of the export basket, main destination markets and suppliers, and the evolution of product and market concentration). It notes that although the region is a significant global supplier of a range of agricultural products, most of them are primary goods, with a very low presence of agro-industrial products.



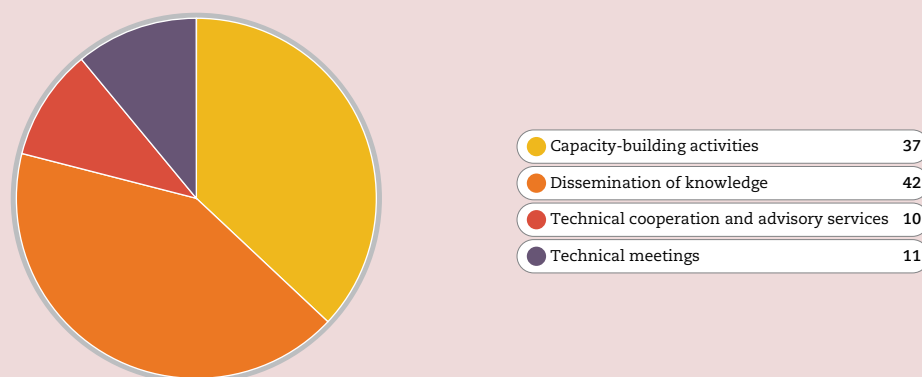
reports, one entitled *Exploring cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in the areas of innovation and SME internationalization strategies*, and another on how to promote export innovation through support instruments for SMEs. The Division also co-organized an academic seminar with CELAC and the government of the Republic of Korea on exploring strategies for economic cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in April 2016. This meeting was followed by a workshop on the internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean in December 2016 for CELAC member States. ECLAC also presented the results of a survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade in a second workshop on internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in December 2017. Moreover, a workshop on export innovation for the internationalization of SMEs was organized in collaboration with CENPROMYPE in March 2017 for managers of capacity-building centres for SMEs throughout Central America. A second component of the project with the Republic of Korea focused on mitigating the environmental impact of regional exports. In this context, the Division produced: *Defining*

product environmental standards in international trade: The participation of Latin American stakeholders in the European Union environmental footprint programme; a review of Latin America in terms of environmental sustainability in agro-food exports; and a report on environmental sustainability in agro-food exports in the cases of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay. The Division also organized the seventh international seminar on international trade and climate change focused on the environmental sustainability of exports, which was held in December 2016, and published a report on regional cooperation initiatives in the area of gender and export firms.

[FIGURE 1]

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE, JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During the biennium, one of the lessons learned was that capacity-building activities are most effective when coupled with regional integration schemes. In the case of Central America, working with SIECA has been highly beneficial in delivering advisory services in a speedy and effective manner. Additionally, it is essential that decision-makers or those who can influence decision-makers participate in capacity-building in order to ensure a smooth flow of information.

A best practice in the Division is the promotion of alliances between the public, private and academic sectors within countries, for example to promote environmental or carbon-footprint standards and global services exports. These types of alliances could also be promoted in other areas of work to improve the formulation and long-run sustainability of policies related to trade and sustainable development. Another best practice is the promotion of cooperation among countries in the region to develop common and effective strategies for increased competitiveness and entry into international markets, for example in the development of a common environmental standard for coffee exports and tools to measure and promote export innovation in Central America.

For the next biennium, new technical assistance projects are scheduled in the areas of trade facilitation, prospective analysis of trade agreements, and impact assessments. In addition, the subprogramme will deepen its analysis of the role of trade in the Sustainable Development Goals.

SUBPROGRAMME 2**PRODUCTION AND INNOVATION****[2]****MARIO GIMOLI**

Chief of the Division of Production,
Productivity and Management

INTRODUCTION

Against a backdrop of moderate global economic growth and following the contraction of the region's economy in 2016, Latin America and the Caribbean moved onto a positive growth path in 2017. However, in the context of a change in the perception of globalization and its social and economic effects, and the changes owing to the acceleration of the technological revolution, the implementation of industrial and technology policies to diversify the export basket and increase productivity is imperative. The Division contributed to this objective during the biennium through research on industrial and technological policies and through the provision of technical assistance to several countries in the design and execution of these policies.

With a view to strengthening national institutional knowledge and capacities, the Division promoted the incorporation of technologies into production processes and product diversification through its publications and capacity-building events, namely the flagship *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2016 and 2017 editions) and *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018*. More than 10 new publications were also launched, helping to build institutional knowledge in sustainable innovation, ICTs, SMEs and rural development. These documents were disseminated at conferences, seminars and high-level political forums organized under the subprogramme, including two ministerial conferences.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The Latin American and the Caribbean region is at a difficult juncture: inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) declined by 7.8% in 2016, representing a cumulative fall of 17% since the peak in 2011 and, notwithstanding the recovery in commodity prices registered in 2016-2017, they are still below the levels reached in 2008. Lower commodity prices continue to affect investment in natural resources, and sluggish economic growth has slowed the flow of market-seeking capital. Moreover, the global backdrop of technological sophistication and expansion of the digital economy has concentrated transnational investments in developed economies.

Latin America and the Caribbean as a region lags behind in its insertion in the global economy. Its share in world exports of goods and services remains stagnant and its share in modern high-tech goods and services is decreasing. While regional participation in global FDI flows has increased, specialization in low-tech activities has been reinforced. The region's share in global value chains remains below the world average and consists mainly in the supply of raw materials. Limited digital

connectivity also undermines regional insertion into new dynamic sectors. The region's loss of momentum occurs within a framework of technological and productivity lags. The world is undergoing a disruptive process of technological and economic change that will affect the productive transformations necessary to accelerate long-term growth, sustain progress in poverty reduction and in the improvement of income distribution, and promote the transition towards low-carbon growth. In this context, industrial policy has been absent in almost all the countries of the region or has been exclusively defensive, unable to adapt to the new technological and competitive patterns.

The activities of the Division allowed ECLAC to consolidate itself as a reference in the formulation of strategies for sustainable structural change through events and training courses in the areas of innovation and digital technologies, micro and small enterprises, foreign direct investment, and agricultural, industrial and technological policies. Throughout the biennium, the Division supported national governments' efforts to design structural change, agricultural and industrial policies. Building on the collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador established since 2013 in support of the government's productive policies, ECLAC was asked to analyse and present policy proposals for new productive chains (coffee, dairy products, plastics and rubber); support the Ministry of the Environment in the chain of integral recycling of solid waste; perform an analysis of the potentialities of agro-industry in Ecuador; and prepare specific studies for three areas of particular government interest: the competitiveness of domestic production, policy coherence and import substitution. In parallel to the collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President, and in the context of the development of the National Strategy for the Change of the Productive Matrix, other institutions requested the support of ECLAC. As a result of a long collaboration between ECLAC and the Ministry of Industry and Productivity, in October 2016 the Production Council approved an industrial policy plan for 2016-2025. Also, with the support of meetings convened and documents prepared by the Commission, a national agricultural policy was launched in 2016.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in developing industrial policy under the specific agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Productivity (MIPRO). The inputs, contributions and discussions during the development process contributed greatly to the final product.

Juan Carlos Parra Fonseca, Vice Minister of Industries and Productivity, Ecuador, letter dated 9 January 2017

In the context of the project on moving towards a set of indicators for greener production for companies—which was jointly implemented with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC)—the Division provided technical assistance to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Brazil. In Brazil, ECLAC provided technical support to the Brazilian Institute of Statistics and Geography (IBGE) with the objective of producing indicators and statistics on companies' environmental practices. As a result, IBGE carried out a pilot survey of 450 companies in order to generate indicators on green production in companies, using the reference questionnaire created in the framework of the above-mentioned project. In the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, advisory services were provided to the National Institute of Statistics (INE) to present the manual for the production of green indicators for companies, and to support the incorporation of a module on green production into the quarterly industrial survey carried out by INE.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention the project on green indicators carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, which is of great significance to this institution.

Raul Pacheco Salazar, President, National Institute of Statistics, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In Chile, ECLAC supported the design and implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategic Programmes of the Production Development Corporation (CORFO), and provided technical assistance to InvestChile to develop an investment strategy for the Exportable Technology Services Sector. ECLAC also collaborated with the Secretariat of Entrepreneurs and SMEs (SEPYME) in Argentina in the design and implementation of SME policies supporting the country's productive development, and collaborated with the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico to design a fiscal-incentives policy for innovation. Advisory services were also provided to the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (Indotel) of the Dominican Republic on the development of the digital industry, contributing to the country's digital agenda for 2016-2020. This technical assistance consisted of a visit of experts from ECLAC to Santo Domingo, who met with representatives of the public and private sector, to carry out a survey as an input to the workshop on the digital ecosystem and public policies for its development, held on 10 August 2016. Participants in this workshop discussed the development of the software industry in the Dominican Republic and ECLAC presented the global and regional contexts relating to this field, along with a proposal to strengthen the country's software industry. ECLAC also provided technical assistance to the Office of Planning and the Budget (OPP) of Uruguay with a view to identifying and implementing national strategic programmes to advance the country's productive transformation, aiming for better insertion in the digital and technological revolution.

Finally, the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, in August 2017, was attended by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. It resulted in the first proposal for the new digital agenda, eLAC2020, and in the identification of the seven pillars on which this agenda will be based: digital infrastructure; transformation and the digital economy; digital government; culture, inclusion and digital skills; emerging technologies for sustainable development; the regional digital market; and governance for the information society.

In the framework of the implementation of the Development Account project entitled "Big data for measuring and fostering the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean", research conducted by the Division showed that digital technologies have spread to every sector, and the firms that are part of the digital economy are, on average, growing faster than those that are not. The study *Science, technology and innovation in the digital economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, demonstrated that the size of this sector is largely underestimated by traditional metrics and classifications. In Brazil, ECLAC is supporting a pilot initiative to analyse the adoption of ICTs in business through web scraping, and activities have been carried out to collect data from company websites to develop a prediction model for selected ICT indicators based on web information, using a web crawler (data collection) and a semantic data analysis tool (data analysis). The aim is to evaluate the accuracy of data modelling from big data sources in order to estimate some ICT enterprise indicators, develop a

tool for automatic collection of data on the web and develop a dictionary of key words. The Division has also strengthened its relationship with organizations such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT), Eurostat, United Nations Global Pulse and Data-Pop Alliance, and other international organizations specialized in big data, to promote the creation of regional capacities in this area. In this context, the seminars “Think Big: Data innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean” were organized by ECLAC in March 2017 in Santiago, and in October 2017 in Mexico City, respectively. These seminars discussed the potential of big data analytics as a tool for evidence-based policy development and design, as well as its role as a promoter of innovation and technological progress, and were attended by mid-level professionals and national officers interested in the application of big data as a tool for development.

ECLAC also strengthened its position in supporting the formulation of agricultural policies, which was reflected in the organization of high-level meetings such as the seventh regional seminar on agriculture and climate change, held in San José, in September 2016, jointly organized by ECLAC and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CGIAR-CCAFS), FAO and the French Development Agency. This meeting provided a forum for two high-level policy dialogues on agricultural and forestry issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. About 96.7% of the representatives of Latin American and Caribbean governments that participated in this seminar rated the event as good or excellent and 90% considered that the topics covered were useful or very useful for the work of their institutions.

During the biennium, the Division organized the 2016 and 2017 editions of the summer school programme on development and digital innovation in Latin America, an initiative of ECLAC, the Barcelona Institute of International Studies and CAF with the goal to study the impact of new digital technologies on development. It was attended by mid-level public officials from regulatory agencies and ministries in the area of telecommunications and ICT from eight Latin American countries. Around 93% of the participants indicated that the contents presented were useful for their professional tasks. Another activity carried out under the subprogramme in the biennium was the ECLAC Summer School on Latin American Economies, which was created in 2000. It is held annually in Santiago, and combines the specialized contributions of the different divisions of ECLAC and advances in academic research, and is designed for young researchers interested in studying the Latin American development process. The 2016 and 2017 editions were attended by 28 and 34 participants, respectively. Both editions increased knowledge of the region’s economy of the region among young researchers and promoted the generation and exchange of ideas on policies.

ECLAC also organized the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, held in September 2016, in San José. As a result of this Conference, an action plan for the use of new technologies in productive processes was agreed within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, public-private regional dialogue initiatives were carried out on the regional digital market, industry 4.0 and policies for micro and small enterprises. During the session, ECLAC presented the document *Science, Technology and Innovation in the Digital Economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, in which it is revealed that, with the exception of Brazil, the region’s expenditure on research and development (R&D) is minimal, not exceeding 0.5% of countries’ gross domestic product (GDP).

Finally, the 2016 and 2017 editions of the flagship publication *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which sets out and analyses the main FDI trends in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, were very well received. There was widespread media coverage and interest from stakeholders for the report to be used further as a reference document. The 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Latin American Economic Outlook*, a joint publication of ECLAC, OECD and CAF, were also published during the biennium. The 2017 edition explores youth, skills and entrepreneurship and identifies potential strategies and policy responses to help Latin America and the Caribbean revive economic growth. While development can stem from different sources, skills and entrepreneurship can empower youth to develop knowledge-intensive economic activities, boost productivity and transform the region's politics as they transition successfully from the world of school to the world of productive work and create the future they seek. The report highlights valuable experiences and best practices in these fields and proposes strategies to allow Latin America to consolidate long-term growth while assuring continuity in the social agenda. In addition, the Division also published studies such as *Estado de la banda ancha en América Latina y el Caribe*, which presents a synthetic vision of the state of broadband in Latin America and the Caribbean, and *Chinese Investments in Latin America: Opportunities for growth and diversification*, a publication that assesses the role of China in the region. Finally, the book *Rural industrial policy and strengthening value chains* underscored the need for a rural industrial policy that promotes a structural change based on innovation, greater value added and better employment and living conditions, all in harmony with the environment.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2017

This publication sets out and analyses the main FDI trends in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The 2017 edition shows that the region is at a difficult juncture. FDI inflows declined by 7.8% in 2016, to US\$ 167.180 billion, representing a cumulative fall of 16.9% since the peak in 2011. The fall in commodity prices continues to affect investments in natural resources, sluggish economic growth in several countries has slowed the flow of market-seeking capital, and the global backdrop of technological sophistication and expansion of the digital economy has concentrated transnational investments in developed economies. The perception of globalization and its economic and social effects reached a turning point in 2016. Political events, such as the referendum in the United Kingdom which resulted in the vote to leave the European Union (Brexit) and the presidential election in the United States, reflected trends that had developed over time in global production and trade. Developed economies have been more interested in repatriating production, which together with the rapid technological transition and greater competitive pressure, has redirected businesses towards more technology-intensive markets. In 2016, global FDI inflows amounted to US\$ 1.7 trillion, higher than any of the annual figures between 2008 and 2014, but 2% lower than in 2015. Developed economies regained the lead, receiving 59% of FDI flows, with their inflows climbing by 5%. Developing economies received 37% of the total and their FDI inflows fell by 14%. All the developing subregions received less investment, with Asia seeing decreases of 15% and Africa, 3%. In this scenario, the Latin American and Caribbean region is losing ground as a recipient of FDI, with inflows decreasing for the second year in a row to levels similar to those seen six years ago.





POLÍTICAS INDUSTRIALES Y TECNOLÓGICAS EN AMÉRICA LATINA

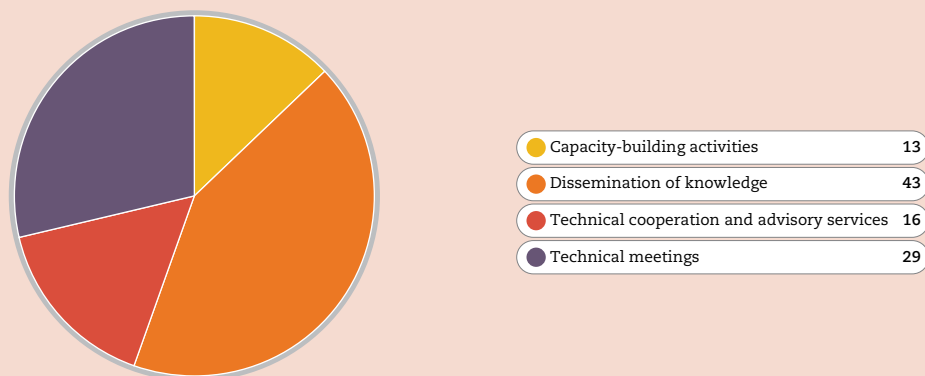
The international economy is undergoing a period of deep imbalances that jeopardize the continuity of growth and generate considerable political tensions, both in the developed world and in developing countries. It is vital to change these patterns and advance towards a new model that promotes productivity and is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. This means achieving progress in terms of productivity and technological capabilities that resolves the problems of low growth and low education levels. It requires coordinated investments in several areas, which overcome the harmonization problems that hinder the diversification and absorption of technology. The challenge of technological change is particularly great in Latin America and the Caribbean. The rise in natural resource prices was not accompanied by a strategic vision that incorporated science, technology and innovation as key factors of development. This document, prepared with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), is an important contribution to the discussion and design of the new generation of policies required by the countries of the region, and seeks to contribute in two ways. First, on a conceptual level, through a new discussion of the theories that explain the role of industrial policy in development in an era of technological revolution, and second, through a diagnosis of the region's achievements, successes and failures in this field.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

During the biennium, ECLAC consolidated a partnership with the European Commission in the field of small and medium enterprise development policy in the region, with seven national studies being carried out and a long-term collaborative project being developed under the AL-Invest 5.0 programme. In the framework of the project “Mejores políticas para las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas en América Latina” (EUROMIPYME) financed by the European Union, the Division provided technical assistance to Argentina, Chile, Colombia and El Salvador. Technical cooperation was provided to the Ministry of Production in Argentina to select strategic value chains and to assist in the implementation of a new framework law designed to foster small and medium enterprises. In Chile, Colombia and El Salvador, technical assistance was provided to the Secretaries for Small and Medium Enterprises to evaluate the results of public programmes on business development centres. As part of the same project, the Division also organized an international seminar in Mexico with representatives of business chambers and public development institutions of Latin America and the European Union to facilitate the interchange of experiences related to policies and programmes to foster small and medium enterprises.

In the context of a project on inclusive and sustainable industrialization in Latin America sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Division provided assistance to the Governments of Chile and Ecuador. Diagnostic studies on the adoption of advanced technologies and identification of gaps were conducted in Chile and Colombia. Also, technical cooperation was provided to the Government of Chile in order to develop the bidding rules to set up a technological centre of advanced manufacturing and intelligent industry.

[FIGURE 2]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned during the biennium was that political stability and trust are vital for the success of technical assistance provided. In order to optimize this assistance, government officials working on projects with ECLAC must have the authority, time and resources to do the work required, not only in the design process but also in the implementation and evaluation phases. It is important to consider and involve not only governments, but also the academic and private sectors, in this process to design and implement successful policies.

Results of capacity-building processes are difficult to measure, accumulative and span over the long term, but are significant. Some lessons from the evaluations of the seminars carried out are: (a) it is important to develop this type of activity outside ECLAC headquarters, despite the additional effort that this entails; (b) conducting a thematic series of seminars on one topic of relevance for the countries (for example agriculture and climate change), which can also be considered a capacity-building activity, enhances networking and collaboration at the regional level; and (c) capacity-building activities are highly valued by officials from government agencies, while participants from the private sector do not consider them as useful, especially in terms of networking.

Another lesson learnt was that to remain a credible focal point in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, ECLAC should continue its strong analytical work in the areas where capacity-building is required by government officials. Finally, it is important to consider that technical training courses have a greater impact when they target government officials such as mid-level managers or heads of units. In 2018-2019, priorities will include analysing the impact of the technological revolution on jobs and labour markets, providing technical assistance to countries to incorporate SMEs into the new technological landscape, and developing policies for rural development, focusing on inequalities, gender, and youth.

SUBPROGRAMME 3

MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND GROWTH

[3]

DANIEL TITELMAN

Chief of the Economic Development Division

INTRODUCTION

The 2016-2017 biennium was marked by a change in the trajectory of economic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean. After a particularly sharp decline in output in 2016, economic activity began to rebound in 2017, though at modest rates. Nevertheless, the region continues to face significant challenges—both in the short term and in the medium and long term—to achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth. In this context, the Division strove to increase the awareness and understanding among policymakers and other key stakeholders with the aim of increasing their capacity to analyse and formulate policy solutions. To that end, the Division's strategy was to provide high-quality analysis and policy suggestions, to facilitate dialogue and South-South cooperation, and to generate tangible results in the area of policymaking.

During the biennium, the Division leveraged its annual flagship publications, the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, to provide timely cutting-edge analysis, as well as key policy recommendations. The utility of these publications was reaffirmed by reader surveys that found that 86% of respondents had benefited from the analysis of macroeconomic issues in these publications. Additionally, these reports—as well as the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*—were cited in national legislation or generated national debate that led to the adoption of policy measures, especially in the areas of illicit financial flows and tax evasion and avoidance.

The Division had great success in fostering South-South dialogue and debate in the region through its seminars and expert meetings. The twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth editions of the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy brought together a wide range of policymakers, including seven ministers and vice-ministers of finance, and experts from the region to discuss policy options for confronting the current economic situation. Survey results indicate that 98% of respondents considered the work of these forums and their policy recommendations on macroeconomic issues “useful” or “very useful” for their work.

Building on the analysis and dialogue pillars of the Division's work, a significant number of policies, measures or actions were undertaken by governments in the region in line with ECLAC recommendations. Additionally, technical assistance provided by the Division strengthened the capacities of policymakers in Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Panama. The technical assistance provided to the Dominican Republic was key to the formulation of a new unemployment protection instrument, as part of a wider reform of the social security system.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the Division's analysis and policy advocacy was embodied in its main flagship reports: the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*. These publications provided in-depth analysis of current macroeconomic trends, placing them in a regional and international context and tackling key emerging issues of considerable relevance for policymakers in the region. The 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* explored in detail the challenges for financing the 2030 Agenda in the region and included regional estimates for illicit financial flows, which the Division produced in line with the mandate stemming from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. For its part, the 2017 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* examined the characteristics and determinants of the current economic cycle and outlined possible policy strategies for regaining strong and sustained economic growth in region.

References to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* in official, academic and specialized publications reaffirmed the strong interest of policymakers and other stakeholders in the region in ECLAC GDP forecasts and analysis of current macroeconomic trends. During the biennium, these ECLAC flagship reports, along with the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, were cited at least 13 times in official government documents. Furthermore, results from readers' surveys suggest that stakeholders value the comparative analysis between countries that these flagship publications provide. Reader surveys for these publications found that 86% of respondents reported that they had benefited from the analysis of macroeconomic issues in the publications. The flagship reports also generated significant regional and global press coverage, especially the illicit financial flows estimates included in the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

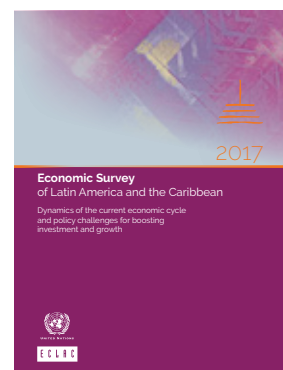
During the biennium, the Division published 22 research documents through the *Macroeconomía del Desarrollo* working paper series, and five reports under the *Project documents* series. The topics covered include: tax evasion, subnational fiscal policies, agricultural employment trends, unemployment protection challenges, technical and vocational education and training, the transformation of the world of work, the extension of social protection to own-account workers, economic growth and illicit financial flows. The Division also continued its collaboration with the ILO Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America, publishing the *Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This report, published four times during the biennium, focused on the recent improvements and persistent gaps in rural employment (May 2016), global supply chains and decent work (October 2016), labour immigration in Latin America (May 2017) and the transition of young people from school to the labour market (October 2017).

The Division also published three books during the biennium, touching on themes related to fiscal policies and labour market trends and policies: *Consensos y conflictos en la política tributaria de América Latina*, *Brechas y transformaciones: la evolución del empleo agropecuario en América Latina*, and *Protection and training: Institutions for improving workforce integration in Latin America and Asia*. The Division's extensive work on tax reform was exemplified in the publication *Sostenibilidad fiscal y reformas tributarias en América Latina*, which analysed recent tax reforms in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay, and the contributions made to the proposed tax reform in Costa Rica.

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2017: DYNAMICS OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CYCLE AND POLICY CHALLENGES FOR BOOSTING INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

The 2017 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* outlines the region's economic performance in 2016 and analyses trends in the early months of 2017, as well as the outlook for the rest of the year. It examines the external and domestic factors that have influenced the region's economic performance and draws attention to some of the macroeconomic policy challenges of the prevailing external conditions, with a modest uptick in global economic growth and trade amid persistent uncertainty, especially in relation to political factors.

The thematic section of this edition analyses the characteristics of the current economic cycle in the region (2009-2016) and finds that the dynamics of the current cycle have been driven principally by private consumption and government spending, whereas investment and exports—which are the most important determinants of aggregate demand from the point of view of capital formation, creation of productive capacities and long-term growth— have played only a minor role in economic growth. The report argues that returning to growth in the medium and long term will require changing the dynamics of the cycle. The fiscal countercyclical framework needs to be made more robust and public investment afforded a stronger role. It must be accompanied by a financial policy geared towards stabilizing credit and a monetary policy that supports investment growth.



CONSENSOS Y CONFLICTOS EN LA POLÍTICA TRIBUTARIA DE AMÉRICA LATINA

This book builds on a decade of fruitful cooperation between ECLAC and AECID in the area of fiscal policies in Latin America, highlighting the importance of tax policy as an instrument of development in the region, and exploring a series of consensuses and conflicts that coexist in the design and implementation of different taxes in each country. Although consensuses—like the need to ensure fiscal pacts that guarantee a stable level of tax revenues that produce minimal distortions in the allocation of resources— seem to be widespread achievements in the region, much work is needed to reconcile tax policy with other objectives that are no less important, such as ensuring the redistributive capacity of tax systems, defining the role of personal income tax and tax incentives or allocating taxes between levels of government.

The book was presented in 2017 at the fiftieth International Public Finance Conference (Córdoba, Argentina), the tenth Conference on Tax Law in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the tenth Conference on Taxes organized by the Tax Administration Department of Uruguay. Authorities in the region commented on the findings of this book during these events, including the Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay, as well as the Executive Directors of the tax administration departments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. In May 2017, this book was also chosen as book of the month by the VOX blog of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA).



Expert meetings and seminars played a key role in complementing the Division's analytical work and policy advocacy. The Division's principal forum for generating South-South discussion continued to be the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy. The twenty-eighth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy which was held in Santiago, on 16 and 17 March 2016 brought together representatives from national ministries, central banks, universities and civil society. Sessions covered a variety of pressing policy issues including: macroeconomic challenges for fiscal policies, an evaluation of recent tax reforms, improving the quality of public expenditures, and decentralization and fiscal consolidation. The twenty-ninth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy was held in Santiago, on 23 and 24 March 2017. The event was marked by a high-level panel whose participants included ministers and vice-ministers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay. The seminar's four sessions covered: fiscal policy challenges in the current national, regional and global economic climate; consensus and conflict in tax policy, lessons from Latin America and the Republic of Korea; allocation of public resources and education financing; and territorial disparities, supply of public goods and financing.

The work of the Division was further enriched by expert meetings tailored to specific topics of interest. A workshop on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the challenges of financing for development was held in Mexico City on 10 and 11 October 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness among policymakers in Central America of the issues addressed in the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey for Latin America and the Caribbean*. A workshop on how to stimulate economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 3 and 4 October 2017 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. The event included discussions on export strategies, fiscal policies for growth, and macroeconomic perspectives for the region, and was attended by representatives from the governments of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as well as experts from ECLAC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the academic sector.

During the joint CARICOM and United Nations high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community, held in New York in November 2017, ECLAC presented the debt relief proposal for the hurricane-stricken Caribbean, specifically a debt for climate adaptation swap initiative based on the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF), which is expected to provide financing for investment in climate resilience, green growth and structural transformation in the economies of the region.

The effectiveness of the Division's analytical work, policy advocacy and technical assistance in response to the needs of policymakers in the region is evidenced by the measures adopted during the biennium in line with ECLAC suggestions. ECLAC policy recommendations, included in the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and on the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, related to strengthening direct taxation and limiting tax evasion and avoidance. These recommendations were quickly picked up in policy measures adopted in the region: the Government of Ecuador pointed to ECLAC policy recommendations in April 2016 during the debate on a new fiscal package to bolster its argument to reinforce progressive direct taxation; in September 2016, the Mexican Congress began to consider a measure that would modify the law that regulates the tax administration to

strengthen the legal requirement for the publication of estimates of tax evasion and measures to combat this phenomenon; and the Tax Administration Service of Mexico (SAT) announced that it was intensifying its efforts to stamp out tax evasion and avoidance by multinational enterprises. Likewise, in the area of labour policies, technical cooperation provided by the Division resulted in countries in the region taking measures to improve the coordination of employment policies, public employment programmes, unemployment protection and the labour inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Division implemented several extra-budgetary projects related to fiscal policies and labour market policies. The main donors during this cycle were the Governments of Germany (BMZ), Spain (AECID) and Norway. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also sponsored a project. In the framework of these projects, technical assistance was provided to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Panama.

Regarding fiscal issues, technical assistance was provided to the Undersecretariat for Regional Development (SUBDERE) of Chile. The Division participated in a workshop held on 6 September 2016 in which it provided a comparative view of the different mechanisms of subnational indebtedness of Latin American countries. Based on this cooperation, *El endeudamiento de los gobiernos subnacionales en América Latina: evolución, institucionalidad y desafíos*, a document on the evolution, institutionalality and challenges of subnational government debt, was published. It provided policy analysis that was used to inform policy making in this area.

In a similar vein, at the request of the Federal Council for Fiscal Responsibility of Argentina, the Division made a presentation on fiscal rules in decentralized countries at a meeting of the Council's governing board held on 22 March 2017. After this meeting, provincial ministers and the Ministries of Finance and of the Interior of the central government agreed to guidelines for a new federal regime of fiscal responsibility and good governance practices, which incorporated the Division's policy advocacy as an input. These were subsequently incorporated into the proposed Federal Regime of Fiscal Responsibility and Good Practices of Government Law that is currently under discussion in the Argentine Congress. Finally, the Division provided technical assistance to Panama in international tax policy, and at the request of the Office of the President of the Republic of Panama, the Division, jointly with the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico, prepared a report on policy options related to international taxation issues, which served to guide policy measures adopted by the government. The Division also provided substantial assistance to Panama on fiscal incentives for investment, including participating in a side event organized by the country at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in May 2017. Based on this cooperation, Panama has requested continued collaboration with ECLAC to improve the use of fiscal incentives in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Within the framework of the Development Account project entitled "Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment", the Division provided advisory services to increase the capacity of policymakers to evaluate, design and implement macroeconomic policies on the basis of comparative policy analysis

that strengthen long-term economic growth and reduce economic and social vulnerability. Technical assistance provided to Chile and Colombia helped the Ministries of Labour of both countries to take steps to strengthen their labour policy frameworks. The Division also facilitated South-South collaboration between countries in this area, including a trip of a Colombian delegation to Chile, and of a Mexican delegation to Colombia, to facilitate the exchange of experiences between peers. Technical assistance was also provided to the Dominican Republic within the framework of this project, leading to concrete policy proposals that the country is considering in order to advance towards the goals embodied in its 2030 National Development Strategy and outlined in the National Pact for Education Reform. Technical assistance was also provided to this country in the formulation of a reform of the social security system, specifically in the design of a new unemployment protection scheme.

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your assistance with the activities of the project “Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment”; the participation of our staff was undoubtedly a great opportunity to strengthen knowledge of the coordination of policies relating to employment, the entry into the labour market of persons with disabilities, unemployment protection and public employment programmes. [...] It is important to note that these experiences will allow us to strengthen the development of our public policies and to improve the processes targeting the most vulnerable population segments, given that the exchange of knowledge helps us to consolidate work teams and to visualize new scenarios in an increasingly globalized world.

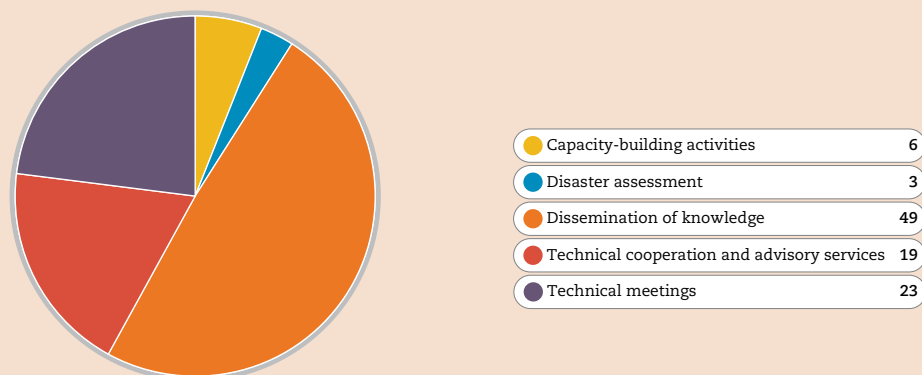
Clara López Obregón, Minister of Labour, Colombia, letter dated 9 February 2017

The project “Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment” has contributed to a proposal to strengthen unemployment protection through a general unemployment assistance fund. This proposal represents an important input to design and reform the social protection system that the Government of the Republic has committed to.

Juan Ariel Jimenez Nuñez, Vice-Minister of Development Policies, Ministry of the Presidency, Dominican Republic, 20 January 2017

As part of the project entitled “Vocational education and training for greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean” sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Division provided technical assistance to Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Technical cooperation was provided to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic to assist in the institutionalization of a permanent mechanism for the identification and anticipation of training and training needs in the country. In Colombia, the Division assisted the Ministry of Labour in the improvement of coordination between the different agencies involved in training in the country. The Division also organized virtual meetings between representatives of the Governments of Chile, Costa Rica and Ecuador to facilitate the interchange of experiences related to the use of enterprise surveys to identify labour needs.

[FIGURE 3]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The Division has strengthened its cooperation with the subregional offices of Mexico and Port of Spain and with the ECLAC national offices to leverage their extensive knowledge in order to identify emerging macroeconomic issues across the region. Video conferences with the subregional offices have been especially useful, establishing contact between country-level experts and regional experts in Santiago, which has enriched the analysis presented in the Division's publications and activities.

The Division also collaborated closely with outside stakeholders to disseminate its analysis and policy messages to a larger audience. Examples are the report *Time to tax for inclusive growth* jointly produced with Oxfam International, which generated interest in the region and beyond, and the annual report *Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean* jointly produced with OECD, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), contributing not only to statistical peer review but also to analytical chapters covering specific topics. Collaboration with ILO contributed to the harmonization of labour statistics between the two organizations.

Finally, a key lesson learned during the biennium was the importance of packaging long-term structural concerns within policies that are relevant to tackling short-term cyclical concerns. The Division's advocacy of investment-centred fiscal rules proved to be timely and was well received among the region's policymakers.

SUBPROGRAMME 4

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

[4]

DANIEL TITELMAN

Chief of the Economic Development Division

INTRODUCTION

The financial system plays a key role in boosting savings and channelling funds for investment and technological innovation, and to facilitate access to financing for and financial insertion of the different production agents, including SMEs. Access to finance by SMEs is an important policy issue since these firms are critical for sustainable growth and development, particularly in developing regions. Yet, most developing regions, including in Latin America have still not adopted policies for financial inclusion.

During the biennium, the subprogramme activities improved the capacity of policymakers and institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to formulate and implement financial policies and instruments to generate and allocate domestic resources.

In an effort to foster the financial inclusion of SMEs, the Division implemented the Development Account project entitled “Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change with a particular focus on SMEs in Latin American countries”. During the biennium, this project focused on seven Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru), as part of which 11 studies were produced and five national seminars and four regional seminars were held, attended by a total of more than 300 participants from the financial sector and government agencies. The project helped to improve existing financial instruments and introduced new ones for financial inclusion (Ecuador), to review the strategic framework and policies for financial inclusion (Peru) and to evaluate the functioning of development banks (Costa Rica). In the light of the results achieved, a number of requests have been received for technical assistance to develop financial inclusion instruments for specific institutions.

Like other middle-income regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has seen a decline in its share of ODA inflows. The trends in total regional ODA reflect the logic of the international cooperation system, which uses per capita income to calculate countries’ development levels and thus allocate official assistance flows. Based on this logic, countries are divided into low-income, middle-income (lower middle and upper middle) and high-income. ECLAC has questioned the use of income per capita to assess countries’ level of development, leading the Division to develop an alternative methodology that identifies and measures the

structural constraints on development. This methodology —the structural gap approach— was implemented very successfully as a part of technical assistance requested by the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. The results of applying the structural gap approach in Costa Rica were presented in a document produced by the ministries, with technical support from ECLAC.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

As part of the Development Account project entitled “Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change with a particular focus on SMEs in Latin American countries”, the Division sought to improve the financial inclusion of SMEs in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. National studies were undertaken for each of the seven participating countries, as were case studies on financial instruments that could be used by development banks to promote financial inclusion in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, and lastly, a comparative regional study was prepared on the basis of the national studies’ findings.

The national studies on Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico were presented at workshops held in these respective countries in July (Mexico) and October (Colombia and Ecuador) 2016. The studies examine the state of financial inclusion in each country, based on indicators that measure aspects of financial inclusion including access (ability to use formal financial services and products), usage (how often those products and services are used) and quality (measured on the basis of available data from surveys). The studies then identify, describe and analyse the instruments and processes that the national development banks have at their disposal to promote financial inclusion of SMEs and how those instruments and processes could be improved. The studies also provide evidence on the instruments use and reach. Lastly, possible avenues for complementarity with commercial banking and the development of new financial instruments (such as guarantee schemes, venture capital, securitization and factoring) are explored and policy recommendations made to strengthen the capacity of development banks.

Given the continent-wide importance and relevance of [ECLAC] with regard to the financing and economic aspects of productive development, [...] [the Commission’s] support and experience will allow us to acquire the necessary know-how to improve excluded sectors’ access to the financial system, as well as that of stakeholders who are already part of it.

Hugo Campidoglio, Undersecretary for Financing Production, Ministry of Production, Argentina

A seminar on the financial inclusion of SMEs, attended by representatives from the seven countries, was held on 6 and 7 April 2017, at which the national studies for Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru were presented. In addition, studies on instruments for the financial inclusion of SMEs in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico were carried out. Following that, another seminar on development banks and financial innovation in products, processes and institutional structure for the financial inclusion of SMEs was held in Peru (16-17 August 2017 organized in partnership with the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE)); a workshop on SMEs access to finance and the role of

development banks in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America was held in Thailand (27-28 September 2017, organized in partnership with ESCAP, and attended by representatives of the Centre for Financial International Cooperation (CFIC) of the Korean Institute of Finance, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)); a regional seminar to promote financial inclusion of SMEs took place in Chile (18-19 October 2017) where the comparative regional study was presented; and a seminar on promoting financial inclusion through innovative development bank policies was held in Costa Rica (13-14 November 2017), organized by the development banking system of Costa Rica.

As a result of the work of the Division, several measures have been considered by development banks' policymakers, as well as academia and the private sector in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, including measures to: (i) improve collaboration between development banks and commercial banks; (ii) improve and extend financial education; (iii) expand the toolkit of instruments to promote the financial inclusion of SMEs, and (iv) improve development banks' processes to promote the financial inclusion of SMEs (including greater streamlining and automation of internal processes, new methodologies for assessing clients' ability and willingness to pay, etc.). The association of private banks of Ecuador (ASOBANCA) has indicated that the Division's work has helped to enhance existing instruments for financial inclusion and to develop new ones. The Peruvian bank, Agrobanco, stated that the results of the project were very useful for the revision of the strategic framework and policies for financial inclusion. The project has also proven useful for the evaluation of the development banking system of Costa Rica from an international perspective.

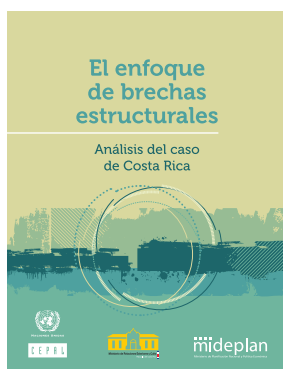
The document on the financial inclusion of SMEs in Ecuador, presented by ECLAC [...], provided input for establishing the work agenda of the Risk Committee of the association of private banks of Ecuador. Based on the analysis carried out and the aforementioned document, the Committee's agenda for the rest of 2017 and the next will focus on enhancing existing products that promote the financial inclusion of SMEs, such as guarantee schemes, factoring and rediscounting, in coordination with the productive sectors we will analyse the implementation of new financial products and services designed with the needs of clients of these sectors in mind, an important factor that is highlighted in the aforementioned document.

Julio José Prado, Executive Director, Association of Private Banks of Ecuador (ASOBANCA)

Analysis of ODA trends reveals the limits of the income per capita approach, as the evidence indicates that countries with similar income levels are characterized by very different situations as regards economic and social development, such as different levels of access to social protection mechanisms, education and health-care quality, and financial participation and inclusion, as well as different levels of resilience in the face of economic and social shocks. To overcome the shortcomings of the income per capita as a criteria for allocating ODA, ECLAC proposes a new, complementary approach, the structural gap approach, which identifies key structural obstacles that are hindering sustained, equitable and inclusive growth for middle-income countries. The approach includes 12 indicators to measure inequality and poverty, the debt ratio, investment and saving, productivity and innovation, infrastructure, education, health, taxation, gender

and the environment. During the biennium several national or regional institutions have formally embraced the structural gap approach, including the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica.

The Division provided technical assistance to Costa Rica and worked the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs to coordinate the report *El enfoque de brechas estructurales: análisis del caso de Costa Rica*, that was presented at a formal launch with key government officials in San José in December 2016. Input was provided by the aforementioned ministries and others. The report examines six structural gaps: (i) poverty and inequality; (ii) education; (iii) gender; (iv) productivity and innovation; (v) infrastructure; and (vi) taxation. The methodology to identify structural gaps developed by ECLAC is described in the first chapter of the report and forms the basis for the other chapters.



EL ENFOQUE DE BRECHAS ESTRUCTURALES. ANÁLISIS DEL CASO DE COSTA RICA

This document sets out the results of the applying of the structural gap approach in Costa Rica. The structural gap approach advocates incorporating into the development cooperation agenda an evaluation of needs and shortcomings that are not covered by the income per capita indicator, but are evident from other gaps.

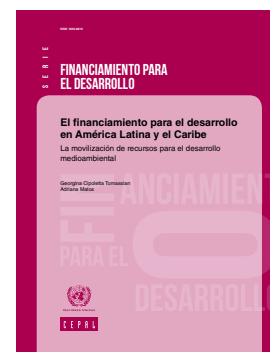
This approach sheds light on the areas that require immediate attention from public policymakers, and serves as a guide to channel resources from the international cooperation system. The gaps-based approach allows middle income-countries to secure development cooperation more effectively and design policies that are able to address the most significant national gaps.

The ministries are using the results of the structural gap analysis to promote a national and regional dialogue on ODA as part of the international financial architecture. The analysis also helps to identify development priorities for funding and donor assistance. The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs of Costa Rica are using the results of the analysis as the basis for their international cooperation discussions.

Through its publications, the Division raised awareness of issues related to financing for development. The document *El financiamiento para el desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe. La movilización de recursos para el desarrollo medioambiental* presents a general overview of how external sources of financing have evolved in Latin America and the Caribbean, differentiating between private and official financial flows, focusing in particular on climate change finance at the regional and global level. The paper, *Investment in renewable energy, fossil fuel prices and policy implications for Latin America and the Caribbean*, examines whether recent sharp declines in the price of oil and other fossil fuels will discourage private investment in renewable energy, which is key for climate change mitigation.

EL FINANCIAMIENTO PARA EL DESARROLLO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: LA MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS PARA EL DESARROLLO MEDIOAMBIENTAL

Latin American and Caribbean countries need information on the mobilization of funds to finance efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including those Goals that address climate change, in order to assess their ability to respond to the challenges facing the region and to improve the design of development policies. The study analyses the latest data on financing sources in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing in particular on the financing needed to prepare for and combat the effects of climate change.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Governments of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance, which took the form of a report on cross-border trade between the two countries analysing price differentials and exchange rates, and presenting a proposal for further dialogue. The report was presented to both governments in July 2016.

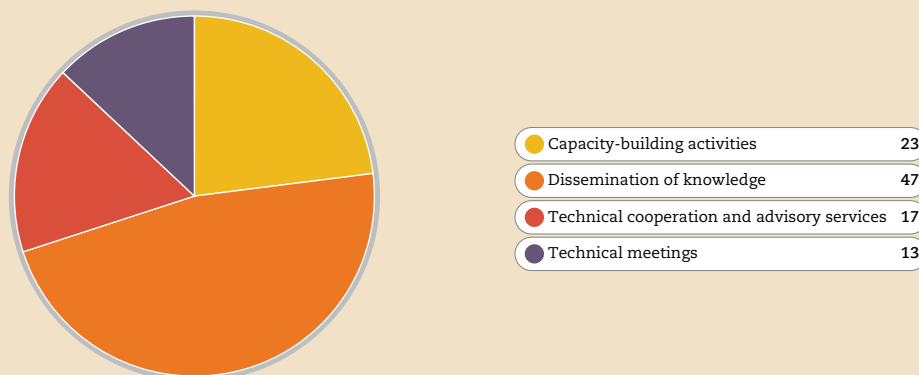
A seminar on establishing public-private partnerships for infrastructure and financing for development was held on 27 April 2016, organized by the International Affairs Secretariat (SEAIN) of the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil, in collaboration with ECLAC and IDB, and with the support of the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). Participants examined the integration of physical infrastructure in Latin America from the perspective of the challenges related to investment in and the regulation and financing of regional transport infrastructure. The Division presented a publication on infrastructure financing and suggested that alternative and innovative models, sources and instruments for financing transport infrastructure should be explored to promote integration in South America.

The Division also provided Colombia with technical assistance on financing infrastructure for productive development, during a workshop on mining and infrastructure resources governance, focusing in particular on coal mining in Colombia, which took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 5 and 6 April 2016. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Colombian public and private sector and civil society, who analysed the lack of adequate infrastructure in the mining sector.

[FIGURE 4]

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017**

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The main lesson learned was that all the different stakeholders, involved including governments, commercial banks, development banks and SMEs, must be involved to improve financial inclusion. Another lesson learned was that the Division's analysis and knowledge products must be disseminated among policymakers, especially those from national development banks, in order to enhance the impact of ECLAC policy recommendations. This should be done through personal meetings and small-scale workshops with the national development banks to discuss the recommendations and share views and experiences.

Lastly, a lesson learned as a result of the technical assistance and advisory services provided to Costa Rica was the importance of assembling an inter-institutional team to support the work and facilitating regular communication between ECLAC and the ministry focal points. National authorities should therefore make the structural gap approach a political priority in order to achieve durable results.

SUBPROGRAMME 5

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY

[5]

LAÍS ABRAMO

Chief of the Social Development Division

INTRODUCTION

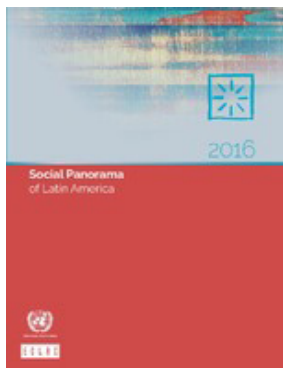
The objective of ECLAC in the area of social development was to achieve greater social and economic equality in Latin America and the Caribbean and contribute to the overall well-being of the people of the region in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a rights-based approach. To achieve that objective, the Social Development Division provided technical assistance, promoted policy dialogue and conducted and disseminated analysis of the social situation in the region with regard to particular issues and population groups, in order to inform national decision-making processes and strengthen the technical capacity of social institutions.

Economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean throughout 2016-2017 indicated an ever more complex scenario for social development and equality in the region. Negative economic growth and political turbulence in key countries frustrated the fight against poverty and led to less social investment. Despite advances in the region, social policy analysis and design still need to be improved to understand how welfare, poverty and multiple dimensions of inequality affect employment and decent work opportunities, and economic productivity and distribution. More needs to be done to effectively analyse and tackle problems resulting from the relationship between national productive structure and social development; to improve social policies, adopting a life cycle approach, for children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, Afrodescendants; and to strengthen analysis of institutional aspects of social policies and new challenges related to migration and technological change. In the light of this increasingly complex scenario, the Division gave careful consideration to inequality as a structural feature of the region and obstacle to sustainable development.

In response to the mandate conferred by the member countries on ECLAC at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division worked tirelessly throughout the biennium to make progress towards meeting its objectives. Notably, it carried out over 150 missions, including exploratory missions, consultative meetings, expert meetings and technical assistance, in addition to the publication of two editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America*, two books, nine publications in the Social Policy series, 13 project documents and two Challenges newsletters.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

In the light of the additional economic, environmental and social risks that countries face, approaches based on human rights and equality are increasingly relevant to the advancement of social covenants that build consensus, provide political legitimacy, and increase institutional capacity to carry out necessary reforms. The Division's first major achievement of the biennium was convening the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo in November 2016. The meeting was held in conjunction with the eighth meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and was convened jointly by ECLAC, UNDP and the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic. The meeting was attended by social development ministers and senior officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, who acknowledged the importance of protecting social investment and advancing towards universal systems of social protection to avoid setbacks in the fight against poverty, given the current economic situation, and to move towards closing the gaps identified by ECLAC in its report *The social inequality matrix in Latin America*.



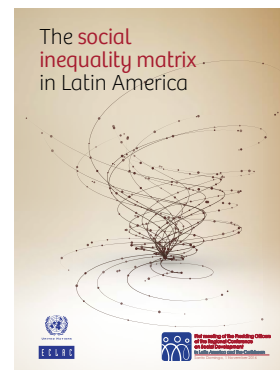
SOCIAL PANORAMA OF LATIN AMERICA, 2016

In this document, social inequality is examined as a fundamental challenge and obstacle to sustainable development. Some of the axes and aspects of social inequality are addressed, drawing attention to how they intersect with and reinforce one another. The different chapters examine inequalities in the distribution of income and property; inequalities over the life cycle; time-use inequalities between men and women; and the situation of Afrodescendent populations as an example of ethnic and racial inequalities. Recent trends in the amount of public resources available to finance social policies capable of tackling poverty and inequality and of promoting inclusive social development are also analysed.

