



PARTICIPANTS ONLY

LC/OR.2022-1/1
20 September 2022

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

21-01023

**SEMINAR ON PROCESSES OF GRADUATION TO PROCESSES OF GRADATION:
TOWARDS RENEWED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT POST- COVID-19**

(Santiago, 6–7 December 2021)

CONTENT

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A.	OPENING SESSION	1–5	3
B.	SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.....	6–65	4
C.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	66–67	13
D.	SIDE EVENT: LAUNCH OF THE BOOK EVALUATING SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION IN SIX LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES: SHARED CHALLENGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	68–77	14
Annex 1	List of Participants	–	17

A. OPENING SESSION

1. Following introductory remarks by Luis Fidel Yáñez, Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Andrés Allamand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, welcomed participants and congratulated the event's organizers. He said that the seminar was timely, as it was taking place amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a context in which national solutions did not suffice. International cooperation for development was essential to address global, regional and local challenges.

2. The meeting was also of a conceptual nature, the physiognomy of cooperation would be the starting point for redefining the concept of development and moving towards a more comprehensive vision, providing significant intellectual insight. Development should be understood on the basis of four distinctive features; it should be: (i) progressive, (ii) inclusive, in that it should be able to involve various stakeholders, (iii) sustainable and (iv) comprehensive. He added that development processes were complex and non-linear and must factor in all aspects of democracy, including respect for human rights and minorities, and promote gender equality.

3. Lastly, he noted that the meeting was of an operational nature since the proposals arising therefrom would pave the way for a different form of cooperation that left no one behind and drew on the Sustainable Development Goals as a road map for eradicating poverty while guaranteeing comprehensive and sustainable progress, with innovative cooperation opportunities.

4. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, welcomed participants and referred to the recently concluded meeting of the Committee of the Whole, at which the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was approved.

5. The Executive Secretary said that a new form of cooperation was needed for Latin America and the Caribbean. The majority of countries in the region were considered middle-income and while several countries had already graduated, the true meaning and implications of that were unclear, since the use of GDP as the sole indicator of development failed to reflect the large structural gaps and growing inequality in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic had widened structural gaps and laid bare the fragility of countries, illustrating that development needs went beyond graduation criteria because per capita income was incapable of measuring other equally essential variables. She reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda must serve as the road map and cooperation and financing for development were key. There were multiple dimensions to countries' development, which could not be measured by a single indicator (per capita GDP). She concluded with a call for global solidarity to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Introduction

6. Cristián Jara, Executive Director of the Chilean International Cooperation for Development Agency (AGCID), began the proceedings and underscored the importance of the concept of development in transition. He said that Chile and Uruguay had graduated on the basis of per capita GDP and had suffered the consequences of that economic measure. The main challenge of development was understanding its multidimensional nature, and the 2030 Agenda was clearly a crucial road map in that regard. Several studies had shown that not all countries were meeting the target of devoting 0.7% of their GDP to official development assistance.

7. He noted that the meeting brought together countries that had graduated and were in the process of graduating, and that cooperation agencies should promote a multidimensional approach to development. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, cooperation must be dynamic and involve the private sector, among other actors. Joint action was needed to address the structural gaps that hampered countries' development; public-private partnerships would provide common solutions, the only way to address common challenges.

2. Presentation "From graduation processes to graduation processes, the development in transition narrative"

8. The presentation was made by Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and covered a range of issues, notably a critical analysis of the state of official development assistance (ODA), the importance of multilateralism, and the need to see development as a continuous, non-linear process. He underscored the substantial impact of structural development gaps on multilateralism, citing as an example the unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines and its adverse effects on health.

9. He also stressed that the paradigm of development in transition was central to understanding and addressing development at the multilateral level. It was necessary to rethink cooperation models, but from a development in transition perspective, which meant that all variables must be taken into account, not just per capita income.

10. The COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted economic and social vulnerabilities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, a middle-income region undergoing a transition to development that still suffered from significant structural gaps and had been one of the hardest hit by the crisis in economic, social and health terms, with a high number of COVID-19 deaths.

