



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Virtual meeting
15–18 March **2021**

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

Virtual meeting, 15–18 March 2021

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

At the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the member States adopted resolution 700(XXXVI), Mexico Resolution,¹ which established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as the 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 of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Economic and Social Council subsequently endorsed the establishment of the Forum in its resolution 2016/12.

The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is State-led and open to participation by all Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is convened under the auspices of ECLAC and guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.² It involves States, the private sector and civil society, as well as subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks, other United Nations agencies and regional integration blocs. The Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion of shared targets.

The objective of the Forum is to provide those responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region with a space conducive to peer learning through interactive sessions in which participants are able to identify, through the discussion of common experiences and goals, good practices that would allow member countries to make recommendations and present them at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of regional contributions to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City, in 2017; the second and third meetings were held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in 2018 and 2019, respectively; and this fourth meeting will be held virtually.

Chair

As provided in resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, the Forum is convened annually by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC and meets under the auspices of the Commission. On this occasion, Costa Rica will chair the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

¹ See resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC in annex 1.

² Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Presentation of the document *Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, fourth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. Dialogue on a resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the 2030 Agenda
4. Building forward better in the Caribbean post-COVID-19: critical issues to keep the 2030 Agenda in sight
5. Contribution of the United Nations system
 - Presentation of the 2020 system-wide results report of the United Nations development system in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Presentation of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway)
 - Issue-based coalitions and working groups
6. Panel discussions
 - Health and the economy —a false dichotomy?
 - Crisis, recovery and transformation in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals
7. Closing round table “Building an inclusive and effective pathway to achieve the 2030 Agenda within the context of the decade of action and post-pandemic recovery from COVID-19”
8. Other matters
9. Conclusions and recommendations

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda for adoption or amendment.

2. Presentation of the document *Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, fourth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will present the document prepared by the secretariat, which analyses the major trends under way in economies and societies worldwide, as well as the health effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its economic, social and environmental repercussions. In this context, ECLAC proposes a strategy for action: a major push for sustainability based on the core elements of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

A strategy to advance the decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals must build on the progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and recognize the challenges that remain to be addressed. The trends already indicating that the comprehensive nature of the Agenda was in jeopardy have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and almost two thirds of the targets will not be met without a substantial change in the development model. Faced with this reality, the countries of the region have intensified their efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for implementation of the Agenda, as evidenced by the submission of increasing numbers of voluntary national reviews.

The document links short-term policy proposals with strategic actions for the solution of structural problems. At the national level, a key role is afforded to public investment, the reduction of technological gaps with respect to advanced economies and the construction of a welfare state. The document also identifies policies and sectors capable of leading this transformation. The domestic effort must go hand in hand with a new multilateral order which supports achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals by means of financing for development, maintaining fiscal expansion for sustainable and inclusive growth, and combating climate change.

Working document:

- Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/FDS.4/3/Rev.1)

3. Dialogue on a resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the 2030 Agenda

Under this agenda item, ministers and high-level authorities of the members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and associate members of the Commission will each have five minutes to address the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, the ministers and high-level authorities of the Latin American and Caribbean member countries of the Forum will take the floor, in alphabetical order by country name in Spanish. They will be followed by representatives of the associate members of the Commission.

Lastly, the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will convey its message to the Forum.

4. Building forward better in the Caribbean post-COVID-19: critical issues to keep the 2030 Agenda in sight

This session has been organized to address key issues related to the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase, in line with the Commission's "Caribbean first" strategy and with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes that each country has different realities, capacities and levels of development and faces its own specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and that the situation of the most vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, deserves special attention.

5. Contribution of the United Nations system

The United Nations development system undertook a profound reform process in order to be better positioned and prepared to support countries in their efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, the 2020 system-wide results report of the United Nations development system in Latin America and the Caribbean of the new Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented. The Vice-Chairs of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean will also present to member States the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) and the current issue-based coalitions and working groups of this new regional architecture of the United Nations development system.

6. Panel discussions

Pursuant to the wish expressed by the countries that the Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, two panel discussions have been organized to allow the member countries of the Forum and other stakeholders to report on and share their experiences and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Panel 1: Health and the economy —a false dichotomy?
- Panel 2: Crisis, recovery and transformation in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals

7. Closing round table "Building an inclusive and effective pathway to achieve the 2030 Agenda within the context of the decade of action and post-pandemic recovery from COVID-19"

This round table will convene representatives of the governments of Forum member countries and of civil society, as well as other authorities, to discuss, from a holistic perspective, initiatives that should form part of the decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to achieve a sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic recovery and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

8. Other matters

Under this agenda item, delegations may raise any other matters they deem appropriate.

9. Conclusions and recommendations

Resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC states that the outcome of the Forum will consist of intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations and a summary prepared by its Chair. The same resolution encourages the countries to submit these conclusions, recommendations and summary, as appropriate, to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contribution to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; to the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as part of the regional contribution to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and to the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism.

The Chair, with the support of the secretariat, will consult, as necessary, with the member countries of the Forum regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the fourth meeting. The Chair will circulate the zero draft to the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York. Following consultations, the Chair of the Forum will report virtually at the fourth meeting of the Forum on the outcome of this intergovernmentally-agreed instrument.

Annex 1

**700(XXXVI) MEXICO RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORUM
OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its sixteenth extraordinary session held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Recalling also resolution 696(PLEN.31) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Having examined the draft report of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole, as set forth in the annex to this resolution.