Another achievement was the knowledge disseminated through the two editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* published during the biennium. The 2016 edition provides evidence that inequality is a structural feature of the region and an obstacle to sustainable development. Chapter V of that edition shows that analysis of ethnic and racial inequalities has been incorporated into the work carried out under the subprogramme. Disparities in the exercise of economic and social rights by the Afrodescendent population in Latin America, and the institutional framework and policies for the Afrodescendent population are analysed in that chapter. The Division has also addressed gender mainstreaming and sustainability issues, as evidenced by the publications presented by ECLAC at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development.

THE SOCIAL INEQUALITY MATRIX IN LATIN AMERICA

This document pursues the analysis of the social inequality matrix in the region. The analysis focuses on some of the main axes that serve to structure social inequality to illustrate how they influence the depth of the equality gaps, their persistence over time and their reproduction. The document concludes with some policy recommendations, including policies that are universal but sensitive to differences. At their first meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the document, drawing attention to the importance of progressing towards the elimination of poverty through the stable generation of productive employment and decent work, the universalization of access to good-quality education and health care, and the construction of rights-based universal systems of social protection, and taking action to tackle inequality gaps.



I am very grateful for this comprehensive document on social inequality, which will significantly strengthen the implementation of public policies, both in our country and throughout Latin America.

Claudia Pascual Grau, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, letter dated 3 October 2017

The second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held from 25 to 27 October 2017 in Montevideo, was another of the subprogramme's highlights during the biennium. At that session, the Commission presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*, which argues that the region must move towards a virtuous circle of development in which productive diversification, progressive structural change and environmental momentum are accompanied by inclusive social development. In its resolution 2(II), the Regional Conference recognized that reducing the social footprint of the current development model and achieving inclusive social development were essential for the fulfilment of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and require the coordination of productive inclusion and social inclusion policies. It also expressed appreciation for the advances achieved by the region over the past 15 years in reducing poverty and inequality, but observed with particular concern the trend towards the reduction of social development budgets in the region and the possible weakening of social protection systems that this could cause. Furthermore, lastly, the Conference asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance for the construction of a regional agenda for inclusive social development.



LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SOCIAL AND PRODUCTION SPHERES: GAPS, PILLARS AND CHALLENGES

Latin American and Caribbean region is facing a complex set of economic and social circumstances that threaten the conditions needed for further progress towards the goal of eradicating all forms of poverty and ensuring that no one is left behind, as required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These temporary challenges are compounded by structural problems, such as low productivity, high levels of inequality, social exclusion and a failure to care for the environment. This document argues that to overcome those challenges and ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of the entire population, the region must move towards a virtuous circle of development in which productive diversification, progressive structural change and environmental momentum are accompanied by inclusive social development. In this virtuous circle, creating decent work goes hand in hand with maintaining levels of social investment to ensure universal access to education, health, social protection systems, housing and basic infrastructure (energy, clean water and sanitation). Analysing the gaps, axes and linkages between the region's social and productive spheres is part of the mandate that the Latin American and Caribbean countries handed down to ECLAC at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in November 2016

Another important part of the work carried out by the Division is analysis of the level of investment in and impact and management of social policies and programmes implemented by the governments of the region. During the biennium, 10 social policies, plans or programmes, drafted in line with ECLAC recommendations, were adopted in the region. For example, technical assistance on the process of defining regional policy objectives, and designing national policies and monitoring and evaluation systems was provided to the Chilean National Council for Culture and the Arts. As a result, changes were made to participatory mechanisms' processes and work to define cultural public policy objectives at the regional level. In addition, manuals or methodological instructions to guide this process were drawn up, as well as clear definitions for their implementation, so as to better articulate common objectives between cultural and other sectorial policies. The Division also provided input for the digital policy recommendations made by the Advisory Council for a Digital Agenda in Education to the Ministry of Education of Chile in 2017, and the technical assistance given to the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica in 2017 resulted in a report with recommendations for a training strategy to strengthen the impact on the target population of the programme to connect households to the Internet.

The Division also continued to advise governments of the region on social development issues and training professionals and technical staff. In this regard, 15 social policy institutions of the region requested and received technical assistance. Assistance was provided to El Salvador, Ecuador and Peru to facilitate the adoption of ECLAC recommendations on budget classifiers, in line with the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG); to the Office of Planning and the Budget

of the Office of the President of Uruguay with courses on the statistical analysis software, Stata; to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico for a training course on measuring disability indicators; to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities of Costa Rica for a training course on human rights indicators for persons with disabilities; and to the National Youth Secretariat of Paraguay on results-based management for mainstreaming youth issues into the public sector. Finally, the Ministry of Social Development of Mexico asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance and to be part of the technical executive committee responsible for planning the international symposium, funded by the World Bank, on conditional cash transfer programmes, organized as part of the *Prospera* programme.

The Government of El Salvador, through the Technical Secretariat of Planning of the Office of the President, would like to thank you for the technical support received in connection with the design and conceptualization of the El Salvador poverty eradication strategy, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. I hereby inform you that the strategy was launched in the second half of 2017 and we hope it will be adopted as a State public policy, transcending government, as part of the development vision of leaving no one behind. We draw particular attention to your institution's valuable contribution, as was seen in the different discussion forums for formulating the strategy, which will undoubtedly be a key component in advancing social policy in El Salvador.

Roberto Lorenzana Durán, Technical Secretary of Planning of the Office of the President, El Salvador, letter dated 11 December 2017

In the framework of the Development Account project entitled “Promoting equality: strengthening the capacity of select developing countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes” led by the Division and jointly implemented by the five regional commissions, a toolkit was prepared to analyse and measure socioeconomic inequalities and the redistributive impact of social and fiscal policies. In addition, four workshops were organized, in collaboration with ECLAC offices in Montevideo and Buenos Aires, on quantitative and qualitative methods for policy analysis and evaluation, which were attended by representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Social Security, of Social Development and of Economic Affairs and Finance, and the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay and the Ministries of Social Development and of Finances of Argentina. Two interregional studies were also produced, focusing on the design and implementation of equality-oriented public policies: *Confronting inequality: Social protection for families and early childhood through monetary transfers and care worldwide* and *Pension and income transfers for old age: Inter- and intra-generational distribution in comparative perspective*. The former analyses social protection policies for families and early childhood focusing on family allowances and other types of monetary transfers for families with children, work leave and early childhood education and care policies worldwide. The latter provides a comparative analysis of pension system designs and reforms around the world and recommendations to improve pension coverage, equality and sustainability.

The Division also fostered the exchange of ideas, the production of information and capacity-building on social protection. In that connection, it organized a seminar on non-contributory social protection and labour inclusion in collaboration with the Global Development Institute of the University of Manchester. At the seminar, held on 5 December 2016, in Santiago, discussions focused on the results of non-contributory social protection programmes and their potential incentives and

disincentives to labour and productive inclusion and employment formalization. In conjunction with ILPES, the Division organized a course on social protection tools throughout the life cycle, which took place in Santiago from 22 to 26 May 2017 and was attended by 34 social protection professionals from 15 countries of the region. The objective of the course was to strengthen the capacities of those involved in decision-making processes regarding social protection public policies, encouraging them to put equality and human rights at the centre of development policies in the region. Lastly, in 2017, the Division offered three training courses on social protection tools and labour and productive inclusion mechanisms, in collaboration with FAO.

In addition, the Division has worked steadily to develop, maintain and update databases on social investment, on labour and productive inclusion programmes, conditional cash transfer programmes and social pensions, and on youth and social inclusion. As of November 2017, 29 Latin American and Caribbean countries have provided information on their non-contributory social protection programmes and the database contained information on 48 conditional cash transfer programmes, 29 social pensions and 75 labour and productive inclusion programmes. It was visited 11,210 times in 2016 and 12,693 times in 2017. During the biennium, a new database on social investment in Latin America and the Caribbean was made publicly available to all users interested in discovering the volume of resources spent on policies related to six functions: social protection; education; health; housing and community services; recreation, culture and religion; and environmental protection.

The Division also launched an online database on social policy institutions with information covering four areas: legislation and regulation, organizational arrangements, technical capacities and funding. It includes comparative tables and national profiles of 33 countries of the region and provides an overview and analysis of the four areas covered. To complement this information a book, entitled *Institucionalidad social en América Latina y el Caribe*, was published, which sets out an analytical framework for and a regional overview of social policies, and focuses on ministries of social development, pension systems, the regulation of labour markets and care policies. It also analyses the characteristics of institutions devoted to the promotion of the rights of specific population groups, namely youth, people with disabilities, and Afrodescendants.

The Division is also in the process of updating the youth and social inclusion observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, JUVeLAC, to include 25 indicators on youth education, employment and health. Moreover, to raise awareness of the portal, a virtual seminar was hosted on the platform on 11 August 2017 to commemorate International Youth Day. Over 440 individuals from 20 countries in the region participated in this event, many of whom represented national-level counterparts, including ministries of education, health, social development, labour and coordination and participation.

Lastly, a new area of work for the Division has been the analysis of the challenges posed by migration to social protection systems in the region. To that end, national and regional expert meetings were held, attended by government actors from countries where the problem is particularly acute, namely El Salvador and Mexico, as well as countries like Chile where immigration is a recent phenomenon, but one that is climbing higher on the public agenda. The main objective of these activities was to raise awareness among governments of the need to develop

specific policies to address the barriers migrants face when accessing social protection mechanisms in a region where migration flows are increasingly important and diverse.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

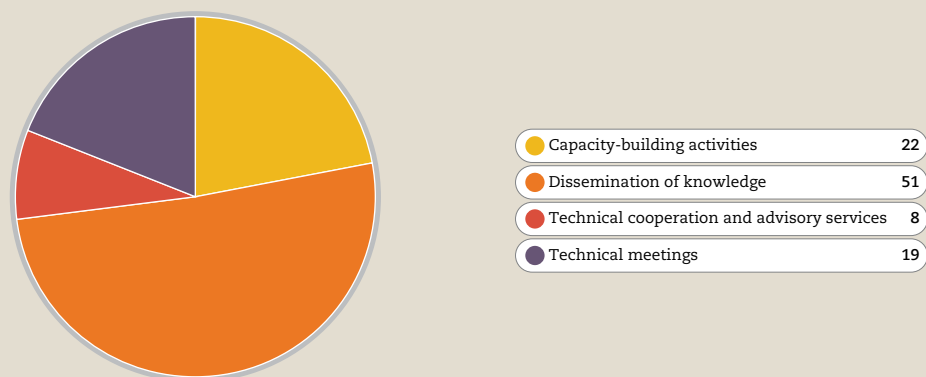
As part of the project to strengthen institutions for universal and sustainable social protections, financed by GIZ, the Division encouraged the countries of the region to improve the quality (effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and transparency) of their social protection policies and promote decent work with a gender approach. In addition to technical assistance provided to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Paraguay, several regional and national seminars have been held on social policy institutions, migration and social protection, and two books were published on social policy institutions and social protection: *Institucionalidad social en América Latina y el Caribe*, and *Protección social en América Latina: la desigualdad en el banquillo*.

The invaluable contribution of ECLAC helped us to achieve our objectives and goals, improving the quality of life of those people living in poverty.

Mr. José Soler, Director of International Relations and Cooperation of the Secretariat for Social Action, Office of the President of Paraguay, email dated 30 December 2016

Developed by ECLAC in conjunction with ILO in its capacity as technical secretariat of regional initiative, Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, the project on child and adolescent labour, poverty and inequality seeks to generate knowledge to improve policymaking in order to prevent and combat child and adolescent labour in Latin America and the Caribbean. Between April and August 2017, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru were chosen as the project pilot countries, which the Division will provide with technical assistance and inter-institutional coordination forums tailored to their specific political and institutional needs.

[FIGURE 5]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
 (Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

Given the greater demand for technical assistance and capacity-building activities in a context of limited financial resources, the videoconferencing platform, WebEx, has been used with great success. This not only allowed seminars to be webcast live, but also information to be disseminated in advance to encourage participation. Questions could also be submitted beforehand and thus addressed during the event. Another lesson learned was that projects should include innovative analysis. An exit strategy should also be adopted, either from the outset or during the implementation of projects and activities at the national level, to maximize sustainability.

A lesson learned from the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was that better strategies were needed to establish and maintain contact with social development counterparts in the region, and thus encourage the active participation of and constructive dialogue and sharing of experiences among the government representatives of participating countries. These improvements had been largely achieved before the second session of Regional Conference. In its resolution 2(II), adopted at that session, the Conference asks ECLAC to provide technical assistance for the construction of a regional agenda for inclusive social development, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require more meaningful dialogue and closer links with countries and subregional organizations to address emerging challenges in the region, such as the demographic transition, migration, climate change and technology.

SUBPROGRAMME 6

MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[6]

MARIA NIEVES RICO
Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs

INTRODUCTION

The biennium provided a unique opportunity to strengthen the capacities of member States of ECLAC to implement the 2030 Agenda, with their adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Strategy is a tool for national governments to mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda. It can be adapted to national priorities, gender equality plans, sustainable development plans, policies and budgets. The Division also contributed to the global follow-up process of the Sustainable Development Goals by analysing and disseminating indicator 5.4.1 to measure the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

Throughout the biennium, the Division generated knowledge on gender relations in the region, in connection with issues such as poverty, education, social protection, urban planning and violence against women. It has estimated the fiscal cost of implementing policies to prevent violence against women and the cost of failing to adopt such policies, and generated knowledge on the links between education, labour supply and decent work. The Division has also continued to strengthen national capacities to produce gender statistics and relations between producers and users of gender statistics, to support pension reform processes and to mainstream the gender approach into national policies.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was overhauled in 2016 to incorporate a new conceptual approach and analysis based on the interrelationship between women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, helping to make the Observatory the main regional point of reference for gender statistics and gender equality policy analysis.

Over the course of the biennium, various United Nations system and intergovernmental agencies, including UNFPA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), FAO, UN-Women, and IOM, continued to collaborate with the Observatory.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The current conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean are marked by uncertainty on the economic, political, social and environmental fronts and are thus less favourable than they were during the 2000s. Although progress has been

made since 2002, the region is still the most unequal in the world and to achieve gender equality and women's autonomy, the gap between advances in legislation and women's day-to-day realities must be closed.

A persistent challenge with respect to women's economic autonomy is distributive equality, which includes overcoming women's poverty in terms of both money and time, achieving equal pay, ending discrimination in the labour market and redressing biased or inadequate social protection. Unpaid domestic and care work is also addressed as the root of inequality based on the sexual division of labour.

Development is not possible if women lack physical autonomy, which will remain out of their reach if they cannot fully exercise their right to health, are unable to decide freely on their reproductive and sexual lives, and suffer from high rates of maternal mortality. Women cannot achieve physical autonomy while child and adolescent motherhood increases, and while obstacles remain to treating women with disabilities as bearers of rights. Women have the right to a life free of violence, without threat of femicide which is, moreover, worsened by inadequate access to justice.

Another key element is autonomy in the exercise of power and in decision-making processes, where women notably lack visibility and representation despite their demographic weight and their contribution and role in society. This is evident in women's limited participation not only in the political arena, but also in other decision-making spheres, such as the economy, academia and knowledge management, and the media.

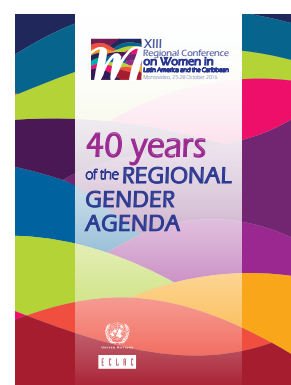
The uninterrupted progress made by the region since the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, demonstrates governments' commitment to moving towards greater autonomy for women and gender equality. The Regional Gender Agenda compiles all the commitments adopted by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean on women's rights and autonomy, and gender equality. With sights set on the future, ECLAC presented a proposal for strengthening public policies on gender equality and on ensuring the fulfilment of women's rights and autonomy, while weaving interdependent linkages between the goals, targets and measures for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda. The new challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean call for innovative and effective public policies that support and are supported by, a gender equality architecture based on solid and interconnected institutions, as well as on clear gender mainstreaming and participation processes.

The Division has continued its efforts to strengthen the knowledge, skills and policymaking capacities of government officials from the region with regard to gender equality, women's physical, economic and decision-making autonomy and the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main outcome of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, from 25 to 28 October 2016, was the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 by the member States. The aim of the Montevideo Strategy is to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality and women's autonomy and human rights.

Four structural challenges have been identified in the region: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere. The Division has also developed a Regional Gender Agenda alongside conjunction with the ECLAC Library and the Information and Communications Technology Section. This online tool allows users to search all the commitments made by the governments of the region on women's rights, women's autonomy and gender equality at the meetings of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to raising the visibility of those agreements, this tool proved to be very useful for national authorities.

40 YEARS OF THE REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA

At the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in 1977, ECLAC member States adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, the region's first road map for progress towards the recognition of women's contribution to society and to make visible the obstacles that they faced. The governments also gave ECLAC a mandate to convene periodically a Regional Conference on Women. Over the next four decades ECLAC organized 13 Regional Conferences on Women. This intergovernmental platform, with the active participation of the women's and feminist movement and the support of the entire United Nations system, has become the main forum for the negotiation of a broad, profound and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda, in which women's autonomy and rights are front and centre. This publication is a contribution to the implementation of the commitments undertaken. It is a compilation of all the agreements adopted by the governments at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and will serve not only as a tool for reference, but above all as a tool for action and for building a future based on the collective memory of the women of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Over the course of the biennium, the countries of the region implemented several policies in response to the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy. For example, law No. 5446/15 was enacted in Paraguay in November 2016 to promote and guarantee the economic, social, political and cultural rights of rural women. In December 2016, the Ministry of Education of El Salvador adopted a gender equity and equality policy to eradicate gender inequalities in the education system. Suriname ratified the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No.111) in January 2017 and the Labour Inspection Act (Decree No. 178-2016) came into force in Honduras in March 2017 to guarantee women's right to work when pregnant or breastfeeding. The same month, Mexico amended articles 10, 11 and 14 of the Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence Act, establishing wage discrimination as a type of economic violence. The National Women's Institute was created in September 2017 as a decentralized entity of the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina, and, lastly, the Government of Chile adopted law No. 21,001 in March 2017 which prohibited gender discrimination in the national armed forces. In

addition, stakeholders from Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay said that they had benefited from ECLAC technical assistance on gender equality plans, time-use surveys, gender indicators, and urban development and care policies to support the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy.



MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA WITHIN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK BY 2030

The Montevideo Strategy was adopted by the member States of ECLAC at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality and women's autonomy and human rights.

Four structural challenges have been identified in the region: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere. With a view to overcoming these challenges, the Strategy sets forth 74 measures under 10 implementation pillars: 1. Normative framework; 2. Institutional architecture; 3. Participation; 4. Capacity-building and -strengthening; 5. Financing; 6. Communication; 7. Technology; 8. Cooperation; 9. Information systems; and 10. Monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

The Division provided advisory services to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay on issues related to violence against women; family responsibilities and care; pension systems; urban planning; gender statistics; time-use surveys and the economic valuation of unpaid work; gender mainstreaming; development planning; peace and security; and the economic empowerment of women. The first time-use surveys were carried out in Chile and Paraguay in 2016, an important achievement for the Division.

As part of the Development Account project on “Strengthening national capacities to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women’s economic empowerment in urban areas”, technical assistance and capacity-building activities were undertaken with the municipalities of Bogotá, Mexico City, Cuenca, Havana, Montevideo, Santiago and San Salvador, to support the generation of evidence of the link between urban development, women’s economic autonomy and care policies or programmes.

I wish to thank you on behalf of the government and the secretariat of labour and employment of Mexico City for the support given to the South-South Cooperation Initiative by the Division for Gender Affairs as part of the United Nations Development Account project on urban development, economic autonomy and care policies. The workshop held at the beginning of June [2017] had proved to be very successful and useful for creating a care system in Mexico City —as called for in the recently-approved municipal constitution—.

Amalia García Medina, Secretary of Labour and Employment, Mexico City

¿QUIÉN CUIDA EN LA CIUDAD? APORTES PARA POLÍTICAS URBANAS DE IGUALDAD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes gender equality and women's autonomy as fundamental factors in moving towards sustainable development. In accordance with the New Urban Agenda, equal rights for women must be guaranteed in all areas related to cities. This book seeks to find out who provides care in cities and how it can be planned and managed to respond to the needs of women, who have traditionally been assigned care tasks, so that they can exercise their rights and expand their economic autonomy. The objective, based on studies on different Latin American cities, is to broaden the debate and make suggestions that will help women and men to use and enjoy the urban space and time in the city equally. The book proposes to move towards a caregiver city, which encourages women to overcome the barriers to inclusion that affect them and assert their right to the city.



During the biennium, the Division continued to deliver online courses to better respond to requests from countries of the region for more technical cooperation support. The seventh and eight versions of the online course on gender statistics and indicators were delivered in 2016 and 2017, respectively; an online course on gender and ICTs was run for the first time; and the third and fourth versions of the online course on measuring violence against women were also delivered in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Thanks to these courses, 473 participants, 385 of them women, from 20 countries strengthened their capacities in these areas.

A third regional training workshop was held in Santiago, in July 2016 to promote greater awareness of the resolutions on women and peace and security in the region, in particular, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in order to strengthen the capacities of governments of the region to mainstream gender equality into peace and security policies. This workshop was attended by 100 participants from 21 countries of the region representing the ministries of foreign affairs, of defence and of women's affairs.

The website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was updated in 2016, to include the latest web technologies and a new content management system, and to incorporate a modern design that facilitates navigation and improves users' experience. As part of the overhaul, a new conceptual approach was developed with revised analysis based on the interrelationship between the three autonomies of women (economic, physical and in decision-making). Following that update, the Observatory was visited by 76,597 users as of September 2017. The Observatory has also established a vast statistical repository that has been integrated into the CEPALSTAT database. In addition, the national regulation repositories of the Gender Equality Observatory were updated and consolidated with the inclusion of new regulations on pensions, migration and equality plans.

As a result of technical assistance provided under the subprogramme, the following policy actions were implemented in priority areas covered by the Gender Equality Observatory. To address the shared burden of care, Brazil adopted law No. 13,257 (March 2016) extending paternity leave from five days to up to 20; Argentina

launched the national early childhood plan (decree No. 574/2016, April 2016) to promote care spaces and facilitate women's access to the labour market; and Cuba promoted shared childcare responsibilities in families through decree-law No. 339 (February 2017). To tackle the persistence of violence against women, Paraguay approved the national plan to combat violence against women, 2015-2020 (decree No. 5140, April 2016); Brazil launched a national plan on women and peace and security in March 2017; and Peru strengthened its efforts to fight gender-based violence through legislative decree No. 1323 (January 2017). Guatemala adopted the Migration Code (decree No. 44/2016, October 2016), which constitutes a considerable advance in the recognition of the migrant women's rights. Lastly, in September 2016, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile launched a new gender statistics website (see [online] <http://www.ine.cl/estadisticas/menu-sociales/genero>), developed using the conceptual framework of the Gender Equality Observatory.

The Division continued to generate knowledge and produce documents that have been used as a source of reference by other entities. The publication *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*, presented at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, provided input for the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, presented at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The paper, *The 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda. Synergies for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, analyses the 2030 Agenda in the light of the challenges and priorities for gender equality and women's rights and autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, the Division contributed to the global follow-up process of the Sustainable Development Goals by analysing and disseminating indicator 5.4.1, proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

With the support of GIZ, the Division is implementing a project on the challenges for the 2030 Agenda linked to gender equality and sustainable development, working with countries of the region to mainstream the gender approach in activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen the production of gender statistics and indicators. The production of gender statistics highlights the gaps between men and women, demonstrating the need for public actions that seek to close those gaps, a key issue for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

The Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) thanks the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC for introducing us to the gender statistics work being carried out internationally. This has allowed us to plan and operate using the same criteria and standards as the other countries of the region. We also thank the Division for its valuable technical support, which has allowed us to adapt survey methodologies to the priorities identified in the 2030 Agenda and the public policies of El Salvador for 2017-2019.

Vilma Lucrecia Mejia, Gender Statistics Manager of the Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC), Ministry of Economic Affairs, El Salvador

The Division is also undertaking a project promoting technical and vocational education for greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, in conjunction with other Divisions of ECLAC and with the support of the Embassy of Norway. The

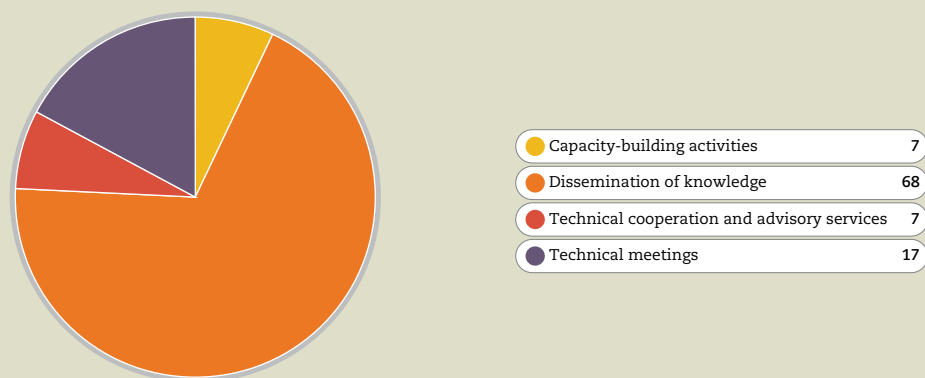
project aims to strengthen the link between equality and technical and vocational education, by placing it on the regional agenda and advocating political dialogue to foster fiscal, social and labour agreements. The work of the Division focuses on generating knowledge about the situation of women in vocational education systems and analysing the challenges they face when entering technical professions and over the course of their careers. This analysis will help to identify public policy recommendations that could overcome the gender biases that exist in vocational education and that promote the economic autonomy of women graduates of that educational system, by fostering dialogue among national mechanisms for the advancement of women and other key actors in the countries of the region.

Lastly, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Division organized two meetings on pension system reform and gender equality with the Governments of Chile and Uruguay. AECID also supported the second Ibero-American meeting on gender and social security, organized by the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and the Division, which took place in San José in November 2017, and culminated in the signature of a declaration. The Division provided technical support to Costa Rica to mainstream women's rights and gender equality into the pension system reform.

[FIGURE 6]

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE, JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

Over its 40-year history, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has provided a forum for ECLAC member States to negotiate and develop an agenda of women's human rights and gender equality and non-discrimination. But the consensus and commitments that comprise this agenda have not always resulted in implementation plans. In the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and as part of the process of drafting the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, the Division undertook a systematic review of the language used over the last 40 years in the agreements that comprise the Regional Gender Agenda. That review led to the identification of the existing

regional and global agreements linked to different implementation pillars. The measures of the Montevideo Strategy make progress towards operationalizing and giving full effect to the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030.

An important lesson learned was the need to create synergies between international and regional mandates and among intergovernmental bodies specializing in women's human rights and gender equality. At its thirteenth session, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to report, through the Chair of the Conference, to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, regarding progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy from a perspective of gender and women's full autonomy and rights, which is an important step in the creation of those synergies. A sign that these synergies are being established, is the decision to include the Montevideo Strategy in the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 (FNS-CELAC Plan), approved in November 2016.

The Division also undertook an extensive and participatory consultation process prior to drafting the Montevideo Strategy, involving government officials, representatives of civil society organizations and United Nations system bodies, specialists from the women's movement and academic institutions. This meant that discussions at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women were productive and straightforward. In addition to facilitating the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy, this unique participatory process allowed a large number of actors to take ownership of the Strategy, and therefore there are high hopes for its effective implementation. Moreover, for the first time in the history of the Regional Conference, it was attended by more than 100 journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean, which helped to raise awareness of the Conference and the Regional Gender Agenda.

SUBPROGRAMME 7

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

[7]

PAULO SAAD

Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC

INTRODUCTION

During 2016-2017, the Division continued to promote the inclusion of population-related issues in the development planning of Latin American and Caribbean countries, through the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In the framework of this subprogramme, past, present and future demographic trends were analysed, with emphasis on the social, economic and territorial inequalities that still persist in the region, with a view to enhance the capacity of national institutions to monitor those trends and address population and development issues for the purpose of sociodemographic and economic planning. Specifically, this was achieved through the organization of two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: the first in November 2016, and the second, a special meeting, in November 2017, held pursuant to the decision to organize the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2018. In addition, two workshops were held in Mexico City, in June 2016 and May 2017, to review the progress made in preparing the proposal of indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The proposal was presented during the special meeting of the Presiding Officers. It is important to note that the Montevideo Consensus resulted from the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, and is a regional milestone in the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

Some of the activities carried out in the framework of the subprogramme have reinforced the Commission's institutional presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other regions of the world. Those include: (i) the preparation of the study on the challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons, presented at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2017 in Paraguay, the main objective of which was to review the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, (ii) the organization of the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, (iii) the organization of training workshops on the use of the REDATAM software in several Latin American, Caribbean, Asian and African countries, and (iv) the production of a study on the situation of

Afrodescendants in Latin America and the policy challenges in guaranteeing their rights, in the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Throughout the biennium, the Division continued to provide technical assistance on topics related to population issues, spanning over a vast geographic area within and beyond Latin America and the Caribbean, with a major focus on ageing, the impact of demographic changes on development, indigenous peoples and people of African descent, internal and international migration, population estimations and projections, and censuses. The Division provided technical assistance to member States in the context of recently conducted censuses (Chile and Peru in 2017) and those in the process of preparation that will be conducted in the near future (Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala, planned for 2018). Also during the biennium, the Division continued with its work evaluating the censuses concluded in the 2010 round in Argentina, Cuba and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

As CELADE maintains its unchallenged reputation for demographic analysis and population studies in the region and beyond, member countries continue to seek the Commission's guidance on collecting, analysing, disseminating and using censuses, surveys and administrative records. Accordingly, the Division has continued its efforts to increase stakeholders' capacity to monitor demographic trends and utilize this knowledge to inform the design, management and evaluation of sociodemographic policies and programmes. To this end, CELADE has enjoyed strong support from agencies in the United Nations system, especially from UNFPA. Three main strategies were deployed in pursuit of that aim: training in demographic analysis, support for census taking, and technical assistance on population matters, including population estimates and projections.

During the biennium, in the context of the Division's capacity-building activities, 175 experts from 19 countries participated in workshops, courses and internships organized by CELADE. Through those efforts, they increased their capacities to incorporate population issues in public policies and support the monitoring of international commitments related to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, enhanced REDATAM data processing methods were taught to 85 technical staff from the region and 50 technical staff from South Africa and Bhutan. CELADE also successfully organized the Regional Intensive Demographic Analysis Course (CRIAD), training 10 professionals, mostly from the public sector, from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. The new version of CRIAD helped raise awareness about demographic analysis methods and techniques for the study and diagnosis of population dynamics, as well as the production of demographic inputs for economic and social management. Finally, the Division delivered a training workshop on population projections, held in Santa Fe, Argentina, in September 2017, as a parallel event to the Fourteenth Argentine Conference on Population Studies and the First International Congress on Population in the Southern Cone. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the methodological advances in the population estimates and projections applied in the countries of the region in recent years and to identify the future challenges to be faced. It resulted in a draft of recommendations for addressing the challenges ahead.

Throughout the biennium, 49 government institutions in the region adopted policies, measures and actions to monitor and implement the recommendations and objectives of the regional programme and the international agreements, in line with the Commission's recommendations. Policies, programmes and/or legislation on sexual and reproductive health and human rights were adopted by Argentina (resolution No. 1915/2011, Protocol for victims of crimes against sexual integrity), Brazil (National Programme for Quality in Mammography (PNQM)), Colombia (law No. 1761, which made feminicide a separate offence), as well as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. Specific programmes to prevent HIV and STDs were launched in Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras (National Policy on HIV and AIDS in the workplace), Nicaragua (law No. 820, Promotion, Protection and Defence of Human Rights against HIV and AIDS, for prevention and attention) and Peru. Similarly, Mexico (National Strategy for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancies) and Honduras implemented measures related to the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico (National Policy for a Cross-cutting Intercultural Approach), Peru (National Development Plan for the Afro-Peruvian Population) and Uruguay (Work Plan on African Descent) implemented measures related to the rights and issues of the indigenous population, the rights of people of African descent and interculturality. A number of countries have also introduced legislation, decrees or policies and programmes in favour of older persons, including Argentina (2017-2020 National Plan for Older Persons), Belize, Chile (Proper Treatment for Older Persons Programme), Costa Rica (law No. 9394, ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2016-2020 Multisectoral Plan for the Integral Development of Older Persons).

In connection with the twenty-fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee for Liaising with the States, held on 11 to 13 October 2017, I would like to thank you for your participation at the opening ceremony, on the dialogue panel on progress with population policy in Latin America for implementing the Montevideo Consensus and during the workshop on national accounts and transfers.

Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO), extends her gratitude to Paulo Saad, Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC

CELADE continued to work with the region's countries to evaluate and support the censuses conducted in the 2010 and 2020 rounds. Two meetings of experts were held in 2016: one on progress and challenges in Latin American censuses as of 2016, held in Santiago, in June, and the other on the potential and challenges of the 2020 census round in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, held in Panama City in November. In addition, technical assistance was provided to Chile, in connection with its April 2017 Population and Housing Census; to Peru, on the census it carried out in 2017 and with specific reference to the experimental census, the inclusion of ethnic groups, the definition of the technologies to be used and the monitoring and coverage control system; to Colombia, as part of the process of consultation with indigenous peoples for the eighteenth National Population Census and seventh Housing Census to be held in 2018; to Guatemala, in preparation for its 2018 census; to Haiti, in revising the content of the questionnaire for its next Census of Population and Housing; to

El Salvador, in coordination with UNFPA, in relation to the start of preparations for the census; to Panama, in connection with its 2016 census; and to Argentina, for the evaluation of its 2010 census with a view to prepare the upcoming 2020 census. Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay received assistance in evaluating the results of their censuses and data processing. The recommendations regarding the upcoming census round were summarized in the publication *Los censos de la ronda 2020: desafíos ante la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y el Consenso de Montevideo sobre Población y Desarrollo*.

On behalf of Director Ximena Clark and all the INE team, special thanks are due for your participation in the international observers operation deployed during the 2017 Population and Housing Census. Your presence provided an international outlook to validate the transparency and correct execution of all steps of the census process, giving an opportunity for all stages of the process in the field to be showcased and enabling interactions with some of the census takers as the information was being gathered.

Olga Barquero Alpizar, Coordinator of International Relations, National Statistics Institute (INE), Chile



PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PROPOSAL ON THE INDICATORS FOR REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP OF THE MONTEVIDEO CONSENSUS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (REVISED VERSION)

The objective of this report is to present to the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, for their approval, the list of indicators that will be used for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The main component of the report is the proposal of indicators, but it also contains background information on the drafting process carried out prior to its presentation at the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017.

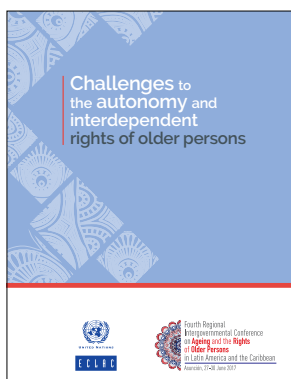
The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, from 4 to 6 October 2016, to analyse and adopt the proposed format for national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as well as to review the progress report of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus. The third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for which ECLAC is the technical secretariat, was to be held during 2017. However, at the preparatory meeting, it was decided to postpone the third session of the Regional Conference until 2018 and to convene, in its stead, a special meeting of the current presiding officers in November 2017. This meeting, jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA, was attended by ministers and senior authorities responsible for population and development, specialists, academics, delegates from international bodies and numerous representatives of civil society.

Throughout the biennium, CELADE continued to develop, maintain and update several databases on demographic issues. The *Distribución Espacial de la población y urbanización en América Latina y el Caribe* (DEPUALC), a database on spatial distribution and urbanization, has been updated with information from the 2010 censuses held in Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. In addition, the *Migración Interna en América Latina y el Caribe* (MIALC) database has been updated with information from the 2010 census in Argentina, the 2011 Census in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the 2012 census in Cuba and the 2013 census in Honduras. The MIALC database currently contains information from over 30 censuses (from the 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 rounds) and its structure enables information to be obtained quickly on internal migration by country and census year, major and minor administrative division, type of migrant and internal migration matrices for a variety of census questions. Processing of census information from the 2010s for a total of 10 countries continued with a view to updating the database of the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) project. Finally, the *Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean Data Bank* (PIAALC) was updated with maps and thematic tables. Work is underway to compile and incorporate a list of all recognized indigenous peoples in Latin America in this database. The population estimations website was updated with indicators for the economically active population (EAP) for the period 1950-2100, based on the latest release of population estimations and projections. These four databases are publicly available on the ECLAC website.

CELADE collaborated in the ECLAC City of the Twenty-first Century in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, on topics related to the dynamics of metropolitan residential segregation; to the *Social Panorama of Latin America*, on topics related to Afrodescendent populations, which raised the profile of an important topic that has received little regional attention; in the seminars held during the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the regional seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators; and the regional training workshop on measuring the population with disabilities for the upcoming 2020 census round, held in Mexico City in September 2017.

The Division prepared several studies on different topics throughout the biennium. The study *Mortalidad materna en pueblos indígenas y fuentes de datos: alcances y desafíos para su medición en países de América Latina* explored the data sources on indigenous maternal mortality in the region. A related study looked at trends in adolescent motherhood and fertility and related inequalities in the Caribbean between 1990 and 2010. The book *Envejecimiento e institucionalidad pública en América Latina y el Caribe: conceptos, metodologías y casos prácticos* compiled a panorama of institutions dedicated to ageing populations in the region, offering a methodology for comparing those institutions and presenting the specific cases of Argentina and Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. The document *Challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons*, prepared for the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Asunción, June 2017), summarizes the main advances, limitations and challenges in the exercise of human rights of the elderly. Finally, the document *Nuevas tendencias y dinámicas migratorias en América Latina y el Caribe* describes recent migration dynamics in Latin American and Caribbean countries, based mainly on census information and on other sources from extraregional destination

countries. During 2016-2017, CELADE also continued to publish the review *Notas de Población*, with four issues in the biennium, and it continued the publication of the Demographic Observatory.



CHALLENGES TO THE AUTONOMY AND INTERDEPENDENT RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

The changing age structure of the population is a phenomenon that has been clearly foreseen. Today, population ageing is an ongoing but well-established process, with some differences between subregions and countries. The absolute and relative increase in the number of older persons is a global trend that is affecting the economy, development planning, social policies, families, communities, large cities and indigenous localities. Given its economic and social implications, it may be the most significant change of our times. These phenomena mean that there is a pressing need to adapt to an era of demographic change. Those changes are occurring faster in the region than in Europe and against a backdrop of underdevelopment, where inequality has still not been eradicated and the institutional infrastructure for the protection and exercise of human rights is inadequate. In this context, rapid population ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean brings multiple challenges and requires action to ensure the fair distribution of resources to meet the needs of all society's age groups. It also requires a change in attitudes, policies and practices to improve older persons' quality of life. The effective inclusion of older persons thus has to do with equitable access to different services and social and economic benefits, as well as with guaranteeing them their human rights.

This report by ECLAC describes the current situation of older people and their human rights and provides a framework for analysis. It served as the basis for the discussions at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017. It documents the main developments, limitations and challenges regarding the exercise of older persons' human rights in the region and in the world. The topics covered in this document were chosen based on the outcomes of the work undertaken by ECLAC in the region's countries. It does not analyse all the issues currently on the regional agenda, but it does cover the most pressing ones. While there is undoubtedly a long road ahead, a legally binding instrument now exists to support governments' efforts to improve the situation of older persons.

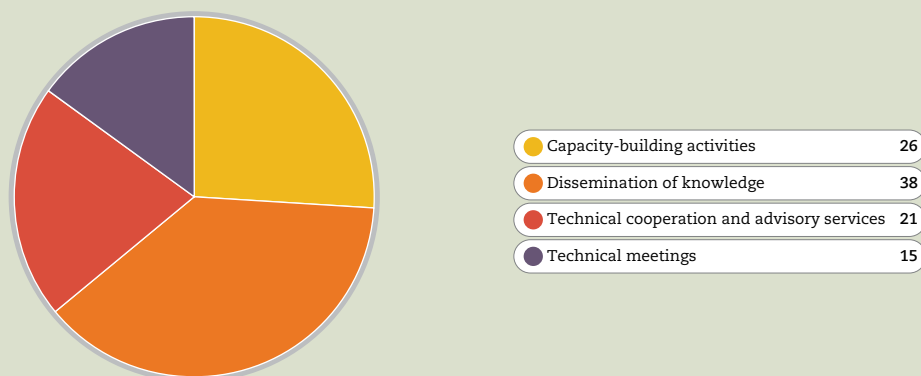
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

Over the biennium, CELADE continued to receive support from UNFPA for a range of activities. One example was the Division's contribution to the *Social Panorama of Latin America 2016* on Afrodescendent populations, focusing on the background situation and the framework for rights, the demographic situation and territorial distribution, living conditions in the field of education, health, employment and income poverty, a systematic review of policies and programmes aimed at Afrodescendent populations in the region's countries and policy recommendations. Another example was the publication of the study *Trends in adolescent motherhood and fertility and related inequalities in the Caribbean 1990-2010* which, while having

a demographic focus, also offers a set of conclusions relevant to sexual and reproductive health policies aimed at guaranteeing the exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents, preventing teenage pregnancies and countering the great inequalities that characterize early reproduction.

The Division also provided technical assistance for the development and improvement of national transfer accounts in Jamaica and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, ECLAC contributed to the development of four fundamental aspects of the methodology: the construction of the macroeconomic values of national transfer accounts for the year 2014; the estimate of the Bolivian life cycle deficit for 2014; the estimation of Bolivian net public transfers for 2014; and the calculation of the country's demographic dividend, using United Nations population projections for the years 1950 to 2100. In the case of Jamaica, the Division delivered capacity-building to 10 officials of the Planning Institute of Jamaica on the concepts of national transfer accounts, which resulted in the delivery of the concepts and methodology of the complete national transfer account model and the estimation of Jamaica's life cycle deficit for 2014.

[FIGURE 7]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned during the biennium was that synergies need to be made with the Regional Conference on Social Development, the Regional Conference on Women and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with the objective of better supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the biennium, self-assessments and evaluations allowed better decisions to be made regarding the coordination of the different activities. In 2016, for instance, a survey was conducted among the alumni of the four previous generations of the Regional Intensive Demographic Analysis Course (CRIAD). The results provided a clear picture of the impact of CRIAD on the students' professional development and of their views about the relevance of the course's format and content. In particular, they highlighted that the inclusion of indigenous students in CRIAD, together with the training workshops directed at indigenous organizations for the use and analysis of sociodemographic

information, had a positive impact on indigenous peoples' contributions to census processes. Additionally, the evaluation of the technical assistance given by CELADE to different countries on census collection, analysis and dissemination provided evidence on the need to support countries in all phases of their census processes. It also highlighted the importance of sharing experiences and lessons learned at each stage of those processes. As a result, recent census workshops organized by CELADE have provided an important forum for sharing national experiences. Also, it is important to work both with governments and with civil society, organizations of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendent organizations, as this both contributes to increased opportunities for advocacy regarding the activities carried out and encourages dialogue between the State and civil society and the forging of agreements to carry out actions for the benefit of all.

In the same way, the fact that CELADE has continued working with other divisions that carry out institutional projects has strengthened the joint work intended to further the development of the region's countries. Finally, it is of utmost importance that CELADE continues to interact closely with other United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and donor countries through specific agreements. This collaboration has allowed the joint execution of valuable projects with UNFPA, PAHO, the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Population and Statistics Divisions of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, IOM, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Ford Foundation. The lasting collaboration between UNFPA and CELADE deserves a special mention for its significant contribution to intensifying and expanding the scope of the Division's work programme.

SUBPROGRAMME 8

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

[8]

JOSELUIS SAMANIEGO

Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

INTRODUCTION

During 2016-2017, the Division examined the interrelationships between economic progress, environmental protection, urban development and social equity in the context of climate change. Its contribution to the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was particularly noteworthy. The Division also worked on proposals related to the environmental big push, to foster more sustainable economic growth through the development of green sectors and increasing environmental efficiency.

One of the Division's main achievements was that 24 Latin American and Caribbean States have now signed the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, with Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia having become signatory countries since 2016, and several others have expressed a strong interest in the process, under which those signatory countries are negotiating a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters. After the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement, held in March, August and November 2017 in Brazil, Argentina and Chile, respectively, the wording of the articles on access to information and participation was agreed. Other important results achieved by the Division during the biennium were the publication in 2016 of environmental performance reviews on Chile and Peru, conducted jointly with OECD; the publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice* in conjunction with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the methodological support given to calculate public environmental expenditures in several beneficiary countries; and the launch of a line of research on sustainable mining.

Following the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, which includes commitments regarding nationally determined contributions by Latin American and Caribbean countries, ECLAC has provided increased technical support on this issue, as can be seen in the rise in the number of requests for technical assistance and training activities from the region's countries. Technical support was provided on climate change adaptation, urban development, sectoral impacts of climate change, environmental taxation and technical and institutional capacity-building.

The Division continued its work on human settlements, as evidenced by its active participation in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which was held in Quito in October 2016. This Conference determined the pillars of the New Urban Agenda, and ECLAC made an important

contribution to its discussions through the report *Sustainable and Equal Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Six key messages*. Finally, in the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Cities Conference, held in Santiago in October 2017 and jointly organized with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan aiming at adapting the results of the Habitat III Conference to the region's urban context.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the Division carried out activities within the framework of the EUROCLIMA Programme and the ECLAC-BMZ/GIZ programme, which allowed progress to be made on issues related to public policy dialogue on climate change, technical capacity-building and cooperation among countries in the region (South-South cooperation) for sharing successful experiences, providing technical support to countries and raising visibility. The international seminar on development models and climate change, held in Montevideo in May 2016, contributed to Uruguay's National Climate Change Policy. The workshop on Peruvian innovation for the internalization of climatic risks in public investment projects, held in Lima in July 2016, helped promote the inclusion of climate change challenges in the design and execution of public investment policies in Latin American countries and create a forum for furthering Peru's initiatives and successful experiences with incorporating climate variables and climate change risks into public investment projects. Two important studies were carried out during the period: *Financiamiento para el cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe 2015*, which maps climate change flows that benefit the region, and *La economía del cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe: una visión gráfica*, which reviews the main economic issues related to climate change.



LA ECONOMÍA DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: UNA VISIÓN GRÁFICA

Climate change is one of the great challenges of the twenty-first century on account of its global causes and consequences and the magnitude of the simultaneous efforts needed to cushion its negative impacts, adapt to new climatic conditions and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The main objective of this publication is to present the hypotheses and basic figures of climate change economics in Latin America and the Caribbean in a summarized and graphic way. These stylized facts seek to contribute to a better design, implementation and evaluation of public policies for climate change in the twenty-first century, to allow the transformation of the current development model and the transition towards sustainable development.

ECLAC supported the design and implementation of climate and environmental policy instruments. The environmental policy spending classification guide, a budgeting tool, is currently implemented by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Finance as described in the publication *Política fiscal ambiental en el Ecuador: avances y desafíos*; the greenhouse gas emission rate in Colombia was included in the recent

tax reform proposal; and the intended nationally determined contributions of the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, technical assistance was provided in the design and evaluation of fiscal policy measures for the Dominican Republic, based on the technical support provided by the Division to the Climate Change Council on the development of strategies to achieve its nationally determined contribution, mainly in the energy and transport sector.

The assistance of ECLAC —through its technical teams and through its training courses on public policy and climate change— is highly beneficial for adopting the lessons learned and methodological approaches used by other countries across the region in designing economic instruments for climate change mitigation as well as for identifying the institutional dynamics generated by the implementation of that kind of mechanisms from the public policy viewpoint.

Rodrigo Suárez, Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

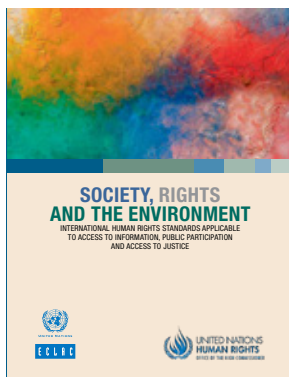
In the field of sustainable development, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil and Costa Rica requested capacity-building assistance for estimating environmental costs and spending. The Division organized several workshops as part of the Development Account project entitled “Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean”, through which it strengthened the capacities of national officers from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica in areas related to environmental costs and expenditures. A national workshop titled “Expenditure on environmental protection: methodological guidelines and advances in Latin America” was held in Brasilia in March 2017, in collaboration with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil. The workshop’s main objective was to share the experiences of Latin American countries, including Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica, in the measuring environmental expenditures and to present methodological guidelines for calculating environmental protection spending. A national workshop on general government environmental protection spending was held in San José from 27 to 29 January 2016; subsequent to this workshop, advisory services were provided to assist Costa Rica in calculating the cost of environmental protection, including a virtual workshop in November 2016 to support both Costa Rica and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. As a result, in June 2017 a workshop was held to present the Costa Rican methodology for calculating environmental protection spending, at which national officers were provided with training on and capacity-building for the methodology. At the request of the Ministry of Environment of Chile, technical assistance in this area was also provided in collaboration with UNDP. As a result, ECLAC provided support on the development of a methodology to estimate the cost of policy measures included in the agricultural sector’s adaptation plan.

During 2017, and with support from ECLAC, the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November), respectively. At those meetings, the region’s countries exchanged positions in preparation for

the Conference of the Parties and continued to negotiate the regional agreement. The countries applauded ECLAC for its support as technical secretariat and, in particular, for the presentation of the preliminary report assessing the possible administrative, financial and budgetary implications of the agreement. In the context of this process, ECLAC launched the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, which analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the full enjoyment by all persons of the rights of access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

The national workshops on Principle 10 held in Dominica and Grenada in June 2017 were attended by more than 60 participants, including such high officials as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada and the Minister for Health and Environment of Dominica, as well as representatives of different government departments and agencies and civil society sectors (including youth, local, indigenous and women's groups). Authorities and senior officials expressed their strong commitment to Principle 10 and recognized the importance of the Commission's support, which they expected would significantly increase with the adoption of the regional agreement. The workshops also contributed to the discussions on draft environmental laws and policies (i.e. the climate change, environment and natural resources management bill in Dominica or the draft regulations on environmental impact assessments in Grenada) and on elements related to access to environmental information, participation and justice.

With the publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice*, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ECLAC provided a compilation and systematization of international human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice.