11. Even as the countries of the region had begun to graduate from cooperation and official development assistance, persistent development traps existed in the areas of production, social inclusion, institutions and the environment. Those factors made it more difficult to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. In the new context of graduation, it was vital for the cooperation agencies of countries traditionally understood as donors to adapt their cooperation strategies so as to maintain ties and continue working with countries that had recently graduated or were in the process of graduating in order to maintain and strengthen partnerships and integration among all countries in pursuit of development, irrespective of income level.

13. The Deputy Executive Secretary said that renewal of international cooperation was essential if more inclusive and sustainable development was to be attained for all the inhabitants of the region. In accordance with the concept of development in transition, formulated by ECLAC together with the European Commission and the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), this cooperation should be tailored to the specific needs of countries and seek to address structural development gaps, contributing to the generation of regional and global public goods.

14. Cooperation must be multilateral and multilevel (horizontal, regional, South-South, North-South, South-North and triangular cooperation) and involve traditional and new actors. A wide-ranging set of tools such as financing instruments, climate change funds, blended finance, debt-for-environment swaps and domestic resource mobilization was necessary. That would support knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and delivery of the transfers needed to break development deadlocks.

15. National and global challenges had largely converged, while the linkages between domestic policies and the global arena had continued to increase. In a changing and uncertain context, there was a need for debate and action on the processes whereby countries graduate from cooperation, calling into question the use of one-dimensional indicators such as per capita GDP to determine the scope of cooperation and strategic partnerships in what was a complex, multidimensional process, and highlighting the need for more appropriate and effective instruments to guide international cooperation and determine resource allocation.

16. The shift from processes of graduation to processes of gradation that enabled a renewed form of international cooperation involved strengthening the multidimensional vision of development based on the participation of all the actors concerned.

3. Statements by the delegations

17. Department of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation ok of AGCID, as moderator.

18. The representative of Costa Rica said that business as usual was no longer an option, since the COVID-19 pandemic had had a severe impact on the countries of the region and development gaps and economic and social inequalities made action in the area of development cooperation an imperative. The necessary changes must be made, shifting from the current paradigm of cooperation and official development assistance.

19. The representative added that the presentation by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC described the reality of development. Countries had to work on a plan of action, since they shared the same vision and were standing at a crossroads and must define the way forward. Such a change would require a road map which Chile, Uruguay and Costa Rica had initiated and in which Antigua and Barbuda, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago were now participating. There was a need to start disseminating those concepts and to engender tangible change and action in the international community. The ECLAC document was therefore very timely and awareness-raising efforts were needed to show that such change was necessary and was the only real path to achieving sustainable development in its various dimensions.

20. The representative of Panama said that development cooperation should be underpinned by multidimensional indices. Panama supported a fairer and more efficient distribution of international development cooperation resources. According to World Bank indicators, the country ranked on par with countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom, reflecting an inaccurate and unrealistic picture of the country's situation.

21. In Panama, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a major challenge because of the need to seek sustainable solutions that required international collaboration through various cooperation programmes. The country was committed to addressing the crisis by embracing multilateralism and seeking innovative solutions for economic and social recovery. Accordingly, Panama agreed on the need to adopt new definitions for addressing development and channelling international cooperation.

22. The representative of Uruguay said there was much more agreement on development cooperation than differences among the countries present and that it was time to move from words to action. Despite some 20 years of talks on the issue, significant changes were yet to be seen, either due to lack of awareness or lack of international support. More partnerships were needed, not only among graduated countries or those about to graduate but also among those that were on course to do so. There was no room for semantics or for trivial discussions of concepts, because what mattered was content. Innovative solutions were needed and, in that regard, the representative underlined the importance of development sustainability and the call to prevent setbacks that would leave countries worse off than they were before graduation. Uruguay supported the definition of a road map to advance towards more inclusive development for all countries and considered that trade, along with all relevant development variables, should be included in the analysis and the position to be adopted by Uruguay.

23. The representative of Chile said that matters related to cooperation went back a long way; Chile had been discussing it openly since 2016. The concept of development in transition had been put forward in the Development Assistance Committee, where Chile was an observer, since 2017. Thanks to ECLAC and the OECD Development Centre, agreements had been reached at the high-level meeting “Next Steps for Development in Transition”, held in Brussels in May 2017, and an analytical and conceptual framework had been established. For Chile, it was urgent to reframe the narrative on international cooperation, but it was important to recognize that many countries of the region did not see it as such, hence the objective to open up dialogue and move from the concept of development in transition to development in action.

24. The representative of Costa Rica said that against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the time was right for development in action. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were at a tipping point and should seize the opportunity to come up with a common plan of action.

25. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda underscored the importance of the meeting in light of the effects of COVID-19 and the collapse of the economy. Antigua and Barbuda agreed that criteria other than per capita income should be established for measuring countries' development. The economies of the Caribbean subregion were vulnerable, facing challenges related to climate change, unemployment and education, and countries were exposed to environmental risk, rising public debt and an equality crisis. The effects of COVID-19 showed that welfare systems and food security were at a critical juncture. The tourism sector had seen massive job losses, health system infrastructure had been severely hit and the majority of the population was still exposed to the virus. Vulnerability to climate change was manifested explicitly in the effects on countries' infrastructure.

26. The Caribbean had to have a fair chance to achieve development, and for that, the economy would need to be restructured and diversified and structural gaps closed. Support was needed for the transition to development, especially for vulnerable and heavily indebted countries.

27. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago highlighted the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Existing indicators masked the complexities of development, as countries faced serious structural challenges. Efforts were needed to analyse how a framework for graduation might compare to the effects of graduation. Building partnerships among countries was essential, in order to speak with a united voice in

international affairs, reflect the realities of developing countries, underscore the interdependence of all countries and highlight the value of multilateralism.

28. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis recalled that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic growth was fairly steady and inflation low, the tourism sector was booming, and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows were high. However, the crisis had been followed by an economic slump and rapidly rising debt as a result of emergency borrowing to tackle mass unemployment among the population. In that context, the work and analysis carried out by ECLAC were key.

29. For countries to move forward, performance-related incentives for recovery were needed. Establishing a plan to stimulate individual performance and retain the emigrant workforce was essential, since outward migration restricted a country's professional resources and diminished its ability to reach its real development potential. To improve productivity, there was a need to recognize labour capital through programmes designed to acknowledge the best professional resources with a view to promoting and protecting the labour force.

30. The representative of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) recognized the work of AGCID and ECLAC, and said that there was no country too rich to need anything, or too poor to give anything. Through its reports on cooperation, SEGIB had aimed to provide insight on the issue and contribute to political dialogue. He said that the use of only one indicator such as per capita GDP diminished and restricted the process of cooperation, and that the concept of transition to development was very important for moving forward. Continued cooperation was needed, as was ongoing political dialogue based on values and not just on the level of economic development.

31. The Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, speaking by video link, said that development could not be achieved without coordinated action through international cooperation. The vast majority of countries of the region were considered middle-income—with their per capita income used as the main metric—which had meant that resources were channelled to countries classified as low-income and not to middle-income countries. However, the problem was that structural gaps were not factored into those decisions; it was assumed that countries were homogenous, when, in fact, there were significant differences across and within middle-income countries.

32. There was a need to revisit the concept of development, using the structural gaps approach put forward by ECLAC, in order to adequately measure inequality in development processes. Analysing the various dimensions of development could help to solve the pressing needs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the world.

33. The representative of Costa Rica said that during its term as Chair of the Commission, it had sought to support sustainable post-COVID-19 reconstruction and, in that regard, development cooperation had been a central issue. The SDGs must be the backbone of recovery and the development in transition narrative was consistent therewith. The new paradigm of development in transition took into account structural development gaps and the large middle-income trap.

34. The economy had recovered, but unevenly so. Employment had been severely hit, and poverty and inequality were on the rise. The asymmetric nature of recovery had been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

35. Because of Costa Rica's classification as an upper-middle-income country, international cooperation had been on the decline. The country had few donors, and external loans and credit had increased. The concept of development in transition was fundamental for reflecting each country's needs and enabling a fairer distribution of international cooperation. Furthermore, it was necessary to rethink the way in which structural gaps were measured, taking climate vulnerability into account. Those concepts must be conveyed to the international and regional financial community. It was imperative to tackle inequality in the world's most unequal region, which constituted both a major challenge and an opportunity to shift the paradigm from measuring development to development in transition. The next meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development must convene countries that shared that position.