SOCIETY, RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

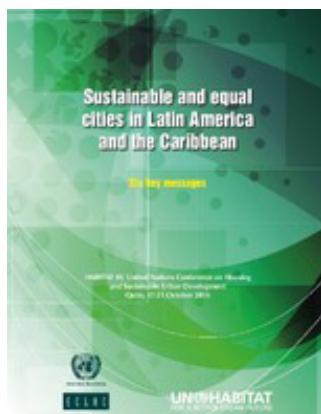
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the interconnection between human rights and sustainable development and focuses strongly on universality, participation and inclusion. In this publication, ECLAC and OHCHR provide a compilation and systematization of international human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice. This collection sets out the criteria contained in the international norms and shows how they have been developed and interpreted by international and regional human rights mechanisms. Both institutions consider that the human rights-based approach is key to achieving sustainable development. Through this joint effort, they invite countries in the region to strengthen the promotion, protection and guarantee of access rights, to incorporate those rights into their strategies, policies and programmes, and to make them a conceptual imperative for achieving sustainable development through equality and the universality of rights.

The Division's work also focused on the start of a new line of research on sustainable mining. In that context, it organized two seminars on mining, the Sustainable Development Goals and environmental democracy in the Andean countries, which were held in Santiago in July and November 2016. The aim of these seminars was to offer a venue for discussion and reflection on how the mining sector can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Andean countries, with a special focus on Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Activities undertaken by ECLAC over the biennium contributed to increasing the importance given to the topic of human settlements in the policy agendas of Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Declaration of Toluca states that participants "commit to using its considerations and proposals as guiding elements for inclusive and sustainable planning and management of our cities and human settlements during the next decades". This declaration, adopted by the representatives of national governments, local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, professionals and academia, private sector, civil society organizations, men, women, children and youth at the Habitat III Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting in Toluca, Mexico, from 18 to 20 April 2016, reiterates the region's commitment to the process of constructing the New Urban Agenda, which will be adopted in Quito at the Habitat III Conference. In addition, and in close collaboration with ECLAC, the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2036, which focuses on analysis, debate and knowledge generation in conjunction with public policies on housing, habitat and urban development. The proposal is centred around three instrumental axes: planning and design, governance and institutions, and financing. As required by the ECLAC member countries through MINURVI, the Commission and UN-Habitat will work to develop an Observatory to follow-up on the region's implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Regional Action Plan recently presented at the Cities Conference and in our city (following the invitation we extended to a representative of ECLAC) are strategic instruments for guiding, aligning and optimizing our road map. For that reason, we wish to join the Urban and Cities Platform that is being devised in conjunction with UN-Habitat and MINURVI, which we deem to be of paramount importance for the sustainable urban development of the San Luis Potosí Metropolitan Region.

Gustavo Puente Orozco, Secretary of Economic Development of the Government of the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, and President of the 2030 Metropolitan Economic Development Council, and Manuel Lozano Nieto, Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare of the Government of the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, November 2017.



SUSTAINABLE AND EQUAL CITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SIX KEY MESSAGES

The sustainable future of Latin America and the Caribbean is closely linked to sustainable urbanization. Therefore, in order to make cities sustainable, the region must take an institutional and political path based on a new urban agenda and a regional action plan that addresses the challenges of a new phase of urbanization. This document highlights six key messages to address this issue: (i) A new urban agenda for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean is fundamental for the national development of countries and for the sustainable future of the region. (ii) The Latin American and Caribbean region is marked by a double urban-demographic transition. (iii) New patterns of production, distribution and consumption in urban economies, combined with old structural challenges, hinder economic inclusion and universal access to the benefits of urban development. (iv) Important achievements have been made in poverty reduction and housing access, but inequality, socio-spatial segregation and security remain central issues on the regional agenda. (v) Vulnerability to the effects of climate change is on the rise with unequal socio-territorial impacts and urban ecological footprints that are increasingly driven by the pressures of consumption patterns. (vi) Significant progress has been made in recognizing the city as a macro-level public good, but institutional weaknesses persist with regard to managing sustainable urban development and fulfilling the right to the city.

In addition, several of the Division's publications contributed to discussions and debate on the design and implementation of public policies to address issues related to climate change, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the green economy. The study *La transversalización del enfoque de género en las políticas públicas frente al cambio climático en América Latina* identifies the relevance of the gender perspective in the causes and consequences of climate change and shows that they are heterogeneous and, in many cases, contribute to the worsening of the gender inequalities that still prevail. The document *Vulnerabilidad y adaptación de las ciudades de América Latina al cambio climático* presents a theoretical and empirical overview of climate change mitigation and adaptation processes in urban areas, with a focus on Latin America. This study encompasses 12 urban plans of 11 cities and metropolitan areas in the region, including São Paulo, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Santiago, Belo Horizonte, Montevideo, Quito and Cartagena. Finally, the study *Inventario de instrumentos fiscales verdes en América Latina: experiencias, efectos y alcances, 2016* identifies success stories that could serve as example for economies in the region to advance environmental fiscal reforms.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

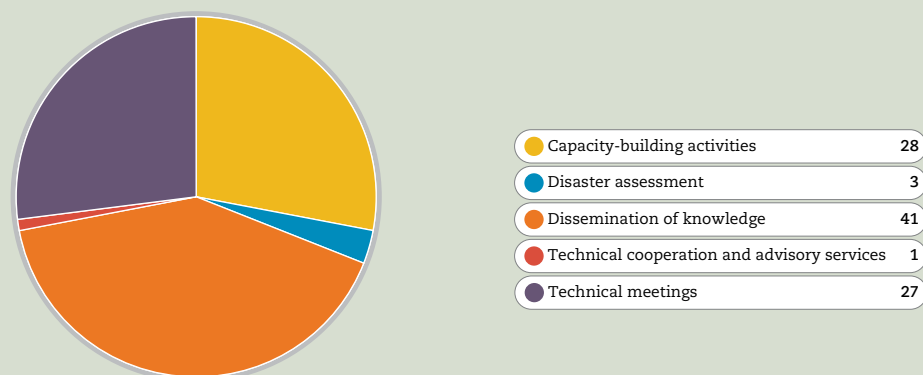
Within the framework of the EUROCLIMA Programme, the Peer-to-Peer programme sought to contribute to the exchange of successful experiences among Latin American countries and to foster South-South cooperation between countries. Two important achievements of this programme stand out. First, Uruguay was given technical support for the design of its National Climate Change Policy, based on the contributions and experiences shared by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru on issues such as sustainable cities and

resilience to climate change, efficient and low carbon transport, and financing for climate change. Second, the programme contributed to the inclusion of the challenges that climate change poses for the design and execution of public investment policies. Technical support was provided to that effect to enable Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay to learn about Peru's experiences with incorporating climate risks in public investment projects.

Likewise, the technical assistance to countries in the region carried out as part of the activities of the GIZ sought to support the design and implementation of environmental and climate policy instruments. In particular, ECLAC provided technical assistance to Guatemala on the incorporation of economic instruments with environmental content in the changes to national fiscal policy being designed by the national government; it also gave technical assistance to the Dominican Republic for the preparation of its nationally determined contribution, which was submitted under UNFCCC.

[FIGURE 8]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One of the lessons learned over the biennium was that the region needs ongoing efforts to promote sustainable urban policies, since coordination among the different levels of government, as well as among all involved stakeholders, is crucial to ensure the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and nationally determined contributions. Another lesson learned was the paramount importance of ensuring the participation of ministries of finance and planning ministries in the Division's seminars and workshops, in order to enrich discussions related to the design and implementation of public policies for addressing climate change. Finally, it was learned that continuing efforts are required to promote the environmental perspective in the formulation of public policies. It is also crucial to continue working for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the region, especially in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. During 2018-2019, ECLAC will continue to support the negotiations on the future regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

SUBPROGRAMME 9

NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

[9]

JEANNETTE SÁNCHEZ

Chief of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division

INTRODUCTION

Global issues related to sustainable energy, natural resource governance, the infrastructure gap and the challenge of integrated and sustainable policies for logistics and mobility were central to the Division during the 2016-2017 biennium. The start of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals added a cornerstone to the general orientation of the Division's activities. As the Sustainable Development Goals gained political traction on the development agenda of the region's countries, the Division prepared and disseminated several analytical documents and proposals, intended to enable countries to advance towards a more inclusive and sustainable development model and to scale up the equality agenda.

At the same time, some progress can be seen towards the region's adoption of a comprehensive governance approach that would fully address the three pillars of sustainable development. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in the institutional frameworks for managing non-renewable and water resources, diversifying energy mixes and addressing the growing challenges associated with a comprehensive approach to infrastructure services.

The global economic and energy context requires a new paradigm of fiscal, economic, social and technological development, including such concepts as full access to basic services, smart grids, sustainable cities and intelligent transport systems. These concepts pose important challenges related to industrial and technological restructuring with a focus on increasing the use of renewable energy and implementing sound energy efficiency programmes and projects. To this end, the Division generated new methodological proposals and regional initiatives, such as the high-level energy efficiency policy dialogues and the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE), which now gathers data from more than 20 countries in the region. In addition, several studies, workshops and conferences on both natural resources and infrastructure matters were undertaken to discuss a new vision of governance of these two crucial sectors for the region's sustainable development.

The milestones in this area included the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure, attended by nearly 25 ministers and vice-ministers of energy, mining, infrastructure, the environment and natural resources, which was held in Santiago in November 2016, the launch of the book *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe*, and the organization of 13 national workshops on logistics and mobility policies.

During the biennium, there were some signals that the region is considering the new directions indicated by the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the region should pay close attention to the emerging paradigms in advanced industrial countries that are driving a new cycle of long-term infrastructure investments and a new vision of sustainable natural resource exploitation. In this context, the Division has addressed such general issues as the prevailing old-fashioned model of natural resource governance, the lack of comprehensive and integrated logistics and mobility policies, the need to promote co-modal transportation, the design and implementation of low-carbon infrastructure initiatives and the shortage of investment in infrastructure. The integration of logistics chains for a more sustainable use of natural resources and a better use of the co-modal approach to transport services remain areas of major importance and potential for the structural change and increased sustainability of the region's economies.

Finally, the Division's activities have also contributed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and the Decade of Action for Road Safety. For example, several meetings were held and a number of analytical studies were published to assess the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a regional programme of action was proposed to deal with both issues.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Technical assistance provided by the Division supported the region's national governments and institutions in developing policy frameworks to promote sustainable development in the areas of infrastructure, logistics, mobility, road safety, connectivity and public services such as sanitation, drinking water and service access. The work that the Division has been carrying out over recent bienniums has established a safe, trustful and collaborative working relationship with national governments and institutions and has set the foundation for policies, measures and actions taken by them, in line with the recommendations formulated by ECLAC.

In terms of energy and energy efficiency, ECLAC has strengthened national capacities to develop and report against their own indicators, through the development of BIEE Programme, which has become a useful tool for the region's countries in adopting informed and evidence-based decisions. ECLAC also supported the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Ecuador in launching its National Energy Efficiency Plan (PLANEE) through tailored capacity-building activities.

During the biennium, countries and institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean took action to harmonize policies for the management of natural resources and accepted ECLAC recommendations on potable water and sanitation. These included the National Public Services Authority in Panama, which benefited from water security analyses that helped the Government start work on the 2015-2050 National Water Security Plan, and the Pontifical Catholic University of the Dominican Republic, which launched a master's programme on sustainable water management with assistance from ECLAC.

In Colombia, the Integrated Climate Change Management Plan for Ports was launched, based on the joint work of the Division with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport. This effort provided the country with a baseline of energy consumption in port terminals, which is a central element in defining energy efficiency indicators, and it will be a major contribution for the full implementation of the country's nationally determined contribution.

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) acknowledged the Division's experience in infrastructure and logistics competitiveness, core issues for port development and its impact on country connectivity. The Division also attended the CIP Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Competitiveness and Logistics: Connectivity for Development, held in Veracruz, Mexico, in October 2016, which brought together private and public actors to interchange ideas and lessons learned about successful practices.

The Division conducted important activities in Haiti. In January 2016, ECLAC delivered a training course in Port-au-Prince on sustainable logistics and mobility: implementing integrated public policies. The main objective of this course was to discuss the general framework for logistics and mobility policies, as well as issues related to energy efficiency in transport and the link between logistics and the sustainable use of natural resources. It was also an opportunity to share, with national officials and representatives of the private sector and civil society, the diagnosis of the current situation in the region and to jointly identify the key components of a public policy on logistics and mobility needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with equity and social inclusion, as promoted by ECLAC. This training activity strengthened an inclusive dialogue on a national logistics and mobility policy, initiated by the Presidential Commission for the Modernization of Land Transport in September 2015.

In July 2016, the Division organized a meeting on a binational approach to transport, logistics and mobility, focused on sustainability, between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This meeting, held in the border region of Jimani, with preparatory meetings in Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince, sought to assist the two neighbouring countries in enhancing their cooperation on issues of cross-border land transport by addressing and improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their transport, logistics and mobility operations. This resulted in renewed interest in signing a bilateral agreement for facilitating land transport, aimed at reducing the inefficiencies and insecurity of cross-border transport operations and at building trust between public and private stakeholders. A draft protocol with the comments resulting from the Jimani meeting was presented for the consideration of the two countries' Mixed Bilateral Commission.

I have the honour of writing to you to convey the thanks of the technical secretariat of the Haitian-Dominican Mixed Bilateral Commission in Haiti for the capacity-building support provided by the Infrastructure Services Unit of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division of ECLAC to the Mixed Bilateral Commission for those involved in land transport in the border zone between the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. [...] The members of the transport and communication subcommissions have certainly gained a better understanding of the various topics covered.

Léon Charles, Ambassador at Large, technical secretariat of the Haitian-Dominican Mixed Bilateral Commission

Technical assistance and advisory services were also provided to other countries in the region. During 2016, the Division gave technical assistance to Ecuador's Coordinating Ministry of Strategic Sectors in the design, discussion and preparation of the National Energy Agenda (ANE), a new government planning instrument with an emphasis on sustainable energies and including a significant section on promoting and financing renewable energy projects (hydraulic and non-conventional). ECLAC officially attended the launch of the agenda by the Vice-President of the Republic on 11 October 2016.

Based on the technical assistance it had received, in August 2017 El Salvador adopted a five-year plan on integrated policies for mobility, logistics, transport and ports; the National Association of Water and Sanitation Companies of Mexico (ANEAS) acknowledged the support of ECLAC in improving national basic drinking water and sanitation services; and Costa Rica acknowledged the Commission's technical assistance on water tariffs and related issues that had allowed the country to analyse its internal regulatory instruments and perform the adjustments needed to provide the public with better services. Finally, capacity-building activities were carried out with the National Waterway Transportation Agency (ANTAQ) of Brazil. In this context, a workshop on inland navigation and more sustainable use of natural resources: networks, challenges and opportunities for South America was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in October 2016, at which decision makers, national experts and technical advisers were offered an opportunity to share their experiences and exchange views on the challenges and potential for the development of inland waterways in South America and the role that inland waterways can play in the more sustainable use of the region's natural resources.

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 August, the President of the Republic of El Salvador launched the El Salvador Logistics Policy. [...] I would like to extend my thanks to ECLAC, since its studies, knowledge and contributions formed the basis for the design of that policy.

Gerson Martínez, Minister of Public Works, Transport, Housing and Urban Development, El Salvador

In March 2017, ECLAC, IDB and the Economic Commission for Europe jointly organized a seminar in Argentina on the Decade of Action for Road Safety Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim of halving road traffic death figures by 2020 through the creation of better regulations. This event allowed participants to exchange best practices and proposals for the future design of public policies for road safety in the region.

As part of the Development Account Project "Logistics integration for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Latin American countries", the Division gave technical assistance to Costa Rica and Honduras in implementing national logistics policies that provide for the sustainable use of natural resources. At the regional level, the issue of logistics integration for a more sustainable use of natural resources, as promoted by the project activities, has been taken up by two regional integration mechanisms: SIECA and the Mesoamerican Project. SIECA has finished its framework for a regional logistics and mobility policy, in line with recommendations made by ECLAC, and the Mesoamerican Project is also promoting the integration of logistics infrastructure under its wider strategy for regional integration, which was presented at the meeting of presidents of the Tuxtla Mechanism in 2017. The collection of data and situation analyses for logistic chains involving natural resources were completed for Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

One of the milestones in the Division's activities over the biennium was the organization of the ministerial meeting held in Santiago in November 2016. This meeting, which included a high-level regional dialogue on the governance of natural resources and infrastructure, was attended by ministers and vice-ministers responsible for the areas of energy, mining, infrastructure, the environment and natural resources from 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries, in addition to senior authorities from SIECA, the Mesoamerica Project and UNASUR,

and representatives from the non-governmental and private sectors. At the event, the heads of delegation shared reflections and experiences regarding the challenges present in the governance of natural resources and infrastructure in their respective nations. This event marked the formal inauguration of the Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure, which took place from 7 to 11 November 2016. During the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure, the ministerial delegations formulated and agreed upon recommendations to promote a shared vision for the better governance of natural resources and infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event demonstrated that the link between logistics and sustainable exploitation of natural resources is now an established concept for the region and an area to be addressed in public policies dealing with infrastructure and natural resources. The ministerial delegations that attended the High-level Regional Dialogue requested ECLAC to design and implement a programme of work for the medium and long terms.

GOVERNANCE WEEK ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, 7-11 NOVEMBER 2016

The Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure took place between 7 and 11 November 2016 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. Government representatives responsible for the areas of mining, transport, energy, public works, water and sanitation, as well as multilateral agencies and the private sector, came together to promote a cross-sectoral dialogue towards a governance model for natural resources and infrastructure that promotes a more sustainable development paradigm.

The programme was composed of ten events, including two ministerial dialogues with high-level representatives from Latin American and the Caribbean countries, at which the ministerial delegations agreed on a set of recommendations to promote a better governance of natural resources and infrastructure in the region, recognizing the need to establish government strategies that promote a long-term shared vision on the governance of natural resources and infrastructure for sustainable development and to strengthen institutions in order to reconcile the increased and improved access to infrastructure services with a more sustainable use of natural resources. The ministers called for a systematized and regular regional dialogue to foster the development of a shared vision for the governance of natural resources and infrastructure and for a parallel process of national multi-stakeholder dialogues to build consensus and strengthen the institutional framework for governance. In addition to the ministerial dialogues, a series of technical meetings took place on topics related to infrastructure investment, responsible mining, public-private partnerships, energy efficiency, and logistics and regional integration, in order to promote best practices and systems for measuring and monitoring progress towards the Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.



The Division prepared several important studies. The document *Barriers to identification and implementation of energy efficiency mechanisms and enhancing renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean* aims to provide an assessment of the region's status with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy and to identify mechanisms for enhancing energy initiatives, while the manual

Energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean is intended to guide discussions about two possible obstacles to the adoption of energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean: the availability of primary infrastructure, and debt overhang. The book *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe* explains the need for a new natural resource governance paradigm in the region that ensures the sustainability of their benefits. The report *Desafíos de la seguridad hídrica en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the definitions and scope of the term “water security” in the international debate and offers conclusions regarding the nature of the challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, the study *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis* explores the opportunities and challenges of using electrification to increase the energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets.



HACIA UNA NUEVA GOBERNANZA DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

The challenge of development in Latin America and the Caribbean is of vital importance, on account of the different dimensions it covers, its objectives and instruments and the obstacles that shape it. This book aims to contribute to discussions on development and, in particular, on one of its greatest challenges: the governance of natural resources. The governance challenge is even greater for non-renewable natural resources, since they are by nature exhaustible and therefore require especially careful care in line with the guiding principles of sustainable development, with the needs of future generations being taken into account as an essential element in decision-making. The current model for natural resource governance has failed to ensure the sustainable use of the region’s riches. For that reason, the new governance paradigm proposed in this book involves discussing and constructing a common vision, through which non-renewable natural resources can be taken and converted into other types of assets to support national incomes and sustainability beyond the life cycle of those resources.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

During the biennium, with the support of GIZ and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), ECLAC developed a BIEE database for the Caribbean. The BIEE programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of energy authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean to monitor their energy efficiency, improve data reliability and in turn enhance evidence-based decision-making on energy efficiency. The BIEE programme of activities starts with a data compilation of basic information, which is usually undertaken by the focal point in each country in coordination with ECLAC. The energy efficiency indicators are then identified for the seven sectors considered by the project: macro/energy balance, households, industrial, services, agricultural, transportation and energy. Finally, the focal points are trained in the interpretation and use of those indicators. To date, 19 Latin America countries have agreed to participate in this important initiative. At the event to launch the BIEE programme in the Caribbean and the capacity-building workshop on energy efficiency indicators, held in Kingston in May 2017, ECLAC introduced the main features of the project and demonstrated, through regional examples, the indicators available for monitoring energy efficiency. Procedures for measurements and data compilation were also demonstrated.

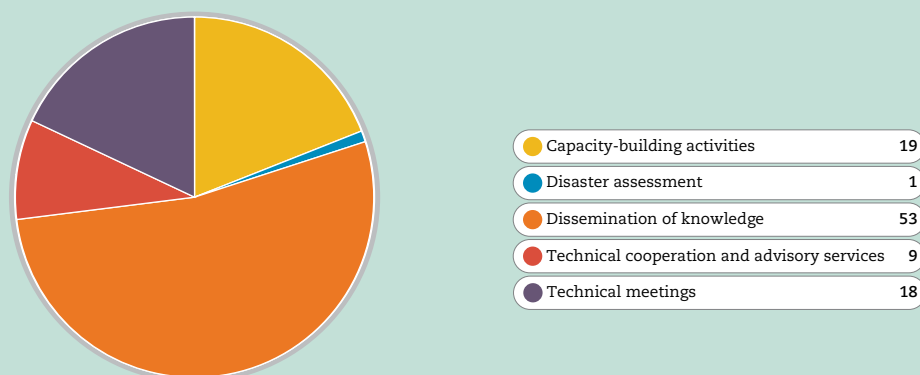
With the support of GIZ, the Division conducted research on extractive industries and, as a result, published the study *Infraestructura logística para una mejor gobernanza de la cadena del carbón en Colombia*, which contains a classification of the different manifestations of the coal industry in Colombia and analyses the economic and social importance of coal in the development of the national economy.

GIZ was also a strategic partner in the line of research on the importance of interlinking water, energy and food security perspectives (“the Nexus”), with the organization of a national workshop in Costa Rica in June 2017 and the related publication of the document *El Nexo entre el Agua, la Energía y la Alimentación en la Cuenca del Río Reventazón*.

[FIGURE 9]

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE, JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During the biennium, one important lesson learned was that meetings and activities organized closely with national ministries gives better results in the formulation of plans at local and national levels. The coordination and expertise delivered by the participation of ECLAC experts facilitates the success of these activities and provides technical support for the revision of future policies arising from these plans. During the cooperative work undertaken with Haiti and Dominican Republic to help those countries reach a proposal for a bilateral protocol to facilitate their services linked to transport logistics and connectivity, one lesson learned was the importance of creating spaces to facilitate dialogue in their own territories, where they can discuss their problems, and to help them identify the best solutions. This has resulted in a long-term and trustful working relationship with ECLAC that is conducive to sustainable development.

As the subprogramme has focused its efforts on coordinating with the region's countries in the establishment of long-term strategies and policies that strengthen the role of the State in the use of natural resources to achieve inclusive and sustained development, it has been important to focus attention on capacity-building in public institutions, especially to effectively manage related conflicts, such as

those involving social, environmental and labour issues. Another lesson was to exchange experiences on how to create and implement interconnected policies for infrastructure, mobility and logistics.

In the next biennium, the Division will further develop its research into natural resources governance, continue to support regional dialogues on water, energy, and infrastructure, and, in general, contribute to thinking more effectively about how to ensure full access to basic services, such as promoting a more sustainable management of natural resources and energy, smart grids, sustainable cities and smart transport systems.

SUBPROGRAMME 10

PLANNING OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

[10]

CIELO MORALES

Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

INTRODUCTION

Through the services provided under the subprogramme, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) seeks to strengthen the region's institutional capacities for planning and public management for development. The Institute employs cycles of technical assistance services, applied research and training in planning and public management for development for governments and key stakeholders to create and reinforce learning environments and institutional change. A key element of these virtuous learning cycles are the synergies that have been created through strategic alliances between ILPES and governmental agents and ministries, as well as in long-term partnerships with donors operating in the region. ILPES, through its partners and services, has fostered and consolidated a diverse tapestry of learning communities in planning and public management for development across the region, that are globally linked to state-of-the-art research institutes and governmental agencies.

The main objective of subprogramme for the 2016-2017 biennium was “To strengthen competencies for planning and public administration for development with a regional perspective”. ILPES focused its work on the whole cycle of planning and public management for development: agenda setting and policy formulation (foresight; strategic and territorial planning for development); budgeting (results-based budgeting); implementation (leadership in the public sector, public programme design and management, and public investment); and evaluation of public policies and programmes. The activities undertaken by the subprogramme reveal a growing demand and positive recognition in relation to ILPES services under the three programme strategies, namely, technical assistance and advisory services, training activities and analytical work.

The construction process of the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development, the first of its kind, has produced significant results in relation to data collection, validation of relevant information on national planning systems and the creation of networks of planning experts. The Observatory will provide a long-term space for the collective creation, sharing and analysis of knowledge at the regional level.

Two cross-cutting approaches to planning for development and public management—namely citizens' participation and gender mainstreaming—generated high demand for training activities during the biennium. Moreover, the development and strengthening of soft skills, such as public leadership, dialogue and negotiation, have emerged as innovative ways of promoting inclusion, participation and public value.

Following the guidance received from the Regional Council for Planning, ILPES worked unflaggingly under the subprogramme to enhance knowledge- and experience-sharing on planning and public management. During the biennium the Institute published more than 10 documents on open government, territorial development, public management, foresight and planning for development. It also delivered 59 courses and developed and tested several methodologies.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals have led to renewed requests from countries for collaboration and technical cooperation to strengthen their capacities. New complexities and challenges linked to the indivisibility of the Agenda became an opportunity to reposition planning as both a political and a technical exercise to enhance policy coherence among sectors and levels of government for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016–2017

Throughout the biennium, as part of the mandate of the subprogramme, ILPES continued to support regional intergovernmental bodies in planning and public management. It contributed to promoting the Latin American Network of Public Policies of Regional Development, which brings together authorities responsible for planning and territorial development. It also supported the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN), co-organized meetings of the Network of Directors of National Public Investment Systems of Latin America (SNIP), with a view to contributing to the improvement of the quality of public investment, and collaborated with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and established links with different foresight and regional development networks.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning was held in Santiago, in November 2016. The Presiding Officers gather every two years to review progress in the work plan and the commitments adopted by the Regional Council on Planning. The fifteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning were held in Lima, in October 2017. The meetings of the Regional Council for Planning constitute an important policy deliberation space for the region's planning authorities and ministers. At the 2017 meeting, the planning authorities discussed the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda—its localization in territories; its multiscale and intertemporal dimensions; the need to articulate multiple State and non-State actors in its implementation; and its financing challenges— as well as the quality of public investment, and gender and open government as cross-cutting approaches to planning.

In addition, on that occasion, ECLAC launched the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, a space for analysis, information and the collective construction of knowledge for governments, academia, the private sector and civil society regarding development planning in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission also released PlanBarometer, a tool for characterizing instruments, processes and systems related to development planning and implementation. The experience of Tucumán, Argentina, illustrates the application and utility of this instrument within technical assistance programmes.

“We believe that ILPES must be the technical arm for strengthening our planning systems and forging synergies for addressing our countries’ common concerns.”

Andrés Mideros, National Secretary of Planning and Development of Ecuador, statement at the Regional Council for Planning, 12 October 2017

The Institute organized seminars, conferences, congresses and technical meetings throughout the biennium, addressing new approaches and emerging issues in planning. The regional seminar on planning and public management in the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was held from 26 to 28 September 2016 in Santiago. This event convened government officials specializing in public policy planning and budgeting at the national or local level, as well as the private sector and civil society, and other agencies of the United Nations system. The international seminar “The Sustainable Development Goals and building futures for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held on 18 May 2016 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in the framework of efforts to strengthen planning as a means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In August 2016, the seminar-workshop “Digital Government and Engineering Project 2030: Good Practices in the Region”, organized by ILPES in conjunction with the Technical University Federico Santa María, was held to raise awareness of good practices on topics of digital development, open government, citizen participation, transparency and technological innovation.

Also in September 2016, ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs jointly organized the Workshop on Action Planning for Open Government Data for Sustainable Development in Latin America. This workshop served to exchange experiences and develop open government data plans (OGDs), which are critical for identifying development opportunities and for evidence-based decision-making. In March 2017, ILPES organized a seminar on development, urbanization and metropolitan areas in the Republic of Korea and Latin America in Santiago, to exchange experiences between the two on these topics in the context of 2030 Agenda and Habitat III, by sharing the examples of Seoul, São Paulo, Santiago, Buenos Aires and Bogota.

In November 2017, a meeting of experts in territorial development held in Santiago convened 90 speakers presenting 80 research papers, case studies and public policy experiences on the major themes contained in the 2017 issue of the ILPES regular publication on territorial development *Panorama del desarrollo territorial en América Latina y el Caribe*. These issues included the territorial dimension of global development agendas, territorial disparities and inequality, multilevel planning of territorial development, and territorial foresight and public leadership. This meeting contributed to the consolidation of the ILPES alumni network in public leadership and set the initial groundwork for a network of academics to provide support for territorial development matters in relation to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I am writing to convey my congratulations on the excellent seminar organized by ILPES and thank you for the privilege of participating in it. The structure, attendance, plenary discussions and a number of presentations were very useful and the work of ILPES is very important for territorial development.

Patricio Valdivieso, University of Los Lagos, Chile, email dated 17 November 2017

Finally, within the framework of a technical cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Social Development of Chile and ECLAC, and under the auspices of SNIP and with the support of IDB, the first International Congress of Social Project Evaluation (CIESP) was held in November 2017. With close to 250 practitioners, specialists and network members, and an additional 200 people connected via webstreaming, the Congress was a ground-breaking forum for the exchange of knowledge and technical experiences, both internationally and within SNIP.

Technical assistance was provided under the subprogramme to support countries in the region in planning and public management processes spanning the national, regional, and local territorial scales and government levels. In Mexico, ILPES provided technical assistance to the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) on results-based budgeting and evaluation. Assistance was provided to the Government of El Salvador in the implementation of a national system of planning and the design of a national development strategy. Technical assistance was provided to the Technical Cooperation Service (SERCOTEC) in Chile to support local authorities in their planning and development strategies. Advisory services were provided to the Ministry of Finance of the Dominican Republic to strengthen its capacities in public management, project formulation, the national planning system and public investment. Support was extended to the provincial government of Tucumán, Argentina, for updating its regional development instrument 2016-2030. Finally, support was provided under the subprogramme for the development of Guatemala's national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Observatory provides an excellent opportunity to actually document what we've done, what we are doing and where we want to go. [...] it really represents ... sustainability in action. [...] We would like to further support your work in the Observatory.

Elizabeth Emanuel, Programme Director of Vision 2030 Jamaica of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, statement at the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, 12 October 2017

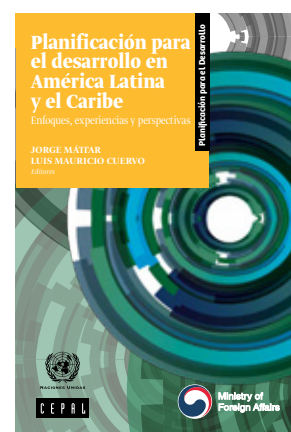
The activity in Guatemala is part of a capacity-building programme for the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into planning and public management processes. It is being carried out in cooperation with the Government of Germany and in coordination with several ECLAC divisions, and is aimed at governmental officials and other actors whose work could generate multiplier effects in experience-sharing forums. These policy spaces permit dialogue and interchange on key mechanisms and instruments to support alignment of country agendas, plans and policies with the 2030 Agenda. The discussion includes the architecture for inter-institutional coordination; national and subnational budgeting; public investment systems, development of participatory and multi-stakeholder dialogues; long-term prospective or foresight analysis; and transparency and accountability processes.

In the area of capacity-building, under the subprogramme ILPES delivered 27 international courses with 841 participants, and 23 national courses with 857 participants, in addition to 9 e-learning courses with 609 participants during

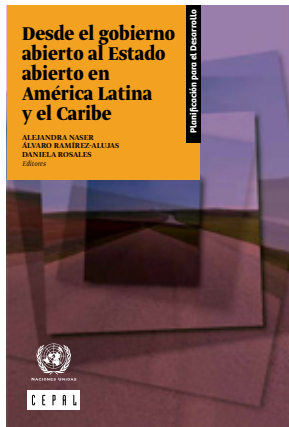
the biennium. Within the framework of cooperation agreements with various countries in the region, ILPES conducted 73 courses, workshops and training seminars with 2,182 participants. Overall, in this biennium, ILPES carried out 132 international, national and distance-learning courses and workshops which provided training for 4,489 experts from different public and private agencies in 14 of the region's countries, as well as academics. Over 7,000 hours of teaching were invested in this training process. Women's participation in international and national courses increased in the 2016-2017 biennium; 63% of total participants were women, while 37% were men.

PLANIFICACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE. ENFOQUES, EXPERIENCIAS Y PERSPECTIVAS

Planning for development has acquired such breadth and importance in the region that it is necessary to understand it from a systemic perspective. Its basic functions—foresight, implementation and evaluation—operate simultaneously in sectors, institutions and levels of government, as well as within different time frames. This book investigates and interprets the concrete practices of nine countries in the region which have confronted the challenges of managing the interrelations between the aforementioned dimensions. The book posits that in order to achieve comprehensive planning for development, it is necessary to adequately resolve the challenges of intersectorality, pluritemporality, their multiscale dimensions and the issue of participation. Finally, evaluation and monitoring are highlighted as processes that have the potential to contribute to better coordination of planning and public management, as well as to generate institutional learning that permanently improves systems, processes and results. The reflections set forth in the book provide useful suggestions to consider in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



ILPES also published numerous studies that contributed to the regional body of knowledge on planning for development. *Panorama de la gestión pública en América Latina y el Caribe: un gobierno abierto centrado en el ciudadano* describes the state of public management mechanisms and instruments in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and reviews current practices in planning, budgeting, execution, and the monitoring and evaluation of public management processes, within the framework of the open government policy paradigm. *Panorama regional de los datos abiertos: avances y desafíos en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the efforts under way in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to take advantage of the opportunities that information technologies offer to manage open data and make it available to citizens through portals, as well as through initiatives to provide public value and generate new applications that create new meanings and resolve common problems. *Plan de gobierno abierto: una hoja de ruta para los gobiernos de la región* offers further support to the countries of the region in the formulation and elaboration of their own open government action plans.



DESDE EL GOBIERNO ABIERTO AL ESTADO ABIERTO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

One of the main challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to configure a new framework of public governance and a renewed State architecture that will promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitate access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (Sustainable Development Goal 16). In this context, the open government paradigm constitutes a reference and a key pillar for fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. This pioneering work aims to contribute to the emerging debate on the transition to an open State through multiple perspectives from ECLAC and from representatives of multilateral organizations, authorities and government officials, renowned experts, academics and representatives of civil society organizations in the region, as well as from civic activism and innovation platforms.

In the compilation *Planificación y prospectiva para la construcción de futuro en América Latina y el Caribe, Textos seleccionados 2013-2016*, a select set of papers published between 2013 and 2016 by ILPES is assembled to offer the reader an analytical description of recent advances in planning for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The publication highlights one of planning's key allies—the discipline of foresight—with particular emphasis on institutional capacity development and its use as an instrument for managing development. The manual *Territorio e igualdad: planificación del desarrollo con perspectiva de género*, developed in collaboration with the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs, illustrates the importance of incorporating the gender perspective in planning processes at different territorial levels and provides a methodological contribution to the practice of governmental and non-governmental actors with responsibilities in the design and execution of those processes. Finally, the publication *Pactos territoriales en la construcción de regiones transfronterizas: por una mayor integración a múltiples niveles* aims to show how cross-border cooperation is a key link in the consolidation of integration processes.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

A large part of the activities carried out by ILPES have been possible thanks to technical cooperation agreements. The cooperation programme with GIZ continued to be successfully executed; its main activities were the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development and the capacity-building programme for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both activities have strengthened the network of efforts with planning authorities in the region and interdivisional work within the Commission, particularly with the Statistics Division and the ECLAC subregional offices in Mexico City and Port of Spain. In the framework of the agreement with AECID, international courses for public officials from the region have continued to be held on planning, foresight, leadership and

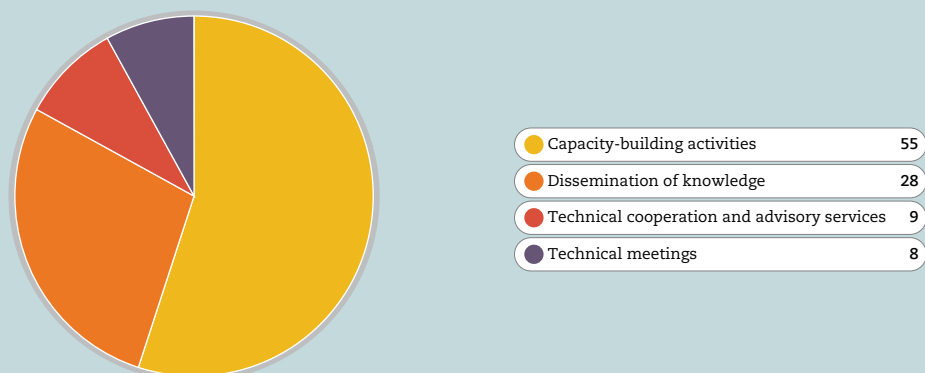
open government issues. In the framework of this agreement, ILPES was able to create the first network built under the aegis of the AECID courses, the Alumni Network on Public Leadership, organized by students of the four editions of the course carried out to date. The cooperation agreement with the Republic of Korea has allowed the exchange of experiences about the challenges for Latin American cities in the context of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in terms of the public leadership, open government, participatory planning and monitoring capacities needed to implement sustainable strategies and inclusive urban projects.

ILPES provides technical assistance services at national and subnational levels (regional and local) of government, as well as from a region-wide perspective, as in the provision of public goods to the region. At the national scale, support was provided under the subprogramme for the judiciary of Costa Rica through technical assistance workshops to strengthen its institutional capacities for the formulation and implementation of a national institutional open justice policy. ILPES facilitated and supported a broad participatory process which included all the departments of the judiciary, in addition to a commission of practitioners and beneficiaries, representatives of civil society, and the Costa Rican Association of Lawyers. This effort by the judiciary is especially relevant in the global and regional context, as it is recognized as a pioneering experience in developing the concept of open government within a judicial power, in which a broad range of stakeholders participated in policy discussions and design. It is, in fact, the first time that an exercise has been undertaken in the region to apply the principles of open government to the justice sector. The open justice policy is also leading to the articulation, coordination and strengthening of projects, programmes and actions in the sector, with a focus on improving access to justice for vulnerable populations.

At the subnational scale, an innovative experience in technical advisory services was the support provided under the subprogramme to the State of Jalisco in Mexico for the evaluation of the State Development Plan Jalisco 2013-2033, and the formulation of recommendations to strengthen future processes for development planning, particularly in relation to strategic economic development. ILPES also participated in the 2016 *Glosa Ciudadana* (an open government accountability exercise) and provided feedback to the State of Jalisco monitoring and evaluation system (*MIDE Jalisco*).

Technical advisory services targeting the local level are directed through national agencies or ministries, to ensure broad-based capacity development in the articulation of local level challenges. An interesting experience in this regard was the support provided to Uruguay in its decentralization processes, focused on the promotion of competitive territories. In conjunction with the Office of Planning and the Budget of the Office of the President of Uruguay and the National Economic Development Agency (ANDE), ILPES tested a model to support capacity development in systemic territorial competitiveness.

[FIGURE 10]

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017***(Percentages of the total)*

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The challenge for the next biennium is to provide an effective response to governments' requirements for technical assistance and other advisory services in a timely manner and according to their needs. ILPES also looks forward to identifying concrete ways to apply information technology in activities that encompass the main areas underpinning its work—foresight, territorial planning, results-based management, evaluation of public policies, open government and public investment—as well as engaging with emerging issues such as multiscale planning, linking plans and budgets, or linking the structural gaps methodology with tools for characterizing and assessing the impacts of policies and plans.

The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is in a pilot phase and is being continually updated to facilitate access by all users. This will lay the foundations for strengthening a joint agenda with the planning ministries and authorities. The Institute also expects to consolidate areas of work relating to public leadership, the participatory approach and the gender approach in planning, as well as mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into planning and public management systems.

SUBPROGRAMME 11

STATISTICS

[11]

PASCUAL GERSTENFELD
Chief of the Statistics Division

INTRODUCTION

During the biennium, work under the subprogramme produced a wide range of results, fulfilling its aim to support countries in building, strengthening and harmonizing statistical information in order to feed evidence-based decision-making processes as part of the region's public policymaking for development. One of the objectives targeted by that work was strengthening the role of national statistical offices as leading institutions of their respective national statistical systems, in order to meet the statistical challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in June 2016, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was created to coordinate the preparation and implementation of regional indicators and to build relevant capacities, as part of the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. During 2016 the Group focused its actions on collecting information on national capacities to develop the 232 indicators coming from the global framework defined by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, to identify the main challenges in the production of basic statistics to monitor the Goals and to explore possible lines of action to coordinate horizontal technical cooperation. At the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2017, in its capacity as the technical secretariat of the Statistical Coordination Group, ECLAC presented an initial proposal for the regional framework of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Conference requested the Group to make an updated proposal, with the support of the secretariat, for presentation at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, on a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the situations, emphases and shared challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Working in concert with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the annual meetings between national statistical offices and national geographic institutes for promoting and coordinating national geospatial information activities, and for developing projects to construct national geospatial data infrastructure. Efforts under the subprogramme continued to support the region's countries in implementing their systems of national accounts, transitioning to the SNA 2008

structure and building capacities for the future implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), by holding seminars and providing technical advisory services.

In the second half of 2017, activities for the International Comparison Programme began with the first technical meeting for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as a continuous activity with a rolling benchmark. With the participation of 37 countries from the region and ECLAC as regional coordinator, the programme adopted the road map and timetable of surveys and data exchange for the calculations.

Other activities were carried out to promote the region's development and use of new indicators for monitoring economic, social and environmental trends. In particular, activities for improving the measurement of poverty continued during this biennium. An updated methodology for estimating income poverty was finished after several years of work, in order to provide a more comparable framework for regional poverty estimations. In addition, the Division has co-led the component on poverty and inequality statistics of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, which aims to strengthen developing countries' capacity to measure and monitor indicators related to Goals 1 and 10 on the basis of household surveys as well as to improve the possibilities for data disaggregation.

The implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and of statistical recommendations and handbooks to compile environment indicators at the country level continued to be the focus of many technical assistance activities carried out under the subprogramme, and the Division took new steps to promote the production of information on climate change and disaster impact and adaptation, energy, forests, ecosystems and biodiversity, and environment-related expenditures.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The Division continued to focus its work on the compilation, production and dissemination of comparable social, environmental and economic indicators, on the development of quantitative methodologies to produce new indicators and the use of existing ones to help formulate and analyse evidence-based policymaking in the region, and on expanding its work with data visualization. During the biennium, the Division worked to support countries' preparedness in monitoring their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC held its fifteenth meeting in Santiago in June 2016. On that occasion, the Statistical Coordination Group was established within the Statistical Conference, comprising the member countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region that are also members of the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting also included a seminar on the follow-up framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, at which the participants discussed global and regional statistical coordination mechanisms for Goals indicators, national mechanisms for measurements and new statistical tools. At the meeting, the Executive Committee approved the activities for the biennium 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference

of the Americas, as a means to implement the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 and meet the statistical challenges of the region. As a side event, on 17 June 2016, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the first meeting for the promotion and coordination of national geospatial information activities, attended by national statistical offices and national geographic institutes, with the purpose of developing projects to construct national geospatial data infrastructure.

The sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Santiago in April 2017, with the objective of reviewing the key topics of the working groups. It included a regional seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, titled Progress in the development of monitoring frameworks for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was intended to share information on the design and construction of the indicator frameworks for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals with the directors of the region's national statistical offices and other statistical agencies in attendance at the Conference. A side event on geospatial information management took place with the geospatial expert community and national statistical office directors during the meeting of the Statistical Conference. With the support of ECLAC, the Statistical Conference's Working Group on Institution-building developed a proposal to consolidate the financial resources needed to undertake peer reviews of the implementation of the Code of Good Practices in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Working Group on Administrative Records and the Working Group on Poverty Statistics developed products for progressing with the implementation of the Statistical Conference's 10-year strategic plan.

Under this subprogramme, the Division also provided support for the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, for which ECLAC is the technical secretariat. At the meeting, held in November 2017 in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the 39 participating delegations adopted a resolution in which the countries highlighted the Statistical Conference's importance as the intergovernmental body that is best suited for producing a regional indicator framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and for channelling cooperation activities to strengthen the statistical capacities of the region's countries. At the meeting, ECLAC presented countries with a proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, intended to help stimulate and sustain intergovernmental dialogue within the Statistical Conference over the coming months in order to ensure a regional consensus is reached.

Throughout the biennium, regional workshops on the statistical aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals were held under the aegis of the subprogramme at the regional, subregional and national levels. The Latin American Conference: Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, held in Santiago in September 2016, brought together heads of national statistical offices, chief statisticians of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners and other stakeholders. The event was intended to take stock of various international, regional, subregional and national initiatives for integrating and modernizing statistical systems and to shape the global initiative for a transformative agenda to the Latin American context.

In August 2017, as part of the activities of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, in conjunction with the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of Panama, the Division organized a subregional workshop on institutional strengthening, cooperation, dialogue and association for the production and use of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Held in San Salvador, the workshop was attended by representatives of national statistical offices from the region's countries, as well as of the national institutions responsible for preparing voluntary national reviews in the countries of Central America. A high-level seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals was also held in Asunción in July 2017. This event, attended by the President of Paraguay and senior national government authorities, was organized to raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and to give an impetus to their implementation. The high-level meeting in Paraguay marked an important milestone, with the signing of a joint commitment for implementing the 2030 Agenda by the three main institutional partners, the country's executive, legislative and judicial branches, represented by the President of the Republic, the President of Congress and the President of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Environmental statistics is the least developed of the three domains of statistics involved in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region, in spite of the existence of an ever-growing demand for evidence-based national policies for sustainable development. Environmental statistics are needed to calculate and sustain the 104 SDG global indicators, 51% of SDG targets and 70% of the Goals. This has driven most of the region's countries to seek technical assistance and training in order to build capacities for monitoring the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda.

In its work, the environmental statistics team has successfully mobilized external resources, has worked hand in hand with other specialized teams from other ECLAC divisions and has strengthened coordination and cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division, FAO, the Latin American Energy Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to synergize limited resources and increase impact at the national level.

Provision of environment statistics capacity-building services to countries increased considerably during 2016, and particularly throughout 2017. The environment statistics team assisted in the construction of 40 new national environmental indicators as prioritized by each country. ECLAC gave technical support to Chile's key work with one of the most complex Sustainable Development Goal indicators—ecosystems and biodiversity—which will be useful for its National Biodiversity Strategy and the corresponding indicators; interim products include six new biodiversity indicators (for Goals 14 and 15), and a fully trained inter-institutional team that can sustain, update and increase the indicators to be disseminated. This experience will also serve to assist Mexico and other countries in producing biodiversity and ecosystem indicators.

A regional meeting of experts was held in Santiago in September 2017 to analyse the main challenges with environmental statistics, indicators and accounts in the region. In addition to formulating specific recommendations to increase the speed at which environmental statistical products are being disseminated at the national and regional levels, the experts agreed to launch a dynamic regional network on environmental statistics to foster the exchange of knowledge and practices in the field.

I am writing to express our gratitude for the historic support and technical assistance ECLAC recently gave our institution through the workshop on methods for constructing and maintaining environmental Sustainable Development Goal indicators... It gave our statistical processes a very positive boost.

Carlos Evaristo Hernández, Director General of Statistics and Census, Republic of El Salvador, letter dated 28 March 2017

Through the technical cooperation provided under the subprogramme, 10 countries made significant progress towards implementing the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). This included updating their base years and recording progress made with the estimates of the environmental, cultural, illegal activities and non-remunerated work satellite accounts. As part of the subprogramme, the Division held several workshops on this topic, including the National Accounts Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean: regional implementation of SNA 2008 and its relationship with other systems, held in Santiago in November 2016, and the workshop on national account statistics and the balance of payments, held in Brasilia in June 2017, in collaboration with Eurostat and IMF.

Various policies, measures or actions were taken by countries in keeping with ECLAC recommendations: Argentina made significant progress with the revision of its official national accounts series (base year 2004); Cuba strengthened its national accounts and its consumer price index; Curaçao made progress with calculating annual GDP at constant prices; the Dominican Republic undertook the design and implementation of a continuous employment survey; and Ecuador implemented a new consumer price index—a purchasing power parity index between the Galapagos Islands and the country's mainland—which is having an important impact on national public policies, and it developed its social accounting matrix.

I would like to thank ECLAC for its support towards the Central Bank of Ecuador, in the shape of the products that it publishes, distributes and leaves for posterity.

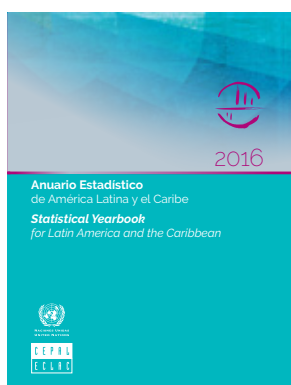
Verónica Artola Jarrín, General Manager, Central Bank of Ecuador (June 2017)

The first technical meeting of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), jointly organized by ECLAC and CARICOM and held in Santiago in June 2017, focused on finalizing the regional list of products for the collection of household consumption price data, thereby launching the programme's activities in the region. ICP is a worldwide statistical partnership led by the World Bank to collect comparative price data and compile detailed expenditure values of countries' GDP and to estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's economies. This event marked the first occasion on which Latin America and the Caribbean participated as a single region.

As part of its work on poverty measurement, the Division organized the regional seminar on non-monetary poverty indicators: progress and challenges for measurement in Santiago in May 2017, as an activity of the Working Group on Poverty Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. The Division also provided technical assistance to Uruguay and Costa Rica to help design of national poverty measurements and improve labour indicators. Jointly with SICA and the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Panama (INEC), ECLAC also organized the workshop on the use of household surveys for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicators on poverty and inequality, which was held in Panama City in August 2017, to revise how income and non-monetary variables that may be used in the elaboration of poverty indicators, indicators of access to basic services and inequality indicators are

measured in household surveys and to discuss best practices among the SICA member countries. The Division and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador also jointly organized a regional seminar on enhancing the use of administrative records for statistical purposes to follow up on the 2030 Agenda, which was held in Santiago in October 2017, as an activity of the Statistical Conference's Working Group on Administrative Records. Its goal was to produce an analysis of the statistical use of administrative records in the region and to learn about successful experiences with statistical production using administrative sources, with special emphasis on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the biennium, the Division published the 2016 and 2017 editions of the flagship *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, which contains demographic and social indicators, economic statistics relating to trade, balances of payments, domestic prices and national accounts, and quantitative information on the environment in the region. These editions were redesigned using visualization tools and statistical graphics to assist analyses of the regional situation. Access to the raw data was facilitated through digital and online mechanisms. The ECLAC *Statistical Yearbook* continued to be a statistical reference for the region.



STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2016

The ECLAC *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean* presents a set of basic statistics on the economic, sociodemographic and environmental situation of the region during a specific time period. This information is part of the statistics available in CEPALSTAT, the statistical databases and publications portal of ECLAC. This edition of the *Yearbook* includes information available up to mid-January 2017 and incorporates a new look in presenting regional statistics to describe social, economic and environmental situations at the regional level. The *Yearbook* comprises three chapters. The first covers demographic and social indicators and includes statistical information on population, labour, education, health, housing and basic services, poverty and income distribution, and gender. The second chapter presents economic statistics relating to trade, balances of payments, domestic prices and national accounts. The third chapter provides the quantitative information available on the environment. Given the abundance of data now accessible to researchers, special attention must be paid to technical aspects specifying the source of the data, their definition and coverage. This information is presented in a fourth chapter available in the electronic version of the *Yearbook*, which deals with methodology and metadata.

The Division also published various studies, including *Las cuentas de los hogares y el bienestar en América Latina. Más allá del PIB*, as part of the *Cuadernos Estadísticos de la CEPAL* collection, which examines the analytical potential of national accounting to describe and interpret the structure and behaviour of household accounts. The document incorporates several recommendations included in the report of the Stiglitz Commission, in particular the need to focus on the measurement of household incomes and consumption to better understand issues related to income and wealth distribution, human well-being and sustainable development. Two publications were published describing the state of the art and main challenges facing the region in the fields of environmental statistics and environment accounts.

LAS CUENTAS DE LOS HOGARES Y EL BIENESTAR EN AMÉRICA LATINA: MÁS ALLÁ DEL PIB

In this work on household accounts, the authors reaffirm the analytical potential of national accounting to describe and interpret the structure and behaviour of one of the most important sectors of the economy, which is the engine of demand and, at the same time, the generator of a considerable part of national production, at least in Latin America and the Caribbean. This sector is also the ultimate beneficiary of property and company income and the source of an important surplus that drives the mechanisms of social accumulation in the region's countries. The document echoes several suggestions made in the Stiglitz Commission report, in particular the need to focus more carefully on measuring household income and consumption in order to understand issues related to the distribution of income and wealth, well-being, human rights and sustainable development.

The text describes the fundamental elements of household income and expenditure surveys, as well as the architecture of this institutional sector's accounts in accordance with the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008).



The Division continued the regular development, update and maintenance of statistical information available through different databases. CEPALSTAT, the statistical portal of ECLAC, continued to expand with increased amounts of metadata and new functionalities. The portal contains national and regional profiles that are in line with databases, a dashboard to facilitate mass data access, web services for advanced API developers (OpenData project), a collection of infographics and numerous other features.

As part of the implementation of the Development Account project entitled “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries”, the national statistical systems assessment phase has been completed in the two areas concerned, namely national and environmental accounts, and issues to be tackled by the project were identified, together with strengths and weaknesses for Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay and Uruguay. The project has raised awareness about the need to step up the implementation of SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012 in those countries in order to comply with international recommendations and standards. In this context, the subprogramme provided advisory services on national accounts to Uruguay, and on national and environmental accounts to Curaçao and Paraguay.

Finally, and in the context of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, ECLAC organized workshops and provided advisory services to Argentina and Brazil to assess the capacities of the MERCOSUR countries to produce data for measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The main conclusions were shared with representatives of the national statistical systems of Argentina and Brazil, highlighting their challenges and progress in measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Also, ECLAC supported the participation of a group of Caribbean countries in the interregional seminar on national statistical systems reviews in small island developing States organized by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

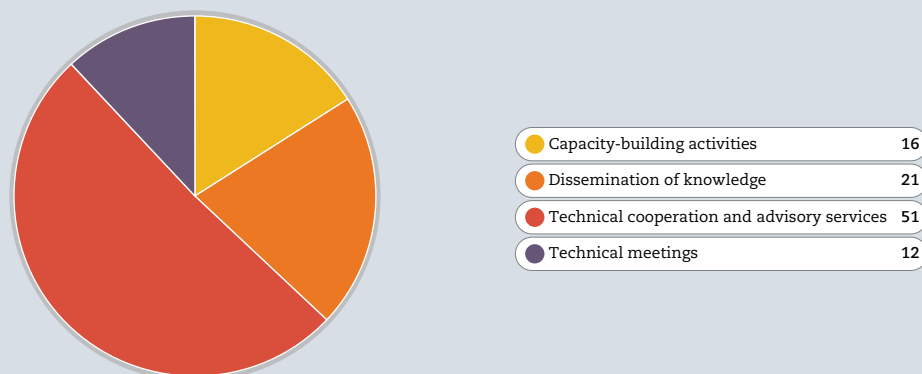
A great number of activities (missions, workshops and seminars) in support of environment statistics and indicators in the region were carried out over the biennium, with a considerable increase in 2017. A total of 20 technical assistance missions and/or training workshops were carried out at the national level, (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru) attended by 950 practitioners from national statistical offices, environment ministries and other sectoral institutions. Similarly, 13 inter-institutional coordination and advocacy meetings were held with national decision- and policymakers for strengthening and institutionalizing statistics, indicators and accounts in the countries. A total of eight regional training workshops, seminars and conferences on environmental statistics, indicators and accounts were carried out successfully, along with the first meeting of the regional expert group in 2017.

Over the course of the biennium, technical assistance on price, industrial, employment and household surveys and national accounts was provided to Argentina, Cuba, Curaçao, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

[FIGURE 11]

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE, JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned was that technical assistance is a key activity in cooperation and dissemination of methodologies for enhancing basic social, environmental and economic data and national accounts. The demand for statistics is increasing in the region on account of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and national statistical systems are being pressured to provide information that is currently not available. Activities have to be focused on certain areas, such as improving environmental statistics.

Another important lesson learned was that channelling horizontal cooperation on a peer-to-peer basis between national statistical offices and other institutions of national statistical systems, such as central banks and sectoral ministries, is a powerful mechanism for leveraging the capacity for intraregional technical assistance and meeting the increasing demands derived from the exponential increase in the use and production of statistics.



SUBPROGRAMME 12

SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, CUBA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND MEXICO

[12]

HUGO BETETA

Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

INTRODUCTION

Globalization is setting special challenges for Central America. The countries in this subregion are among the most open economies in the world. The adoption of neoliberal policy agendas during the last two decades of the twentieth century left most countries without industrial policies, development banks, countercyclical macroeconomic management or even the most minimal social protection standards for workers. In this context, in 2015 Central America (with the exceptions of Costa Rica and Panama) still lagged behind Latin America and the Caribbean on most of the Millennium Development Goals and faces an uphill journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

ECLAC emphasizes regional integration as the best global insertion strategy for a group of small, open economies, with a focus on closing structural gaps (in productivity, investment, fiscal, labour, gender, education, health, territorial) and on addressing inequality as a key developmental challenge. In addition, in a subregion that imports most of its food, is energy dependent and tops the global rankings in exposure to natural disasters, food security, energy and inclusive adaptation to climate change pose specific challenges.

During the biennium, advisory services, training workshops, analytical studies and policy recommendations were provided to assist countries in addressing their most pressing development needs. Examples of this are the results achieved by modelling the impacts of a customs union between Honduras and Guatemala, the analysis carried out on the impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on the textile sector and the publication of macroeconomic performance reports for the subregion. In line with the Commission's commitment to regional integration, the subregional headquarters analysed options for interconnecting the subregion's electric power transmission network with that of Mexico, drafted harmonized national electricity regulations and established an energy efficiency database for the entire subregion. Work also took place on the development of regional methodologies for assessing food security, hydroelectric generation and public investments under climate change scenarios, and on establishing planning frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals in all the subregion's countries, using a new methodology for revealing critical linkages and nodes among the Goals. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of ECLAC in Mexico City in April 2017, provided a great opportunity for peer learning and exchanges of best practices among the subregion's national officers, government representatives, private sector and civil society.

Social development is key for peace, prosperity and stability in the subregion. But the subregion's ability to increase social expenditure is limited by low tax rates and a growing pressure to increase response capacities to disasters and security threats. During 2016-2017 the subregional office spearheaded a debate on minimum wages in Mexico, worked on issues of labour participation for women and strived to understand the structural issues behind chronic violence in the region. A significant amount of time was devoted to strengthening national capacities to fight poverty and inequality, contributing to debates on poverty measurement and developing new ways to measure income inequality using fiscal and tax data, methods for determining structural gaps and innovative ways to estimate wealth (not income) inequality in Mexico. During the biennium, more attention was paid to the specific constraints on the social development of indigenous groups, and the subregional office led discussions on the feasibility of establishing a new social development pillar by advancing a universal basic Income in Mexico. Migration will remain a crucial issue in the subregion's future development. In 2016-2017 the subregional headquarters studied migration patterns among indigenous groups in Oaxaca and forged an alliance of think tanks from Mexico and three Central American countries to construct a narrative on migration that is closely linked to development models and human security and not just to security and containment concerns.

A strategy to upgrade productive capabilities in the subregion is also at the core of the Commission's work. Efforts remain almost exclusively at the national level but regional value chains are also addressed. Under the subprogramme, the idea of progressive structural change by updating input-output tables has been advanced in several countries, and a major initiative was undertaken to forge value chains in several countries and to advance new ideas regarding industrial policies for rural areas and for services in the subregion. As part of this subprogramme, ECLAC organized a major conference in Mexico that brought together entrepreneurs, firms and policymakers from India with counterparts from all over Latin America. In addition, the subregional office provided support in the development of formulas for fuel pricing in the subregion, for the revision of the tariff structure of the electricity sector in Costa Rica and to the drafting of tax models for the customs service in Mexico. The subregional office is also following the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations between Mexico and the United States from a developmental perspective.

The region's long-term development outcomes will have to pay greater attention to the participation of women, to the wealth of indigenous cultures and to young people's demands for employment and transparency, given that youth represent a particularly educated and engaged demographic group in the subregion. The current model of development in the subregion is showing signs of fatigue. The emergence of new technologies, the challenges of globalization, changing demographics (pace of urbanization, migration, dependency ratios and women's empowerment), the threats of climate change and the politics of fear in key economic partners demand critical engagement. The Commission's capacity for historical and structural analysis and its trusted presence, access to decision makers in the subregion and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals will remain crucial in the years to come.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

In the last three years, the economies of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic have experienced solid growth, with the highest growth rates registered in Panama and the Dominican Republic. Inflation rates have remained low, due to falling prices for commodities in general and oil in particular, which has also contributed to a significantly lower current account deficit. Central banks have increased their benchmark interest rates. The evolution of fiscal policies has been uneven: while Honduras has made significant efforts to consolidate public expenditures, other countries, such as Costa Rica, still require profound fiscal reforms. Social and productive development still involves significant challenges. Poverty and inequality rates have remained consistently high, whereas productivity growth has been scant.

Recent political proposals constitute challenges for the subregion. Central America and Mexico have close commercial ties with the United States. The proposed revision of NAFTA and the uncertainty over WTO provisions and over taxes related to United States foreign direct investment pose a major challenge for the subregion and underline the need for sectoral policies to promote a greater diversity of trade partners.

Agricultural activity is a key component of the subregion's economies. In the subregion, agriculture accounts for around 9% of total GDP. Key challenges in this area are: slow growth of output, yields and productivity; acute inequality and poverty, which affects women in particular; insufficient creation of quality jobs; low access to financial instruments such as credit; and lack of public and private investment. High fragility and low resilience are aggravated by the adverse effect of disasters derived mainly from hydro-meteorological threats. Institutional and stakeholders' technical capacities must be enhanced to face these challenges, including measures to promote adaptation to climate change. Cooperation efforts to address this issue must consider the design of strategies to transit to low-carbon economies, climate adapted agriculture, financial inclusion, mechanisms to transfer risk as insurance, resilience in private and public infrastructure and housing, integrated water management and forest protection.

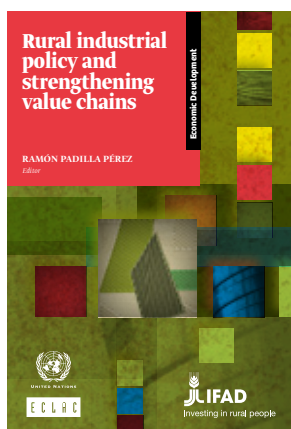
The prevalence of undernourishment differs among the Central American countries even though, in general, the rate has decreased in the past few years. Guatemala and Nicaragua are the countries with the highest rates of undernourished people—15.6% and 16.6%, respectively— while, at 5%, Costa Rica has the lowest. Central America must not only face undernutrition, but also increasing obesity and overweight, which is the cause of what has been called “the double burden of malnutrition”.

Central America is one of the regions of the world that is most exposed to climate phenomena, and its societies, human activities and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, lacking resilience to the adverse effects of climate variability and exhibiting several of the vulnerabilities characterized in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As an isthmus bridging two vast land masses and standing between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, it has long coastlines with lowland areas and is exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms. The region is repeatedly affected by droughts, intense rains, cyclones and the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Climate change is exacerbating socioeconomic vulnerabilities in Central America and will increasingly affect its economic and social progress, affecting production activities such as agriculture, hydroelectric power and water.

Finally, the energy transition is one of the great common challenges facing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This translates into specific challenges for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, especially in relation to universal access to modern energy services, greater use of renewable energy and a substantial improvement in energy efficiency. All this is associated with special efforts for the mitigation of greenhouse gases, particularly as regards the use of fossil fuels and the loss of forest cover. In the countries of this subregion, the sustainable use of biomass, especially in rural areas, is one of the priority issues.

In recent days, the mayors and technical personnel of the Association of Municipalities of the El Bálamo Microregion and tourism sector business owners from the community have been delighted to learn about the Commission's methods and experiences with the development of tourism chains, with particular emphasis on Antigua Guatemala. The learning has encouraged the launch of tourism development processes to strengthen and re-evaluate the potential for tourism that exists.

Association of Municipalities of the El Bálamo Microregion, El Salvador, letter dated 7 April 2017



RURAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND STRENGTHENING VALUE CHAINS

Rural areas have undergone major changes in recent decades, with the declining share of agricultural jobs and added value in total economic activity, the greater interdependency between the agricultural sector and other sectors (manufacturing and services) and the increasing importance of learning and innovation processes. Those changes notwithstanding, rural areas are still a major presence in the economic structure of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The book sets out the need for a rural industrial policy that promotes environmentally harmonious structural change based on innovation, greater added value and better employment and living conditions. The proposal is based on the experience of ECLAC in strengthening rural value chains and offers a novel approach to industrial policy and the development of rural areas. The book also presents the Commission's methodology for value chains and compares processes for strengthening rural chains around primary and agro-industrial products and rural tourism.

As part of its work programme with ministries of agriculture and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), ECLAC coordinated a multi-institutional effort to generate proposals on how to analyse the impact of climate change risks on food and nutritional security with a systemic approach. Technical institutions such as FAO and IICA participated, and a discussion meeting was held in Costa Rica in May 2017, which included a technical review with national institutions.

SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA Y NUTRICIONAL EN CENTROAMÉRICA Y LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: EXPLORANDO LOS RETOS CON UNA PERSPECTIVA SISTÉMICA

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. In order to assist the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in pursuing those objectives, this document proposes the development of a more systemic approach to food and nutritional security, based on the four dimensions proposed by FAO: availability, access, biological use and stability. It presents information available in the region and analyses the example of maize as a case study.



The subregional headquarters worked with the central banks of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic to build input-output tables, making use of supply and use tables. These products, along with international trade and employment data, were the basis for conducting structural analyses aimed at designing and evaluating public policies. Four country-specific studies containing a structural analysis of each of the national economies were carried out using highly disaggregated data and information on transactions between and within economic sectors, which allows for comparisons and different analyses to be carried out to identify the sectors with the greatest capacity to generate both direct and indirect employment. The studies also presented important findings with policy implications, especially regarding issues of functional income distribution, structural heterogeneity and its effect on employment, the sectoral generation of employment and its components and the link between the evolution of exports and job creation.

As part of the work carried out by the Governments of Guatemala and Honduras to further their economic integration through the customs union, I am pleased to offer ECLAC our sincere thanks for the assistance provided in its specialized analysis and impact assessment. That help will be invaluable in the policymaking and coordination processes being led by the participating countries.

Carmen Gisela Vergara, Secretary-General, Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA), 1 December 2016

In order to strengthen the analysis and formulation of public policies for fostering a diverse ecosystem of economically viable financial service providers, which increase sustainable access to a broad range of financial services among poor people in rural areas, the subregional headquarters carried out a comparative analysis of the institutional architecture available in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Working in close collaboration with local authorities, a detailed diagnostic study was prepared for each country. The preliminary findings of these studies were discussed with key actors from the public and the private sectors, think tanks and other international organizations. The studies were then combined and published in the book *Financial inclusion of small rural producers*.

In addition, working in conjunction with the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, the subregional headquarters presented and discussed cross-border transport problems at the seminar on a binational approach to transport, logistics and mobility, focused on sustainability, held in Jimaní, Dominican Republic, in July 2016. This event was part of the technical cooperation provided by ECLAC to the Haiti-Dominican Republic Binational Joint Commission on issues related to transportation between the two countries, and it contributed to the drafting of their final cross-border transport protocol. ECLAC also helped build the capacities of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Panama to formulate economic projections through the delivery of a course on the design, evaluation and analysis of econometric models for forecasting macroeconomic variables.

The subregional headquarters in Mexico provided the subregion's countries with advisory services and support for their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Technical assistance was given to the Government of Guatemala in aligning its national priorities with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, through the identification of national priorities within the national development strategy; as part of this effort, three national workshops were held in February, March and May 2017. ECLAC also assisted the Government of Honduras in drafting its voluntary national review for presentation at the July 2017 meeting of the High-level Political Forum in New York.

In conjunction with Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the subregional office provided the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences (IHSI) with technical assistance for devising a synthetic economic activity indicator to estimate the short-term evolution of economic activity. Finally, together with the Government of Haiti and its Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), the subregional office organized a seminar to present the results of the joint ECLAC-Mora Institute project on South-South cooperation between Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Haiti (29 August–2 September 2016) and published the report *A cinq années du tremblement de terre en Haïti. Leçons apprises de la Coopération Sud-Sud: les cas du Brésil, du Chili et du Mexique*, which gives an overview of the South-South cooperation initiatives with Haiti that took place between 2010 and 2015 and identifies lessons learned for the future.

Technical assistance on norms for renewable energy and its components was also given to the Secretary of Energy of Mexico at meetings that focused on certifications for solar panels and wind energy. ECLAC also assisted El Salvador in reviewing the procedures and structures used for its hydrocarbon reference price formulas. Finally, the subregional headquarters provided the municipal government of Saltillo with technical assistance for drafting a local policy to prevent gender violence on public transportation.

As part of the Development Account project on “Strengthening the capacity of Central American and Caribbean countries in the preparation of sustainable energy policies and strategies”, the office supported discussions in the subregion on methodologies for energy efficiency plans, and a document containing a proposed methodology for SICA member countries to draw up such plans was published and reviewed by the project's beneficiary countries. A training workshop to discuss the challenges posed by the entry of large amounts of unconventional or intermittent renewable energies (solar and wind) was held in September 2016 in Panama City, and another workshop on methodologies for assessing biomass

potential for sustainable energy production was held in Mexico City that same month. After the subregional office had provided technical assistance and advisory services, in April 2016 the Government of Panama approved its new National Energy Plan 2050 (Cabinet resolution 34 of 29 March 2016); follow-up activities have been organized to ensure its implementation, including the training workshop on integrating renewable energy into the regional electrical system to examine the problems of incorporating large amounts of intermittent renewable energy, which was held from 26 to 28 October 2016 in Panama City. At this workshop, attended by participants representing national public, private, academic and social sectors, 20 experts from different parts of the world gave presentations on the technical, economic, social and regulatory challenges of incorporating large amounts of renewable energies. In addition, and also as a result of the advisory services provided by the subregional office, the Dominican Republic launched its biomass network in December 2016 and El Salvador prepared its first nationally appropriate mitigation action, on energy efficiency in public buildings, which was presented at a side event at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016.

Please accept my thanks and those of the Ministry of Energy and Mines for the cooperation provided by ECLAC (...) for the launch of the biomass platform and the workshop on using biomass as a source of energy for producers and consumers.

Oscar A. de la Maza R., Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Dominican Republic, email dated 20 January 2017

PROPUESTA METODOLÓGICA PARA LA ELABORACIÓN DE PLANES NACIONALES DE EFICIENCIA ENERGÉTICA PARA LOS PAÍSES DEL SISTEMA DE LA INTEGRACIÓN CENTROAMERICANA (SICA)

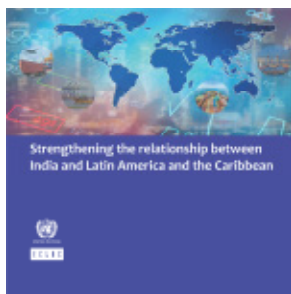
In September 2015, ECLAC received a request from the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to prepare a methodological proposal for the preparation of national energy efficiency plans. The methodology presented here considered three reference frameworks: the energy efficiency programmes of four Latin American countries, methodological proposals from international organizations and a review of the experiences of the SICA member countries. Because of its level of development and results, emphasis was placed on the approach adopted by Mexico's National Programme for the Sustainable Use of Energy (PRONASE). A first version of this document was presented in December 2015 at a regional workshop held in San Salvador; this new version includes comments from the SICA countries and cooperating agencies and institutions.



ECLAC also produced various studies on topics of interest. These included an analysis of the contribution of public expenditure to economic growth and fiscal multipliers in Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic, which examined the impact of public spending on economic growth between 1990 and 2015. The results of this study were discussed by and distributed to national officers from central banks and ministries of finance at the sixth meeting of

the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, held in Mexico City in April 2017. The analysis was deemed to be of great importance in designing fiscal policies.

Finally, during the biennium, close coordination with Indian authorities took place for organizing the Seventh India-Latin America and the Caribbean Conclave in Guadalajara, Mexico, in November 2016. ECLAC contributed to the discussion with a study titled *Strengthening the relationship between India and Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Conclave helped to identify future areas of cooperation.



STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Economic relations between India and Latin America and the Caribbean are only beginning to develop, and so there is significant room for international trade, FDI and cooperation between these two important regions to grow. Recent data indicate that their economic ties are increasing year on year, with a 140% expansion in trade between 2009 and 2014. The evidence indicates that these ties will continue to grow in the coming years. India, like the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, is a developing country, meaning there are great investment opportunities for companies wishing to expand. In addition, despite their differences, both India and the Latin American and Caribbean region have generally reported better rates of growth than the developed countries, making them emerging areas of economic dynamism. India is the best example of this trend. It has the highest economic growth among the world's largest economies, which offers interesting opportunities for investors. At the same time, today's India is open to FDI and international trade: not only as an exporter of final goods, but increasingly as a link in different global value chains. With this change, the country recognizes that open relations with other countries can support its long-term development goals.

The average rate of economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole does not equal that of India. Nevertheless, the region-wide figures disguise the high levels of heterogeneity in the region. In recent years, countries like Panama and the Dominican Republic have had high rates of growth comparable to those of India. In addition, per capita incomes in Latin America and the Caribbean remain higher than in India and, as a result, the region may hold special appeal for Indian companies. However, economic growth is not the only benchmark for measuring development: ECLAC maintains that inequality must also be addressed as an essential aspect of development. In that context, the publication presents a number of economic, social and trade indicators for the two regions.

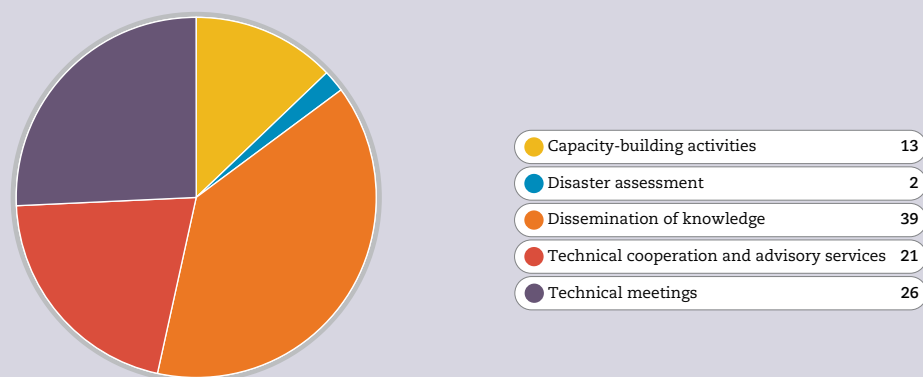
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

During the biennium, at the countries' request, the subregional headquarters provided technical assistance and advisory services in thematic areas related to the challenges they face. Through close collaboration with public organizations, ECLAC has worked to strengthen a number of value chains in the subregion: rural tourism in Antigua, Guatemala; fruit-based snacks and rural tourism in El Salvador;

dairy products in the Dominican Republic; and vacuum-fried snacks in Costa Rica. For all of those value chains, the Commission's work resulted in the design of participatory strategies and improved public-private dialogue. Additionally, the ECLAC methodology for enhancing value chains is being spread throughout the region and more public institutions are adopting it as part of their public productive policies. The Ministry of Economy of El Salvador officially incorporated the ECLAC value chain methodology into its 2014-2019 Operational Productive Transformation Plan, as did the Round Table on the Development of Productive Chains of Mexico's Business Coordinating Council for Economic Growth, in light of the experience with the chain for pork sausages and other cured pork products. Similarly, several Costa Rican institutions, including the development bank, the University of Costa Rica and the National Institute for Learning, are interested in applying the ECLAC methodology in their policies for SMEs. The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade of Costa Rica and the country's Foreign Trade Corporation (PROCOMER) also adapted their trade promotion mechanisms by using the ECLAC methodology to create productive linkages, and the Ministry made institutional changes in order to create an internal unit that will apply the methodology to strengthen value chains. Finally, the government of the Mexican State of Chihuahua has shown interest in using the ECLAC methodology to strengthen value chains. The work carried out resulted in the publication of several documents, compiled in the book *Rural industrial policy and strengthening value chains*.

The subregional headquarters in Mexico also provided capacity-building assistance on the use of the ECLAC MagicPlus software at the request of various stakeholders, including Chapingo University, its Economic, Social and Technological Research Centre for Agro-industry and World Agriculture (CIESTAAM) and several employees at the newspaper *El Financiero*. The office also organized a training course for Mexican journalists on using and analysing trade statistics with the software, as well as for officials from the trade ministries, customs services and statistical offices of a number of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member countries.

[FIGURE 12]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The lessons learned over the course of the biennium included the following: the Commission's mandates are better achieved through close interaction with local governments; economic analyses and policy recommendations are richer and more relevant if studies focus on addressing policy-oriented questions formulated by public officers in close collaboration with ECLAC; and technical assistance with the use of extrabudgetary funds is crucial in maintaining close communication and collaboration with our main partners in the subregion. In light of the work done at the subregional headquarters, the implementation of exercises to help align the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals with national priorities—such as those conducted in Guatemala and Mexico—may be of use to other countries in the region.

One good practice in the subregional office's work was identifying and maintaining a high-level counterpart in the government or institution with which the office is working. This helped ensure the Commission's activities were of greater relevance and build better capacities for undertaking projects and solving problems. Another good practice and lesson learned was that the effectiveness of technical cooperation improves if it is based on a country's national plan and an institutional agreement is in place between the national government and ECLAC.

Finally, in the technical assistance given to the subregion's national and regional institutions, it has proved useful to include as many institutions as possible that are either directly or indirectly related to the subject of the technical assistance in order to reveal synergies and complementarities that maximize limited resources in achieving national and regional goals.

SUBPROGRAMME 13

SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

[13]

DIANE QUARLESS

Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

INTRODUCTION

During the biennium, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean contributed directly to advancing the sustainable development process in the countries of the Caribbean subregion and supported the shaping of their response to the mandates established in the major global and regional development platforms to which they have committed. ECLAC also sought to respond directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States by offering technical and advisory services for capacity-building and institutional strengthening and by undertaking the research necessary to guide appropriate policy intervention. As a result, the countries' capacity to address their sustainable development challenges was markedly increased, as evidenced by the acknowledgement of ECLAC policy advice by specific member States on such issues as management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue; design and promotion of strategies for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including the transitioning of vehicles to electric and hybrid and the diversifying of the energy mix; development of the yachting sector; and restructuring of national offices to better assess and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additional recommendations were also provided to policymakers through technical studies on several issues, including opportunities for strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries, and prospects for blockchain-based settlement frameworks as a solution to the threat of de-risking to Caribbean financial systems.

Further, the subregional headquarters continued to support the repositioning of ECLAC as the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by undertaking assessments in Belize following Hurricane Earl, in the Bahamas following Hurricane Matthew, and in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Damage and loss assessments were also conducted in Ecuador following the earthquake of April 2016, and in Argentina following the floods that impacted that country in March 2017.

Member States engaged actively in high-level consultations, exploring ways to strengthen subregional integration and increase trade as an effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean. The established mechanisms for consultation and coordination of decision-making at the subregional level were used to undertake comprehensive reviews and assessments to shape subregional strategies in response to specific Caribbean concerns relating to the

global development agenda. Examples of these were the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at the ministerial level, the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the convening of a seminar on women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean, in collaboration with UN-Women and UNFPA, which took place on the eve of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo.

In addition, specific high-level consultations were carried out in the context of strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean. In this regard, examples included a workshop—jointly organized with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat—on the development of a set of core indicators, from among the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, for monitoring the implementation of the Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in Caribbean small island developing States, as well as a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Goals in national development planning. The symposium led to the identification of gaps and of institutional capacity constraints in implementation planning for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The subregional office's continued implementation of its tailored and targeted communication and outreach strategy ensured that national governments, the media and the general public were well aware of all of the aforementioned efforts. In particular, the deployment of online and offline marketing tools, coupled with the organization of community outreach events, greatly strengthened the ECLAC brand and its positioning in the subregion's news market.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Because of their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and low levels of resilience, the countries of the Caribbean subregion continue to face a variety of development challenges. Their small, open and as yet undiversified economies, which were impacted by the recent recession in major export markets, are still striving to return to sustainable economic growth following the global economic crisis.

The subregion's countries also face mounting public debt and severe fiscal challenges, with average debt-to-GDP ratios still in the unsustainable range. Such substantial debt burdens contribute to persistently high interest rates and put a brake on investment. This has also limited the capacity of Caribbean Governments to deliver the full range of social services, raising concerns about an erosion of the social fabric and a failure to meet the growing needs of vulnerable groups. Reducing their significant levels of poverty and inequality also remains a major challenge for Caribbean countries.

The small island and coastal States of the Caribbean continue to be challenged with adapting to climate change and sea level rise, as well as the ever-increasing risks of exposure to extreme weather events, which have increased in intensity. Related issues of energy and food security have gained prominence on the policy agenda as the subregion seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on fossil fuel exploration and imports by developing biofuels and other alternative energy technologies.

Effective responses to emerging demographic trends are hampered by the persistent lack of data. Policymakers acknowledge the need to strengthen infrastructure and

expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly important issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons living with disabilities and gender-based violence. They have also reaffirmed the commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and autonomy, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, and to attending to the needs of older persons and persons living with disabilities.

Against this background, during the biennium, the subregional headquarters facilitated and supported the shaping of subregional perspectives on key development issues. Advisory services were provided to Saint Kitts and Nevis on the design of a strategy for the development of the yachting sector, and an implementation plan for the 2017-2022 period was subsequently drawn up. Advisory services were also given to Grenada regarding the identification of non-tourism industries and subsectors in which the country has a competitive advantage and for the formulation of a policy framework and strategy for their development; this formed an integral part of the country's diversification thrust. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received a complete review and update of its national energy policy to accommodate the anticipated diversification of its national energy mix, while a technical review of the draft national energy policy of the Cayman Islands was conducted prior to its finalization. A readiness study was completed for Saint Lucia for the transitioning of the official vehicle fleet to electric and hybrid technologies.

To facilitate the sustainable development of yachting in Saint Kitts and Nevis, the ongoing partnership with ECLAC has so far resulted in significant tangible benefits on behalf of the local yachting sector. In this context, not too many jurisdictions in the Caribbean can boast of a yachting policy to guide the development of this sector. The partnership with ECLAC has not only resulted in such a policy but was also extended to the development of the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Yachting Strategic Plan and an accompanying implementation plan. These documents, to my mind, have certainly provided the framework to literally achieve the sustainability of the yachting sector within Saint Kitts and Nevis.

McClellan Hobson, Director, Department of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Posts, Urban Development and Transport, Saint Kitts and Nevis, email dated 30 November 2017

The subregional headquarters also supported the repositioning of ECLAC as the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by conducting several disaster assessments using the damage and loss assessment (DALA) methodology. It conducted DALA assessments for Ecuador on the estimation of the costs of damage and losses as a result of the earthquake that affected the country in April 2016, for Belize in the aftermath of Hurricane Earl in 2016, and for the Bahamas as a result of the impact of Hurricane Matthew, also in 2016. Finally, after the severe impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, which brought devastation to several Caribbean countries, ECLAC led disaster assessments in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and the Turks and Caicos Islands. These missions were coordinated with different agencies of the United Nations system and involved PAHO and FAO as well as staff from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

To support member States in their commitment to build resilience to disasters through improved preparedness for disaster response—as articulated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030—the subregional

headquarters conducted several national and regional training courses, increasing the post-disaster assessment capacities of 267 officials from governments, regional organizations and other United Nations agencies.

Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in restructuring its Central Statistical Office into an independent National Statistical Institute. Likewise, as part of the United Nations' Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) efforts in Trinidad and Tobago, support was provided in assessing the status of data and statistics for implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, a review of data and statistics monitoring was performed in Aruba to support the MAPS mission in that country. Technical assistance was provided to Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in reviewing the 2014 poverty reports, while the Government of Jamaica, through the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), was given technical advice on best practice initiatives and implementation in internal knowledge management.

The subregional office contributed to building national capacities and awareness by convening workshops and seminars. National officials from Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname were trained in the use of REDATAM software for online dissemination of census data. Post-training REDATAM support was provided to the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago to assist them in making their census data accessible online. Further, through the Development Account project on "Strengthening technical capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean States", the subregional headquarters enhanced the national capacity of public finance managers to apply methods and procedures for better management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue. Beneficiaries from Antigua and Barbuda and Belize informed of their application of the skills and techniques acquired at the regional workshop to their day-to-day fiscal management activities, namely regarding the incorporation of the knowledge acquired on actual expenditures during ministerial consultations across various ministries, the use of forecasting techniques in the Ministry of Education during the budget cycle and the development of new indicators to measure progress towards achieving overall sector goals. In the context of the implementation of this project, more than 80 public finance officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis were trained in the use and application of the Public Expenditure Review (PER) methodology in their ministries and government agencies. Feedback on the workshops indicated participants' agreement that the PER methodology could be used as a tool to facilitate more accurate and deeper analysis for budgeting and forecasting. The subregional office also collaborated with the Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to deliver a capacity-building workshop on trade data compilation and analysis for 32 senior officers from OECS ministries of trade, customs divisions, statistics departments and other government agencies. Participants were introduced to a suite of trade software packages to strengthen their countries' abilities to analyse and interpret trade and trade-related data and ultimately improve regional competitiveness.

As part of the initial steps to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ECLAC organized a workshop in Port of Spain in December 2016, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat, with the aim of enhancing technical capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development

Goals at the national level. The workshop focused on the development of a set of core indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in the subregion. The subregional headquarters also organized a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning. This symposium, held in Kingston in February 2017 and attended by 21 member and associate member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, led to the identification of gaps and institutional capacity constraints in implementation planning for the Sustainable Development Goals and considered how best to synergize the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS agenda with national development plans. A follow-up workshop to accelerate the implementation of the Goals in the Caribbean was organized in Port of Spain in May 2017. The workshop, which was attended by 16 member and associate member countries of Committee, considered a model institutional arrangement for implementing the Goals in the Caribbean and addressed the data challenges for development planning.

The discussions between our respective delegations were very productive, and the assistance offered to Trinidad and Tobago by your organization is very welcomed. It is my hope that from the issues raised during our discussions that the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will continue to be dynamic and mutually beneficial to both sides.

Keith Christopher Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, letter dated 14 June 2017

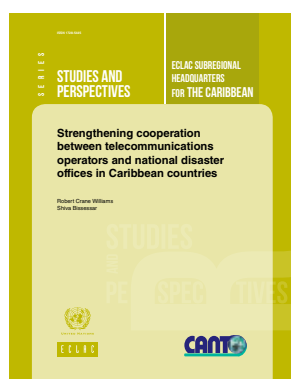
The subregional headquarters prepared a number of technical studies and convened meetings of experts, which provided policymakers with recommendations for responding to development issues including research and dialogue regarding the economy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, ICTs for development, disability, inclusive social protection, Caribbean offshore financial centres and trade agreements. Both issues of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean* examined the main factors influencing the economic performance of the subregion and made short-term economic forecasts, while the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* provided policymakers with an in-depth discussion of the subregion's economic performance over the previous period. The subregional headquarters also contributed a Caribbean perspective to ECLAC flagship publications, as well as to the first edition of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

BARRIERS TO IDENTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MECHANISMS AND ENHANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

This study examines the barriers that exist to the identification and implementation of mechanisms for enhancing energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy in the Caribbean. Specifically, it provides an assessment of the subregion's situation with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy and identifies mechanisms for the enhancement of energy initiatives. After reviewing the literature and conducting a web-based survey, four main barriers were identified: regulatory frameworks and policies, conservatism, costs and financing, and market barriers.



The document *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis*, which focuses mainly on small island developing States, explores opportunities for and challenges in increasing energy efficiency in official vehicle fleets through electrification, identifies international fleet electrification best practices, suggests the most suitable comprehensive approach for a fleet transition and provides recommendations for initial actions. The study *Strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries* addresses selected issues relating to ICTs for development in the Caribbean and analyses numerous areas for engagement between the entities responsible for ICTs for development in the subregion.



STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS AND NATIONAL DISASTER OFFICES IN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

In Caribbean countries, modern telecommunications infrastructure is vulnerable to an array of natural disasters, as exemplified by the impact of Tropical Storm Erika in Dominica, Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas and Hurricane Earl in Belize. At the same time, telecommunications services—especially mobile telephony and data services—can provide invaluable support to disaster management efforts by facilitating communication, coordination and intelligence collection during emergency situations. Thus, as a matter of public safety, ensuring the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure in the face of natural hazards is of national importance. One way this resilience can be enhanced is by strengthening the relationship between telecommunications service operators and national disaster offices. This paper suggests numerous areas for engagement between these entities and recommends the development of more formalized frameworks for mutual support. Among other issues, it considers the need for improvements to information sharing practices, collaboration on public early warning systems and the inclusion of telecommunications operators in disaster drills.

In April 2017, the subregional headquarters convened an expert group meeting on disability, human rights and public policy to review the progress made in implementing policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. At the meeting, held in Port of Spain, ECLAC presented the findings of its study on the subject. The participants agreed on the need to strengthen protection for the rights of persons with disabilities, to report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to improve the standardization of disability-related census questions.

In September 2017, the subregional office convened a meeting of experts in Port of Spain to determine ways in which Caribbean countries hosting offshore medical universities could enhance their income potential using a global value chain analysis. Participants at the meeting explored the characteristics of the offshore medical universities cluster in the Caribbean and the contributions the cluster has made to its host economies. The meeting's conclusions endorsed this line of research as a viable diversification option for the region and recommended further investigation to enhance medical and other benefits to the region and to improve the region's global ranking.

In November 2017, ECLAC convened an expert group meeting in Port of Spain to consider the social spending implications of population ageing in the Caribbean. The meeting's participants examined how ageing would affect public expenditure on education, pensions and health care by reviewing public expenditure projections for the period 2010-2050, and they endorsed the conclusions of the study and confirmed that the projections would be useful in informing pension reform and long-term public service planning. The meeting was attended by public finance and social security officials from Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago and by representatives of academia.

In November 2017, ECLAC convened a meeting of experts in Port of Spain to examine the economic contribution of offshore financial centres in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis and to reflect on related challenges, including increased regulatory compliance requirements and the loss of correspondent banking relationships. The attendees endorsed the Commission's recommendations on the need for greater emphasis on the prosecution of financial regulatory infractions and the establishment of a regional statistical bureau to strengthen regional and international analyses.

Also in November 2017, the subregional headquarters organized an expert group meeting in Port of Spain to present its findings on the recent trade performance of goods-producing economies in the Caribbean (Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) seeking to exploit trade opportunities provided by free trade and partial scope agreements. The experts concluded that successful integration of Caribbean economies into the multilateral trading system necessitated not only increased market access, but also investment and policy frameworks geared towards inducing the requisite structural change.

The subregional headquarters facilitated and supported the shaping of subregional perspectives on key development issues related to major international agreements impacting the Caribbean. With a view towards strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean, the subregional headquarters convened the seventh meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM/TAC) of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA/MSI). Six RCM/TAC member countries and agencies participated and discussed strategies for strengthening the operation of RCM/TAC to support the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway Outcomes as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. A key decision taken at this meeting was to undertake a more in-depth analysis of the mechanics of strengthening RCM/TAC.

Ahead of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in April 2016, a Caribbean forum on Shifting frontiers: shaping a sustainable development path for the Caribbean was convened. The forum engaged Caribbean high-level representatives on the subregion's response to new pressures of global shifts on small States and how this would impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The forum advanced five pillars: (i) to create opportunities for the emergence of new sectors and activities which can underpin development of a green economy, (ii) to build the human capital base necessary to effectively harness opportunities in an emerging information society, (iii) to create better opportunities for the private and public sector to collaborate meaningfully, (iv) to create the institutional framework for the full participation of citizens in decision-making, and (v) to advance regional integration to address both national and regional challenges.

Pursuant to resolution 73(XXIII) of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the fourth Caribbean Development Round Table was convened in Basseterre in April 2016. The central theme of this meeting was “The debt overhang: balancing adjustment with sustainable development in the Caribbean”. The centrepiece of the discussion was the ECLAC proposal on *Debt for climate adaptation swaps: A strategy for growth and economic transformation*, presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, which seeks debt relief for the Caribbean through a mechanism facilitating climate change adaptation swaps. In response to a resolution emanating from the subsequent intergovernmental meeting,¹ the Commission established a special task force to develop an evidence-based strategy for the initiative. The Debt Swap Task Force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain on 24 November 2017.

We share your desire for more rapid progress towards achievement of the goals set out in Agenda 2030 and, in that connection, commend ECLAC for its support to the region in strengthening national capacities in the area of data collection and management.

Rudolph Michael Ten-Pow, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guyana, Chair of the CARICOM Caucus, in a letter dated 4 August 2017

The subregional headquarters also convened the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in April 2016, attended by representatives from 15 member States and five associate member countries were represented at this meeting, as well as members of the United Nations development system and various regional organizations. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the fourth Caribbean Development Round Table to create a task force to pursue a single debt relief proposal for the Caribbean. A number of other issues highlighted at the Round Table also served as a basis for stimulating relevant policy debates, particularly the threat to offshore and correspondent banking faced by Caribbean countries. The Committee also agreed to enhance support for capacity-building in disaster assessment and resilience-building strategies in the Caribbean, promote awareness of ageing in the subregion and ensure synergy in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean.

In May 2017, the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee brought together representatives from the Association of Caribbean States, the Brookings Institute, CARICOM, the Caribbean Policy Development Centre, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the University of the West Indies and representatives from 16 Caribbean Governments to explore innovative ways to promote growth and development in the subregion, in a period of dynamic change. Two key action points emerged: the issue of urbanization in the Caribbean, and creative thinking in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the biennium, the subregional headquarters organized several technical meetings and seminars. A technical meeting to examine the economic autonomy of women in the Caribbean, along with the Caribbean preparatory meeting for the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, were convened in Port of Spain in July 2016. These meetings, which brought together senior officials with responsibility for supporting women’s advancement programmes and the promotion of gender equity in countries of the

¹ See resolution 93(XXVI) adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Basseterre in April 2016.

wider Caribbean, were attended by representatives from governments, the United Nations development system, academia and non-governmental organizations. The outcomes were included in the development of a new regional strategy for the implementation of gender equality commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and they also contributed to the finalization of a study entitled *Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

In parallel to the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, working in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and in collaboration with UN-Women and UNFPA, the subregional headquarters organized a seminar on women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo in October 2016. The seminar, which was attended by representatives from gender affairs ministries and agencies from nine countries, focused on addressing the impact of the stages of the migration cycle on the empowerment of women and girls. The outcome of the seminar informed the position adopted by the Caribbean subregion in Montevideo at the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the new regional agenda *The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*. Inputs from the seminar also facilitated the finalization of a joint ECLAC/IOM publication entitled *Women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean*.

Ahead of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the subregional office convened a Caribbean preparatory meeting in Port of Spain in June 2017. The meeting's participants reviewed the implementation status of regional and global agreements on population ageing and the rights of older persons, in line with an ECLAC study, as part of the third global review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. They agreed on a number of recommendations —on social protection, labour market participation, health and social care— designed to further the implementation of those agreements. The recommendations were subsequently presented to the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean as the contribution of the Caribbean member States.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The subregional headquarters, with the support of the GIZ-funded project “Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Caribbean through the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies”, facilitated the design and promotion of strategies for improving the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Dominica, Martinique and Saint Lucia.

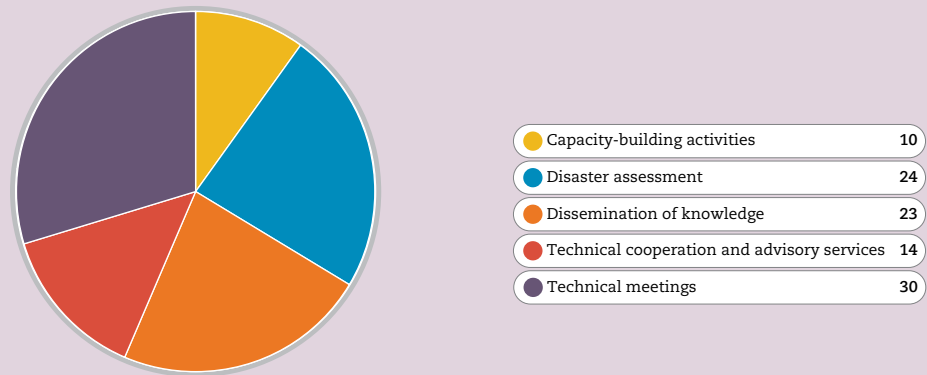
Participants attended a seminar on the Leaders Activating Research Networks (LEARN): Implementing the LERU Research Data Roadmap and Toolkit, with the goal of raising awareness about research data management and policy issues among institutions and encouraging institutions to produce research data management (RDM) policies themselves. As a result of this initiative, a Caribbean case study was included in the LEARN toolkit of best practices for research data management.

In partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), a three-day workshop on exploring innovation in transactions and financing in the Caribbean was held in June 2016. The workshop provided Caribbean stakeholders from various sectors with interactive sessions on the use of technology innovations for improving financial transactions and financing arrangements. A second two-day workshop on digital financial services, held in April 2017, examined consumer protection in mobile financial services and provided insights into research on application security from several providers. It was proposed that a Caribbean think tank initiative conduct further research to identify problems and examine potential solutions to mainstreaming digital financial services in the subregion.

The subregional office produced an economic analysis of the impact of the loss of correspondent banking services in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis, in which it offered short- and medium-term strategies to address the issue. The challenges of Caribbean offshore financial centres were also examined, and recommendations for a regional approach to strengthening and developing the sector’s export potential were made.

Several countries requested that ECLAC provide technical assistance for undertaking an assessment of their capacity needs and data gaps in designing and implementing an institutional framework for mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their national development processes. This assessment will also address the institutional and capacity needs of their national statistical systems for producing data to support evidence-based policy planning and for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. To date, the subregional headquarters has completed the initial scoping exercise on implementing the Goals in Aruba, the Bahamas, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

[FIGURE 13]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During this biennium, it was found that fostering regional dialogue requires greater attention be paid to ensuring that the institutional mandates of regional actors are aligned. While the issue of national indebtedness is globally recognized as a critical development challenge that exposes the vulnerability of Caribbean member States, the specificities of the mandates of some regional development stakeholders have precluded their active participation in responding to this challenge. In addition, with the adoption of 2030 Agenda and the SIDS development agenda, it was found that several legacy coordinating mechanisms do not easily lend themselves to these expanded mandates. As a result, while ensuring that the parameters for new development systems are framed to respond to specific development challenges, those systems should not be so tightly contextualized that their ability to evolve with the adoption of new and related development realities is limited.

Finally, one of the lessons learned was that closer and timelier collaboration with stakeholders can help ensure appropriate levels of participation in meetings. Further, greater transparency by the subregional headquarters regarding the rationale for the type of participant could facilitate better alignment of the participant profile with the requirements sought. Also, while the Port of Spain office has an operational monitoring and evaluation mechanism, it has been acknowledged that it should be improved to facilitate better analyses of the medium-term impact of the activities and related work carried out.

SUBPROGRAMME 14

SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION PROCESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

[14]

LUIS FIDEL YÁÑEZ

Officer in Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown conviction in carrying forward and sustaining their regional and subregional cooperation and integration processes. Despite a complex economic and political context in the region during 2016-2017, this conviction has not changed.

During the biennium, in accordance with its work plan, the Office provided technical and substantive inputs to regional and subregional integration organizations in support of discussions and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues and it facilitated dialogue between the Latin American and Caribbean region and extraregional actors, such as Europe, China and the Republic of Korea.

ECLAC responded to requests from regional and subregional integration bodies, coordinated the work of compiling and systematizing information, studies and technical reports, provided technical assistance and helped to create guidelines for the formulation and implementation of plans and strategies, in accordance with the priorities and requests of those bodies.

With the unwavering support of ECLAC, several subregional and regional cooperation and integration processes gained in maturity and strength over the biennium. The requirements of cooperation and integration now exceed the scope of trade strategies and policies and are expanding into such spheres as production, energy, infrastructure, environment, poverty, public safety, migration and South-South cooperation.

The Commission has been catering to a region that is implementing significant global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. The region's commitment to these civilizing and transformative agendas that seek economic, social and environmental sustainability is proof of the value given to multilateralism and government consensus with other social actors.

The Commission supported regional and subregional integration and cooperation organizations in line with resolution 700(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC in May 2016, by virtue of which "other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Amid a more complex social, political and economic context in the region, Latin America and the Caribbean has striven to maintain a cohesive regional voice in response to global challenges —such as the effects of climate change, natural disasters and migration— through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Over the coming biennium, the Office of the Secretary of the Commission will continue to focus on furthering regional and subregional integration processes, supporting capacity-building and promoting convergence of the regional and subregional integration mechanisms; it will support the regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda; and it will play a part in achieving better outcomes and greater impact for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their interregional and global political dialogues.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Technical and substantive inputs were provided to facilitate regional debate and consensus-building on issues relating to the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender equality. In addition, ECLAC provided support for the presentation of regionally agreed positions in global forums and summits.

Relevant support was provided to CELAC. During the tenures of the Dominican Republic and El Salvador as pro tempore chairs of the Community, the Commission's support has become institutionally established, as evidenced by the mandates received in the form of annual action plans, its participation at the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers and presentations made on those occasions, as well as by the publication of the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States*, presented at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in January 2017.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PANORAMA OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES, 2016

This edition of the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States* is a contribution by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to the fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 2017). The document has six sections summarizing the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of economic, social and population affairs, foreign direct investment, trade and gender equality.

In addition, technical support was provided through the presentation of a proposal for the review of the mandates of the CELAC political statements and plans of action, through the provision of contributions for a document of reflections on the convergence of regional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, and through the preparation of a presentation to the pro tempore chair to be given at the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers.

In order to support the region, ECLAC has also made the work of its substantive divisions (technical documents, publications and presentations, among others) available to CELAC. Examples of this are the documents *Plan para la seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre de la CELAC 2025: una propuesta para seguimiento y análisis*; *Mapas de seguimiento de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. Indicadores seleccionados*; and *Food and nutrition security and the eradication of hunger CELAC 2025: Furthering discussion and regional cooperation*.

Regarding the fifth meeting of the Working Group of International Cooperation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), November 2017.

The pro tempore chair of CELAC, currently held by El Salvador, extends its gratitude for the valuable support that ECLAC has provided in pursuit of the established mandate for devising a regional policy for South-South and triangular cooperation. This will be a unique model for regional cooperation aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality in order to attain sustainable and inclusive development and horizontal ties with other regions of the world, and it will also emphasize the way in which the policy assumes the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the structural gaps that exist.

Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Notwithstanding the importance of the work ECLAC has carried out with CELAC, the Commission has also served the needs of other subregional integration institutions. The Commission's 2016 agreement with UNASUR shows its support for the process of summits, ad hoc meetings and conferences of the Union's 12 member countries. Under this agreement ECLAC published the document *South American Social and Economic Panorama, 2016*.

South-South cooperation is an important issue for the Latin American and Caribbean region, as it clearly contributes to its integration and convergence processes. The Commission has complemented the efforts of other regional institutions to respond to the countries' needs to ascertain the outcomes of South-South cooperation, specifically with regard to the identification of indicators and measurement methodologies.

Thus, within the framework of the first Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC organized the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, which took place in Mexico City in April 2017. During the meeting a discussion was held on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants included the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director-General for Regional Agencies and Mechanisms of the Americas of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Forums and Mechanisms on International Cooperation for Development of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), as well as representatives from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation Area at the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador and the Vice-Minister of International Cooperation from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic.

ECLAC also provided technical and logistics support for joint activities or initiatives in which various regional and subregional arrangements and mechanisms participated with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences.

Throughout the biennium, the Commission's support to facilitate regional dialogue with third parties, such as partners or extraregional mechanisms, has focused on the assistance requested by CELAC. Examples of this are the support provided for the preparation of meetings, seminars and publications for the CELAC-EU and CELAC-China forums, as well as in support of the CELAC-Turkey agenda.

Within the framework of CELAC, and jointly with FAO and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Commission participated in the design and implementation of the Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025. The plan aims to “reach concrete results that will generate significant improvements in the quality of life of the inhabitants of the region, aimed at the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, to guarantee food security and nutrition, with a gender approach and respecting the variety of eating habits”.

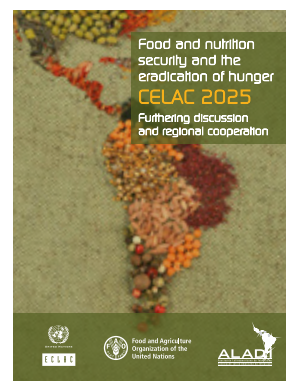
In this context, CELAC held a meeting on “Food security and climate change: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, in 2016. One of the main conclusions reached at the meeting was that the impact of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean will be considerable because of the region's economic dependence on agriculture, the low adaptive capacity of its population and the geographical location of some of its countries. The palpable threat of this phenomenon will be seen strongly in food production but it will also have repercussions on the wider economy and on social protection and health systems. Although the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will suffer differentiated impacts according to their individual circumstances, climate change will, without doubt, be a cross-cutting challenge that demands decisive and coordinated action.

The CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 clearly represents a unique tool for the region's countries to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the discussion of the issues considered will be crucial for attaining the shared targets. It is expected that the CELAC Plan will enable the CELAC countries to address these, deepen regional and international cooperation, and continue the successful process of hunger eradication that Latin America and the Caribbean has been pursuing over the last few years.

ECLAC has also provided technical assistance and advisory services to regional and subregional mechanisms, in order to facilitate regional dialogue with third parties, including extraregional partners and mechanisms, on issues relating to social, economic and sustainable development, including gender equality. ECLAC has also supported Latin America and the Caribbean's links with other regions of the world, through organizing and participating in the seminar entitled “Exploring strategies for economic cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean”, and “The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The environmental big push”. Further support was given through inputs provided to the pro tempore chair of CELAC, such as the unpublished document on Trade relations between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Russian Federation.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER CELAC 2025: FURTHERING DISCUSSION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Latin America and the Caribbean can boast a successful track record in the process of eradicating hunger: it is the only region in the world that has halved both the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (the target set in the Millennium Development Goals) and their absolute number (the target set at the 1996 World Food Summit). This publication aims to provide the region's countries with up-to-date and timely information on the status of food and nutrition security, on the role in eradicating hunger played by agriculture, agrifood trade and natural resource management and on the possibility of successfully addressing the twin burden of malnutrition, in a context where the effects of climate change could threaten the progress achieved to date in Latin America and the Caribbean. The CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 is a cross-cutting tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, as such, it encourages the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to redouble their efforts to identify key policy areas that will make it possible to speed up and consolidate the process of eradicating hunger and to tackle the twin burden of malnutrition in the region, in which overweight and obesity are increasingly adding to that scourge.



We, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the CELAC, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on January 25th, of the present year (2017);

We welcome the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to implement the first Korea-CELAC cooperation project with the implementation of the Workshop on Capacity-building for the Internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, on December 9th, 2016 in Santiago de Chile, which resulted from the Tripartite Academic Seminar Korea-CELAC-ECLAC, "Exploring Strategies for Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean", held in the same country on April 11th, 2015.

Political Declaration of Punta Cana, Fifth CELAC Summit, 25 January 2017

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Commission delivered advisory services to the Dominican Republic and El Salvador in their capacity as pro tempore chairs of CELAC. It supported the annual planning of the CELAC 2016 pro tempore chair with a proposal for the review of the mandates of the political statements and plans of action of CELAC. In this context, technical support was provided for the drafting of a reflections document on the convergence of regional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean. In parallel, ECLAC gave the pro tempore chair inputs for the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers.

During 2017, technical support provided by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission to El Salvador in its capacity as the pro tempore chair of CELAC centred on three major issues: food and nutritional security within the framework of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025;

South-South and triangular cooperation with the aim of contributing to a regional policy; and the link between these two topics and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Commission has complemented the South-South cooperation efforts of other regional institutions to respond to the countries' need to ascertain the outcomes of South-South cooperation, specifically with regard to the identification of indicators and measurement methodologies, among others.

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One of the lessons learned during the biennium was that the Commission must be able to service the requirements of a region that is implementing significant global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and, at the same time, adapt to a changing political context in the region. ECLAC must react quickly to these requirements. The support provided must be of high quality, with a specialized approach integrating the three dimensions — economic, social and environmental— of sustainable development. In this regard, peer learning has been key in addressing common development and integration challenges. Finally, coordination with other United Nations agencies or institutions in the region has proved to be highly relevant to the countries in order to promote synergies and avoid overlaps.



COUNTRY OFFICES

ECLAC OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

Throughout the biennium, the ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. continued to serve as liaison with the Governments of the United States of America and Canada and with international organizations based in Washington, D.C., including IMF, the World Bank Group, IDB, OAS and PAHO. The office remained the focal point for the Summit of the Americas process follow-up mechanism, for the Meeting of Finance Ministers of the Americas, and for the OAS-IDB-ECLAC Tripartite Committee. In addition, the office continued to monitor the evolution of the United States' economy and developments in its economic relations with Latin America and the Caribbean and in the region's access to international financial markets.

Through its active role in the Joint Summit Working Group and the Summit Implementation Review Group, the office coordinated technical inputs for the upcoming Eighth Summit of the Americas, which is to take place in Lima in April 2018. These inputs contribute to the formulation of mandates to be adopted at the Summit by the participating countries. Throughout 2016, the office also coordinated and provided inputs to the consultations launched by the Government of Canada to review its international assistance policy. The new international assistance framework helps to refocus Canada's assistance on reaching the most vulnerable and on its approach to supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Also, the office has been providing inputs to the Government of Canada on the promotion of gender equality and, in particular, on the development of an initiative on women's leadership in the Americas.

The ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. continued to deepen and broaden its analysis and monitoring of the evolution of economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States and Canada, with a particular focus on identifying novel issues in trade negotiations. In this respect, the office undertook a study on how intellectual property protection for the pharmaceutical industry was negotiated in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and assessed its implications for the region's countries. During the biennium the office started monitoring and analysing trends in digital trade, continued to update the database Observatory of the United States Imports Customs Control, which includes about 150,000 refusal records, and has contributed to offering new insights into the application of technical standards and the design of measures to improve access to the United States market. In addition, it continued monitoring performance and developments in the United States, economy providing information and analysis of interest to policy makers via its *United States Economic Outlook* and its *United States-Latin America and the Caribbean Trade Developments*.

The Washington office also continued to analyse the region's access to international capital markets. The quarterly assessment and the dissemination of the report *Capital Flows to Latin America* provided valuable and timely information to policymakers about developments in bond markets, including the evolution of bond spreads and debt issuances. Special attention was given to monitoring green bonds issuance by Latin American and Caribbean countries and assessing their potential contribution to the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the report *The rise of green bonds: Financing for development in Latin America and the Caribbean* was published in 2017. In the same vein, the role of bond markets in financing infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean was studied and inputs provided to the discussions undertaken by the Technical Group of the G-24 in the area of domestic resource mobilization. In addition, the office contributed to the G-24 Technical Group discussions on income inequality and growth. Additional research was undertaken to assess the evolution of international reserves with a focus on the countries of the region. Timely information and analysis was also provided via internal distribution of the *Washington Economic Note* reports which, during the biennium, covered a range of issues, including United States economic and trade policies, migration, the Bretton Woods institutions and Puerto Rico's debt burden.

Instrumental to the provision of timely information and analysis has been the inclusion of research generated by the Washington office in the ECLAC flagship publications *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*. The office has also helped to raise awareness about ECLAC among stakeholders in Washington and throughout the United States and Canada, contributing to the dissemination of the Commission's thought and body of work. During the biennium, the office participated as a guest speaker at more than 20 events, including courses and training sessions for government officials. It organized an event for the Washington launch of the ECLAC flagship publication *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*. Finally, it participated in over 200 conferences, seminars and other events and distributed 400 documents and publications on issues relating to trade and sustainable economic and social development. The monthly newsletter *CEPAL News*, now in its twenty-eighth year of publication, was distributed in electronic format to over 8,800 readers. In addition, through the distribution of printed materials, the office has succeeded in increasing the awareness of key issues facing the region during this time of global uncertainty. Finally, the office continued liaising with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in support of the Latin American Development Forum. This peer-reviewed series, sponsored by the three institutions, promotes debate and disseminates knowledge and analysis on economic and social development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BRASILIA

During the biennium, the ECLAC office in Brasilia continued to serve as the Commission's link with the Government of Brazil, national institutions and civil society, through the organization of meetings and the dissemination of relevant documents. The office delivered technical assistance to various national institutions, upon their request, to develop their capacities in areas related to ECLAC fields of action.

Sustainable development remained a key topic for the office during the biennium. Under the Brazilian Sustainable Development and its Integration with South America technical cooperation agreement, the Ministry of the Environment requested an evaluation of the Brazilian Climate Fund. The objective of this evaluation was to review the contribution of the climate fund as an instrument of the National Policy on Climate Change. Specifically, this assessment focused on the performance of the climate fund, identifying its strengths and limitations and proposing recommendations to overcome them. The results of the evaluation of the Brazilian Climate Fund, conducted with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil, were presented at a workshop held in March 2016, which provided an opportunity to discuss the main results and refine the recommendations. The results of the discussions were incorporated in the final evaluation report *Avaliação do Fundo Clima*.

Under the same cooperation agreement, the office published *Compras públicas sustentáveis: diagnóstico, análise comparada e recomendações para o aperfeiçoamento do modelo brasileiro*, which brings together two studies based on a comparative analysis of sustainable public procurement practices abroad and in Brazil. In its conclusions, the document contains important recommendations aimed at improving Brazilian public procurement policies, at both the federal and State levels.

The Round Table on Principle 10 at the Brazilian Congress on Environmental Law was held in June 2016 in São Paulo. The office in Brasilia also organized in March 2017 a seminar titled *Environmental expenditures: methodological guidelines and advances in Latin America*, which was intended to develop technical capacities for environmental protection spending. Finally, an international seminar on interconnecting climate change and national accounts was held in October 2017 to discuss ways to include greenhouse gas emissions in the national accounts system and the importance of matching national emissions inventory data with the satellite account system. Finally, the document *Generación de bases de datos climáticos para el análisis de riesgos en las costas de Santa Catarina (Brasil): resumen para gestores* was prepared to summarize the results of the project financed by the agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

The office oversaw the publication in Portuguese of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts Central Framework (*Sistema de Contas Econômicas Ambientais 2012: marco central*), in order to give Brazilian institutions better access to the central economic framework system, a basic conceptual framework consisting of a comprehensive set of tables and accounts which guides the preparation of consistent and comparable statistics and indicators for the formulation of public policies, analysis and research. In 2017, through the technical cooperation agreement with IPEA, the Brasilia office carried out studies to contribute to the IPEA project to analyse the main economic challenges facing Brazil in achieving a stable growth path. Experts on foreign trade, infrastructure, public finance, investments and new technologies and culture prepared analyses and proposals for Brazil's future. The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals were also a guide for this project and for the new technical cooperation agreement signed with IPEA and the Brazilian Government for the period 2017-2021, which will maintain the contributions of IPEA for new joint research, seminars and publications with ECLAC.

The Brasilia office is also maintaining contact with its government counterparts by providing studies on the proposal for social security reforms and helping the work programme of the Brazilian National Commission on the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

Lastly, as part of its ongoing activities, the office prepared the country notes on Brazil for three ECLAC flagships: *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BOGOTA

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the ECLAC office in Bogota worked to promote better conditions for fostering public policies to accelerate the convergence of social achievements and sustainability, with emphasis on rural areas, which is a key area for peacebuilding in Colombia. Working on government priorities has made it possible to establish forums where the knowledge and experience accumulated by ECLAC is valued. Notwithstanding, ensuring greater flexibility has been necessary to match the changing demands of authorities, in a new peacebuilding context.

The office continued to provide technical assistance, upon request, to the Government of Colombia. Economic authorities have invited ECLAC to contribute with its knowledge and experience to the mission of experts convened to recommend to the Colombian Government an agenda of reforms that promote more efficient public spending to address the country's most urgent needs, also with the objective of addressing fiscal imbalances. ECLAC has been invited to the strategic committee of the Green Growth Mission, an initiative led by the National Planning Department that seeks to define the Colombia Green Growth Policy in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by identifying territories with capacity for innovative development processes.

Throughout the biennium, the ECLAC office in Bogota maintained its cooperation activities with the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) aimed at strengthening the poverty committees by analysing possibilities for improvements in data collection instruments and by carrying out preliminary analyses of the National Agricultural Census.

Achieving a more progressive fiscal structure is one of the topics on the Colombian development agenda. The impact on public finances of the less favourable international context reduced the public capacity for increased social spending. Based on the ECLAC diagnosis of tax structure problems in Latin America, proposals were advanced to develop a tax structure with a greater redistributive impact in Colombia.

As part of its permanent activities, the office prepared the country notes on Colombia for the ECLAC flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and it continued to provide inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the ECLAC Office in Buenos Aires continued to provide technical assistance and carry out technical cooperation activities with national and provincial governments, as well as to contribute Argentine economic perspectives for the ECLAC flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

Throughout the biennium and at the request of the Government of Argentina, the office continued to provide technical assistance on a wide range of subjects, including public procurement, productive and territorial development, technological innovation and exports, productive and technological policies and child labour statistics. Technical assistance was also given to the provincial governments of Catamarca and Santa Fe on economic statistics (design of provincial indexes on consumer prices and on economic activity) and to the governments of Chaco, Formosa, Salta and Tucumán on the analysis of structural gaps in the development of these provinces. Each of these provincial studies includes a geographic, sociodemographic and productive description of the province, analyses the nine gaps covered by the methodology (income, inequality, employment, poverty, education, health, productivity, infrastructure and environment) and suggests strategic areas for intervention to bolster development processes in the territory.

The ECLAC office in Buenos Aires also continued its annual training programme in quantitative analysis techniques for officials from the Argentine public administration. This programme is made up of five independent courses of a theoretical and practical nature, which are implemented as workshops with an emphasis on the application of the concepts and techniques presented via software that corresponds specifically to each one.

ECLAC OFFICE IN MONTEVIDEO

The ECLAC office in Montevideo continued to advise public institutions in Uruguay and to bring its international experience to bear in better understanding the country's economic, social and environmental policy issues. During this period, the office continued to work with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, conducting various studies on macroeconomic policy, international trade and social protection. The office also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) of Uruguay, starting an intense line of collaboration. In this framework, the two institutions organized a call for project proposals from young researchers, to select four projects (out of 28 applicants) for implementation. Specific studies on social issues were also conducted under the agreement. Another agreement signed during this period was between ECLAC and the Central Bank of Uruguay, with the objective of providing technical assistance on statistical topics. ECLAC also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to conduct capacity-building activities in the area of collective bargaining.

During the biennium, the office oversaw the joint publication with ILO of the book *Hacia un desarrollo inclusivo. El caso de Uruguay*, which examines economic growth, the labour market and social protection in the country. It also published a joint research project with the World Bank, *Demographic Change in Uruguay: Economic Opportunities and Challenges*, which analyses the main challenges arising from the country's demographic transition. Under an agreement with the national office of UNICEF, the ECLAC office conducted research on childhood and adolescence in Uruguay, with the goal of helping design public policies to benefit those groups.

Finally, as part of its permanent activities, the office prepared the country notes on Uruguay for the ECLAC flagships *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and it provided inputs for the flagship *Social Panorama of Latin America*.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Commission's technical cooperation programme allows it to respond to direct requests from member States and tackle new economic, social and environmental challenges to the regional development that have not yet been incorporated into its programme of work. This approach helps the Commission to build on its expertise, allowing it to remain ahead of the curve on emerging development issues, reinforcing its capacities and encouraging the sharing of experiences among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This programme is implemented through technical assistance and advisory services, the advancement and diffusion of specialized knowledge rooted in practical applications, the organization of workshops and seminars, and ongoing dialogues with national governments at the political and technical level. The programme also creates opportunities for intraregional, interregional and South-South cooperation.

During the biennium, 1,453 technical cooperation missions were carried out by the Commission. Of these missions, 533 were related to economic issues, 504 to social topics and 416 to environmental matters, thus covering the three dimensions of sustainable development.

ECLAC received voluntary contributions from development partners and donors both from within and outside the region, including member States, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, development banks, international foundations, academic institutions and civil society, through 151 technical cooperation projects, including 37 from multilateral organizations.

ECLAC was able to mobilize US\$ 29.57 million, of which US\$ 11.36 million were from bilateral sources, including countries in the region, demonstrating the confidence that bilateral and multilateral development partners have in the Commission and their commitment to multilateralism and regional . That amount is US\$ 2.35 million more than was raised over the previous biennium.

A lot of the resources have been devoted to helping countries build their capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the priorities set out in the 2030 Agenda. Technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Commission enhanced knowledge and management capacities, regional integration and public policies that seek to promote equality and sustainability.

In terms of knowledge management the Commission produced studies, with support from the Republic of Korea, on mitigating the environmental impact of regional exports. Two books on social protection and institutions were financed

by GIZ, as was research on extractive industries. With the support from the Government of Norway, ECLAC conducted research on the situation of women in vocational education systems. During the biennium, ECLAC consolidated its partnership with the European Union in the field of policies to promote small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, carrying out seven national studies. ECLAC worked with UNFPA to advance knowledge on population and development issues, particularly with regard to Afrodescendent populations.

With financial support from the European Commission, technical assistance and advisory services on selecting strategic value chains were provided to the Ministry of Production of Argentina to. With the support of AECID, technical assistance on pension system reform and gender equality was provided to Uruguay and Chile. ECLAC provided technical assistance, financed by GIZ, to the Government of Guatemala on incorporating economic instruments with an environmental approach into national fiscal policy changes. Lastly, ECLAC developed a BIEE database for the Caribbean, with support from GIZ and ADEME.

[MAP 1]

ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2016-2017, BY TYPE OF MISSION



RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

BETTER PLANNING OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

During the biennium, ECLAC expanded its use of results-based management in the planning, monitoring and evaluation phases of its operations. The Office of the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Programme Planning and Operations Division, continued to convene annual strategic meetings with the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices. These meetings provided an opportunity to assess achievements and obstacles and monitor the implementation of the programme of work and projects in 2016-2017, discuss strategic guidelines for 2018-2019, and review cooperation with donors and other partners to maximize the impact of activities and encourage synergies.

The Programme Planning and Operations Division also worked with the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices to refine their logical frameworks, by including better defined objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, so as to reinforce ownership of and commitment to the programme of work.

As a result of this consultative and collaborative process, the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, was prepared. It will be reviewed and discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-eighth session and by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and will be presented to the member States of ECLAC at its thirty-seventh session in 2018. This document sets out the new proposed strategic priorities, as well as the related strategies and tentative list of outputs.

In the planning process for 2020, ECLAC has maintained its commitment to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the draft programme of work, from the strategic level to the activity level. In conjunction with the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Division for Gender Affairs, the Programme Planning and Operations Division has coordinated the oversight of the implementation and monitoring of the gender mainstreaming strategy. To that end, two training courses were organized by the Programme Planning and Operations Division in collaboration with the Human Resources Section, one on mainstreaming the gender perspective into programmes and projects, held in June 2017, and one on result-based management, held in October 2017. Both were attended by over 50 ECLAC staff members.

In a context of limited resources, ECLAC has sought to coordinate activities with different sources of funding in order to avoid duplication of efforts, identify synergies and allocate resources more efficiently, thus delivering the best results possible.

STRONG MONITORING CAPACITIES

During the biennium, the Programme Planning and Operations Division oversaw the reporting of ECLAC outputs in the Integrated Monitoring and Document Information System (IMDIS), which monitors indicators and results in all aspects of the Commission's projects and programme of work. The Division reviewed the inputs of the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices, maintaining contact with monitoring focal points in each division and office away from headquarters, and advised them, upon request, on how to improve monitoring. The Division issued Updated guidelines on reporting for each biannual review and gave feedback to ensure consistent reporting across the Commission, in line with requirements established by United Nations Headquarters. Evaluation surveys, an important reporting tool, were also undertaken, overseen by the Division.

ENHANCED EVALUATION FUNCTION

ECLAC has continued to strengthen its evaluation function, through the continuous updating and improvement of its evaluation processes, seeking not only to improve the quality of its evaluation reports, but to ensure that they are used to enhance its work. As part of this process, the formal mechanism to follow up the implementation of recommendations was enhanced and extended to all evaluations carried out during 2016-2017. Over the course of the biennium, the implementation of recommendations made in five full-fledged evaluations and six Development Account project assessments were either formally agreed and/or reported upon, leading to greater accountability and drawing attention to specific actions that showcase the impact of evaluations. Furthermore, the first edition of document designed to promote the best practices, lessons learned and recommendations identified in the evaluations dating from between 2011 and 2014, which, due to their cross-cutting nature, could be considered relevant to many divisions of the Commission.

During the reporting period, ECLAC has also revised and updated its Evaluation Policy and Strategy¹ to bring it into line with the evaluation norms and standards established by the United Nations Evaluation Group and to take into account the lessons learned in recent years and evaluation best practices. In addition, the Commission produced internal guidelines for preparing and conducting evaluations, which provide detailed guidance on undertaking evaluations at ECLAC and ensuring high quality standards. The guidelines seek to standardize the approach to undertaking evaluations and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the evaluation process. In turn, it is hoped that this will ultimately lead to greater transparency, coherence and accountability within the Commission, as well as improving its performance and capacity for institutional learning. As stated in the Evaluation Policy and Strategy, all evaluation reports produced by the Commission can be found on the Commission's webpage and are available to the public.²

¹ See [online] <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/35507-evaluation-policy-and-strategy>.

² For more information on the ECLAC evaluation process and access to the evaluation reports, please see [online]: <https://www.cepal.org/en/ambito-de-rendicion-de-cuentas-evaluacion>.

REINFORCED ACCOUNTABILITY

ECLAC prepares a report on activities at the end of every biennium to allow member States, the bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to review the implementation of the Commission's programme of work. In addition, in the intervening years, ECLAC presents to its member States, in the context of the Committee of the Whole, a simplified statement of accounts of activities carried out and future lines of work. Evaluations are also used as a tool to reinforce accountability to both donors and member States. Lastly, ECLAC strives to be responsive to oversight bodies of the Secretariat and the United Nations system, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to follow up on the implementation of their recommendations.

**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF ECLAC**

Havana, 7–11 May 2018



A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018.

Attendance¹

2. The session was attended by representatives of 46 States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Curaçao also attended as an associate member of the Commission.

4. The President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba and the Secretary-General of the United Nations attended the session as special guests.

5. Other special guests, whose names figure in the list of participants, also attended.

6. In attendance from the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, were representatives from the Office of the Secretary-General, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Regional Commissions New York Office, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

7. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

8. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations attended the session: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

¹ The list of participants appears as annex 3 to this report.

9. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended the session: Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Andean Community, Central American Monetary Council (CAMC), World Economic Forum, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Centro del Sur and Unión European Union.

10. Non-governmental organizations, universities and academic centres were also represented.

Election of officers

11. At the first plenary meeting, the delegations elected the officers of the thirty-seventh session.

12. The officers elected to preside over the thirty-seventh session were as follows:

Chair:	Cuba
Vice-Chairs:	Ecuador
	Mexico
	Saint Lucia

Organization of work

13. In addition to the plenary meetings held during the session of the Commission and in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, concurrent meetings were held by the Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Documentation

14. A list of the working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session is provided in annex 2.

B. AGENDA

15. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

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

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

G. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

16. The opening ceremony was attended by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Francisco Guzmán Ortiz, Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Mexico. Attending as special guests were António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba.

17. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, for his presence at the opening of the session, and expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Cuban people. The presence of António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was a testament to the Organization’s commitment to ECLAC and to its member States. The Executive Secretary also thanked the Government of Mexico for its leadership in chairing ECLAC during the previous two years, during which the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development had held its first meeting, a role that would now be passed to Cuba for the next two years. The ECLAC session was the Commission’s most important meeting and provided the opportunity to report on its activity and for the countries to define, through the programme of work and the calendar of conferences adopted, the mandates that would guide the Commission’s work in the future. The work of ECLAC was to provide the Governments of the region with relevant and timely support in a rigorous manner, with a view to building a development plan with a clear horizon: to achieve equality through growth and growth through equality.

18. The main theme at this thirty-seventh session was the inefficiency of inequality. Equality was an irreducible ethical principle and ultimate policy foundation, focused on a rights-based approach, with a humanist vocation that reflected the most precious heritage of modernity and promoted a development model aimed at closing structural gaps and achieving technological convergence

to support progress towards higher levels of productivity with economic and environmental sustainability. ECLAC proposed that inequality was not only unfair but also inefficient and unsustainable, something which the Commission had empirically demonstrated and quantified. The culture of privilege, which entrenched inequalities in all areas and was transmitted from one generation to another, had to be set aside in favour of a culture of equality. A new welfare system needed to be built with public finance management based on macroeconomics for development instead of crisis management, progressive and adequate tax systems, countercyclical policymaking to protect the role of public investment and social spending, broader fiscal space, efforts to combat corruption, institutional upgrading and greater oversight by citizens. There was a need for global tax rules to eradicate the transnationalization of tax evasion and avoidance and end the system of globalized tax privileges. It was also necessary to leave behind the development pattern that caused environmental inefficiencies, which were evidenced by extreme weather events, especially in the Caribbean, which faced enormous costs from climate change. At ECLAC, Caribbean issues would henceforth occupy a prominent place in line with the policy of “Caribbean first”. The United Nations Secretary-General had proposed an administrative reform and a reform of the peace and security architecture that would provide a more decentralized, assertive and effective system for supporting the countries, in a coordinated manner, in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the challenges of climate change. ECLAC was proposing an environmental big push to drive industrial and technological policies with low-carbon production activities, such as renewable energies. Lastly, the Executive Secretary remarked that the work carried out by ECLAC over its 70 years had been geared towards achieving a virtuous circle of growth, equality and sustainability in the region and conveyed her thanks to Enrique Iglesias, Gert Rosenthal, José Antonio Ocampo and José Luis Machinea, for their acknowledged leadership and sound guidance of ECLAC over the previous four decades.

19. The Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Mexico conveyed greetings from the President of Mexico and expressed his country’s support for the work of ECLAC, the main United Nations agency in Latin America and the Caribbean, which throughout its seven decades of existence had provided a constructive forum for discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the region. Since its inception, ECLAC had laid the foundations for the common agenda and promoted the economic and social development of the region on the basis of three key values: unity, solidarity and fraternity. In times of stability and adversity alike, ECLAC had provided nations with solid support on the path towards inclusion and prosperity. The Commission had established itself as a forum for global coordination, offering its cumulative experience and knowledge. Mexico, a proud Latin American and Caribbean nation, had been honoured to chair ECLAC for the preceding two years, a noble task that would now pass to Cuba. In this work, Mexico’s purpose had been to address the challenges arising at the start of the new century, especially to close the region’s hallmark structural equality gaps.

20. As for the outcomes of the preceding two years, the speaker mentioned, on matters of population and development, the development of tools —with the support of the United Nations Population Fund— aimed at strengthening institutions supporting vulnerable groups in the region; with regard to South-South cooperation, promotion of the participation of all social sectors in creating innovative partnerships to maximize the scope of cooperation activities in

the region; the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean had served as a platform to launch a digital agenda promoting the use of new technological platforms to improve living conditions in societies; in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, efforts had been made to strengthen statistical tools to enable evidence-based public policymaking and to develop and standardize information on security and justice; and in the sphere of geostatistical information, a programme of work had been developed, together with ECLAC, to strengthen follow-up to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Global economic activity was recovering and Latin American and Caribbean economies were following suit, but more important was the quality of growth, which needed to be inclusive. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the best route towards overcoming existing challenges, together. Its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) were significant and represented strategic proposals to underpin policymaking in the region. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development provided impetus to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. Lastly, the speaker remarked upon the need to build partnerships among the countries of the region, as this promoted the development of them all, and strengthening regional unity could resolve historic equality gaps and create a future of inclusion and well-being for all.

21. The Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Cuban people and the Government of Cuba, represented on this occasion by President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez. He also thanked the Government of Mexico for its leadership during its term as Chair of ECLAC, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for her energy, dedication and leadership at the helm of the Commission. ECLAC, which was celebrating its seventieth anniversary, was an authoritative voice for social justice in the global economy; the Commission had pioneered the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and had consistently and courageously advocated for a vision of development which treated equality as the driver of growth, centred on a deeper meaning of equality, looking beyond income as a measure of well-being or as evidence for development cooperation, remaining focused on equal rights in the broadest sense: economic, social and political equality. The Commission's activity was based on sound and rigorous research and on the sharing of experiences linking national priorities with global discussions. ECLAC remained at the forefront of efforts to promote a more equitable form of globalization, introducing evidence-based policies, technical analysis and knowledge aimed at forging a progressive structural economic transformation, a vision and an approach that were more necessary than ever. Despite the benefits of globalization, far too many people had been left behind. Women were less able to participate in the labour market and the gender pay gap remained a global concern. Unemployment among the young had reached alarming levels, affecting their well-being, countries' development and, in some places, public safety. Fundamental inequalities were preventing people from enjoying better health and education, having access to justice, earning a decent wage and leading decent lives. Rising inequality had become the face of globalization and generated discontent, intolerance and social instability, especially among young people. The potential offered by the fourth industrial revolution should be harnessed in the interests of well-being and progress and to address the aforementioned risks.

22. The Secretary-General further remarked that, in a complex and multipolar world, the concept of development had to be redefined, especially in transition and middle-income countries such as those in the region. There was a need for a global economy that benefited and created opportunities for all: a fair globalization. The 2030 Agenda represented a crucial contribution, whose highest priority was the eradication of extreme poverty. The Sustainable Development Goals were clear in their ambition and their commitment to empowering women, achieving production inclusion among youth, reducing climate risk, creating decent jobs, mobilizing green investments in favour of inclusive growth, and providing dignity and more opportunities for all on a healthy planet. Financing was crucial; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development called for enhanced initiatives and innovation to mobilize additional resources and funding for development. Countries' efforts to mobilize domestic resources needed to be accompanied by a stronger commitment from the international community to combat tax evasion, money-laundering and illicit financial flows. The boldness of the 2030 Agenda demanded equally bold changes in the work and activities of the Organization; efforts to reposition the United Nations development system were based on the creation of a new generation of country teams and reinforced national leadership and ownership for sustainable development. The system would be demand-driven, tailored to achieving results on the ground, and bringing accountability for results in supporting the countries in realizing the 2030 Agenda. The support of ECLAC was critical for implementing the Agenda in the region. The Secretary-General congratulated the region for the voluntary national reports that had been shared at regional forums on sustainable development. The measure of success of the Organization were the results achieved for the people it served; accordingly, support for regional integration should be adapted to the needs of countries. Work was under way with the leadership of the regional economic commissions to enhance their capabilities and cooperation mechanisms and, in that regard, ECLAC was the model to be followed by the other regional commissions. Climate change was affecting the region and there was a need for collective action; in this regard, he commended the ECLAC initiative to undertake a debt swap for climate change adaptation measures in the Caribbean. The Secretary-General remarked on the climate summit to be convened in New York in September 2019; this would bring together leaders from all spheres to develop more ambitious plans, because the commitments made in the Paris Agreement were not sufficient. An anniversary was an opportunity to take stock of the challenges: the history of ECLAC was the history of the struggle for economic and social justice in the region and beyond, which, he recalled, should never be abandoned. Lastly, the Secretary-General appealed to all to continue creating, and working and striving for, a fair globalization that would leave no one behind.

23. The President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba said that his country was honoured to host this thirty-seventh session, which coincided with the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC. For decades, the Commission had represented a regional and global benchmark for economic and social knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean and had made a crucial contribution to placing equity at the centre of development. It had shown that the region remained the most unequal region on the planet and had studied certain structural causes of the problem, which would be addressed at the meeting. He emphasized that the culture of inequality, which was associated with the colonial past of the Latin

American and Caribbean nations and particularly affected indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, girls and women, had to change. In his view, this culture was also a result of imperialism, neoliberalism, macroeconomic policies that for decades had favoured transnational corporations and had deepened differences grounded in class, skin colour, territories and the urban-rural divide. Significant challenges needed to be faced, including slow productivity growth, poor production structure diversification and limited technological upgrading. There was no choice but to advance with regional integration and development with equity, in order to reverse the wealth pyramid whereby a huge part of the assets in the region's largest countries was captured by the richest 1% of the population. The establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in February 2010 had highlighted the will to promote unity in diversity; the commitment was to concentrate social policy efforts on the most vulnerable population in order to respond to the challenges of poverty, inequality and hunger and achieve greater economic and social development for the Latin American and Caribbean peoples, on the basis of integrality, non-discrimination and recognition of the individual as a rights-bearer. The proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace was an essential road, since there could be no development without peace and no peace without development. Inequality had not only economic implications, but also political, social and cultural ones.

24. In addition, the distribution of income and wealth was the key element in closing this gap, for which States must ensure access for all to food, work, quality education, health, culture and better living conditions. The Paris Agreement could have initiated a path towards addressing climate change, but in the Caribbean States the threats were multiplying and imposing enormous stress on their economies, which required special and differential treatment, as well as greater support, solidarity and cooperation. It was essential that, in addressing the issue of inequality, access to knowledge was also taken into account; information and communication technologies favoured development, which made it essential to eliminate the gap between knowledge and ignorance. Such technologies had to be used to promote social solidarity, create values, contribute to peace and to economic, cultural and political sustainability in the countries of the region. The President reiterated Cuba's commitment to cooperation and solidarity towards other countries based on mutual respect, disinterested assistance and complementarity. Cuba assumed its role as Chair of ECLAC for the period 2018–2020, as well as of the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. It did so with deep commitment and awareness of the challenges it faced in continuing to promote cooperation among the countries of the region for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cuba stood ready to support the Commission's vocation to advance the search for a just, equitable and inclusive world in which people were acknowledged as the centre of sustainable development, and to promote unity within diversity.

[Seminar commemorating the seventieth anniversary of ECLAC \(agenda item 3\)](#)

Round table: 70 years of ECLAC

25. The round table was moderated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the speakers were Enrique Iglesias, Gert Rosenthal, José Antonio Ocampo and José Luis Machinea, former Executive Secretaries of the Commission.

26. The Executive Secretary said that this session was unique because among the participants were four former Executive Secretaries of ECLAC who, like the other former Executive Secretaries, Gustavo Martínez Cabañas, Raúl Prebisch, José Antonio Mayobre, Carlos Quintana and Norberto González, had played leading roles in the history of ECLAC. When ECLAC had been created 70 years earlier in the immediate post-war period, its membership had originally consisted only of Latin American countries, until those of the Caribbean were incorporated in 1984. The Commission had engaged in a fruitful intellectual effort that had shaped a body of original Latin American thought, with Raúl Prebisch at the forefront. Guiding ideas of ECLAC thinking had been forged at that time, such as the centre-periphery concept and the importance of industrialization as a channel for absorbing technical progress. Referring to the former Executive Secretaries present, she said that Enrique Iglesias had had to cope with the advent of military dictatorships in the region and create a role of moral and intellectual resistance for ECLAC; the problems of external debt and inflation had also had to be faced at this time. Gert Rosenthal had invited the economist Fernando Fajnzylber to work at ECLAC during his mandate, and the concept of changing production patterns with social equity had been predominant. ECLAC had challenged the Washington consensus with alternative visions and put forward constructive solutions. The changing production patterns with social equity approach had been linked to other aspects of development, such as open regionalism with emphasis on creating genuine competition by reducing technological and labour market divides. José Antonio Ocampo, for his part, had emphasized the importance of a fiscal covenant reflecting social and political agreement on the need to combat tax evasion and avoidance and attain greater equity, a task that remained incomplete. The challenges of globalization had also been examined and the value of citizenship incorporated into the analysis, together with the problems created by the lack of an international financial architecture and the effects of globalization on the environment. During José Luis Machinea's mandate, three vital contributions had been made: the analysis of social protection systems, a new emphasis on the importance of social cohesion for development, and a critical assessment of structural change and of the need for a revived industrial policy. New pathways of economic, social and environmental debate had opened up following the international financial crisis. The Executive Secretary ended by saying that ECLAC was one of the few institutions to have a school of thought with a continuous line of development, something that the presence of the former Executive Secretaries demonstrated.

27. Former Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias said that representatives of Latin American governments had met in Montevideo in 1950 to discuss the foundational report of the Commission, prepared by Raúl Prebisch and known as the Latin American manifesto, which urged the industrialization of Latin America and had been an inspiration for his own development and his connection with ECLAC. The Commission had made five major commitments. In the first place, there was its commitment to Latin America, manifested in its perspective on the region's role in the international economy (the centre-periphery conception), the approach to internal challenges (inward-looking development via industrialization) and regional integration (which could be observed in South-South cooperation); in the second place, ECLAC had committed itself to a way of thinking about development that had called

neoclassical thinking into question and that, while evolving, had maintained a structural conception of development and been given currency by the courses the Commission had held for the younger generations; in the third place, ECLAC had maintained its sensitivity to social issues, something manifested in its commitment to social development and equity, education and population issues through the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC; in the fourth place, there was the commitment to technological transformation dating from the earliest positions taken by Prebisch; and in the fifth place, there was the commitment to the fundamental United Nations principles of freedom, democracy and the defence of human rights. Lastly, the speaker emphasized that an institution that was capable of reuniting its former Executive Secretaries, as ECLAC had managed to do on this occasion, was demonstrating an exceptional degree of continuity in the commitment of an organization whose work was intended to be useful to the countries of the region.

28. Former Executive Secretary Gert Rosenthal said that not only did ECLAC generate ideas, but these were useful for formulating and applying economic policies. The ECLAC brand was that of a centre of thought. ECLAC had introduced the idea that Latin America and the Caribbean had enough elements in common to be thought of as a unit, and this had had concrete consequences for the way the region engaged with the world. Intraregional cooperation had been driven by ECLAC, and this had been one of its major contributions. The nexus between the regional economy and the international economy had become a guiding notion of the Commission's, combined with the idea of equity, inasmuch as development did not mean economic development alone. There was a dissident vein in the analytical work of ECLAC, a questioning of the orthodoxy of the moment and an eagerness to stimulate reflection and promote debate on issues crucial to the region's development. The speaker said that ECLAC was a meeting place through which Latin America and the Caribbean could convey its message to global forums while bringing what happened in the world to the region. He also emphasized the need for institutions to adapt to the new circumstances of the context. In the near future, given the international situation, Latin America and the Caribbean would have to contend with a world quite different to that of earlier years, and this represented a challenge for the region and for ECLAC.

29. Former Secretary General José Antonio Ocampo recalled some prominent members of the ECLAC staff, such as Celso Furtado, a great intellectual from the institution's early years. He touched on five subjects studied by the Commission: first, equity (which was still unfinished business in Latin America and the Caribbean), the inclusion of social rights and citizen rights on the ECLAC agenda, universal policies that contributed to equity (as opposed to targeted policies), fiscal issues and the paucity of what was being achieved by way of redistribution through tax policy by comparison with the European countries or Canada; second, macroeconomic issues, dominated by the search for responses to crises, something that had led to analysis by national agendas and the United Nations and prompted reflection on the subject of the international financial architecture; third, reflection on changing production patterns and production chain participation and service sector specialization, and in more knowledge-based production structures; fourth, the region's engagement with the world economy and global economic restructuring, particularly the challenge of economic integration, which had led to the creation or revitalization of

institutions such as the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Andean Community, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), although Latin American integration processes had been very vulnerable to political differences, this being a major challenge; and fifth and last, the issue of environmental sustainability and its relationship to sustainable development, which held a central place in ECLAC thinking.

30. Former Executive Secretary José Luis Machinea said that his mandate had coincided with an economic boom, with good terms of trade for the Latin American and Caribbean region and a high rate of growth. The region had reduced poverty for the first time in many years, and there had been improvements in equity. In 2013, however, the situation had begun to deteriorate. One of the main concerns of ECLAC during his mandate had been to analyse the scope for social protection that was non-contributory in origin, since rates of informal working were very high in Latin America and the social protection associated with the society of work left a substantial proportion of the population out of social protection mechanisms. He remarked that major global changes were taking place, with new technologies and the service sector taking on a predominant role. He added that global trade had started to grow again, but there had been no improvement in income distribution or decline in inequality. Protectionism was not the solution, in his view, as it could have negative effects on goods value chains. He reflected upon with possibility that inflation would rise, something that would be problematic given that both public and private sectors around the world were heavily indebted, with the consequent risk of devaluation. In a testing and uncertain environment, he considered that integration and capacity-building were the route Latin America needed to take.

31. The debate that followed highlighted the importance of three major agreements reached under the auspices of the United Nations: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Although international trade was no longer such a major driver of development and multilateralism had weakened in the current context, the Latin America and Caribbean region could boost its growth by integration and enhanced trade flows, not only with the countries of the Pacific but with those of the Atlantic too, since by 2100 most of the world's population was going to be living in Africa. Three pillars of the technological revolution were highlighted: information and communication technologies and robotization, biotechnology, and the technological revolution deriving from renewable energies. It was argued that ECLAC must not lose its capacity for change and adaptation, its regional vocation or its capacity for dialogue. It also needed to offer viable alternatives and not utopias and to strive for a fresh conceptual leap transcending poststructuralism, as the international order was changing and political realities were different from what they had been when the 2030 Agenda was adopted. Interaction and dialogue between member countries and ECLAC were very enriching, and the participation of civil society was also important, especially where environmental protection was concerned. Another point made, lastly, was that the Caribbean countries should feel integrated into the work of ECLAC, but this meant acquiring a more thorough knowledge of the subregion.

32. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted the function of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in providing opportunities for dialogue involving governments and representatives of the statistics ecosystems of the region's countries, among other stakeholders. In April 2018, the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean had been held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) and the publication *Data, algorithms and policies: redefining the digital world*² had been presented there, showing ECLAC to be at the cutting edge of digital issues in the region. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals had been formulated by the countries themselves, and the countries of the region in particular had given a strong impetus to aspects such as the measurement of progress towards fulfilment via improvements to statistical capabilities and observation of advances in each subject area of the Goals. In addition, the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean reflected the importance of civil society participation in attaining the Goals. ECLAC had taken the policy decision that the first session in any intergovernmental meeting that it held would be devoted to the countries and territories of the Caribbean, in accordance with its "Caribbean first" initiative. The speaker also highlighted the relationship that the countries of Asia, particularly China and the Republic of Korea, had with Latin America. In conclusion, she asked the region's countries to reflect on the future they wanted and how it could be achieved with ECLAC support.

Presentation of the book Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018

33. The book *Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018* was presented by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC. This segment was moderated by Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and Leonardo Lomelí Vanegas, Secretary General of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), offered comments on the book.

34. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that the book *Desarrollo e igualdad: el pensamiento de la CEPAL en su séptimo decenio. Textos seleccionados del período 2008-2018* captured the evolution of the various aspects of ECLAC thinking over the past decade and remarked upon its richness.

35. In her presentation, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the book contained a selection of the most representative ECLAC texts from the period 2008-2018, as well as an analytical presentation on the 70 years of ECLAC thinking. The texts were grouped in five thematic areas: the centrality of equality, social development, macroeconomics for development, production development and environmental sustainability. The Commission's messages over its 70 years related to industrialization; structural reforms for regional development; patterns of development in Latin America and the Caribbean; Latin America's debt crisis and "lost decade"; changing production patterns with equity; globalization, development and citizenship; and equality at the centre of sustainable development. The Executive Secretary affirmed that the

² LC/CMSI.6/4.

prevailing development pattern was economically, socially and environmentally unsustainable and that a new, equality-centred development style was needed. Equality was an ethical principle and the ultimate aim of development and extended to encompass autonomy, recognition and dignity. It went beyond the distribution of income to consider other dimensions, such as capacities, social protection and access to public goods. Equality was not a cost, but a necessary requirement for sustainable development; it heightened capacities, enabled dynamic positioning in a world in the throes of technical revolution, and was necessary to preserve the environment to even out development opportunities between generations, promote production diversification, drive inclusion from within the labour market, universalize rights and social benefits, achieve greater territorial convergence, forge a new production pattern and achieve environmentally sustainable consumption and production patterns.

36. The Executive Secretary also emphasized that macroeconomic policy—which acted over the short term as it conditioned investment and competitiveness—affected the production structure and long-term growth. The production structure in turn affected macroeconomic dynamics by determining the degree of exposure to external shocks. All this implied the need to conceptualize a macroeconomy for development capable of bridging the short and medium terms. A selective fiscal policy would protect investment and social policy. Without industrial and technology policy there was no way to carry forward the environmental big push. It was necessary to tap comparative advantages, change the production structure to create higher productivity jobs with better wages, strive towards regional integration which was key to productive and export diversification, revitalize the process of poverty and inequality reduction and tackle gender inequalities, which were a reflection of the culture of privilege and a pillar of the prevailing development pattern. It was essential to reduce tax evasion and make tax systems more progressive. Natural resource governance, with a perspective of sustainability, structural change and equality, would contribute to dialogue with communities before conflicts arose; the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was thus a landmark in this regard. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented the consensus of the international community on the need to combat inequality and, more than ever, the challenges were global and required international cooperation. The Executive Secretary emphasized, moreover, that a new development pattern would need new institutions and public-private partnerships at the global, regional and national levels to guide a progressive structural change on the basis of the environmental big push. Lastly, it was necessary to change institutions that reproduced the behaviours of agents who wielded greater economic and political power, the rentier propensity, the culture of privilege, territorial segregation and weak taxation, in order to drive a culture of equality in the region.

37. The Secretary General of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) recalled that the volume that had commemorated the Commission's fiftieth anniversary had compiled texts on ECLAC structuralist thinking and the first approaches to neostructuralism; the compilation on the sixtieth anniversary had discussed the necessary link between development and citizenship from the perspective of equity; and now the book marking the seventieth anniversary, prepared by Ricardo Bielschowsky and Miguel Torres, reflected the evolution and deepening of the Commission's thinking over the past

decade. Following an overview of the book's contents, he emphasized that equality was an underlying theme in the intellectual output of ECLAC and represented an effective route towards overcoming the difficulties facing the region. He added that the approach to sustainable development must be comprehensive, because the origins of inequality went beyond income and wealth concentration. In order to achieve environmentally sustainable development, the various stakeholders and countries had to coordinate their respective policies. Lastly, he drew attention to the need for social compacts to help overcome inequalities through, among other things, equality in access to justice and to educational and work opportunities, despite the challenging global context.

[Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session and the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 \(agenda items 4 and 7\)](#)

38. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC presented the Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-sixth session and the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020. The activities carried out included research; technical cooperation missions; training courses, workshops and seminars; the preparation of publications and technical documents; the maintenance of observatories and data bases; the activities of the Hernán Santa Cruz Library; and the online dissemination and communication of information and data. The Deputy Executive Secretary also referred to the Commission's organization of the meetings of its nine subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental and expert conferences linked to the global development agenda, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, follow-up to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and global conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields. This work had been carried out in a context of economic growth in both developed and developing countries, but amid a weakening of multilateralism, with fragmented trade integration systems, a crisis of globalization, greater uncertainty with respect to the normalization of monetary policy in the developed countries, a return of protectionism, deepening of polarization and increase in international conflict. Latin America and the Caribbean had experienced an upturn in economic growth, although with differences between Central America and Mexico, on the one hand, and South America and the Caribbean, on the other, as well as stronger private consumption. At the same time, however, the production structure was poorly diversified and innovation was lagging behind. Poverty reduction had come to a standstill and income and wealth concentration had risen. With respect to the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, a number of changes had been adopted in the framework of the reform spearheaded by the Secretary-General. These included replacing the biennial programme of work with an integrated annual programme budget document containing the report on the previous year's activities, the draft programme of work and the budget proposal for the following year. The new format would apply to the draft programme of work, 2020, and would be implemented on a trial basis for three years. The General Assembly would review the outcomes in 2022. The speaker then presented the programmatic structure of ECLAC for 2020 and the main priorities and proposals with regard to social development, sustainability, public policies and subregional matters, all with a view to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

39. In the statements that followed, several delegations drew attention to the contribution ECLAC had made to the formulation of public policies in the countries of the region and the importance of the intergovernmental meetings held on the digital agenda, ageing, and access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, for example, as well as its technical cooperation activities, especially in Central America and the Caribbean. The Commission's activities had also contributed to multilateralism by developing relations between the Pacific Alliance and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). Among the topics most raised were the need to build the Caribbean countries' resilience to extreme climate phenomena and the financial difficulties they faced. Given that access to concessional financing was a concern for the Caribbean countries, mention was made of support for reconstruction and economic and climate resilience in the subregion and collaboration with multilateral partners on new mechanisms and instruments to attract fresh investment to the Caribbean. The countries also expressed their intention of improving living standards, based on the principles of rule of law, fair trade, environmental protection and the fight against climate change. The representatives of several Caribbean countries underlined the importance of tackling the subregion's issues as a matter of urgency and their commitment to the work of ECLAC in strengthening regional integration, as well as promoting and increasing South-South cooperation and sustainable development for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, the representatives underscored the outcomes of the preceding biennium under the chairship of Mexico, and the Commission's possibilities of contributing to a future of stronger integration under the concept of unity in diversity.

40. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the countries for their support for the Commission's work and drew attention to the role of Chile in the initiative that had led to the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as its support for activities leading to convergence between the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR. She also expressed thanks for Germany's cooperation in areas such as energy and dual education involving companies, and for Canada's cooperation in activities relating to various Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the Goal on gender equality. Panama's work on fiscal transparency was also a significant contribution. Tighter relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the establishment of a resilience fund for the Caribbean, spearheaded by Mexico, represented a step towards the achievement of development goals in the region.

[Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-sixth session \(agenda item 5\)](#)

41. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and representative of other intergovernmental meetings reported to the delegations on the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved during the period.

42. Guillermo Pattillo, National Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, reported on the work carried out by the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which was aimed at promoting the formulation of more and better statistics, to which end assistance among members were essential.

The Conference had an Executive Committee composed of representatives of each of the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, a representative of the associate member States and the outgoing Chair of the Committee. The Committee members were supported by the Statistics Division of ECLAC as technical secretariat. The National Director said that the Conference conducted its activities through working groups, which addressed subjects as varied as international classifications, gender, information and communications technologies, statistics on public safety and justice, agricultural statistics, environmental statistics, disability measurement, statistics on childhood and adolescence, labour market indicators, poverty statistics, administrative records, national accounts, censuses, institution-building and the Knowledge Transfer Network. He then referred to outputs that had been produced during the biennium, including specialized workshops, courses and seminars, face-to-face meetings, working papers, publications and questionnaires. Challenges included the need to strengthen the institutional fabric of the statistical bodies working in the region and their technical independence, as well as the need to process and understand large databases. The tasks of the working groups also needed to be better coordinated to avoid duplication of efforts. He viewed as essential a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Georeferencing and the integration of statistical and geospatial information were also critical for public policymaking and information needed to be made available to the public in a suitable format. He noted that it would be important to use such information in the 2020 census round in the region's countries. Lastly, he remarked that the State should not be exclusively responsible for building statistical databases, but could instead partner with other stakeholders from academia and civil society to generate innovation and better statistics.

43. Ana Olivera, Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference had remained actively committed to advancing public policies on gender equality and the real recognition of women's rights and their effective exercise in the countries of the region. Its work in 2017 had been geared towards supporting the application of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. In addition, the Presiding Officers of the Conference had held their fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth meetings, which had been well attended by the countries of the region. The Conference had also supported activities aimed at fulfilling the commitments made by the countries in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Fourteen countries had submitted voluntary reports on developments in the adaptation and implementation of the Montevideo Strategy at the national level and their link with the Sustainable Development Goals. Highlights of substantive contributions included the panel discussion on vocational education and training and young women's participation in the labour force held in the framework of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, and the contribution of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, with the repository of legislation on migration and gender of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean presented at the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers. The contributions of the Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC

included the publication “Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean: road maps for development”,³ under the *Studies of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean series*, as well as the high-level panel on the implementation of gender equality plans within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held at the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers in Havana. Since the establishment of the Conference 40 years previously, the conceptual progress in the approach to pro-equality policies had moved from the integration of women into development to a comprehensive aim of achieving sustainable social development with gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Montevideo Strategy was a political and technical instrument that had resulted from a collective process, in which it was recognized that building equality for women required acknowledging their diversity. In order to build fair democracies and societies, it was essential to overcome the structural barriers of inequality associated with economic, political and cultural dimensions, where gender and ethnic and racial descent were key. Lastly, the virtuous circle among States, governments and women’s and feminist organizations and movements must be strengthened in order to deepen the commitments undertaken.

44. The Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, also summarized the activities undertaken by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose aim was to contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the region. Among the mandates entrusted to it was further analysis of the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty and vulnerability, as well as of the relationship between economic, production and social policies and policies on employment protection and decent work. In this regard, the Vice-Minister drew attention to the document entitled “The Social Inequality Matrix in Latin America”,⁴ prepared by ECLAC, as well as the document “Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges”.⁵ The work of the observatory on social development was intended to support the formulation and implementation of public policies for social development and to monitor trends in this regard. The Vice-Minister also stressed the importance of the regional agenda of inclusive social development, based on public policies capable of impacting structural inequalities in the region. It was important to strengthen the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda. She said that the next phase of agenda-setting, which would include lines of action for the achievement of the goals, needed to be adopted. To this end, the intention was to form a working group at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Panama in September 2018.

45. Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico, reported on the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. She remarked that the main outcomes of the second session of the Conference, held in Mexico City in October 2015, included the Operational guide for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,⁶ which was a voluntary technical tool

³ LC/PUB.2017/1-P.

⁴ LC/G.2690(MDS.1/2).

⁵ LC/CDS.2/3.

⁶ LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3).

to assist countries in the implementation of the priority measures of the Consensus. In addition, a working group of government-appointed experts had been set up to develop a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, with ECLAC as technical secretariat. The indicators proposed by the working group came mainly from the Operational guide and also incorporated the SDG indicators, thus strengthening the synergy between the Consensus and the 2030 Agenda. As part of the process of preparing the proposal of indicators and the activities of the working group, the Government of Mexico had conducted two discussion and review workshops in 2016 and 2017, respectively, with the support of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). These had been attended by representatives of the working group member countries and institutions, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO) and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC. Meanwhile, the Chair had organized a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference in Santiago in November 2017, at which the proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus had been adopted.

46. Agustín García-López, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), referred to the work of the Committee on South-South Cooperation. He remarked that ECLAC had proven its worth as a source of social and economic thinking in the region and in calling for a new vision for sustainable development in which development was seen in a holistic manner, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, thanks to consensuses such as the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The process of change would need to be based on strong national policies, at a time of paradigm shift around the world. He added that South-South cooperation (or horizontal cooperation) had acquired growing weight in the architecture of international cooperation. During the last biennium, the Committee had acted as an open platform, with broad participation that fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue and the participation of civil society, as well as experience-sharing. Mexico was now ceding the role of Chair to Cuba, a country characterized by solidarity and fraternity, as had been demonstrated during the earthquakes suffered by Mexico in September 2017. The Executive Director also referred to the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee, held in Santiago in April 2018, in the framework of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. On that occasion, the Presiding Officers had discussed the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, he remarked that Mexico was a Caribbean as well as a Latin American country and drew attention to the importance of technical cooperation to help build the resilience of countries, such as those in the Caribbean, that were particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

47. Álvaro García, Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay, summarized the activities of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The objective of the subprogramme implemented by ILPES in the 2016-2017 biennium had been to strengthen competencies for planning and public administration for development with a hemispheric and regional perspective. ILPES had also been given a mandate to maintain and improve

the digital repository of national development plans, among other things. With regard to the results achieved in the biennium, ILPES had focused on foresight for development, participatory planning, territorial development, open government and the assessment of public management instruments, through training, technical assistance and applied research. Particular importance had been afforded to linking the themes of ILPES with the 2030 Agenda. The Director cited several examples of technical assistance to various institutions in the region. In the area of applied research, in the previous biennium several research studies had been published, and had been very well received. He then referred to Planbarómetro, an important tool for improving development planning systems, implemented in different parts of the region. In 2017, the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development had been set up online. He noted that ILPES had met its targets during the biennium. Planning was an indispensable means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ECLAC and ILPES had supported the efforts of the countries in that regard. Finally, ILPES reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and improving public policies.

48. Juanita Rodríguez Kattah, Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia, referred to the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies. Three objectives had been established at the most recent session of the Conference: to promote training through regional and international cooperation programmes to build capacity in science and technology; to encourage experience-sharing and knowledge-building in policymaking on science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies; and to facilitate coordination and cooperation between member States of the Conference. The Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in April 2018, had adopted the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) and the Cartagena de Indias Declaration. On that occasion, there had been a significant contingent of Caribbean countries, as well as various agencies and representatives of the private sector. The Vice-Minister emphasized the importance of a regional digital market strategy and of governance for the information society, as well as the rejection of improper data collection. Lastly, she mentioned the proposal to establish a regional observatory on emerging technologies.

49. Maria Teresa Barán, Vice-Minister of Public Health of Paraguay, summarized the activities of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean had been the first region in the world to hold a meeting for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, within the framework of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference, held in Asunción in 2017. That Conference had been attended by delegations of member States, which had reported on the main activities undertaken to further the protection of the rights of older persons, as well as on existing challenges. The Conference had also been an occasion for the exchange of experiences and best practices. It had advocated strengthening of the institutions governing matters relating to ageing and old age and, in fact, several countries were taking steps to strengthen their institutions in this area. Civil society had played an important

role at the Conference. Emphasis had been placed on the need to strengthen respect for and protection of the human rights of older persons, especially with regard to social protection and health coverage. The Conference had adopted the Asunción Declaration: “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights” and had called for governments to mainstream the issue of ageing in development policies in a cross-cutting manner. The countries of the region had stressed the need to draft a specific multilateral legal instrument that would be binding in nature. Lastly, the Vice-Minister remarked that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should take into account the situation of older persons.

[Information on the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean \(agenda item 6\)](#)

50. Carmen Isabel Claramunt, representative of the Presiding Officers of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the session was an ideal opportunity to confirm the values and vision shared by the countries of the region and reflected in the outcome of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee, held in San José in 2018. At that meeting, countries had adopted the “Escazú Agreement”, after almost six years of negotiations in which there had been active participation of civil society. She said that the Agreement —the region’s first binding agreement on environmental matters— not only truly reflected the region’s specificities, but it also facilitated the construction of societies that were ever more democratic, participatory and inclusive and ready to meet safer and more ambitious welfare thresholds. The objective of the Agreement was to guarantee the full and effective implementation in the region of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation in that area. The Agreement was a milestone in the construction of true environmental democracy. It was an innovative instrument that contributed to empowerment of citizens and guaranteed the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters. Latin America and the Caribbean, as a region that was extraordinarily rich in natural resources but highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, was called upon to play a crucial role in such matters. She concluded by calling on all the countries of the region to ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. The representative of Chile said that it was a very important Agreement in terms of the participation of civil society, which his country had spearheaded from the beginning. He noted that one of the fundamental aspects of the Agreement was the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters and that it contributed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. He reiterated the call to the countries of the region to sign the Agreement. The representative of Paraguay acknowledged the leadership of ECLAC, under whose auspices the nine meetings of the negotiating committee had been held. He said that Paraguay had pushed for a binding agreement in the interest of access to information and the protection of environmental defenders. He highlighted the participation of the public throughout the negotiation process and called

on the countries of the region to sign the Agreement. The representative of Colombia said that her country had made every effort to agree on a viable text that was tailored to the realities of the region while still being ambitious. There was a need to strengthen national capacities to implement the Agreement, and information and communication technologies were key in that regard. She suggested adopting an awareness-raising strategy to help the region's many stakeholders to comprehend the scope of the Agreement. She also noted the need to strengthen relevant institutions and step up mobilization of resources and called for the ratification of the Agreement by the countries.

52. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), congratulated the member States of ECLAC and civil society upon the adoption of the Regional Agreement. She described it as a major achievement and said that it had been very rewarding for ECE, in its capacity as secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, to provide assistance to ECLAC in supporting the negotiations. This represented a great example of cooperation and ECE stood ready to continue working with ECLAC during the process of ratification and entry into force of the Agreement.

53. The Executive Secretary thanked countries that had served as Chairs of subsidiary bodies, which she described as valuable forums for dialogue. She welcomed the region's negotiation —under the leadership of Chile and Costa Rica, Colombia, Jamaica and Brazil— of a historic agreement, the first legally binding instrument on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in the region. It represented a paradigm shift, because it enabled civil society participation and guaranteed their right to access environmental information. Lastly, she stressed that it was vital for the region's private sector to play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

[Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020 \(agenda item 8\)](#)

54. The secretariat submitted the proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020 for consideration by delegations, and it was adopted as reflected in the annex to resolution (XXXVII).

[Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development \(agenda item 9\)](#)

Presentation of the report on the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

55. Ubaldo Raymond, Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia, in his capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), presented the report on the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee. He said that the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable, held on the theme "Promoting climate resilience and sustainable economic growth in the Caribbean", took an actionable approach to the most pressing challenges facing the subregion: vulnerability to climate change, high debt burdens and de-risking. It was also noted that the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative was the best hope for a realistic solution. The ECLAC publication, *The Caribbean Outlook*⁷

⁷ LC/SES.37/14.

was deemed to offer a dynamic framework for pursuing sustainable development in the Caribbean as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. The Committee also reflected on Caribbean participation in the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and welcomed ECLAC assistance in strengthening institutional infrastructure to facilitate policy coherence and integrated development planning and in building the data production capacity of national statistical systems in support of evidence-based policy planning.

56. The Committee had also considered ways to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the regional coordinating mechanism for implementation of the SIDS agenda. The ECLAC subregional headquarters in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, provided key support in the preparation of the Caribbean's five-year review of the Samoa Pathway. Other areas of work of immeasurable value to the subregion included damage and loss assessment, with assessments conducted in the five countries hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 and training provided to member States upon request. ECLAC had also provided analysis on development issues in the areas of women's empowerment, ageing and older persons, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, improving export performance and strengthening regional integration.

Presentation of the report The Caribbean Outlook

57. The report *The Caribbean Outlook* was presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who, reiterating the Commission's resolve to giving the Caribbean high priority and all the support possible, said that the social, economic and environmental challenges must be addressed comprehensively for the 2030 Agenda to be implemented in the subregion. The subregion's major challenges included persistently weak economic growth and an unsustainably high debt level. Debt relief and the mobilization of resources for the Caribbean were essential, hence the need to bring creditors to the table. Among the social challenges, focus must be given to youth unemployment, which compounded social ills; higher unemployment rates among women, even though women outperformed men at all educational levels; non-communicable diseases, which had a high economic cost; low investment in and efficiency of the education system; and the emigration of tertiary educated persons. The subregion faced myriad environmental challenges and their middle-income status limited them to commercial loans for rebuilding. It was therefore essential to build capacity and resilience and implement funding mechanisms that were accessible to all, regardless of income status. She invited other international agencies to join efforts and seek ways to build value chains and overcome the legal constraints to credit.

Round table: Promoting deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America in pursuit of opportunities for growth and sustainable development

58. The round table featuring Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Parnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Ubaldo Raymond, Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia; and June Soomer, Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

59. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda said that it was possible to promote deeper Caribbean engagement with Latin America through the expansion of trade and investment with Latin American partners. Despite trade liberalization and debt restructuring efforts, Caribbean economies maintained low growth, were constrained by high levels of public debt—with some States showing public debt-to-GDP ratios over 100%—and had limited resources for investment. Trade within and outside the region remained weak and free trade agreements and other agreements had failed to deliver on the intended results. There was little movement up the value chain, with imports declining since 2005 and exports that were concentrated in the United States, the European Union and the subregion. Caribbean countries specialized in few products—mainly agricultural products, mineral resources and foreign exchange from tourism. The private sector would do well to increase investment in various subsectors and the subregion must spare no effort to improve export and trade performance, by leveraging its marginal comparative advantage with Latin America stemming from an increasingly high complementarity in goods and services. Trade agreements were a necessary but insufficient condition: the Caribbean must tackle structural rigidities and shift from low-technology, primary-product-based production systems. There was a need for a cross-regional strategic framework to address supply-side capacity constraints and for a coherent private sector embedded industrial policy geared towards expanding exports at the intensive and extensive margins if the Caribbean was to continue along a path of trade-led growth, economic diversification and export expansion. Given the high degree of export specialization and concentration, a regional platform to diversify economies was necessary; that would also require harmonization of incentives and guarantees of financing, among other export strategies. It would also be useful to develop a framework for periodic gathering of market intelligence and a mechanism for disseminating those results. Moving forward, industrial policy should focus on South America as the most viable option to place the subregion on the path to sustainable development.

60. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that the region was connected by common challenges and vulnerabilities, and he hoped that ECLAC would help to unite the region in its resolve to overcome those challenges. He welcomed the Commission's unwavering focus on equality as a driver of long-term development and praised the adeptly presented research and analysis in *The Caribbean Outlook*. While communication, coordination and cooperation were significant hurdles to engagement with Latin America, those issues could be solved as member States had a responsibility to promote integration. Language was a particularly important barrier and he was among the many Caribbean nationals who had not embraced the opportunity to communicate in the languages of their neighbours. However, a significant requirement for promoting integration was harmonization of legislative and other measures to create an environment conducive to the transfer of goods and investment. It was necessary to develop systems with clear procedures that assisted companies with export formalities and to facilitate the movement of persons within the region. There were simple, yet fundamental steps the region could take to enhance cooperation, such as improving airlinks or concluding open skies agreements, which were indispensable to the creation of new routes and opening of new markets. The past inability to modernize transport, ICT and energy infrastructure had had an adverse effect on the subregion's productivity and competitiveness, limiting its participation in regional or global value chains. Given the Caribbean's

disproportionate dependence on tourism, policies to attract tourism and investment and reciprocity agreements should be actively pursued in formal trade agreements. Jamaica fully supported all the measures pursued by ECLAC and would play its part in promoting integration with Latin America. A more contextual and accurate classification system was needed, since the current per capita GDP method was based on the false presumption that middle-income status obviated the need for loans and assistance and did not take vulnerabilities into account. The region as a whole must approach collaboration with the understanding that climate resilience must not focus solely on rebuilding and restoring, but enabling countries to withstand uncontrollable and inevitable climate events. The analysis provided by ECLAC could identify practical solutions not merely to help the subregion, but with the notion that a stronger Caribbean meant a stronger Latin America and vice versa.

61. The Minister of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia said that the economic structures of the Caribbean could be divided into two groups: commodity-based and service-based. Most countries of the subregion were heavily reliant on tourism from North America and the United Kingdom, making them extremely vulnerable to recession and economic realities in those regions. Language barriers were indeed an issue, as the ease of communication affected one's choice of tourism destination. Student and/or teacher exchange programmes and cultural exchanges could be established and would help to break down barriers, facilitating movement within the region for employment and other purposes.

62. The Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), welcoming the Commission's "Caribbean first" policy, underscored the importance of addressing racial and gender inequalities. Small island developing States continued to be excluded from the international table and the issue of vulnerability relegated to discussions on middle-income countries, although the subregion had proven that leadership, achievement and ability were not determined by a country's size. Gender inequality denied women leadership roles and condemned them to poverty and vulnerability. There could be no sustainable development when inequality imposed invisibility on 50% of the region's population. The countries of the subregion had pioneered regional integration. ACS, which embodied the notion of Caribbean belonging and orientation, had been established as a unique, non-political space for development and cooperation, regardless of member States' ideological differences. It had mapped 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into its work programme, established a Directorate with responsibility for sustainable development and was implementing mechanisms for strengthening collaboration with other regional organizations.

63. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Brazil said that it was frustrating that the longstanding difficulties outlined still existed and were aggravated by climate change. The strides made in gender equality in education were proof that change was possible, but there remained the challenge of translating that progress into equal access to the labour market, which could be achieved through regulations geared at protecting women similar to those implemented in the Brazilian public sector. The representative of Canada reiterated his delegation's satisfaction with the commitment of ECLAC to the Caribbean and the country's resolve to address economic resilience and concessional finance in the Group of Seven. Canada remained convinced that an inclusive approach was the only way to ensure equality.

[Committee on South-South Cooperation \(agenda item 10\)](#)

64. The report of the Committee on South-South Cooperation is included as annex 1.

[Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *The Inefficiency of Inequality* \(agenda item 11\)](#)

65. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, presented *The Inefficiency of Inequality*.⁸ Next, Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre, and Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, commented on the document.

66. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the argument put forward in the document was that equality was a foundational value of development, meaning that it was a non-negotiable principle focused on a rights-based approach. It also played an instrumental role in fostering sustainable development. There was convergence between equality and efficiency, although that relationship was complex. Productivity and inequality were inversely correlated, while the link between equality and investment was positive. Equality was efficient because it gave rise to inclusive institutions and a culture that rewarded innovation and effort, and not social class, ethnicity, gender or the political connections of economic actors, especially in a context where the technological revolution called for higher levels of education. Equality strengthened democracy because it improved public goods; when public goods were deficient, people tended to stop believing in institutions. Inequality created a culture of privilege with three defining features: people perceived differences as natural, power and inequality structures were highly resistant to change, and this inertia was perpetuated by actors, institutions, rules and practices, guaranteeing asymmetries in multiple areas. The technological revolution was dominated by major leading companies that were very disruptive and barely depended on the development of physical infrastructure; the organization of industries was changing, especially owing to robotics and artificial intelligence. Moreover, financialization and increasing financial fragility hampered investment because of uncertainty and instability. Inequality also created barriers to education and access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and opportunities to produce public goods and stimulate public investment were decreasing as a result of tax evasion. Territory and the environment also reflected inequality, through a model based on natural resource extraction, the lag in infrastructure investment that affected competitiveness, and urban segregation.

67. The Executive Secretary also remarked that inequality was not inevitable and mentioned some strategic guidelines to ensure progress in the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: social, economic and environmental. With respect to a macroeconomy for development, it was necessary to apply macroprudential policies that impeded the accumulation of fragile financial structures and prevented asset and credit bubbles, manage cross-border capital flows to maintain financial stability and shield public investment from the ups and downs of economic activity and prevent it from being used as an adjustment variable during downswings. Capacities had to be equalized to increase productivity through universal social inclusion policies, the reformulation of education systems in light of rapid technological change, and the building

⁸ LC/SES.37/3-P.

or strengthening of social protection and care systems. There was a need to strengthen investment and industrial and technological policies centred around an environmental big push and to guide the technological revolution towards a new development model. These goals could not be achieved by merely combining national efforts; regional integration was essential to propose new agreements that reduced financial, technological and trade asymmetries at the global level.

68. The Director of the OECD Development Centre underscored some of the points made in the report: first, he mentioned the ethical dimension, which differed from the prevailing economic vision. Second, he said that equality was closely linked to politics and that the middle class was very vulnerable, which gave rise to political tensions; the ECLAC report correctly emphasized the culture of privilege and the importance of the sense of belonging to a political community. Third, people's expectations had grown and were not always met, and there was a perception that technology would replace many jobs, which had eroded trust in the State. Willingness to pay taxes had also declined, thus weakening the public sector's ability to provide services. The economic structure was tied to inequality, and that was the main point of the report. The report also discussed territorial inequalities, which had a significant economic impact; the territorial development model comprising direct subsidies and direct assistance to companies had to be changed, as it did not always produce multiplier effects. Likewise, international cooperation could not be restricted to limited and conditional financial transfers only; rather, there was a need for global public goods, which were more complex than cash transfers. He said that the report was an extraordinarily rich resource as it addressed the different dimensions of inequality, particularly the cultural dimension.

69. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that solid economic and social analyses were characteristic of ECLAC, and that was evident in the report, which gave continuity to the idea of placing equality at the centre of the analysis. According to the report, integration and cooperation mechanisms could help to solve the problems of inequality. Latin America and the Caribbean faced uncertainties, structural deficiencies and technological gaps, and had to join the fourth industrial revolution. Inequalities in access to education and health were very costly and social and macroeconomic policies in favour of equality had to be promoted. Capacity-building and innovation were important, as was building a culture of equality in accordance with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Although Cuba did have inequality problems, its society was fairly equitable, despite the embargo imposed on the country. Cuba had made progress in health, education and social policies in recent years, and the ability to cooperate was not limited to countries with considerable resources: cooperation had to be based on solidarity.

70. In the discussion that followed, several representatives said that the areas of action proposed in the document represented the region's key needs with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals. The paths to development had to be based on new ways of thinking and conditions of equality, that is equality of opportunities and not of outcomes. ECLAC was recognized for its firm commitment to seeking innovative methods to help member countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and as the main organ of the United Nations for the promotion of socioeconomic development in the region, which over the previous 10 years had encouraged an approach that acknowledged that policies in favour of equality were not only be fair, but also economically efficient.

[High-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality” \(agenda item 12\)](#)*Panel 1. Growing tensions of globalization*

71. This panel was chaired by Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and the panellists were Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Rolando Cordera Campos, Coordinator of the Development Studies Programme at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Susana Malcorra, Chair of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ronaldo Costa Filho, Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil, and Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Director of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford.

72. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba introduced the participants of the first panel of the high-level seminar “The inefficiency of inequality”, on the growing tensions of globalization.

73. The Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) emphasized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required a massive investment push and alerted that the prevailing neoliberal policy agenda, increasing financialization and market concentration of today’s hyperglobalized world did not provide the enabling economic environment to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Instability, insecurity, informalization, indebtedness and inequality, among others, were not incidental but instrumental to the workings of hyperglobalization and had led to secular stagnation in the advanced economies and boom and bust cycles almost everywhere. Even after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, these problems had not been seriously tackled because of the vicious cycle of concentration of political and economic power under hyperglobalization. As a result, delivering on the 2030 Agenda would require what UNCTAD termed a “Global New Deal” with four avenues of action: reflation, regulation, redistribution and economic rights. The challenge of articulating these at the global level implied a new narrative of multilateralism. In this regard, he recalled the Havana Charter, remarking that its ambitious aims contained many of the elements of an agenda for multilateral collaboration of the sort needed to deliver on 2030 Agenda.

74. The Coordinator of the Development Studies Programme at the National Autonomous University of Mexico said that *The Inefficiency of Inequality* was an excellent document that represented the culmination of the ECLAC document series focused on equality starting in 2010. He indicated that democracy was largely dependent on a revolution in values and wondered what role public ethics should play in that respect. He noted that in light of the recent weakening of international trade, multilateralism had to be defended and reformed. Since the liberal trade regime had not led to equitable progress in all countries, he wondered whether it was possible to regulate globalization through multilateral institutions. Development meant addressing the theme of ethics and culture; as long as there was no global government, nation States were useful and necessary, but there was a need for constitutional, democratic and social States that protected and provided for the most vulnerable.

75. The Chair of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO stated that after the Second World War, a model that combined liberal democracy and capitalism had emerged, and appeared to be successful, especially after the fall of the Berlin Wall; integration and trade showed encouraging signs and starting in 2000, a record number of people had been lifted out of poverty. Governments reacted to the serious crisis in 2008 by intervening in markets and injecting funds into some major sectors, but did not match this with assistance to SMEs and ordinary citizens. It was believed that if they had not reacted in that way, the crisis would have been worse than that of the 1930s. In the Western world, factories were closed and opportunities disappeared, and the citizens who were affected associated those consequences with globalization and distanced themselves from its representatives. Technological disruption went unnoticed and the focus remained on globalization. Technological disruption went unnoticed and the focus remained on globalization. Corruption widened the rift and the notion of the self-satisfying elite became more evident, which led people to question policies and demand measures to counteract the effects of globalization, such as the closure of borders to trade and to people. Isolation from the rest of the world was considered the only means of protection: that was the challenge facing multilateralism. In that context, the 2030 Agenda was especially relevant, as it focused on people, the planet and prosperity.

76. The Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil said that globalization was not a new phenomenon, but a long-term economic process in which increased productivity, infrastructure improvements and economies of scale had boosted economies. It should not be forgotten that globalization, along with multilateralism, had generated stability, peace, growth and development over the past 70 years. The main explanation for the disenchantment observed was the disconnect between citizens and their political representatives and the perception that institutions lacked legitimacy. He mentioned the example of the World Trade Organization, whose rules were often the result of compromise in difficult situations, and did not completely satisfy anyone. He noted that the existing situation created risks for stability and growth, but that the solution was multilateralism.

77. The Director of the Latin American Centre at the University of Oxford said Brexit had shown dissatisfaction with a globalization model that was increasing tensions in trade and migratory flows. It had also highlighted the opposition of many citizens to supranational governance. This opposition also existed in other countries. Dissatisfaction with institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund was also an issue in Latin America. The importance of local and national forums for policy discussion had become clear: this was where democratic legitimacy was conferred. Moreover, employment was created at the local level. He wondered what role international organizations should play. They should generate resources, promote more effective regulation in key areas and generate ideas. He referred to two processes that reflected the existing contradictions: (i) the consolidation of China as an international power could create room for new regulation in areas such as industrial policy; and (ii) the deep crisis of social democracy in much of the world, which complicated ties between national and international spaces. He said that strengthening supranational institutions was more important than ever, but that new emphasis should also be placed on national spaces.

78. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba commented that globalization had different impacts and that the challenge was to harness it to drive innovation and attract foreign capital. That phenomenon had to be further analysed to obtain benefits.

Panel 2. Investments, technologies and productivity for sustainable development

79. This panel was chaired by Salvador Pardo Cruz, Minister of Industry of Cuba, and the speakers were José Ramón López Portillo, Co-Founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies at Oxford University, Álvaro García, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay, Juanita Rodríguez Kattah, Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia, Juan T. Monegro, Vice-Minister for Industrial Development of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs of the Dominican Republic, Juan Carlos Parra Fonseca, Deputy General Manager of Corporación Financiera Nacional BP of Ecuador, and Yolanda Martínez, Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico.

80. The Minister of Industry of Cuba said that while the Latin America and Caribbean region had gone some way towards catching up technologically, indicators of innovation and technology access were not good. The task of innovation was to drive economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. There was an urgent need to adopt industrial and technological development policies that took account of environmental impacts. He added that production and consumption patterns were unsustainable and needed changing. It was also necessary to adapt the education system to the needs of the labour market and disseminate new technologies. He said that the panel would debate the new role of industrial and technology policies to forestall widening asymmetries. He mentioned the severe harm caused to the Cuban economy by the economic, trade and financial embargo that had been maintained by the United States for 56 years. Nonetheless, Cuba's progress had not halted and the country had created infrastructure of its own. Cuba had succeeded in narrowing the technology gap and had made real progress with its pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and health services.

81. The Co-Founder of the Centre for Mexican Studies at Oxford University said that the contribution of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC had given a new impetus to the subjects of investment, technology and productivity. In view of the concentration of capital needed to develop technologies, it was understandable that there should be a degree of inequality. Inequality became inefficiency when it deprived the majorities of opportunities and condemned them to underdevelopment and exploitation. The progress of technology improved people's well-being, but the transition was uncertain because there was an elite that derived exceptional advantages from technology. He said that the progress of institutions was linear while that of technologies was exponential, with artificial intelligence at the forefront. He added that the low educational standards of the region's population had left it at a disadvantage, turning it into a taker rather than a maker of cutting edge technologies. Governments therefore needed to give the matter priority and strive to ensure that the benefits of technology were socialized and not just the costs. Lastly, he said that ECLAC ought to compile information, identify best practices and decide what strategies would take it towards its goals, especially where health

and education were concerned, to which end the State needed to play a new role and adopt a new conception of the development model.

82. The Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay remarked that the ECLAC report had shown that equality and efficiency were complementary in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. He indicated that his country had achieved unbroken economic growth over the previous 15 years, accompanied by income redistribution and better environmental stewardship. A rights agenda had also been pursued, with a particular focus on gender and diversity. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development had served as a guide, including when it came to care of older adults, persons with disabilities and early childhood. Regarding the environment, Uruguay generated a large percentage of its electricity from renewable sources. Investment was constrained by the fiscal situation, and transparency in this regard was crucial. As for technology, the speaker was optimistic. For example, artificial intelligence, robotization and blockchains represented a great opportunity for progress, and convergence between the physical and digital worlds was crucial. Meanwhile, digitalization contributed to a cleaner environment, although it did raise concerns about possible data manipulation. Productivity was also critical, and the Latin America and Caribbean region had ground to make up on this. In conclusion, he said that the future could not be seen through the eyes of the past.

83. The Vice-Minister for the Digital Economy of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia said that equality meant equality of means, opportunities, capacities and recognition. She mentioned the Live Digital plan, a State policy applied in Colombia to connect the country, which had increased the connectivity of municipalities and access to computing. She said that the aim was to move from the consumer Internet to the industrial Internet. A digital education programme had also been set up for people who had traditionally not used digital technologies and for persons with disabilities. She said that Colombia applied an open data policy and an observatory had been created to track the evolution of the digital industry. She added that social transformation was leading to the fourth industrial revolution and that the Latin America and Caribbean region could only resolve its structural problems through emerging technologies.

84. The Vice-Minister for Industrial Development of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs of the Dominican Republic said that the region must not be left behind in the new technological revolution. He wondered whether his country had the right industrial and technology policies to make the most of the new technological situation and said that the Dominican Republic was not clear enough about the new paradigm and that existing institutions needed reforming. The starting point was to raise education system standards, and there was a need to build more and better capacities for the formulation, regulation, development and follow-up of public policies, without duplicating functions. Good governance had to be created and technology and industrial policies had to be better coordinated. The Dominican Republic had had unbroken economic growth over the previous three decades, but few high-quality jobs had been created and the wealth generated had been badly distributed. He added that many people were still shut out from opportunities. The industry share of GDP had fallen substantially, by contrast with services. The important thing was to improve the well-being of the population, to which end more and better industrial and technology policies needed to be implemented.

85. The Deputy General Manager of Corporación Financiera Nacional BP of Ecuador said that the goals set could not be achieved without planning. He believed it was important to improve institutions and firms' technology absorption capacity. Ecuador had made progress with renewable energies, private investment and banking, and also with ICTs and institutions. He spoke of the need to channel savings into productive investment, create enabling conditions for basic infrastructure and bring about a change in the energy matrix. Formerly a sectoral approach had been followed, with functions being assigned to each of the ministries, but now there was a perceived need for them to be more closely interrelated. Ecuador had made considerable progress over the 2013-2017 period in the spheres of electronic government, infrastructure, renewable energy use, connectivity and gross fixed capital formation and financial market development. The fibre optic network had also expanded greatly and now connected the whole of continental Ecuador. He highlighted the importance of the role of SMEs and digital platforms. He believed it was necessary to enhance the complementarity of the Latin America and Caribbean region as a single bloc. Lastly, he underlined the importance of public-private partnerships to finance infrastructure and urged the democratization of access to financing using mechanisms such as seed capital and venture capital.

86. Yolanda Martínez, Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico, said that inequality was the great challenge and highlighted the lack of borders in the digital world as a positive. There needed to be a constantly renewed State-level strategy to capitalize on ICT use. Just 17 countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region had a digital agenda as State policy. In Mexico, there was now a recognized constitutional right to Internet access. A legal obligation for the State to have a digital inclusion policy had also been established. She said that it was now a priority for Mexico to make 100% of its government services available online. At the regional level, there needed to be a digital economy strategy so that there would be greater earning opportunities for all. Also essential was the transformation of education and health care. Technology could be used to promote citizen participation. She highlighted the role of connectivity, which could be financed through public-private partnerships. The different countries' regulations should be compatible to facilitate the flow of information. Innovation should not be constrained and Internet use should not be limited to consumption. Lastly, the speaker remarked that the open data policy was contributing to the fight against corruption and that Mexico's national digital strategy was aligned with implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

87. By way of a commentary on the presentations, Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), said that one of the fundamental issues in the 2030 Agenda were partnerships, especially between governments and the private sector, with a view to attracting the investment needed for sustainable development, for example in high-quality infrastructure and in cutting edge technologies. It was possible in this way to contribute to the eradication of poverty by guaranteeing access to public services, pursuing resilience to climate change and dealing with the risks facing disadvantaged groups.

Panel 3. The inefficiencies of inequality

88. This panel was chaired by Roberto Morales Ojeda, Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba, and the panellists were Kang Kyung-wha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea; Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of

Social Policies of Argentina; Ana Olivera, Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, and Alberto Enríquez Villacorta, Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and Planning of the Office of the President of El Salvador.

89. The Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba said that inequality had been recognized as one of the main challenges and that his country had carried out agrarian reform, followed by a literacy campaign and a health campaign. Great progress had been made in education and life expectancy and a number of diseases had been eliminated. Cuba had also cooperated with other countries through the deployment of trained medical personnel.

90. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea noted that her country considered ECLAC a valuable partner and referred to the Korea-ECLAC cooperation fund, which was used to pursue research and activities in areas of common interest, such as economic development, public policies and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Minister commended ECLAC on proposing equality as a core value of sustainable development since 2010 and on advocating structural changes and societal compacts. She referred to the paradigm of people-centred economy adopted by her Government, which aimed to invest in people and boost job creation, innovation and fairness by, among other things, increasing the minimum wage, expanding employment in the public sector and supporting SMEs. The Minister remarked that the Republic of Korea would continue to share its experiences and cooperate with the countries of the region in three main ways: the promotion of accessible education for disadvantaged groups to reduce educational inequality, initiatives to improve water and sewerage treatment infrastructure and health care systems for rural communities and low-income groups, and the strengthening of SME capabilities. She expressed appreciation for the continued and strong support of the Latin America and the Caribbean region for establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Lastly, she counted on ECLAC to continue strengthening its role in economic and social development and reiterated her country's commitment to working with ECLAC and its members States to this end.

91. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina said that poverty was a phenomenon with multiple causes. In Argentina, between 2016 and 2017, there had been a significant reduction in inequality and in the percentage of the population below the poverty line, thanks in part to a number of income transfer policies. There had also been progress in infrastructure, renewable energy, transport and housing, and in this regard she made reference to the national habitat plan. In the area of gender-based violence, she highlighted the fact that Argentina had implemented a national action plan to prevent, combat and eliminate violence against women. She also mentioned a national early childhood plan and the universal health-care coverage system as mechanisms to bridge the gaps between different population groups. Finally, she stressed the need for more and better democracy, and the importance of the key element of trust

92. The Vice-Minister of Social Development of Uruguay said that the struggle for equality was an ethical commitment which required political will and an implementation plan. The inefficiencies arising from this inequality affected the well-being of the population and the region's development possibilities. The quality of services, education and health was weakened as a result of

inequality. Moreover, it led to segregation in the territory. Education was key and early childhood represented a person's first window of opportunity. She was in favour of a comprehensive approach under a national care system that took into account health and education. Child care should be linked with food, education and employment opportunities for women, something which required resources and the involvement of various government departments. This would enable children to thus access quality education. Inequalities resulted in undeniable costs to society. There was a need for complementarity between the social and the economic dimensions, as well as the necessary institutional framework. Violence and drug trafficking in the region also had to be analysed, given their impact with respect to inequality.

93. The Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and Planning of the Office of the President of El Salvador said that his country had sought to place the individual at the centre of development and thus, at the heart of public management. The 2030 Agenda had complemented and enriched the development plan promoted in his country. Profound social and territorial inequality had long existed in El Salvador, as a result of a State built around the specific interests of certain privileged economic groups. The policies implemented in previous years had been sectoral and fragmented and there was a need for a profound transformation of the State. This important work had to be undertaken not only by the State but also by citizens, the business sector, the academic sector and other actors. An equalizing and participatory State had to be built. Transparency was another a necessary condition for efficiency and equity, which were threatened by corruption. The State's relationship with nature and culture also had to change. Moreover, there was a need for transformation in public administration. In this regard, he highlighted the important work carried out by the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD). Finally, he noted that emerging technologies could be a good tool for achieving greater integration, as long as they were used to promote equality.

94. In the comments that followed, a representative of Juventud Latina said there was a need to change mindsets, to show solidarity towards others and to fight the culture of privilege. People had to be committed to change and not tied to corrupt interests. Equality called for leaders to show passion, patriotism and solidarity. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stressed the importance of gender equality and said that there was a breakdown of consensus, including in the area of gender equality and family, and therefore more attention had to be paid to this aspect.

95. The Vice-President of the Council of State and Minister of Health of Cuba remarked that inequality was a constraint to development and constituted productivity losses with high costs for societies. Transformative people-centred public policies were needed.

Panel 4. Territories, infrastructure and the environment: a space for the environmental big push

96. This panel was chaired by Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, and the panellists were Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Mauricio

Bejarano, Vice-Minister for Mines and Energy of Paraguay; Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Undersecretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina, Isaac Castillo, Undersecretary for Energy of Panama; Pedro Álvarez Icaza, Coordinator General of Biological Corridors and Resources of the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico; and Lucía Ruíz, Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru.

97. The Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba said that for her country, the connection between inequality, territorial development, infrastructure gaps and the environment was of great importance. The countries of the region had convened 70 years ago to address the challenges posed by development, but in recent years major environmental problems had emerged. Rising sea levels and global temperatures were a reality. On one hand, developed countries were generating pollution, while on the other, the poorest developing countries, which polluted less, were the most affected by the pollution. In 2017 the Caribbean had been hit by destructive hurricanes and Cuba also suffered from the effects of climate change, such as drought. She welcomed the proposal to create a resilience fund for the Caribbean and to promote more sustainable development. She said that Cuba had a people-centred health and education system and a national plan for biodiversity. The State had invested in infrastructure and sought to reduce the pollution of bays. Efforts were also being made to reduce the vulnerabilities of specific areas and to enhance security with respect to the population, infrastructure and tourism. She stressed the need to end the unsustainable use of natural resources, and particularly their overexploitation by large transnational corporations.

98. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay said that in terms of receiving foreign direct investment, his country had gone from next-to-last in the region to second or third, but that its environment and infrastructure had been tested as a result. With respect to the environment, he highlighted the importance of water and the challenge of capturing rainwater to avoid losing it to the oceans. In 2009, the law on national water policy had defined a new institutional framework for water management and a series of regulations to protect water sources and their preservation and appropriate use had been enacted. He added that although drinking water coverage in the country was good, the challenge was ensuring that water, as well as sanitation and drainage, was accessible to all. As energy production could generate pollution, the share of renewable energies in the energy matrix had been increased. The aim was to incorporate mitigation, adaptation and ecosystem services into housing and the provision of public services. Lastly, he believed that Uruguay was on the right path, but gains had to be consolidated and innovative initiatives had to be developed. In this regard, experience-sharing among countries in the region was of great importance.

99. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica said that although the subregion had no control over its geography, behaviours, planning processes and development infrastructure in the region could be modified. Resilience-building must therefore focus on the capacity to absorb the impacts of extreme weather events without losing development momentum. The Government of Jamaica was implementing a legal framework to discourage harmful environmental conduct and improve waste management. The inability

of graduated countries to access concessionary funding made it difficult to encourage the investment needed for the environmental big push. Nevertheless, Jamaica was stepping up investment in wind and solar energy to continue to diversify its energy mix. The country and the region were ready to undertake the smaller thrusts—including government regulations, zoning, education and awareness-raising—required for the environmental big push. ECLAC could conduct studies on the use of urban spaces in building resilience and capacity and facilitate technology exchange and technological innovation to achieve goals. It must also continue to be a voice for reducing the impact of climate change on countries that contributed the least to but were most affected by it. Putting the Caribbean first meant that no member State would be left behind.

100. The Vice-Minister for Mines and Energy of Paraguay said that his country was located in the heart of America and that energy integration was a key component of its energy policy to 2040 and required infrastructure. The aim was to consolidate Paraguay as a hub of regional and subregional energy integration. Almost all the country's electricity was generated by hydraulic sources and efforts were being made to diversify the mix. In order to eliminate inequalities, the entire population had to benefit from energy security and access. He was in favour of promoting the use of bioenergy. Paraguay planned to help reduce greenhouse gas production by using biofuels. A target had been set to stop using wood from non-certified forests by 2045, to avoid deforestation. Paraguay was a member of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Finally, he mentioned the strong energy integration of Paraguay with Argentina and Brazil.

101. The Undersecretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina said that his country reflected significant territorial inequalities. For example, in the north of the country, almost 40% of the population lacked access to drinking water. A management model had been developed that took into account Argentina's federal structure and the fact that infrastructure management depended on decisions made according to sector and territory. Since 2015 Argentina had a strategic territorial plan in place that constituted a State policy. The challenge was to transform planning into concrete projects and to measure the outcomes. Another major concern was that that transformation would take place in cities, which were home to 94% of the population. City planning had to ensure that infrastructure was suited to population density. Argentina had launched an urbanization plan to shape major areas of infrastructure, such as drinking water and sanitation. As a result, municipal governments had developed a large number of projects and there was a transparent website which allowed citizens to follow those projects.

102. The Undersecretary for Energy of Panama said that the region was facing a period of profound changes in energy and the economy against the backdrop of climate change, environmental issues and technological advances. These changes involved human activity, which was surpassing the limits of environmental sustainability. Deterioration was caused not only by carbon emissions, but also by soil and ecosystem degradation stemming from the use of low-cost fuel and the linear economy: extraction, transformation and waste. Humankind was in a transition period, marked by considerable volatility in the prices of energy and other commodities. Moreover, new actors—for example China—had emerged, not only in energy production but also consumption.

He noted that the growth of renewable sources had facilitated the reduction in energy prices. Public policies had to be formulated to transform the environmental threat into business opportunities and to prepare for the transition to the possible replacement of hydrocarbons with other energy sources. The State had to forge a political consensus to support the development of renewable technologies and the circular economy. In addition, he highlighted the need to encourage cooperation among countries.

103. The Coordinator General of Biological Corridors and Resources, National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico said that the region continued to show high levels of inequality, which had also increased globally. He noted that in Mexico, the most biodiverse areas were also the poorest. Some areas had also experienced considerable environmental deterioration, in addition to poverty and marginalization. In 20 years large quantities of natural resources had been lost, but income had not increased for most of the population, which demonstrated the unequal distribution of wealth. Some comprehensive initiatives had been implemented in the framework of the Meso-American Biological Corridor that had succeeded in reducing the rate of deforestation. Biodiversity played a fundamental role in the lives of human beings.

104. The Vice-Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru said that to speed up regional integration changes, it was important to create more forums for reflection and to promote the sharing of experiences. There was a need for an environmental approach that would ensure low-carbon growth to minimize environmental impacts. Environment ministers were having to provide teaching on environmental policy across other government portfolios. A cross-cutting approach was needed to include the environmental approach in all government projects, incorporating the environmental and climate change perspectives into management policies. She added that global commitments needed to be translated into action at the local level. She stressed the importance of the private sector for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. The taxation aspect was also relevant: Peru, for example, had increased taxes on the fossil fuels that generated the most pollution. Although these measures were supported by indigenous peoples, civil society and the academic sector, non-conventional renewable energies were an unresolved issue in many countries.

105. In the discussion that followed, the Executive Secretary of ECE said that housing and urbanization were important for sustainable development. People had to have access to affordable housing. She added that cities were public goods where the rights of all were guaranteed. In order to achieve the corresponding SDG, investments had to be increased. The representative of Brazil expressed concern about the scant attention paid to biofuels and the fact that several Caribbean countries that were vulnerable to natural disasters were unable to access concessional loans as they were considered middle-income countries. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) commended the placing of the environment at the centre of the discussion on sustainable development. There was an urgent need for change, as demand for water and food was expected to increase significantly. Millions of people in the region were suffering directly as a result of environmental issues. An integrated approach was required to generate positive synergies. Moreover, there was a need for stronger environmental citizenship. The Minister of

Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba said that the identification of inequalities in the region reflected extreme poverty and strong territorial polarization. Pollution in urban areas had also had a negative impact. Regional integration was a driver for improved energy efficiency. Finally, she said that the commodity export model, which added no value, should be overhauled, but the challenge was finding a way to do so.

[Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities \(agenda item 13\)](#)

106. Following a special statement by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, a dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities was held on the global and regional challenges of multilateralism, the role of ECLAC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was chaired by Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba and statements were made by Fernando Huanacuni Mamani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; María Fernanda Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador; Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

107. In her special statement, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations referred to the repositioning of the United Nations development system to be more accountable, cohesive and transparent in supporting delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, she commended the region's role in placing the specific sustainable development challenges of middle-income countries on the global agenda, as well as the dilemma of how to leave no one behind when multidimensional poverty and inequality were rising, even amid falling income poverty levels. For this, it was essential to strengthen institutions to achieve structural change and to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and participation to build a democratic framework in line with national development priorities. Global partnerships were needed to maximize the impact of development financing, including international taxation cooperation to eliminate illicit flows and tax evasion; at the same time, the international financial architecture needed to better reflect the shift in global economic and political power towards developing and middle-income countries. Lastly, the Deputy Secretary-General remarked that the global community was counting on the region's continued innovation and creativity to address global common challenges.

108. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba said that obstacles to multilateralism were increasing, such as the use of force, violations of treaties and international law, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, the use of new financial, judicial, cultural and communication tools to destabilize governments and restrict the right of peoples to self-determination and the distortion of the concepts of peace and sovereignty. The countries of the region

were facing major challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, while Latin America had made progress in a number of economic variables related to the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, poverty and inequality were on the rise and the financial resources received by the region were inadequate, hence the essential need to mobilize new, additional and predictable resources. He also stated that ECLAC could help in addressing the region's economic challenges.

109. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that given that a country's driving force was its people and that globalization had a negative impact on the most vulnerable sectors of society, and in the light of the historical debt accumulated, States must redefine their role, transforming their nature and the political role of society. There was a need for a political transformation that placed the poor at the heart of State decisions, society must take control of its own destiny from the State, and citizens must turn constituted power into constituent power. There was also a need for economic transformation through political decisions founded on the idea of restoring State ownership of natural resources through nationalization, and tackling climate change resulting from predatory capitalism through new economic policies that aimed to protect Mother Earth and shift the paradigm, from an individual dehumanizing and disjointed one to a collective articulated one. The Plurinational State of Bolivia called for a rebuilding of identity based on ancestral values, such as "good living" or "living well". Lastly, citing an Aymara saying, the Minister invited all member States to move forward together, to leave no one behind, to ensure that everyone's needs were met and that no one would want for anything. It was possible to make that happen.

110. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said that the complexity of the global and regional situation required actions and policies that transcended borders, hence the importance of multilateralism and regional bodies such as ECLAC. It was imperative for the United Nations to adapt to new needs and provide tangible results in the areas of peace and security, development and management. It was vital to move towards a more democratic, efficient and multipolar global system and towards a more just and equitable world. She recalled the affirmation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the opening of the session that rising inequality had become the face of globalization and generated discontent, intolerance and social instability, especially among young people. She highlighted the different activities that were undertaken in the region in matters relating to each Sustainable Development Goal and stressed the need for financing to achieve them. It was also necessary to develop a work plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to achieve the objectives of technology transfer and capacity-building in climate change adaptation and mitigation for developing countries, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. Lastly, the Minister remarked that multilateralism, which was under threat as never before, was the only way to build and maintain peace and sustainable development. Regional integration mechanisms must therefore be strengthened.

111. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that while the session was devoted to the inefficiency of inequality, failure to consider the significant development cost of insecurity arising from criminal activity, including transnational crime, trafficking in persons and illicit arms transfer placed the region's development at risk, with direct and indirect

impacts on planning. There was an inversely proportional relationship between the implementation of the Goals and crime, as it forced the region to allocate funds to public safety instead of investment needed to achieve the Goals. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to collaborating with ECLAC member States and noted that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had discussed and was moving towards capacity-building to combat illicit trade in guns and ammunition and border security. Despite its fiscal constraints, Jamaica had allocated an unprecedented share of its budget to national security, understanding that security was pivotal to growth and the sustainable development of the nation and the region. Lastly, he said that technology and innovation should be used not just to put in place resources, but for intelligence and information both to reduce crime and to improve national and regional planning.

112. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay spoke of the role of multilateralism and of the basic agreements achieved in the region concerning the importance of human rights, democracy, the self-determination of peoples and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He said that the Sustainable Development Goal that was most emblematic of multilateral cooperation was the one related to climate change. He reiterated his country's commitment to the Paris Agreement, illustrated by the fact that its energy matrix was based primarily on renewable energies, with only 4.5% coming from thermal energy, representing a major step towards the achievement of that Agreement. He highlighted the value of ECLAC publications as an authoritative reference and said that the document on the inefficiency of inequality exposed chronic gaps in the countries of the region, but also showed that there were opportunities to reverse negative trends and consolidate the positive in order to achieve development with equality, through access to education and health. Cooperation must not be allocated solely on the basis of economic criteria, but rather should reflect a dynamic, diverse and multidimensional reality that called for enhanced cooperation, solidarity, dialogue and greater understanding and the building of bridges to improve the quality of life of those who had conferred the responsibility of governance on State authorities.

113. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the work of ECLAC in the area of equality. The greed of power brokers had made it necessary to defend multilateralism and international forums should not be used to praise governments that defended imperialist unilateralism. They should be occasions for unity in diversity and building development strategies together. He cited the text of the foreword of the ECLAC position document: "social gaps and lags have a negative impact on productivity, fiscal policy, environmental sustainability and the spread of the knowledge society. In other words, inequality is inefficient and is an impediment to growth, development and sustainability", and added that inequality was a product of colonialism and neocolonialism—which had structural repercussions—, the lack of investment in the poorest, the unjust distribution of wealth and the lack of political participation in the design, implementation, assessment and renewal of policies founded on respect for human rights. Despite threats and imperialist sanctions against his country, progress had been made on rights such as housing, social protection, education and primary health care, with the support of Cuba. Equality was a core value for his country and the 2030 Agenda was indispensable and could not be postponed. There could be no equality of opportunity without equality of conditions. He reiterated his country's

commitment to South-South cooperation, which was a pillar of collective action for equality. He concluded by saying that Latin America and the Caribbean would continue to be a zone of peace and a region of hope.

114. The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said that major powers reneged on their commitments, spurred by iniquitous globalization that concentrated wealth among the richest and placed an unsustainable drag on development. The ECLAC position document made a compelling case for the economic and developmental cost of the inequality of means, opportunities, capacities and recognition. The international architecture hindered the development of small island developing States. A one-size-fits-all approach was not enough; the region must acknowledge and plan for the unique specificities of island economies and vast new resources were needed to achieve the internationally agreed climate security and development targets. ECLAC was vital in that regard, and while its current “Caribbean first” posture was a welcome act of historic redress, it must uphold its role in shaping post-colonial discourse and use its talents to assist in generating resources targeted to the developmental needs of its membership. ECLAC must demonstrate, through scholarship and rigorous analysis, that a broken financial system did not need regulation, but reinvention, to address its core inequality. He concluded by saying that the Commission must promote and defend economic ideas that benefit regional growth and development and ensure that economic thinking from the region helped to define rather than describe its developmental realities.

115. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Government of Cuba for its organization of the session and the Government of Chile for hosting the Commission’s headquarters, indicating that it had been the Ambassador of Chile, Hernán Santa Cruz, who had proposed the idea of establishing a Latin American Economic and Social Commission to the Economic and Social Council 70 years before. The Latin American and Caribbean region had a role to play at a time when multilateralism was threatened; hyperglobalization was exacerbating inequalities and challenges could not be addressed with a one-size-fits-all model—each country chose its own path independently. ECLAC was devoted to the mandates entrusted to it and the initiative to place the Caribbean first was a reflection of its deep commitment. She reiterated that investment, productivity and equality were positively linked and that there was a need to move from a culture of privilege to a culture of equality, break away from the distribution of cooperation on the basis of per capita GDP and to seek a new concept of cooperation with the international community and cooperation partners. Lastly, she stated that ECLAC wished to be at the forefront of thinking, but also serve as a forum for dialogue that placed emphasis on the region’s identity.

116. Statements were also made by Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ronaldo Costa Filho, Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil, Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda, Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Jairo David Estrada Barrios, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Fernando García Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain, and María del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, Undersecretary of State for Cooperation and International Promotion of Honduras.

117. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that his country had served as Chair of ECLAC and of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. He referred to several challenges, including ensuring that actions taken were long-term State commitments that transcended changes of government; the participation of all and the formulation and implementation of cross-cutting policies aimed in particular at women, children, older persons and indigenous peoples; the establishment of national technical evaluation mechanisms to measure progress and identify challenges in a timely manner; more effective promotion of financial resources (including fiscal resources), technical cooperation programmes and the sharing of experiences and best practices; and the alignment of the United Nations system with each country's priorities, and of national and local budgets for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

118. The Undersecretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs of Brazil emphasized the importance of multilateralism and the need to work on reducing multilateral and international inequalities, since multilateralism formed the basis for peace and stability. Lastly, he thanked ECLAC for the report *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and the Deputy Secretary-General for her role in the consultations on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

119. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda drew attention to the obligation of States to protect multilateralism and expressed satisfaction at the Caribbean first policy of the Commission. He said that the survival of small island developing States required partnerships and resources and remarked that assessment and recovery of losses from natural disasters were essential. Antigua and Barbuda had suffered the destruction of 90% of its infrastructure in the recent hurricanes, which showed that climate change was a reality and a threat to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the subregion.

120. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador said that, although the region had made progress, it was always worthwhile to examine new challenges and learn about the experiences of other regions in order to promote South-South cooperation. El Salvador had made great progress in reducing inequality, poverty and chronic undernutrition and by 2018 would be free of illiteracy. Two factors threatened these advances, however: climate change and economic fluctuations. He reiterated that strong multilateralism was fundamental for the progress of countries, as had been shown by the role of El Salvador as Pro Tempore Chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Lastly, the Vice-Minister took the opportunity to report that the Summit of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and the European Union would take place in Brussels on 16 and 17 July.

121. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala said that multilateralism was a vital development tool. Issues such as migration, human rights and climate change must be addressed through dialogue and collective negotiation. His country was committed to the 2030 Agenda, which provided a road map for eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment; to meet that major challenge, Guatemala had established institutional arrangements for the effective implementation of the Agenda. He also said that it was essential to continue dialogue on the graduation criteria

applied to middle-income countries so as to converge towards a cooperation system that was comprehensive and without exclusions, one that incorporated differentiated schemes and options for all countries. Lastly, he welcomed the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”), which was a milestone for the region.

122. The Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain said that inequality was an ongoing cause of concern in the region and, as the ECLAC position document indicated, equality led to efficiency, strengthened democracy and increased productivity. Inequality had to be addressed through greater inclusion of women, reducing the horizontal inequality that young people, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants endured. The culture of privilege hindered social mobility. He said that the structural gap approach was the answer to the middle-income trap and that official development assistance should continue to be provided to the region. Graduation did not do justice to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as countries that had made progress should not be penalized for their development. New concepts such as development in transition were more in line with the reality of the region and changing times.

123. The Undersecretary of State for Cooperation and International Promotion of Honduras said that achieving the 2030 Agenda was a shared goal. She underscored the need to mobilize resources and said that would require the support of the international community, which was often limited. Developed countries must comply with their official development assistance commitments and multilateral development banks must take into consideration the challenges that middle-income countries faced. She spoke of the need to ensure a gradual transition towards and from middle-income status and to develop a more comprehensive measurement system that reflected the heterogenous economic and social realities of middle-income countries.

124. In the discussion that followed, several representatives stressed that Latin America and the Caribbean had always believed in strong multilateralism that respected the differences and benefited from the similarities between countries. Solutions to poverty were multifaceted and it was important to take into account the multidimensional and comprehensive nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Although international cooperation could not be the only solution, there was a need to revise the criteria for distribution. They stated that ECLAC had done prolific work in its 70 years of existence and had a role to play in the future of development.

125. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), speaking on behalf of the Regional Directors of the United Nations system present, who joined in commemorating the Commission’s seventieth anniversary, said that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responded as one to the call to support national objectives and their links to the 2030 Agenda. UNFPA also reiterated the call for multilateral engagement to focus on the population and development agenda. Latin America and the Caribbean was in a unique position, having at its disposal the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the most advanced instrument of its kind. He called for full support at the highest level for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subsidiary body of ECLAC, which would hold its third session in Lima from 7 to 9 August 2018.

[Consideration of the request of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of ECLAC \(agenda item 14\)](#)

126. With respect to the request by the Government of France that French Guiana be admitted as an associate member of ECLAC, the Commission decided to admit French Guiana as an associate member as set forth in resolution 726(XXXVII).

[Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session \(agenda item 16\)](#)

127. The secretariat presented to the delegations of States members a document containing the resolutions of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, for their consideration. The resolutions were adopted in plenary session and their text is included in section D of this report.

Closing ceremony

128. At the closing ceremony, statements were made by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba.

129. In her closing remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General commended the Commission's role as a regional think tank and forum for policy discussion, placing equality at the centre of the development debate and integrating the three dimensions of development in its analytical framework. She fully shared the Commission's conviction regarding the need for a new development cooperation paradigm, in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a principle that she intended to promote in operationalizing the reform of the United Nations development system. Lastly, the Deputy Secretary-General thanked and congratulated Cuba and ECLAC for the organization of the session, which she was confident would mark an important milestone in the region towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda, and expressed the support of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system for the Commission's work in this direction.

130. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the session now ending was a historic one because it marked seven decades of the Commission, it had convened four former Executive Secretaries and had been attended by the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, which testified to Cuba's institutional commitment. The attendance of both the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who had expressed his firm support for the work of ECLAC, and the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, had been a major landmark. With regard to the Caribbean, ECLAC was committed to supporting the subregion on the basis of an integrated approach. The Latin American and Caribbean were aware of their diversity and were committed to preserving the space provided by ECLAC for fraternal and respectful dialogue to jointly explore routes towards the development of their peoples and forge convergent visions.

131. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba remarked that the ECLAC session that now concluded this week of intensive and fruitful work had been honoured for the first time by the presence of a Secretary-General of the United Nations. The work of ECLAC reflected the thinking of prominent Latin American economists and the grew stronger every day. It was vital for the Commission to continue to provide evidence-based theoretical and technical analyses to enable the region to deal with the tensions caused by globalization, climate change and an unsustainable global economic system, and to tap the opportunities offered by the technological revolution. In this respect, the 2030 Agenda would be a guide for the coming years. Cuba looked forward to serving as Chair of ECLAC, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the Committee on South-South Cooperation, with special attention for the Caribbean subregion and in the firm conviction that a future of justice and equality was possible.

D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

132. At its thirty-seventh session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolutions reproduced below.

717(XXXVII) HAVANA RESOLUTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, together with operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Bearing in mind the document *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission,¹

Bearing in mind also the document *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,²

Bearing in mind further the document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission,³

Bearing in mind also the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,⁴

Emphasizing that General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, offers an opportunity for all the countries in the region to progress towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and reducing inequality, as proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the documents presented at its past four sessions,

Bearing in mind that the guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields,⁵

¹ LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

² LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

³ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

⁴ LC/G.2660(SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661(SES.36/4).

⁵ LC/SES.37/8.

Having reviewed the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and its summary, prepared by the secretariat, which complements the trilogy of equality,⁶

1. Takes note of the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and welcomes the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception;

2. Recognizes the relevance of the issues examined and supports the general tenor of the document's conclusions;

3. Instructs the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries, in close cooperation with their policymakers, with a view to building national economic and social development capacities;

4. Calls upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country's national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

⁶ LC/SES.37/3-P; LC/SES.37/4.

718(XXXVII) ECLAC CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the system of the Commission, in which it decided that, at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next regular session should be considered,

Taking into account resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the Commission's intergovernmental structure and functions, in which it was recommended that the current institutional structure should be maintained,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 entitled "Pattern of conferences" and the provision concerning the principle of rotation of the venue for the sessions of the Commission as laid down in rule 2 of its rules of procedure and reiterated in its resolution 480(XXI),

Taking into account resolution 553(XXVI) on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission, in which it was recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the Commission's system should continue to serve as the basis for maintaining the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of its work,

Bearing in mind the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that establish and govern the periodicity of the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also resolution 676(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, in which it was decided, for economic and environmental reasons, to employ documents in electronic format for the future sessions and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Having examined the proposed calendar of the Commission's intergovernmental conferences for 2019-2020, as set forth in annex 7 of the relevant document,¹

Considering the objectives and priorities established in the subprogrammes of the work programme approved by the member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approves the calendar of conferences of the Commission as it appears in the annex to this resolution, along with the observations and suggestions included in the report of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission;

¹ See *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020. Note by the secretariat (LC/SES.37/9)*.

2. Also *reaffirms* the Commission's current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms as well as cost-effective, and recommends that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary with a view to an ongoing and sustained improvement in those services;

3. *Further reaffirms* the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic, social and sustainable development fields;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary to ensure implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution.

ANNEX

ECLAC Calendar of intergovernmental conferences for the period 2019-2020

YEAR	TITLE	PLACE AND DATE	LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2019	Twenty-second session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 580(XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council of Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC and ILPES regular budget
2019	Thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC	United Nations Headquarters, New York ^b	Economic and Social Council Resolution 106(VI) (para 3); ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14) and 489(PLEN.19)	Regular budget
2019	Nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile ^b	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Preparatory meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development	ECLAC regular budget

YEAR	TITLE	PLACE AND DATE	LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2019	Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	Regular budget of ILPES and ECLAC
2020	Twenty-third session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2020	Fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b
2020	Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget

^a Place to be determined.

^b Date to be determined.

719(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, at which the region adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development,

Recalling also that the fortieth anniversary of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was celebrated in 2017,

Recalling further resolution 558(XXVI), in which it adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001,

Recalling also that, in the Lima Consensus, adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries undertook to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action beyond the year 2001,¹

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits, which reaffirms that gender mainstreaming must form an integral part of the implementation of the decisions of recent United Nations summits and conferences,

Mindful of the agreements adopted by States that are parties to relevant human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women as well as of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews,

Recalling the countries' commitment to implement and monitor the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide, and recognizing its contribution to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard,

Highlighting that, at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, the countries adopted the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030,²

Bearing in mind that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, has held three meetings of the

¹ See *Report of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2087(CRM.8/6)).

² See *Report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRM.13/6/Rev.1).

Presiding Officers: the fifty-fourth meeting in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016, the fifty-fifth meeting in Santiago, on 26 and 27 May 2017, and the fifty-sixth meeting in Havana, on 5 and 6 October 2017,

Having in mind the outcomes of and commitments adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,³

Taking into account the work carried out by the Commission and the other agencies which support the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the considerable progress achieved in disseminating and redesigning the Observatory,

Taking note of the initiatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to mainstreaming the gender perspective,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, and the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the fifty-fourth meeting, fifty-fifth meeting and fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016, in Santiago on 25 and 26 May 2017, and in Havana on 5 and 6 October 2017, respectively;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms, and to take action to fulfil the Goal on the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the other 16 Goals, in order to achieve robust sustainable development;

4. *Recommends* the redoubling of efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals reflect the inequalities between men and women and can be used to design effective public policies for overcoming such inequalities;

5. *Commends* the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasizes the need to strengthen work in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers, machineries for the advancement of women as well as relevant civil society organizations;

6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in the work relating to gender statistics in the region, as well as in shedding light on gender affairs at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Commission, as well as in the work related with the organization and follow-up of the Regional Conferences and the support provided to the Governments;

³ See *Report of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/MDM.54/3)*, *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/MDM.55/4)* and *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/MDM.56/3)*.

7. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Calls for* active participation in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Chile in 2019;

9. *Recommends* that the delegations participating in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean bear in mind and promote gender balance in their composition;

10. *Requests* that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference, on the understanding that the quality of democracy is contingent on citizen participation;

11. *Takes note* of the efforts made by Governments to create a regional fund in benefit of women's and feminist organizations and movements to support projects aimed at contributing to the achievement of equality, the autonomy of women and the realization of their rights throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Montevideo Strategy in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women.

720(XXXVII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 340(AC.66) of 25 January 1974, in which it directed that the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) should become a permanent institution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with its own identity and directly responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission,

Reiterating its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provide to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

Noting that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Regional Council for Planning held its sixteenth meeting in Lima, on 12 November 2017,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,¹

1. Takes note of the resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held in Lima on 12 October 2017;

2. Expresses its conviction that the policies adopted by States should be geared towards long term aims and afford increasing attention to building visions for the future, centred on reducing inequalities, promoting the prosperity of their peoples, and furthering sustainable development;

3. Acknowledges the importance of public management and planning for development as instruments to carry forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning for their contributions to the regular system of Government funding, which provides financing for a large share of the Institute's programme of work, and urges the other States to consider joining that the Regular System of Government Financing, in conformity with their respective normative frameworks, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

5. Reiterates the recommendation that the Institute should strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and should step up the activities it conducts in that area in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of the Commission and other international institutions;

6. Decides to convene the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning in the Dominican Republic in the second half of 2018, and the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in the second half of 2019.

¹ See Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (LC/CRP.16/6).

721(XXXVII) STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by which it approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

Bearing in mind also that the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its ninth meeting in Aguascalientes (Mexico), from 14 to 16 November 2017,¹

Taking into account also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its fifteenth meeting from 14 to 16 June 2016 and its sixteenth meeting from 4 to 6 April 2017; as well as the Joint Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas' Member Countries and Members of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM-Americas) on 5 April 2017,

Taking into account further that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,²

Recognizing the major challenges facing official statistics in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the growing demand for statistical data and indicators in areas such as the environment, economic and social development, the labour market, gender affairs, information and communications technologies, public safety and justice, and South-South cooperation, as well as the challenges involved in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of information and assessing their appropriateness and relevance for measuring the multiplicity of Goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the increasing importance of reliable, good-quality, timely, disaggregated public statistics and the growing need to provide these for the sake of transparency, accountability of the public authorities and the evidence-based

¹ See *Report of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.9/7).

² See *Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4235), and *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.16/5).

evaluation of public policy outcomes, which are key elements for sustainable development and for enhancing democracy in the region,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 71/313 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/7, adopting the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators that was agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017, as a voluntary and country led instrument that includes the initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission at its fifty-first session, to be held in 2020, and its fifty-sixth session, to be held in 2025, and will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels, which will be developed by Member States,

Recalling that in the conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the Governments attending the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the countries recommended that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, make progress with producing indicators of relevance to the region in the framework proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals and support the strengthening of national statistical capacities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017, and of the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of its Executive Committee, held in Santiago from 14 to 16 June 2016 and from 4 to 6 April 2017, respectively;

2. *Also takes note* of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018-2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;³

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates regional and international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems of the countries of the region;

4. *Expresses* its support for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the appropriate intergovernmental body to create the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, to foster the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

³ LC/CEA.9/8.

722(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 30 June 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development,¹ as well as other relevant internationally agreed instruments, constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national, regional, and international levels,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,² represents an opportunity for the countries of the region to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions, as well as eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling also that by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2014, the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind that, by virtue of resolution 2014/32, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in resolution 682(XXXV) of the Commission,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its second session in Montevideo, from 25 to 27 October 2017,

Considering that, on that occasion, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective report,³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017;

2. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal and inclusive action plan based on the three dimensions of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental— whose goals and targets

¹ See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6 to 12 March 1995) (A/CONF.166/9)*.

² See General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

³ See *Report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CDS.2/4/Rev.1)*.

are indivisible, and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the platforms in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimension of sustainable development;

3. *Takes note* of the undertaking to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that address the region's structural inequalities and the new challenges arising from technological change and the necessary transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, with a focus based on rights, gender equality and the life cycle and an approach of universalism that is sensitive to differences, within the general framework of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries, including small island developing States, upon request, in their efforts to develop new methodologies and instruments for measuring multidimensional poverty, deprivations and vulnerability, as well as strengthening existing ones;

5. *Urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the challenges related to the sustainability of the financing needed to close gaps in access to comprehensive social protection systems and universal social services;

6. *Notes* that the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Panama in 2018, jointly with the tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is convened by the United Nations Development Programme.

723(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation; and resolution 65/234 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, whereby it was decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as an instrument for realizing the human rights of all, reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind,

Recalling the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and their contribution to following up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the third meeting, from 4 to 6 October 2016 in Santiago, and the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 7 to 9 November 2017 in Santiago,¹

Considering that the Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development² was welcomed at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015,

Considering also all relevant regional developments on population and development matters in particular the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, where was adopted the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”,

1. *Takes note* of the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers at their third meeting, held in Santiago from 4 to 6 October 2016, and at their special meeting, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017, which are reflected in the respective meeting reports;

2. *Renews* the countries’ commitment to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide as a voluntary technical tool for

¹ See *Report of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4295) and *Report of the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDP-E/4).

² LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

assisting countries, and recognizes the contribution of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

3. *Welcomes* the offer of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held from 7 to 10 August 2018, with a view to monitoring the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and calls for active participation in the session;

4. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular Mexico in its capacity as Chair, and its willingness to remain in this position until the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* the countries to make every effort to send inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, including insofar as possible, representatives from ministries and national institutions engaged with the population and development agenda, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and academia involved in the process of implementing the Montevideo Consensus;

6. *Takes note* of the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, adopted at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017³;

7. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, and invites all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation;

8. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Population Fund for its support for the activities of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the other funds, programmes and specialized agencies to make their contributions, as appropriate, to the activities to be carried out by the Conference;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and another relevant United Nations agencies, within the framework of their mandates, to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, upon request and in accordance with their national priorities, in following up the Intergovernmental Conference on International Migration, which will take place in Morocco in December 2018, and looks forward to its possible outcomes.

³ See *Report of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRE.4/4).

724(XXXVII) CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,¹

Considering the key role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to science, technology and innovation, and of policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, especially as regards the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

Recalling resolution 672(XXXIV) adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/242 on the Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 22 December 2017,

Bearing in mind that since the preceding session of the Commission, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its second session in San José, on 12 and 13 September 2016,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,²

Reaffirming 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,

1. Takes note of the report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

¹ See chap. I of *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1)*.

² See *Report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.4276)*.

2. Welcomes the ongoing discussions in the first meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on the impact of artificial intelligence on accelerated technological change in sustainable development and upcoming discussions on this topic;

3. Looks forward to the rapid operationalization of the United Nations online platform as a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes.

725(XXXVII) REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which establishes the following: “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”,

Recalling also the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and signed by 24 Governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, declared their willingness to work towards a regional instrument promoting the full application of those rights and requested the support of the Commission as technical secretariat,

Recalling further paragraph 60 of the Declaration of Santiago adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the first Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Santiago on 27 and 28 January 2013,

Recalling resolutions 686(XXXV) and 706(XXXVI) “Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, adopted, respectively, at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission, which emphasized the importance of sustainable management of natural resources and mechanisms for informed, broad and inclusive participation,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, six meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the fourth in Santo Domingo from 9 to 12 August 2016, the fifth in Santiago from 21 to 25 November 2016, the sixth in Brasilia from 20 to 24 March 2017, the seventh in Buenos Aires from 31 July to 4 August 2017, the eighth in Santiago from 27 November to 1 December 2017, and the ninth in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

¹ A/CONF.216/13.

Having been apprised of the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

1. *Takes note* of the adoption of the 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 for Sustainable Development, invites all governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider becoming a member of the Agreement, which will be open to signature from 27 September 2018, and request the secretariat to update member States on further developments in that regard.

726(XXXVII) ADMISSION OF FRENCH GUIANA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that paragraphs 3(a) and 4 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean state that, “Any territory, or part or group thereof, may on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission,”

Recognizing that French Guiana enjoys strong economic, cultural and social ties with the rest of the region and that it is committed to strengthening these links wherever possible,

Aware that associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean will contribute strongly towards achieving this goal,

Welcoming the request made by France that French Guiana be granted associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Decides* that French Guiana shall be granted associate membership in the Commission.

727(XXXVII) CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recognizing the important role of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a forum in which the Governments of the subregion exchange information and share experiences with a view to addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges to achieving sustainable development,

Bearing in mind that the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its eighteenth meeting in Port of Spain on 19 May 2017, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-seventh session in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on 27 April 2018, and that, on those occasions, they adopted conclusions and resolutions, which appear in their respective reports,¹

Recalling that the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which brings together high-level experts and policymakers to consider key issues relating to development in the subregion, was first established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in March 2010,²

Recognizing the Caribbean Development Roundtable as a valuable forum for fostering strategic thinking and stimulating the consideration of policy options to address critical Caribbean development challenges, and as a mechanism for forging partnerships between Latin America and the Caribbean through dialogue and engagement,

Highlighting the positive contribution made by the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable to the consideration of key issues on the sustainable development agenda of Caribbean small island developing States, including the challenges posed by a high debt burden,

1. Takes note of the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-seventh session;
2. Welcomes the convening of the Caribbean Development Roundtable on a biennial basis and calls on development partners to work in collaboration with the members of the Commission in support of these meetings;
3. Reaffirms the key role of the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in coordinating development support for the subregion, in collaboration with the agencies, funds and

¹ See the resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (LC/CAR/2017/5)*.

² See resolution 73(XXIII), adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session, held in St. George's on 15 and 17 March 2010 (LC/CAR/L.257).

programmes of the United Nations system and through direct engagement with Caribbean development partners, including the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;

4. *Welcomes* the role that the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, is mandated to play in incorporating the needs of the small island developing States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-seventh session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the conclusions reached at the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

728(XXXVII) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2020

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Commission and the mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations concerning the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies of the system,

Bearing in mind also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”¹ and General Assembly resolutions 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 69/313 “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)” as well as the Paris Agreement,²

Recalling paragraphs 80 and 81 of resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which welcome the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encourage the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Considering the Reports of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all”³ and “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet”,⁴

Taking into account the Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017,⁵

Taking into account also that the thirty-seventh session of the Commission is the occasion for the relevant intergovernmental review of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020,⁶

Having reviewed the outcomes and activities of the previous biennium and the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the presentation on the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and which updates and reinforces the priorities endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session,

Having reviewed also all aspects of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, which further strengthens programming, results-based management and evaluation,

Bearing in mind that the basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

³ A/72/492.

⁴ A/72/684-E/2018/7.

⁵ LC/SES.37/7.

⁶ LC/SES.37/8.

Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental spheres,

Acknowledging the secretariat’s efforts to update and align the content and modalities of the programme of work with the new requirements emerging from the aforementioned agendas, action plans and instruments,

1. *Adopts* the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020, in its entirety, which, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held in the plenary session and the guidance provided by the resolutions adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production of the publications identified therein;

2. *Emphasizes and welcomes* the fact that the draft programme of work and priorities of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2020 reflects the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities of the programme of work to the new requirements arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, as well as from internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the recent decline in the budgetary resources allocated to the Commission to carry out the activities set forth in the programme of work;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the *Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017* and underlines the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by the Commission in the different areas of work, commending especially its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Commission to the benefit of the region’s development, and recommends pursuing those efforts;

7. *Decides* that the Committee of the Whole is the appropriate body to review and adopt the annual programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the years falling between years in which sessions of the Commission are held;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission, also with a view to strengthening and broadening the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

729(XXXVII) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Taking into account the potential of information and communication technologies for furthering the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reaffirming the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society and the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, which reaffirms the need to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and requests that a high-level meeting be held in 2025,

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 68 of that resolution, in which the regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and to contribute reviews thereof, including through regional reviews,

Recognizing that the digital economy forms a crucial component of progressive structural change aimed at increasing the relative share of knowledge-intensive production activities in the economy, enhancing competitiveness and making progress towards social inclusion and the reduction of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing the urgent need for capacity-building to create, share and utilize digital technologies to benefit from the new digital revolution and accelerate the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries,

Emphasizing the need to create conditions in which to boost the digital economy, by addressing barriers that hinder the deployment and diffusion of digital technologies and promoting the exchange of goods and services online,

Mindful that the development of a regional digital market could generate opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth, while stimulating investment, productivity and competitiveness,

Aware of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to the information society and information and communications technologies,

1. *Takes note* of the Cartagena de Indias Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;¹

¹ See the draft report of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CMSI.6/PINF).

2. *Urges* regional and international bodies and agencies working in the area of policies on information and communications technologies to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), fostering coordination and integration of efforts;

3. *Calls upon* all member States to participate in the Preparatory Meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Ecuador in 2019, and the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Brazil in 2020;

4. *Thanks* the Governments of Ecuador and Brazil for their offer to give continuity to the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) process and to host the forthcoming ministerial meetings on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019 and 2020, respectively;

5. *Commends* the joint efforts made by member States to strengthen regional collaboration on the information society with a view to identifying the advances achieved by Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of universal access to information and communications technologies, as well as of infrastructure, including broadband connection, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms the need to promote public policies for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially with regard to the advisability and feasibility of advancing an agenda for the development of a regional digital market in close cooperation with stakeholders.

730(XXXVII) COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/31 of 27 July 2012, which reaffirms the importance of staying fully engaged in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,

Bearing in mind that the resolution reiterates the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to ensure the continuity and momentum of that process, and reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders,

Highlighting the contents of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held from 1 to 3 December 2009, in which the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as the regional commissions, were requested to assist developing countries in establishing or strengthening existing South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence and enhancing closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern,

Recalling paragraph 44 of the document *Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme*,¹ prepared by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which states that the proliferation of South-South cooperation programmes and activities across the United Nations system points to the need to move from fragmented and ad hoc reporting to more systematic, standard and comprehensive reporting mechanisms and to the need for improved quality of data and analysis, in particular in the planning, programming, reporting and follow-up of South-South cooperation activities,

Considering General Assembly resolution 68/230, which invites the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, and technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review

¹ SSC/17/2.

processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be based primarily on national official data sources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/313, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, which, *inter alia*, commits Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 71/318, entitled “Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation”, resolution 72/237 entitled “South-South cooperation” and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “State of South-South cooperation”,²

Bearing in mind also that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation have held three meetings: the fifth meeting in Santo Domingo, on 11 January 2017; the sixth meeting in Mexico City, on 25 April 2017; and the seventh meeting in Santiago, on 17 April 2018,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the respective meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation;³

2. *Also takes note* of the *Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium*;⁴

3. *Further takes note* of the *Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat*;⁵

4. *Reiterates* paragraph 4 of resolution 709(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and requests the secretariat of the Commission to continue supporting, within the framework of its existing mandates, the Governments of the region in the design of methodologies to follow up on South-South cooperation;

5. *Recognize* that the United Nations system is the multilateral forum par excellence in which to contribute to the redefinition of the way that development is measured, taking into account the national priorities of each country, and emphasize the multidimensional approach to development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the discussion on the criteria used to guide the various modalities of international cooperation, with a view to leaving no one behind;

² A/72/297.

³ *Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.5/2)*; *Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.6/3)*; and draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.7/PINF).

⁴ LC/SES.37/11.

⁵ LC/SES.37/10.

6. *Invites* the countries to participate, with the support of the secretariat, in the calculation of structural gaps, as a valuable tool for helping to measure and visualize development levels in each country beyond per capita income;

7. *Welcomes* the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the Governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Invites* the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to consider convening a regional interactive dialogue on the priorities of the region, at United Nations Headquarters in New York on a date to be agreed, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019;

9. *Requests* the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of this resolution at the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held in the framework of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

731(XXXVII) SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 by virtue of which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established,

Reaffirming its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 106(VI) retain their full validity,

Recalling its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner,

Bearing in mind the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the agreements and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Considering the broad interest shown by countries in the work of the Commission, which has been reflected in to the admission of new member States such as Germany (2005), Japan (2006), Norway (2015), the Republic of Korea (2007) and Turkey (2017), as well as the following associate members: Bermuda (2012), the Cayman Islands (2008), Curaçao (2012), Guadalupe (2012), Martinique (2012), Sint Maarten (2014) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (2006),

Recognizing that the Commission has aligned its draft programme of work and priorities of the ECLAC system for 2020, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Having been informed by the Chair of the thirty-sixth session on the conduct and outcome of the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City in 2017 and in Santiago in 2018, respectively, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), which established the Forum 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,

Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's report *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet*, which proposes significant changes to improve the coordinating role of the United Nations development system,¹

1. Reaffirms the important contributions to the region made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission —the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean— in the areas of gender equality, cooperation and development, planning, statistics, population, science and technology, South-South cooperation and social development, among others;

2. Acknowledges the contribution of the documents prepared by the secretariat *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary,² presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission, *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary,³ presented at the thirty-fourth session, *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary,⁴ presented at the thirty-fifth session, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*, presented at the thirty-sixth session, and *The Inefficiency of Inequality*, presented at the thirty-seventh session, as well as the first and second editions of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,⁵ submitted at the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as a contribution to the framework of regional analysis that identifies the gaps and challenges in relation to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. Reaffirms 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;

¹ A/72/684-E/2018/7.

² LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

³ LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

⁴ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

⁵ LC/L.4268(FDS.1/3)/Rev.1 and LC/FDS.2/3.

4. *Recognizes* that 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 and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations Development system by: (i) strengthening regional and subregional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits; (ii) the need to address gaps and overlaps bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for the regional approach and that it is necessary to consider the specificities of each region and the strengths of its regional mechanisms; (iii) the need to preserve the existing functions already performed by the United Nations development system at the regional level, including current interactions between the regional economic commissions and member States; and (iv) the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commissions;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing process to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to provide better support to Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, agree with the Secretary-General that the regional structures need to be revamped and look forward to examining the options for longer-term restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations to be presented by the Secretary-General, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach; commend the work carried out by ECLAC in its 70 years of existence and its continued efforts to support country-led processes; commit to ensure that the functions and mandate of ECLAC 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 the interest of country-led processes and increase, within its mandate, regional initiatives so that no one is left behind;

7. *Recall* the fundamental characteristics of the activities for development of the entities of United Nations development system, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 1 February 2017, inter alia, their neutrality and their ability to respond to the development needs of countries in a flexible manner.

732(XXXVII) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2014-2024

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,¹ adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner,

Recalling that, in its resolution 69/232, the General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner,

Recalling also its resolution 711(XXXVI) on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC,

Bearing in mind the forthcoming review of progress towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review to be held no later than December 2019, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/232,

Bearing in mind also that the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation, are fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

1. Reiterates its invitation to member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies at the national and regional level, as well as its invitation to regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation; and again encourages the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships;

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/137.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

2. *Requests* the secretariat to support the regional review by landlocked and transit countries in Latin America in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and relevant regional actors, through the preparation of analytical studies, and the organization of the regional meeting not later than before December 2019;

3. *Calls upon* the secretariat to continue providing technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, logistical integration and logistics cost studies.

733(XXXVII) FORUM FOR EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION TRUST FUND

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that the Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) aims to promote cooperation, better understanding, and political and economic dialogue between East Asia and Latin America¹ in order to achieve more effective, cooperative, and fruitful relations in all areas,

Recalling that in the Busan Declaration of 31 August 2017, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of FEALAC reinforced their determination to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation, deeper economic integration and to accelerate economic recovery through, inter alia, the establishment as a funding mechanism to support FEALAC-wide projects that promote inter-regional cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of a multi-donor trust fund ("FEALAC Trust Fund"),

Taking note that several members States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund and several other member States have pledged to also make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to support other FEALAC-wide projects,

1. *Welcomes the establishment of a FEALAC multi-donor Trust Fund as a financing for development instrument that combines South-South and Triangular Cooperation for mutual benefit and for the common goal of development;*

2. *Acknowledges the voluntary contributions made so far and encourages other member States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to make additional voluntary contributions to the Fund so as to make it possible for ECLAC and ESCAP to carry out further initiatives aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia;*

3. *Reaffirms its commitment to carry out with ESCAP interregional projects financed by the trust fund aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and contributing to the development of both regions in the areas agreed by the Trust Fund Steering Committee.*

¹ The Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) is an association of 36 countries from East Asia and Latin America that came together for the first time to form an official and regular dialogue channel between the two regions. (East Asia: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

ANNEX 1

Report of the Committee on South-South Cooperation

1. The Committee on South-South Cooperation met as scheduled on 9 May 2018 during the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The following countries were appointed to serve as presiding officers of the Committee:

Chair: Cuba
 Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay

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

[Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC \(agenda item 3\)](#)

3. Mexico, in its capacity as outgoing Chair of the Committee, presented a report on South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, summarized in the corresponding note by the secretariat.¹

[Panel on the challenges faced by middle-income countries ahead of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation \(Buenos Aires, March 2019\) \(agenda item 4\)](#)

4. The panel was chaired by Ileana Núñez, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, and statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Ernesto Pflirter, Ambassador of Argentina in Cuba, Agustín García-López, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Jolita Butkeviciene, Director of Development Coordination for Latin America and Caribbean of the European Commission, and Fernando García Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain.

5. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that it was an honour for her country to serve as Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the biennium 2018–2020 and continue the work previously carried forward by Mexico. She expressed her conviction that South-South cooperation was a valuable tool for finding solutions to the problems shared by the region's countries, and that it was more than a complement to North-South cooperation. In its role as Chair, Cuba would seek to promote national integration and full inclusion of the Caribbean, in line with the

¹ LC/SES.37/10.

Commission's political and strategic vision of "Caribbean first". She noted that millions of people in the region —the most unequal in the world— lived in extreme poverty. In addition, climate change posed great challenges, especially for the Caribbean. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development required integrated action by the region's countries. The pillars for cooperation among countries were eradicating poverty, adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects, and encouraging pro-equality social policies. Cuba would seek coordination and synergies between the Committee on South-South Cooperation and other regional or subregional mechanisms and agencies, within or outside the United Nations system, with the aim of making actions in the region more effective. The Vice-Minister stressed the importance of commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and of continued constructive dialogue between the countries of the region, in a different context than 40 years ago. Finally, she reiterated the need for stable and predictable financial resources to support national efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Cuba, in its commitment to cooperation among the peoples and nations of the region, offered to share its experiences and ratified its willingness to work on the basis of respect for diversity, so that together all could achieve sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, leaving no one behind.

6. The Ambassador of Argentina in Cuba remarked that the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries would take place in a context characterized by economic growth and relatively modest trade flows, the return of geopolitical calculations and a shift towards protectionist policies, all of which posed great challenges for multilateralism. The 2030 Agenda represented a paradigm shift that implied, among other things, replacing the donor-recipient concept with that of countries in partnership for development. The new regional landscape of South-South cooperation had led to the institutional and operational updating of the United Nations, which was the point of reference and primary multilateral forum for these discussions. Regarding middle-income countries, the time had come to change both the rationale of official development assistance (ODA) based on per capita income, and the graduation criteria, which favoured an incomplete conception of development focused on combating extreme poverty and disregarded other dimensions of sustainable development. Instead, the notion of "development in transition" took into account ongoing discussions in middle-income countries about the criteria for measuring development, and the implications in terms of distribution of ODA. Thus, it was essential to hold comprehensive discussions on sustainable and differentiated financing mechanisms. The complexities of the global context required the involvement of various stakeholders to contribute new rationales based on multisectoral partnerships. Marking the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would be a reaffirmation of the historic commitment of the countries of the South to multilateralism, peace and development, as well as an opportunity to analyse the comparative advantages of South-South and triangular cooperation,

which should not necessarily imply the dilution or withdrawal of traditional cooperation. Triangular cooperation should be construed on the basis of equality between the parties, political dialogue and institutional coordination, rather than being viewed as a complement to bilateral cooperation. Challenges included developing institutions at the national and regional levels, improving regional coordination, promoting triangular cooperation and strengthening mechanisms for joint implementation and shared governance, improving monitoring and evaluation systems, and other aspects that could be discussed in depth on the occasion of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires in March 2019.

7. The Executive Director of AMEXCID said that Cuba had shown outstanding solidarity and cooperation with others and stressed the importance of dialogue, the exchange of good practices and innovation in cooperation. He also commended ECLAC for its contribution to thinking and analysis on cooperation matters in the region. There were global challenges — such as climate change— that States could not solve on their own, which made multilateralism increasingly important. There was a need to break with the prevailing paradigms to achieve horizontal cooperation among the countries of this diverse and heterogeneous region. The notion of measuring development on the basis of per capita income was outdated: some Caribbean nations were considered high-income countries, but suffered the severe consequences of natural disasters, thus, measurements of development needed to consider vulnerability to such events. The Executive Director remarked that horizontal cooperation was not a substitute for traditional cooperation, nor did it play a merely complementary role. Cooperation action had to be aligned with the priority needs of partner countries. Results-based planning was also important, as well as the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of cooperation actions. He added that cooperation should be part of foreign and multilateral policies of State and that the participation of all stakeholders in inclusive partnerships had to be encouraged. Triangular cooperation should be regarded as cooperation between three partners (both countries and organizations), as exemplified by the cooperation between Mexico and Central America on food or migration of unaccompanied children. Lastly, he put forward a proposal for a network to build national capacities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation referred to a publication by his office entitled *Acción Sur-Sur: de Cuba para el mundo* (“South-South in Action – From Cuba to the World”) the first of this series in Spanish, which highlighted the important role of various Cuban agencies in South-South cooperation. Referring to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in March 2019, he said the Conference would be open to non-governmental stakeholders and other international agencies. The Secretary-General had been requested to present a report as the basis for discussions at the Conference, and the role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been adopted as the overall theme, with related subthemes including the comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, challenges to and strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, sharing of good experiences and best practices, and enhancing

the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, Member States had been invited to submit documents to the Conference, and a working group had been planned to coordinate the interaction among them. The Conference would be a driver for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as more and better South-South cooperation was needed given that traditional forms of cooperation would not be sufficient.

9. The Director of Development Coordination for Latin America and Caribbean of the European Commission highlighted the history of joint work between ECLAC and the European Union. She noted that Latin America was one of the most proactive regions in matters of South-South and triangular cooperation, with innovation capability evident in its people and institutions. The European Union was seeking mutual support in finding sources of national and regional innovation to address shared global challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There were opportunities for cooperation in the framework of triangular cooperation as well as strategic approaches to partnership with the region. Triangular cooperation, which involved the cooperation of all countries, offered the possibility of building strategic partnerships based on shared interests, and of protecting and strengthening multilateralism. The European Union wished to be at the forefront of triangular cooperation as it encouraged the mobilization of funds and resources, offered an opportunity to overcome the North-South divide, created an ambitious partnership model and provided a common platform for dialogue towards the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. She recalled that while the challenges to development had not disappeared, they had changed, and that there was a need to find adaptable solutions; for example, the transition to higher levels of income did not mean that the need for cooperation no longer existed, but rather that the European Union should seek new strategies and tools for cooperation. The new concept of development in transition suggested that development did not necessarily follow a rationale based on numbers and economic theories, but rather included subjective aspects such as trust, expectations of citizens, and global or regional agendas. Triangular cooperation offered the opportunity of going beyond the donor-recipient notion and the North-South agenda, but this required joint efforts in the search for solutions. Finally, she noted that the European Union would remain committed to cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean: the region's notable economic and social development results, together with its intellectual, institutional and leadership resources, meant it was ideally placed to respond to the development challenges of the twenty-first century, for the benefit of all.

10. The Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean of Spain remarked that although most of the world's economies were growing at a significant pace, the advent of nationalism and populism revealed a certain malaise. He added that, while democracy in the region was a consolidated asset, since 2000, 11 presidents had failed to complete their mandates. In addition, the middle classes now had greater expectations and demanded from the State greater transparency and quality public services, for example in water and sanitation, health, education and security. Cooperation could play an important role in this regard. He noted that Latin America had always pursued multilateralism and that the time had come to hold a summit between the European Union and Latin America and the

Caribbean. It was necessary to look beyond the donor-recipient and developed-developing country paradigms, and beyond the use of per capita income of middle-income countries as the criterion for cooperation, as this measure alone was not a true indicator of development. In recent years, South-South bilateral, triangular and regional cooperation initiatives had been increasing in number. To further reduce structural gaps, the region's countries needed triangular cooperation, non-refundable financial resources, concessional financial resources and technology transfer.

11. In the statements that followed, the representatives emphasized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his Government had a growing interest in expanding economic cooperation and exchanging development experiences, and that it had expanded its cooperation efforts in health, culture, security, trade and investment. He remarked that Germany was one of the largest international donors for sustainable development activities at the global level and, in Latin America and the Caribbean, had supported climate change mitigation initiatives in particular. He added that Germany would continue cooperating with middle-income countries in the region. The representative of Uruguay reaffirmed the importance his country attached to South-South cooperation. Throughout the world there was support for a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, affording the same importance to economic, social and environmental aspects. Measurements of development had evolved and the traditional measure of gross domestic product was strictly economic and had many limitations. The representative of Brazil said that his country joined others in recognizing the work of ECLAC and noted that cooperation should be based on the needs of the recipients, beyond the importance of triangular cooperation itself. The representative of Honduras stated that South-South cooperation was essential for her country and that financing remained a challenge. The representative of Panama recognized that South-South and triangular cooperation were of great importance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that to do so it was necessary to adapt to new trends, adjusting supply and demand to new regional and global needs. She further stressed the importance of knowledge- and experience-sharing between countries within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The representative of Costa Rica underscored how important the work of ECLAC was for her country, as it provided guidance for policymaking and for progress in interregional understanding, and highlighted Costa Rica's cooperation activities with Spain, Germany, Mexico and Chile.

12. The representative of Centro Sur commended Cuba on its cooperation with developing countries. He stated that South-South cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, but could serve as an example for the traditional cooperation provided by developed countries. Additionally, the latter should fulfil their commitment of decades earlier to devote 0.7% of their GDP to cooperation. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said that his organization attached importance to the exchange of technical expertise, resources and practical skills to promote rural development, as well as to promote investment between countries aimed at improving rural livelihoods. IFAD had committed to ensuring that 50% of its new country strategies should follow a South-South and triangular cooperation approach.

13. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the 2030 Agenda embodied a paradigm shift that required rethinking many aspects related to measurement and progress, which had an impact on cooperation. One of the main challenges of the 2030 Agenda were the means of implementation, especially the three pillars of financing, trade and technology; accordingly, the asymmetries with developed countries in these areas had to be reduced. The historical responsibility of developed countries regarding global challenges such as climate change should not be dismissed, and this was reflected, for example, in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. With regard to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the region's countries could not replace dwindling ODA flows with other external flows, such as remittances, since these were not funds for development; nor could foreign investment be counted as development financing. Development could no longer be measured by per capita GDP. Without cooperation from developed countries, it would not be possible to close gaps, for example, in tax evasion. Cooperation needs had to be measured better, not on the sole basis of per capita GDP. In this regard, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation offered an opportunity to establish better ways of measuring cooperation needs and criteria. The Executive Secretary added that the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC provided forums for identifying the demands and needs of countries. She also stressed the importance of South-South cooperation with the Asia-Pacific region and, in this regard, welcomed the contributions made by the Republic of Korea to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and by China, which had created its own cooperation agency and was tightening relations with the region. Regarding the Caribbean, the Executive Secretary referred to the pending challenge of providing the subregion with access to concessional resources and to trade under the conditions it had previously enjoyed. In closing, she remarked that the Committee on South-South Cooperation was open for all countries to take part in discussions on these issues.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 5)

14. The conclusions of the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation are reflected in resolution 730(XXXVII).

ANNEX 2

Documents presented at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

A. DOCUMENTOS DE TRABAJO/WORKING DOCUMENTS

- LC/SES.37/1/Rev.4 – Temario provisional
– Provisional agenda
– Ordre du jour provisoire
- LC/SES.37/2/Rev.3 – Temario provisional anotado y organización del trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones
– Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the thirty-seventh session
– Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire et organisation de la trente-septième session
- LC/SES.37/3-P – La ineficiencia de la desigualdad
– The Inefficiency of Inequality
- LC/SES.37/4 – La ineficiencia de la desigualdad. Síntesis
– The Inefficiency of Inequality. Summary
– Inefficacité de l'inégalité. Synthèse
– A ineficiência da desigualdade. Síntese
- LC/SES.37/5 – Temario provisional del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
– Ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud
- LC/SES.37/6/Rev.1 – Temario provisional anotado del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
– Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire du Comité de coopération Sud-Sud
- LC/SES.37/7 – Informe de actividades de la Comisión de enero de 2016 a diciembre de 2017
– Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017
- LC/SES.37/8 – Proyecto de programa de trabajo del sistema de la CEPAL, 2020
– Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020
- LC/SES.37/9 – Calendario de conferencias de la CEPAL propuesto para el período 2019-2020. Nota de la Secretaría
– Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020. Note by the secretariat
- LC/SES.37/10 – Informe de las actividades de cooperación Sur-Sur llevadas a cabo desde el trigésimo sexto período de sesiones de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría
– Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat
- LC/SES.37/11 – Informe de las actividades de cooperación técnica realizadas por el sistema de la CEPAL durante el bienio 2016-2017
– Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium
- LC/SES.37/12 – Documentos presentados al trigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Comisión
– Documents presented at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission
- LC/SES.37/13 – Solicitud del Gobierno de Francia de que la Guayana Francesa se incorpore como miembro asociado de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría
– Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat
– Demande présentée par la France afin que la Guyane française soit admise en tant que membre associé de la CEPALC. Note du Secrétariat
- LC/SES.37/14 – The Caribbean Outlook
- LC/SES.37/15 – Proyecto de cooperación Red para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales para la implementación y seguimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe. Nota de la Secretaría
– Development cooperation project: Network for the strengthening of national capacities for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat
- LC/CNP10.9/4 – Acta final
– Final Act
– Ata final
- LC/CNP10.9/5 – Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe
– Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

B. DOCUMENTOS DE REFERENCIA/ REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- LC/SES.37/DDR/1 – Informe de las actividades de los órganos subsidiarios de la CEPAL y reuniones intergubernamentales, desde el trigésimo sexto período de sesiones
– Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-sixth session
- LC/G.2433(SES.33/4) – La hora de la igualdad: brechas por cerrar, caminos por abrir. Síntesis
– Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails. Summary
– L'heure de l'égalité : combler les écarts, ouvrir de nouveaux chemins. Synthèse
– A hora da igualdade: brechas por selar, caminhos por abrir. Síntese
- LC/G.2525(SES.34/4) – Cambio estructural para la igualdad: una visión integrada del desarrollo. Síntesis
– Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development. Summary
– Changement structurel pour l'égalité : une vision intégrée du développement. Synthèse
– Mudança estrutural para a igualdade: Uma visao integrada do desenvolvimento. Síntese
- LC/G.2587(SES.35/4) – Pactos para la igualdad: hacia un futuro sostenible. Síntesis
– Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future. Summary
– Pactes pour l'égalité : vers un avenir durable. Synthèse
– Pactos para a igualdade: rumo a um futuro sustentável. Síntese
- LC/G.2661(SES.36/4) – Horizontes 2030: la igualdad en el centro del desarrollo sostenible. Síntesis
– Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary
– Horizons 2030 : l'égalité au coeur du développement durable. Synthèse
– Horizontes 2030: a igualdade no centro do desenvolvimento sustentável. Síntese
- A/RES/71/318 – Segunda Conferencia de Alto Nivel de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
– Deuxième Conférence de haut niveau des Nations Unies sur la coopération Sud-Sud
- A/RES/72/237 – Cooperación Sur-Sur
– South-South cooperation
– Coopération Sud-Sud
- A/72/297 – Estado de la cooperación Sur-Sur. Informe del Secretario General
– State of South-South cooperation. Report of the Secretary-General
– État de la coopération Sud-Sud. Rapport du Secrétaire général
- LC/G.2532/Rev.1 – Los países de renta media: un nuevo enfoque basado en brechas estructurales
– Middle-income countries: a structural gap approach
- LC/CNP10.9/6 – Informe de la Novena Reunión del Comité de Negociación del Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe
– Report of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean
- LC/MDSS.5/2 – Informe de la Quinta Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
- LC/MDSS.6/3 – Informe de la Sexta Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
- LC/MDSS.7/PINF – Proyecto de informe de la Séptima Reunión de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur
– Draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
- LC/PLEN.32/INF – Informe del trigésimo segundo período de sesiones del Comité Plenario
– Report of the thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole
- LC/L.4258(PLEN.32/3)/Rev.2 – Solicitud del Gobierno de Francia de que la Guayana Francesa se incorpore como miembro asociado de la CEPAL. Nota de la Secretaría
– Request of the Government of France for admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat

ANNEX 3

Lista de participantes

List of participants

A. ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LA COMISIÓN

MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMISSION

ALEMANIA/GERMANY

Representante/Representative:

- Thomas Neisinger, Embajador de Alemania en Cuba, email: info@havanna.diplo.de

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Joseph Weiß, Ministro Consejero y Jefe de la Sección Económica, Embajada de la República Federal de Alemania en La Habana
- Bela Nikolaus Buzasi, Funcionario, Sección Económica y Sección Política, Embajada de la República Federal de Alemania en La Habana
- Rosemarie Liekfeldt, Sección Consular, Embajada de la República Federal de Alemania en La Habana, email: rosemarie.liekfeldt@diplo.de

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

- Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and International Trade, email: foreignaffairs@ab.gov.ag

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Joy Marie King, Director of International Trade, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and International Trade, email: joymarie.king@gmail.com, joy-marie.king@ab.gov.ag
- Peter Benjamin, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to Cuba, email: janelle.mathew@ab.gov.ag

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- Ernesto Pfirter, Embajador de la Argentina en Cuba, email: epfirter@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Secretario de Planificación Territorial y Coordinación de Obra Pública, email: falvarezdecelis@mininterior.gob.ar
- Gabriela Vanesa Agosto, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: gabriela.agosto@politicassociales.gob.ar
- Laila Brandy, Directora Nacional de Abordaje Integral de Programas Especiales, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: lbrandy@politicassociales.gob.ar
- José Emilio Grande Pérez, Jefe Sección Consular, Embajada de la Argentina en Cuba, email: jeg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Pablo Ignacio Cattaneo, Cónsul Adjunto, Embajada de la Argentina en Cuba, email: qpi@mrecid.gov.ar

BAHAMAS

Representante/Representative:

- Andrew Brent Dean, Embajador de las Bahamas en Cuba, email: yellow_elder@outlook.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Olivia Patricia Kemp, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de las Bahamas en Cuba, email: yellow_elder@outlook.com

BARBADOS**Representante/Representative:**

- Donna Forde, Embajadora de Barbados en Cuba, email: dforde@foreign.gov.bb

BELICE/BELIZE**Representante/Representative:**

- Erwin Contreras, Minister of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce, email: karlene.mcsweaney@med.gov.bz

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Karlene Mc Sweaney, Acting Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce, email: karlene.mcsweaney@med.gov.bz
- Lou-Anne Burns Martínez, Embajadora de Belice en Cuba, email: belizecuba1@yahoo.com
- Shantal Sasha Marín González, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Belice en Cuba

BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)/BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)**Representante/Representative:**

- Fernando Huanacuni Mamani, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mreuno@rree.gob.bo, colivian-santiago@consuladodebolivia.cl

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Manuel Canelas, Viceministro de Planificación y Coordinación, email: emboliviacuba@gmail.com
- Juan Ramón Quintana Torga, Embajador del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en Cuba, email: emboliviacuba@gmail.com
- Natalia Rodríguez Blanco, Funcionaria, Embajada del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en Cuba, email: emboliviacuba@gmail.com
- Sofía Luna, Jefa de Gabinete del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: emboliviacuba@gmail.com

BRASIL/BRAZIL**Representante/Representative:**

- Ronaldo Costa Filho, Subsecretario General de Asuntos Económicos y Financieros, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: sgef@itamaraty.gov.br

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Philip Fox-Drummond Gough, Ministro, Misión Permanente del Brasil ante las Naciones Unidas, email: philip.gough@itamaraty.gov.br
- Izabel Cury de Brito Cabral, Embajada del Brasil en Cuba, email: brasemb.havana@itamaraty.gov.br
- Livia Oliveira Sobota, Misión Permanente del Brasil ante las Naciones Unidas, email: livia.sobota@itamaraty.gov.br
- Ana Paula dos Reis Costa, Oficial, Agencia Brasileña de Cooperación (ABC), email: anapaula.costa@itamaraty.gov.br

CANADÁ/CANADA**Representante/Representative:**

- Michael Grant, Representante Permanente Adjunto del Canadá ante las Naciones Unidas, email: canada.un@international.gc.ca

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Patrick Parisot, Embajador del Canadá en Cuba, email: patrick.parisot@international.gc.ca
- Hilary Syme, Consejera de Cooperación, Embajada del Canadá en Cuba, email: hilary.syme@international.gc.ca
- Karen Foss, Consejera Política, Embajada del Canadá en Cuba, email: havan@international.gc.ca
- Anna Lise Domanski, Segunda Secretaria, Sección Política y Económica, Embajada del Canadá en Cuba, email: havan@international.gc.ca
- Yolanda Rivas Celis, Encargada de la Carpeta del Caribe, Dirección del Caribe y América Central, Ministerio de Asuntos Mundiales, email: yolanda.rivascelis@international.gc.ca

CHILE

Representante/Representative:

- Patricio Aguirre, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas, email: paguirrev@minrel.gob.cl; aguirrepatricio@hotmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Javiera Rosende, Encargada de Negocios a.i, Embajada de Chile en Cuba, email: jrosende@minrel.gob.cl
- Guillermo Pattillo, Director Nacional, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: guillermo.pattillo@ine.cl

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

- Aracely Morales López, Embajadora de Colombia en Cuba, email: ecuba@cancilleria.gov.co

Miembros de delegación/Delegation members:

- Juanita Rodríguez Kattah, Viceministra de Economía Digital, Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, email: jaifamezher@gmail.com
- Carolina Díaz, Directora Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: carolina.diaz@cancilleria.gov.co
- Jaifa Mezher Arango, Jefa, Oficina Internacional, Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, email: jmezher@mintic.gov.co
- Elba Lucía Pacheco Aldana, Ministra Plenipotenciaria, Embajada de Colombia en Cuba, email: ecuba@cancilleria.gov.co

COSTA RICA

Representante/Representative:

- Carmen Isabel Claramunt Garro, Directora Adjunta de Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: cclaramunt@rree.go.cr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Erick de Jesús Román Sánchez, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica en la República de Cuba, email: embcr-cu@rree.go.cr
- Daniel Zavala Porras, Oficial de Derechos Humanos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: dzavala@rree.go.cr

CUBA

Representante/Representative:

- Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Ministro de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera, email: despacho@mincex.cu

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Roberto Morales Ojeda, Vicepresidente del Consejo de Estado y Ministro de Salud Pública
- Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros y Ministro de Economía y Planificación
- Bruno Rodríguez, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
- Salvador Pardo Cruz, Ministro de Industrias
- Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Ministra de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
- Antonio L. Carricarte Corona, Viceministro Primero, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Marcelino Medina, Viceministro Primero, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Alejandro Gil Fernández, Viceministro Primero, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- René Hernández Castellanos, Viceministro Primero, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Ileana Núñez Mordoche, Viceministra, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX), email: vm.policome@mincex.cu
- Abelardo Moreno, Viceministro, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Rogelio Sierra, Viceministro, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Ana Teresita González, Viceministra, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)

- Mildrey Granadillo de la Torre, Viceministra, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Roberto Pérez Pérez, Viceministro, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Inaudis Mora Fonseca, Viceministro, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Fernando Mario González Bermúdez, Viceministro, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA)
- Anayansi Rodríguez, Embajadora, Representante Permanente de Cuba ante las Naciones Unidas
- Gustavo Cobreiro Suárez, Rector, Universidad de la Habana, email: rector@rect.uh.cu
- Juana María Pantoja, Jefa, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI)
- Mercedes González Guilarte, Segunda Jefa, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI), email: mercedesgonzalez@onei.cu
- Déborah Rivas Saavedra, Directora General, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Yamila Fernández del Busto, Directora General, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Vivian Herrera Cid, Directora General, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Magalys Estrada Díaz, Directora General, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Lázaro Toirac Ayala, Asesor, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Eugenio Martínez Enríquez, Director General de América Latina y el Caribe, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Carlos Fernández de Cossio, Director General para Estados Unidos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, Director General de Asuntos Multilaterales y Derecho Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- William Díaz Menéndez, Director de Organismos Económicos Internacionales, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX), email: william.diaz@mincex.cu
- Inalvis Bonachea González, Directora, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- María de la Luz B'Hamel, Directora, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- José Felipe Chaple, Director, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Vilma Sánchez Sempe, Directora, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Dimas Lima Orué, Director, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Pedro Pablo Prada, Director de América del Sur, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Yunet Medina Delgado, Directora, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Ernesto Vega Almaguer, Director, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Yahimi Rufin Herrera, Directora, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Sandra de la Peña Carbonell, Directora, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Yesmín Izquierdo Mitjans, Directora, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP)
- Juan Carlos Alfonso Fraga, Director, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI)
- Aimée Cosculluela Ballester, Directora de Asesoría Jurídica y Relaciones Internacionales, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI), email: aimee@onei.gob.cu
- Mirna Martínez Ajuria, Subdirectora, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Néliida Guerra Moreira, Subdirectora, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Carlos Fidel Martín Rodríguez, Subdirector, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX), email: carlosfidel@mincex.cu
- Enrique Valdés Cárdenas, Subdirector, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Dayli Martínez Amorós, Subdirectora de PROCUBA, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Enrique Baceiro Zayas, Subdirector, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ileidis Valiente Díaz, Jefa de Departamento de Asuntos Económicos, Dirección General de Asuntos Multilaterales y Derecho Internacional (DGAMDI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Mirta Granda Averhoff, Jefa de Departamento de Asuntos Políticos, Dirección General de Asuntos Multilaterales y Derecho Internacional (DGAMDI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Susset Rosales Vázquez, Jefa de Departamento de Macroeconomía, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación (MEP), email: susset@mep.gob.cu
- María Irelis Domenech González, Jefa, Secretaría del Ministro, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Bárbara Montalvo, Jefa, Secretaría del Ministro, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Jenry Carreño Cuador, Jefe, Despacho del Ministro, Ministerio de Salud Pública (MINSAP)
- Belsis Llorente Díaz, Jefa, Despacho de la Ministra, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA)
- Jorge Gallardo Fernández, Asesor del Ministro, Ministerio de Industrias

- Leonel C. Amador Pérez, Asesor del Ministro, Ministerio de Industrias
- Yaroslav Borrego Morejón, Asesor del Viceministro Primero, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (CITMA)
- Carlos Luis Jorge, Despacho del Ministro, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Lizbet Díaz García, Despacho del Ministro, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Daylenis Moreno Guerra, Especialista, Secretaría del Ministro, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Yisel Valdés Jover, Despacho de la Viceministra, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Martha Álvarez Ruiz, Jefa de Departamento, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Marta Castillo González, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Claudia González Toledo, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ofelia Arteaga Cárdenas, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Yudith Viera Collazo, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Jesús González Pérez, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Elaine Pérez Pérez, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Solangel Lucila Santana Viaña, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Álvaro Martínez Sequeiro, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Jessie Coto Morales, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
email: jessie.coto@mincex.cu
- Beatriz Crespín Oviedo, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX),
email: beatriz.crespin@mincex.cu
- Edcy Aguilar Fernández, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Jesús Noel Boucourt Vega, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Danae de Paz Grau, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Roberto Infante Cervantes, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Elba Manuela Torres Escobar, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ramón Javier Gutiérrez Morales, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Irmina Perojo Bellido de Luna, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ciro Monne Frías, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Dianet González Mederos, Especialista, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Biana Leyva, Tercera Secretaria, Misión Permanente de Cuba antes las Naciones Unidas
- Laura Gómez Gómez, Funcionaria, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Yasnahi González Rodríguez, Funcionaria, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Pedro Pablo León Fernández, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- José Jorge Arístides Matos, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ramón Pérez Quintana, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Rubén Cruz Ramos, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Beatriz Muñoz, Traductora, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Rodolfo Valdez García, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Manuel Blanco Fernández, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Jorge Samuel Regil, Funcionario, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Marcos Torres Valdés, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Melek Martínez Ferrer, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Legna Collejo Lobeto, PROCUBA, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Ingrid Rodríguez González, PROCUBA, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Karen Alonso Zayas, PROCUBA, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera (MINCEX)
- Malena Castañeda Pérez, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Jose Antonio García González, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Luis López González, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Beatriz Muñoz, Traductora, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MINREX)
- Alfredo García Jiménez, Director, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Económicas (INIE)
- Angel Bu Wong, Subdirector, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Económicas (INIE)
- Alina Hernández Montero, Jefa de Departamento, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Económicas (INIE)

DOMINICA**Representante/Representative:**

- Matthew Joseph Walter, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de la Mancomunidad de Dominica en Cuba, email: embassyofdominica@gmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Lisandra Alapon Mojena, Traductora, Embajada de Dominica en Cuba, email: dominica.lisandra@gmail.com

ECUADOR**Representante/Representative:**

- María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: gabineteministro@cancilleria.gob.ec

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Augusta Calle, Embajadora del Ecuador en Cuba, email: eecucuba@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Trosky Serrano Cayamcela, Embajada del Ecuador en Cuba, eecucuba@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Marlon Banegas, Agregado Comercial del Ecuador en Cuba, email: mbanegasa@proecuador.gob.ec
- Federico Medina Rojas, Cónsul del Ecuador en Cuba, email: fmedina@gmail.com
- Gabriela Ibarra, Asesora de la Canciller, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana
- Federico Medina Rojas, Cónsul del Ecuador en Cuba, email: fmedina@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Diego Sebastián Barreiro, Asesor, Secretaría General de la Presidencia de la República
- Juan Carlos Parra Fonseca, Subgerente General, Corporación Financiera Nacional B.P. del Ecuador, email: jcparra@cfn.fn.ec

EL SALVADOR**Representante/Representative:**

- Jaime Miranda, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: jmiranda@rree.gob.sv

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Alberto Enríquez Villacorta, Subsecretario Técnico y de Planificación de la Presidencia, email: aenriquez@presidencia.gob.sv
- Ryna Elizabeth Garay, Directora de Cooperación para el Desarrollo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sandra Geraldine Alvarado, Embajadora de El Salvador en Cuba, email: sgalvarado@rree.gob.sv
- Carlos Eduardo Carabantes Ochoa, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de El Salvador en Cuba, email: cecarabantes@rree.gob.sv

ESPAÑA/SPAIN**Representante/Representative:**

- Fernando García Casas, Secretario de Estado de Cooperación Internacional para Iberoamérica y el Caribe, email: secretaria.secipic@maec.es

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Antonio Pérez-Hernández Torra, Director para Iberoamérica y el Caribe, email: ibroam@maec.es
- Jorge Friend Merjelina, Director, Gabinete del Secretario de Estado de Cooperación Internacional para Iberoamérica y el Caribe, email: Jorge.friend@maec.es
- José Lorenzo García-Baltasar García-Calvo, Agregado de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) en la Embajada de España en el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: jose.garcia-baltasar@aecid.es
- Juan José Buitrago de Benito, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario, Embajada de España en Cuba, email: rosa.cervilla@maec.es
- Nuria Reigosa, Ministra Consejera y Segunda Jefa de Misión, Embajada de España en Cuba
- Jose Manuel Mariscal, Coordinador, Cooperación Española, email: jose.mariscal@aecid.es
- Cristina Serrano Leal, Directora General de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales

ESTADOS UNIDOS/UNITED STATES

Representante/Representative:

- Philip Goldberg, Encargado de Negocios, Embajada de los Estados Unidos en Cuba, email: goldbergps@state.gov

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Justen Thomas, Primer Secretario, Embajada de los Estados Unidos en Cuba, email: thomasja3@state.gov
- Todd Anderson, Primer Secretario, Embajada de los Estados Unidos en Cuba, email andersontd@state.gov

FRANCIA/FRANCE

Representante/Representative:

- Jean-Marie Bruno, Embajador de Francia en Cuba, email: jean-marie.bruno@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Eric Amblard, Primer Consejero, Embajada de Francia en Cuba, email: eric.amblard@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Rachel Roumet, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Francia en Cuba, email: rachel.roumet@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Michel Oldenburg, Consejero Económico, Servicio Económico, Embajada de Francia en Cuba, email: michel.oldenburg@dgtresor.gouv.fr
- Gaelle Dickie, Agregada Económica, Embajada de Francia en Cuba

GRANADA/GRENADA

Representante/Representative:

- Claris Charles, Embajadora Extraordinaria y Plenipotenciaria de Granada en Cuba, email: clarischarles@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Representante/Representative:

- Jairo David Estrada Barrios, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: jestrada@minex.gob.gt

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Héctor Iván Espinoza Farfán, Embajador de Guatemala en Cuba, email: embcuba@minex.gob.gt
- Antonio Roberto Castellanos Martínez, Primer Secretario y Cónsul, Embajada de Guatemala en Cuba

GUYANA

Representante/Representative:

- Halim Majeed, Ambassador of Guyana to the Republic of Cuba, email: ahmajeed@aol.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Abigail Welch, Foreign Service Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: awelch@minfor.gov.gy

HAITÍ/HAITI

Representante/Representative:

- Paul Harry Guichard, Encargado de Negocios a.i., Embajada de Haití en Cuba, email: secretaria@ht.embacuba.cu; embhaiti@enet.cu

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Jean Joseph Léandre, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de Haití en Cuba, email: embhaiti@enet.cu

HONDURAS**Representante/Representative:**

- María del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, Subsecretaria de Estado de Cooperación y Promoción Internacional, email: Andrea.caminals@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Andrés Pavón Murillo, Embajador de Honduras en Cuba, email: embhondcuba@yahoo.com
- Ariel Rivera Miranda, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de Honduras en Cuba. email: embhondcuba@yahoo.com
- Lurbin Janina Flores Solórzano, Coordinadora, Escritorio de Naciones Unidas, Dirección de Cooperación Multilateral, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional
- Walter Alcántara, Analista de Política Multilateral, Dirección General de Política Exterior, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional

ITALIA/ITALY**Representante/Representative:**

- Andrea Ferrari, Embajador de Italia en Cuba, email: andrea.ferrari@esteri.it

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Tancredi Francese, Consejero, Embajada de Italia en Cuba, email: tancredi.francese@esteri.it
- Samuele Fazzi, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Italia en Cuba, email: samuele.fazzi@esteri.it
- Paolo Mazza, Agregado, Embajada de Italia en Cuba, email: paolo.mazza@esteri.it

JAMAICA**Representante/Representative:**

- Pearnel Charles Jr., State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, email: pearnel.charles@mfaft.gov.jm

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Sharon J. Miller, Director, Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, email: sharon.miller@mfaft.gov.jm
- Peter Bailey, Counsellor, Embassy of Jamaica in Cuba

JAPÓN/JAPAN**Representante/Representative:**

- Masaru Watanabe, Embajador del Japón en Cuba, email: secretaria@hv.mofa.go.jp

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Hikaru Ito, Oficial de Cooperación, Embajada del Japón en Cuba
- Shoji Ozawa, Representante, Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Japón
- Kazumi Kobayashi, Coordinador de Cooperación Técnica, Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Japón, Cuba, email: kobayahi.kazumi@friends.jica.go.jp
- Tetsuya Kawakami, Especialista, Agencia de Cooperación internacional del Japón, email: kawakami.tesuya.2@jica.go.jp
- Yamada Yasuko, Funcionaria, Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Japón, email: yamada.yasuko.2@jica.go.jp

MÉXICO/MEXICO**Representante/Representative:**

- Francisco Guzmán Ortiz, Jefe de la Oficina de la Presidencia de la República, email: fguzman@presidencia.gob.mx

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora, Subsecretario para América Latina y el Caribe, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ladealba@sre.gob.mx
- Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Subsecretario para Asuntos Multilaterales y Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mruiz@sre.gob.mx

- Agustín García López Loaeza, Director Ejecutivo, Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID), email: agustingl@sre.gob.mx
- Patricia Chemor Ruiz, Secretaria General, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO), email: pchemor@conapo.gob.mx
- Abraham Rojas Joyner, Director General de Programas de Población y Asuntos Internacionales, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO), email: Abraham.rojas@conapo.gob.mx
- Jesús Zimbrón Guadarrama, Director Ejecutivo Adjunto, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO), email: jesus.zimbron@yahoo.com
- Noel González Segura, Director General de Planeación y Políticas de Cooperación, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México, email: ngonzaalez@sre.gob.mx
- Yolanda Martínez Mancilla, Coordinadora de la Estrategia Digital Nacional, email: ymartinez@presidencia.gob.mx
- Juan Carlos Alva Dosal, Director de Administración, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO), email: jalva@conapo.gob.mx
- Pedro Álvarez Icaza, Coordinador General de Corredores y Recursos Biológicos, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), email: palvarezi@conabio.gob.mx
- Agustín Rodríguez de la Gala, Ministro, Jefe de Cancillería, Embajada de México en La Habana, email: arodriguez@sre.gob.mx
- Enrique Martínez y Martínez, Embajador de México en La Habana, email: enriquem@sre.gob.mx
- Patricia von Wartenberg, Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID), Embajada de México en La Habana, email: pwartenberg@sre.gob.mx
- Oliver Abdiel Contla Ortiz, Asuntos Económicos y Políticos, Embajada de México en La Habana, email: ocontla@sre.gob.mx
- Alfonso Galindo Pellegrini, Coordinador Administrativo, Embajada de México en La Habana, email: agalindo@sre.gob.mx
- Luis David González Delgado, Asuntos Legales, Embajada de México en La Habana, email: ldgonzalez@sre.gob.mx
- Jesús Schucry Giacomán, Director General, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México, email: jgiacomán@sre.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

Representante/Representative:

- Luis Cabrera, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua en Cuba, email: secretaria@embnicc.com

NORUEGA/NORWAY

Representante/Representative:

- Ingrid Mollestad, Embajadora de Noruega en Cuba, email: imo@mfa.no

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Mona Froystad, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Noruega en Cuba, email: monf@mfa.no

PAÍSES BAJOS/NETHERLANDS

Representante/Representative:

- Alexandra Valkenburg, Embajadora de los Países Bajos en Cuba, email: hav@minbuza.nl

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Bastiaan Engelhard, Jefe de Misión Adjunta, Embajada de los Países Bajos en Cuba, email, bastiaan.engelhard@minbuza.nl
- Jan Alderliesten, Primer Secretario, Embajada de los Países Bajos en Cuba, email: jan.alderliesten@minbuza.nl
- Mees Vlasveld, Pasante, Asuntos Económicos, Embajada de los Países Bajos en Cuba, email: vlasveld@minbuza.nl
- Vikki de Jong, Pasante, Asuntos Culturales y de Comunicación, Embajada de los Países Bajos en Cuba, email: vikki-de.jong@minbuza.nl

PANAMÁ/PANAMA**Representante/Representative:**

- María Luisa Navarro, Viceministra de Asuntos Multilaterales y Cooperación, email: lsanchez@mire.gob.pa

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Max José López Cornejo, Embajador de Panamá en Cuba, email: panaemba_cuba@panaemba.co.cu
- Guadalupe María Rudy Arellano, Directora General de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales, email: grudy@mire.gob.pa
- Isaac Castillo, Subsecretario de Energía, email: icastillo@energia.gob.pa
- Abdiel García, Tercer Secretario de Carrera Diplomática y Consular, Embajada de Panamá en Cuba

PARAGUAY**Representante/Representative:**

- Juan Ángel Delgado, Director General de Política Económica, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Teresa Barán, Viceministra de Salud Pública del Paraguay, email: secretariagravviceministerio@gmail.com
- Mauricio Bejarano, Viceministro de Minas y Energía, email: cclari@ssme.gov.py
- Raúl Antonio Montiel Gastó, Director de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: rgasto@mre.gov.py
- Hernán G. Muñoz, Funcionario de la Dirección de Organismos Económicos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- César Mercado, Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Cuba, email: cubaembaparsc@mre.gov.py
- Bernardino Cano Radil, Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Cuba

PERÚ/PERU**Representante/Representative:**

- Guido Toro, Embajador del Perú en Cuba, email: gtoro@embaperu.org

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Lucía Ruiz, Viceministra de Desarrollo Estratégico de los Recursos Naturales, Ministerio del Ambiente, email: vzaldivar@minam.gob.pe
- Claudia Giulana Betalleluz Otiura, Jefa de Cancillería, Embajada del Perú en Cuba, email: cbetalleluz@empaperu.org
- Milagros del Carmen García Moncada, Jefa, Sección Consular, Embajada del Perú en Cuba, email: mgarcia@embaperu.org

PORTUGAL**Representante/Representative:**

- Fernando d'Orey de Brito e Cunha Figuerinhas, Embajador de Portugal en Cuba, email: havana@mne.pt

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Bernardino Manuel Dantas Machado de Azevedo Fernandes, Consejero Político y Jefe Adjunto de Misión, Embajada de Portugal en Cuba, email: havana@mne.pt

REINO UNIDO DE GRAN BRETAÑA E IRLANDA DEL NORTE/UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**Representante/Representative:**

- Antony Stokes, Embajador del Reino Unido en Cuba, email: ukincuba@fco.gov.uk

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Arthur Jeremy Russell, Policy Advisor, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, email: Jeremy.arthur@fco.gov.uk, Jeremy.arthur01@gmail.com

REPÚBLICA DE COREA/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representante/Representative:

- Kang, Kyung-Wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Kim, Sang-il, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: sikim85@mofa.go.kr
- Huh, Taewan, Director General, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr
- Yang, David Ho In, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Chile
- Kim, Sang-hoon, Secretary of the Office of the Ministry
- Lee, Sanghui, Director, Central America and the Caribbean Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Park, Sun-tae, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico
- Lee, Seo Won, Second Secretary, Division of Central America and the Caribbean, Interpreter in Cuba, email: stpark98@mofa.go.kr
- Lee, Hyunseok, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: hyselee09@mofa.go.kr
- Song, Soo-hyung, Third Secretary, Latin American and Caribbean Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Park, Jae Il, Administrator, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Mexico, email: jipark01@mofa.go.kr

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Juan T. Monegro, Viceministro de Desarrollo Industrial, Ministerio de Industria, Comercio y Mipymes, email: j.monegro@mic.gob.do; juanmonegro@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carmen Elena Ibarra, Directora de Integración Comercial, Viceministerio de Asuntos Económicos
- Joaquín Gerónimo, Embajador de la República Dominicana en Cuba, email: jgeronimo12@hotmail.com
- Luis Maldonado, Consejero Encargado de Asuntos Comerciales, Embajada de la República Dominicana en Cuba, email: luismaldonadom@yahoo.com

SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS/SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Representante/Representative:

- Verna Mills, Embajadora de Saint Kitts y Nevis en Cuba, email: embassyskncuba@gmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Michael Sylvester Esdaille, Consejero, Embajada de Saint Kitts y Nevis en Cuba, email: embassykncu@gmail.com

SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS/SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Representante/Representative:

- Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology, email: office.foreignaffairs@mail.gov.vc, svgforeign@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Ellsworth John, Embajador de San Vicente y las Granadinas en Cuba, email: embsvghav@gmail.com
- Charmane Tappin-John, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de San Vicente y las Granadinas en Cuba

SANTA LUCÍA/SAINT LUCIA

Representante/Representative:

- Ubaldu Raymond, Ministro de Finanzas, Crecimiento Económico, Creación de Empleo, Asuntos Exteriores y Servicio Público, email: embslu@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Malachia Fontenelle, Ambassador, Embassy of Saint Lucia in Cuba, email: embsulu@gmail.com
- Fercinta Louisy, Foreign Service Officer, Department of External Affairs, email: flouisy@gosl.gov.lc

SURINAME**Representante/Representative:**

- Alonso Blom, Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Embajada de la República de Suriname en Cuba, email: sec.amb.cuba@foreignaffairs.gov.sr

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO/TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**Representante/Representative:**

- Lancelot Cowie, Embajador de Trinidad y Tabago en Cuba, email: embhavana@foreign.gov.tt

TURQUÍA/TURKEY**Representante/Representative:**

- Ayse Berris Ekinci, Embajadora de Turquía en Cuba, email: embajada.habana@mfa.gov.tr

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Nilufer Aksoy Balci, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Turquía en Cuba, email: embajada.habana@mfa.gov.tr

URUGUAY**Representante/Representative:**

- Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: secretaria.ministro@mrree.gub.uy

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Álvaro García, Director, Oficina de Planeamiento y Presupuesto, email: agarcia@opp.gub.uy, lartegoitia@opp.gub.uy
- Ana Olivera, Viceministra del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: aolivera@correo.mides.gub.uy
- Eduardo Lorier, Embajador del Uruguay en Cuba, email: eduardo.lorier@mrree.gub.uy
- Mauricio Rompani Jurado, Cónsul del Uruguay en Cuba
- Daniel Cadenazzi, Funcionario, Gabinete del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
- Felipe Machado, Secretario, Embajada del Uruguay en Cuba, email: felipe.machado@mrree.gub.uy
- Mathias Escotto Gadea, Responsable Técnico de Cooperación, Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional (AUCI), email: mescotto@auci.gub.uy

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)**Representante/Representative:**

- Ricardo Menéndez, Vicepresidente Sectorial de Planificación y Ministro del Poder Popular de Planificación, email: cooperaciontecnica@mppp.gob.ve

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Jorge Alberto Arreaza, Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: ayudantiadespachocanciller@mppre.gob.ve
- Rubén Darío Molina, Viceministro para Temas Multilaterales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: molina.ruben.dario@gmail.com
- Raúl Ernesto Pacheco, Presidente, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas
- Germania Fernández, Directora General de Comunicaciones y Relaciones Interinstitucionales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Jorge Álvarez, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Carlos Escalante, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Editha Johanna Briones, Asistente del Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores
- Luis David Díaz Ibarra, Analista, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: Luis.diaz243@mppre.gob.ve
- Itamar Esteves, Director General, Despacho del Ministro, Ministerio del Poder Popular de Planificación, email: iesteves@mppp.gob.ve
- Adrián Castillo, Director General, Oficina de Cooperación Técnica y Financiamiento Multilateral, email: acastillo@mppp.gob.ve
- José Gerardo Avendaño, Viceministro para la Planificación Estratégica y Políticas, Ministerio del Poder Popular de Planificación, email: javendano@mppp.gob.ve

- Ali Rodríguez Araque, Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Vivian Alvarado Linarez, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Tawata Araujo Juan, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba
- Marcos Andrés Parra Briñez, Segundo Secretario de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Cuba

B. MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

CURAÇAO

Representante/Representative:

- Sean de Boer, Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, email: sean.deboer@gobiernu.cw

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Arelys M. Alves-Meulens, M.A. Policy Advisor, Director of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of General Affairs, email: arelys.alves-meulens@gobiernu.cw

C. SECRETARÍA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

Secretario General/Secretary-General

- António Guterres, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas/Secretary-General of the United Nations

Vicesecretaria General/Deputy Secretary-General

- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General/Deputy Secretary-General

Oficina del Secretario General/Office of the Secretary-General

- Katrin Hett, Oficial Superior de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina del Secretario General/Senior Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary-General
- Fleur Vernat, Coordinador Ejecutivo, Oficina de la Vicesecretaria General/Executive Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
- Florencia Soto Nino-Martínez, Oficial de Información Pública, Oficina Ejecutiva del Secretario General (OESG)/Public Information Officer, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

Comisión Económica para Europa (CEPE)/Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

- Olga Algayerova, Secretaria General Adjunta y Secretaria Ejecutiva/Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, email: cristian.olarean@un.org, koch@un.org

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

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

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Cooperación Sur-Sur/United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

- Jorge Chediek, Director y Enviado Especial del Secretario General para la Cooperación Sur-Sur/Director and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, email: jorge.chediek@undp.org

Oficina del Alto Representante para los Países Menos Adelantados, los Países en Desarrollo sin Litoral y los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (OARPMA)/Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)

- Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, email: scroderus-fox@un.org
- Tishka Francis, Oficial de Desarrollo Sostenible/Sustainable Development Officer, email: tishka.francis@un.org

D. ORGANISMOS DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS UNITED NATIONS BODIES

Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD)/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, División de Globalización y Estrategias de Desarrollo/Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, email: richard.kozul-wright@un.org

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

- María Alejandra Machicado Terrán, Representante/Representative, Cuba, email: mmachicado@unicef.org

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

- Esteban Caballero, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, email: caballero@unfpa.org
- Rafael Cuestas, Representante Adjunto, Coordinador Internacional de Programas/Deputy Representative, International Programme Coordinator, Cuba, email: cuestas@unfpa.org
- Marisol Alfonso, Representante Auxiliar en Cuba/ Assistant Representative in Cuba
- Dixie Edith Trinquete Díaz, Oficial de Comunicaciones, Cuba/Communications Officer, Cuba, email: trinquete@unfpa.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- José Vila del Castillo, Representante Regional para Centroamérica y el Caribe/Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean, email: jose.viladelcastillo@un.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Katyna Argueta, Directora para el País, México/Country Director, Mexico, email: katyna.argueta@undp.org
- Maristela Baioni, Representante Residente Auxiliar (Programa), Brasil/Assistant Resident Representative (Programme), Brazil, email: luisa.chagas@undp.org
- María Soledad Bauzá Salinas, Representante Residente Adjunta/Deputy Resident Representative, Cuba, email: Soledad.bauza@undp.org
- Yaima Doimeadios, Oficial de Coordinación a.i./Coordination Officer a.i., Cuba, email: yaima.doimeadios@one.un.org
- Mario Muñoz, Asesor de Comunicaciones/Adviser on Communications, Cuba, email: mario.munoz@one.un.org
- María Rosa Moreno, Oficial de Monitoreo y Evaluación/Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Cuba
- Mikiko Tanaka, Coordinador Residente y Representante Residente del PNUD/Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Guyana, email: mikiko.tanaka@one.un.org
- Rita Consuelo Vidal Bruce, Coordinadora Residente y Representante Residente del PNUD/Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Cuba, email: consuelo.vidal@one.un.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Andrea Brusco, Coordinadora Regional de Gobernanza Ambiental/Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator, Panamá, email: andrea.brusco@un.org

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Laura Melo, Representante/Representative, Cuba, email: laura.melo@wfp.org

E. ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Gerárdina González Marroquín, Directora, Oficina de la OIT para México y Cuba, email: sancheza@ilo.org
- Noemie Sylvia Adeline Feix, Oficial de Empleo, México, email: feix@ilo.org

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

- Julio A. Berdegue, Subdirector Regional, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: julio.berdegue@fao.org
- Marcelo Resende de Souza, Representante en Cuba, email: marcelo.resende@fao.org
- Sheyla Delgado, Consultora de Comunicaciones, email: sheyla.delgado Guerra@fao.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Olga Magdalena Rufins Machin, Oficial Nacional de Programas, email: o.rufins@unesco.org

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

- Cristián Morales Fuhrmann, Representante en Cuba, email: moralesc@paho.org

Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Joaquín Lozano, Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, Rome, email: j.lozano@ifad.org
- Paolo Silveri, Regional Economist, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, email: p.silveri@ifad.org

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Cy Winter, Principal Especialista en Inmigración y Gestión de Fronteras, Ginebra, email: cwinter@iom.int
- Sonia Karakadze Díaz, Oficial de Enlace, Cuba, email: skarakadze@iom.int

F. ORGANIZACIONES INTERGUBERNAMENTALES INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América – Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP)

- David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Secretario Ejecutivo, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: secretaria@alba-tcp.org
- David Mariño, Coordinador del Área Económica, República Bolivariana Venezuela, email: secretaria@alba-tcp.org

Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)/Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- June Soomer, Secretary General, Trinidad y Tabago, email: mail@acs-aec.org
- Patricia Indra Phillip-Boodoosingh, Protocol Officer

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

- Lucila Berniell, Economista Principal, Argentina, email: mberniell@caf.com

Centro del Sur/South Centre

- Adriano José Timossi, Senior Programme Officer, Ginebra, email: timossi@southcentre.int

Comunidad Andina (CAN)/Andean Community

- José Antonio Arróspide, Director General, Perú, email: jarrospide@comunidadandina.org

Consejo Monetario Centroamericano (CMCA)/Central American Monetary Council

- Domingo Javier González Hidalgo, Secretario, Costa Rica, email: achaves@secmca.org

Foro Económico Mundial/World Economic Forum (WEC)

- Marisol Argueta, Directora para América Latina, email: marisolargueta@yahoo.com

Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Mario Pezzini, Director, Francia, email: mario.pezzini@oecd.org
- José Antonio Ardaín, Jefe de la Unidad para América Latina y el Caribe, Francia, email: jose-antonio.ardvin@oecd.org
- Keiko Álvarez, Policy Analyst, Office of the Director, email: keiko.alvarez@oecd.org

Unión Europea/European Union

- Alberto Navarro, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario ante el Gobierno de Cuba, email: alberto.navarro@eeas.europa.eu
- Claudio Salinas, Jefe de Sector, Alianzas Estratégicas e Instrumentos Financieros, email: claudio.salinas@ec.europa.eu
- Juan Enrique Garay Amores, Consejero para la Cooperación, Unión Europea, email: juan.garay@eeas.europa.eu
- Stefano Manservigi, Director General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission, Bruselas
- Jolita Butkeviciene, Directora para América Latina y el Caribe, Dirección General para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación Internacional, European Commission

G. INVITADO DE HONOR HONOUR GUEST

- Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Presidente de los Consejos de Estado y de Ministros de Cuba

H. INVITADOS ESPECIALES SPECIAL GUESTS

- Enrique Iglesias, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: eviglesias@outlook.com
- Gert Rosenthal, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: grosenthal61@hotmail.com
- José Antonio Ocampo, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: ocampo.joseantonio@yahoo.com
- José Luis Machinea, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL, email: joselmachi@gmail.com
- Susana Malcorra, Presidenta de la Undécima Conferencia Ministerial de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), email: susana_malcorra@yahoo.com

I. ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asociación Cubana de las Naciones/Cuban United Nations Association

- Fermín Gabriel Quiñones Sánchez, Presidente, Cuba, email: acnu@acnu.org.cu
- Yohanna Cordero, Especialista, Cuba, email: cllanuch@gmail.com
- Azalia Arias, Especialista, Cuba, email: azalia.arias@gmail.com

Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físicos Motores

- Osvaldo Hidalgo Domínguez, Vicepresidente, Cuba, email: presidencia@aclifim.cu

Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal (ACPA)

- María del Carmen Cejas Mejía, Presidenta, email: pres@acpa.co.cu
- Lisette Fernández, Vicepresidenta, email: pres@acpa.co.cu

Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba

- Gilberto Andrés García Batista, Presidente, email: presidente@apc.rimed.cu

Asociación Médica del Caribe

- Raúl Gonzáles, Presidente, email: ameca@ceniai.inf.cu

Centro del Cambio Global y la Sustentabilidad

- María Zorrilla, Investigadora, México, email: mariazr10@gmail.com

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

- Antonio Santana, Presidente, email: asantana@cic.co.cu

Cubasolar

- Luis Berriz Pérez, Presidente, Cuba, email: berriz@ceniaic.inf.cu
- Lázaro Eliseo Gavilán, Vicepresidente, email: gavilan@cubasolar.cu
- Carmen Campillo, Especialista en Proyectos, email: carmen@cubasolar.cu
- Alois Arencibia Aruca, Especialista en Proyectos, email: arencibia@cubasolar.cu

Cultura Ecológica

- Tomás Severino, Director, México, email: tseverino@culturaecologica.org.mx

Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre

- Lilibian Núñez, Presidenta, Cuba, email: presidencia@fanj.cult.cu
- Damary Vilá, Relaciones Internacionales, Cuba, email: relacionesinternacionales@fanj.cult.cu
- Esther Velis, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales, email: esther@fanj.cult.cu

Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos

- Alina Martha Fernández Arias, Especialista, Cuba, email: especialista1@movpaz.cu

Organización de Solidaridad de los Pueblos de África, Asia y América Latina (OSPAAAL)

- Mario Manuel Molina Monteagudo, Funcionario Público, Cuba, email: america-latina.caribe@tricontinental.cu
- José Miguel Hernández, Funcionario Político, Cuba, email: africa.mediooriente@tricontinental.cu
- Lourdes Cervantes, Secretaria General, Cuba, email: jefa.politico@tricontinental.cu

Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora

- Dorotea Louise Wilson Tatham, Coordinadora General, Nicaragua, email: rmafroni@ibw.com.ni
- Maricruz Carrasco, Oficial de Proyecto, Nicaragua, email: comuni@mujeresafro.org
- Altagracia Balcacer, Coordinadora Subregional del Caribe, República Dominicana, email: abalpace@gmail.com

Unión de Informáticos de Cuba

- María Esther Alfonso Suárez, Vicepresidenta Primera, Cuba, email: maria.alfonso@uniondeinformaticos.cu
- Tatiana Delgado, Vicepresidenta, email: tatiana.delgado@uniondeinformaticos.cu

Unión de Mujeres Puertorriqueñas Negras

- Doris Quiñones, Coordinadora, Puerto Rico, email: dgqhdez@gmail.com

J. UNIVERSIDADES Y CENTROS ACADÉMICOS UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMIA

- Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, Director, Centro de América Latina, de la Universidad de Oxford, email: diego.sanchez-ancochea@qeh.ox.ac.uk
- Doris Mercedes Samaniego Navarro, Estudiante Máster en Finanzas, Universidad de La Habana, email: dorism13@hotmail.com
- Guillermo Andrés Alpizar, Investigador, Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Mundial, Cuba, email: guillermo@ciem.cu
- José Ramón López Portillo, Confundador, del Centro de Estudios Mexicanos, de la Universidad de Oxford, email: jrlopezportillo@aol.com
- Leonardo Lomelí, Secretario General, de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), email: llomeliv@unam.mx
- Rolando Cordera Campos, Profesor Emérito, Facultad de Economía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), email: cordera@unam.mx

K. SECRETARÍA SECRETARIAT

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva/Executive Secretary, email: alicia.barcena@cepal.org
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto para Administración y Análisis de Programas/Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis, email: raul.garciabuchaca@cepal.org
- Mario Cimoli, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto Interino/Deputy Executive Secretary a.i., email: mario.cimoli@cepal.org
- Andrea Márquez, Directora, División de Administración/Director, Division of Management
- Pascual Gerstenfeld, Director, División de Estadísticas/Chief, Statistics Division, email: pascual.gerstenfeld@cepal.org
- Daniel Titelman, Director, División de Desarrollo Económico/Chief, Economic Development Division, email: daniel.titelman@cepal.org
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: joseluis.samaniego@cepal.org
- Cielo Morales, Directora, Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES)/Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), email: cielo.morales@cepal.org
- Jeannette Sánchez, Directora, División de Recursos Naturales e Infraestructura/Chief, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, email: cielo.morales@cepal.org
- Paulo Saad, Oficial a Cargo, Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE)-División de Población de la CEPAL/Officer in Charge, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, email: paulo.saad@cepal.org
- Ricardo Pérez, Director, División de Publicaciones y Servicios Web/Chief, Publications and Web Services Division, email: ricardo.perez@cepal.org
- Luis Fidel Yáñez, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión/Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Gerardo Mendoza, Jefe, Unidad de Gerencia de Proyectos, División de Planificación de Programas y Operaciones/Chief, Project Management Unit, Programme Planning and Operations Division, email: gerardo.mendoza@cepal.org
- Romain Zivy, Coordinador a.i., Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Chief of Office a.i., Office of the Executive Secretary, email: romain.zivy@cepal.org
- Carlos de Miguel, Jefe, Unidad de Políticas para el Desarrollo Sostenible, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Policies for Sustainable, Development Unit, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: carlos.demiguel@cepal.org
- Giovanni Stumpo, Jefe, Unidad de Inversión y Estrategias Empresariales, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/Chief, Unit on Investment and Corporate Strategies, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, email: giovanni.stumpo@cepal.org
- Rodrigo Martínez, Oficial Superior de Asuntos Sociales, División de Desarrollo Social/Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, email: rodrigo.Martínez@cepal.org
- Gabriel Porcile, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/Economic Affairs Officer, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, email: gabriel.porcile@cepal.org
- Guillermo Acuña, Asesor Legal y Jefe de Protocolo, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Legal Adviser and Chief of Protocol, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: guillermo.acuna@cepal.org
- Guido Camú, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: guido.camu@cepal.org
- Sandra Manuelito, Oficial a Cargo, Unidad de Planificación y Evaluación de Programas, División de Planificación de Programas y Operaciones/Officer in Charge, Planning and Evaluation Programme Unit, Programme Planning and Operations Division, email: sandra.manuelito@cepal.org
- María Ortíz, Oficial de Programas, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva//Programme Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: maria.ortiz@cepal.org

- Enrique Oviedo, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, Secretaría de la Comisión/Political Affairs Officer, Secretary of the Commission, email: enrique.oviedo@cepal.org
- María Liz Vera, Jefa, Unidad de Presupuesto, División de Planificación de Programas y Operaciones/Chief, Budget Unit, Programme Planning and Operations Division, email: veram@un.org
- Miguel Pérez Ludeña, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, Unidad de Inversiones y Estrategias Empresariales, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/Economic Affairs Officer, Unit of Investment and Corporate Strategies, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, email: miguel.perezludena@cepal.org
- Vianka Aliaga, Asistente de Investigación, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/ Research Assistant, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: vianka.aliaga@cepal.org
- Vera Kiss, Oficial Asociada de Asuntos Económicos, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: vera.kiss@cepal.org

Sede subregional de la CEPAL en México/ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

- Hugo Beteta, Director/Chief, email: hugo.beteta@cepal.org
- María Concepción Castro, Directora Adjunta/Deputy Director, email: maria.castro@cepal.org
- Pablo Yanes, Coordinador de Investigaciones/Research Coordinator, email: pablo.yanes@cepal.org
- María Luisa Díaz de León, Oficial de Información Pública/Public Information Officer, email: marialuisa.diaz@cepal.org
- Ramón Padilla, Jefe, Unidad de Desarrollo Económico/Chief, Economic Development Unit, email: ramon.padilla@cepal.org

Sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Directora/Chief, email: diane.quarless@eclac.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Bogotá/ECLAC office in Bogotá

- Juan Carlos Ramírez, Director/Chief, email: juancarlos.ramirez@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Brasilia/ECLAC office in Brasilia

- Carlos Mussi, Director/Chief, email: carlos.mussi@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Buenos Aires/ECLAC office in Buenos Aires

- Martín Abeles, Director/Chief, email: martin.abeles@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Montevideo/ECLAC office in Montevideo

- Verónica Amarante, Directora/Chief, email: verónica.amarante@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Washington, D.C./ECLAC office in Washington, D.C.

- Inés Bustillo, Directora/Chief, email: ines.bustillo@cepal.org