36. The representative of Uruguay said that the significant efforts countries had had to make to address the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed their strengths and weaknesses. The work of health systems, scientists and education systems during that period must be recognized. A multidisciplinary approach had been key to overcoming the economic and social effects of the health crisis.

37. The fact that it was one of the world's first welfare states had helped Uruguay to provide wide vaccination coverage, control mortality rates and take steps toward social and economic recovery. The country was aware of the value of international cooperation for development, and that health, science, technology and employment were issues that must be addressed through cooperation.

38. The representative noted that Latin America and the Caribbean was the most unequal region in the world, with diverse problems and needs and equality gaps that were steadily increasing. A more comprehensive view was needed to understand the challenges the countries of the region faced. Structural development gaps persisted and international cooperation was required to overcome them. The representative noted that with respect to Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, poverty in the region bore the face of women and children.

39. Some development indicators placed Uruguay among the top-ranked countries; however, compared to OECD countries, the country faced growth, investment and inequality issues, and its social security system was in crisis. Per capita GDP did not provide adequate information on a country's progress and could not be the only key indicator of development; a multidimensional approach was needed. The pandemic had laid bare structural development gaps and persistent inequality, calling for an in-depth analysis and the construction of new indicators to adequately reflect the specificities of the region's countries. A whole-of-region view was needed, as all countries were part of the problem and part of the solution. For example, action on environmental and migration issues could not be undertaken in isolation and it was urgent to find indicators that reflected the multidimensional nature of development, allowing for complementarity and solidarity between countries.

40. Concerning international cooperation flows, few developed countries had honoured the commitment of 0.7% of GDP. After peaking in 2016, international cooperation had fallen significantly in 2019, which, coupled with the decline in official development assistance, was affecting the allocation of resources to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

41. It was necessary to seek new forms of international cooperation for development that would bring together diverse stakeholders and forge agreements and alliances, and ECLAC had a key role to play. It was also necessary to rethink international cooperation between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, underscore the value of South-South cooperation, and strengthen and enhance existing

mechanisms. Triangular cooperation also needed to play a more important role, through initiatives that drove change. More programmes, with specific actions, were needed. Uruguay wanted to contribute: the country had a host of good practices to share with Latin America and the Caribbean, understanding that sustainable development could not be achieved single-handedly.

42. Official development assistance had a key role to play, as the call to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs was not one that could be undertaken alone, but rather in partnership and solidarity. A quantitative and qualitative leap forward in the measurement of development was required to truly improve the quality of life of the people of the region. Partnerships were essential in the current context: only through cooperation could the challenges of the future be met successfully.

43. The representative of Panama said that the issue had long been on the agenda and it was time to implement the necessary mechanisms for more realistic criteria to be used. Panama called on Latin America and the Caribbean to make a statement on the issue. The time had come to translate longstanding discussions into action. All the countries present at the meeting had very similar realities, providing a great opportunity for collaboration.

44. The representative of Costa Rica said that upper-middle-income countries had already been graduated; the countries present were all in a similar situation. The task at hand was to convince those that were not present and would soon face the same problems. The countries present had common values and realities, but the question was how to put that into practice; how to set about convincing others, the other countries of the region whose realities were very different but were not far off from the current situation they were experiencing. It had to be done strategically, with a clear objective and at the right time. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated inequalities, and its social and economic repercussions must be recognized. It was necessary to define how and when to find new partners and how to turn development in transition into development for action.

45. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that the meeting was very timely, as it was a matter of utmost importance to be discussed at the international level. There was no doubt that immediate action was needed, as the issue was a critical one for all Caribbean countries. Support and the requisite structures for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic were necessary, and there had to be a clear development agenda. International cooperation for development must facilitate progress and graduation was failing to do so. Much emphasis had already been placed on the major financial and environmental challenges facing Caribbean countries. Antigua and Barbuda welcomed this initiative and called for joint action by the countries present, as well as by the region as a whole. Graduation, such as it had been imposed, was not a solution for Latin America and the Caribbean.

46. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the diagnosis was already sufficiently clear and that the important question was what would be the path ahead. The regional conference on South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean would be a platform for dialogue, but it was necessary to establish a regional dialogue with Europe and other extraregional actors and open the debate to rethink multilateralism. Financing was dwindling and a decision had to be made on how to approach and adopt a coherent political strategy for the future. To that end, it was essential to engage with development agencies and to rethink multilateralism in terms of trade and debt negotiation. The path forward had yet to be defined. By way of example, he mentioned the significant global disparity in vaccine distribution. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had to choose a path and ECLAC would support them. International cooperation played a much more important role than previously thought, as development was not a fixed, one-off, and one-sided process; it was time to think about the development pattern that should be pursued.

47. The representative of Costa Rica said that the region must find the best way to achieve its goals. While some countries might be champions, there was a need to seek policy change, and for a clear discourse to bring other countries on board.

48. The representative of Chile added that there was support in the region, although it must be recognized that there were some countries that were not in agreement. Steps had to be taken to move towards a regional consensus.

4. Presentation on “Instruments that guide international cooperation and define the allocation of resources: how to strengthen international development cooperation”

49. The presentation was made by Santiago Rojas, representative of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) in Argentina, who outlined the scale of the challenges facing the region, as well as its structural problems. CAF was making great efforts to link financing and international cooperation for development in a holistic manner, taking into account the contributions of member countries.

50. Nineteen countries had access to cooperation and financing on equal footing. According to CAF, the challenges for the region were in the following areas:

- (i) Human capital, the foundation for all development. That area of concern encompassed education, the significant disparities related to socioeconomic status, gender, urban-rural areas, connectivity and infrastructure gaps, among others. A central issue was system governance, in which CAF worked hand in hand with agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- (ii) Access to drinking water and sewage services, irrigation and water management. CAF supported infrastructure studies and development, and there was a special effort to cooperate in the structuring of projects, with a special fund of US\$ 5 million per year.
- (iii) Urban settlements, with a special focus on mobility and violence. CAF proposed a comprehensive rethinking of cities: cities with a future. That approach included as a special element the work of the communities themselves.
- (iv) Health. That line of work resulted from the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and included issues such as vaccination and technical cooperation in that regard.
- (v) Infrastructure. Support for the development of competitive infrastructure within countries and between regions. Of note was funding for the design of digital infrastructure projects (digital connectivity), digital highways, digitalization, digital governments, economic deregulation, among others.
- (vi) Access to long-term loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); technical assistance to and cooperation with SMEs; and financial inclusion.
- (vii) The environmental impact. Between 26% and 27% of CAF operations had a positive environmental impact. It was hoped that that number would increase to 50% in the coming years.

51. CAF held that development banks must act in line with countries' needs and there were no one-size-fits-all formulas for development. The speaker said that CAF was committed to continue working in areas of knowledge that were important for the region, and mentioned, among others, the issues of security and corruption. Lastly, he said that CAF cooperation was provided with or without a financing modality.

5. Dialogue: "From development in transition to development for action: ideas for a regional road map for renewed international cooperation"

52. The dialogue was moderated by Enrique O'Farrill, Head of the Cooperation Division of AGCID, who suggested three ideas to further the work: involving other countries in efforts, organizing a side event at the next meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; and inviting development banks and international cooperation agencies to participate in the side event.

53. The representative of Uruguay agreed that it was essential to bring more actors to the table —more countries and international financing institutions in order to speak with one voice at the next meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in March 2022. All potential donors with a vision that aligned with the proposals of the group should be sought. It was time to conclude more agreements and widen the group's membership. Uruguay welcomed the three proposals put forward by Chile.

54. The representative of Costa Rica agreed with Uruguay and stressed that other countries, including low-income countries, needed to be convinced that the issues under discussion were not a threat to their interests. Costa Rica also supported the proposals put forward, but considered that it was not possible to have a regional consensus without bringing in new actors. More partners within the region were needed. A multi-pronged action strategy for the region, and which also included regions outside Latin America and the Caribbean, was required. There were many countries in the world that could identify with the proposals.

55. The representative of Chile said that regional consensus was needed to lend more weight to the issue, as the countries concerned represented only 5% of the region and their voice was not being heard. Chile had a fund for development in transition that could help in that regard. It was admittedly difficult to achieve regional consensus, but the effort had to be made, and not only by the seven countries participating in the meeting. They had the support of ECLAC, which bolstered that endeavour.

56. Chile was proposing a working document that could be used as a basis for gaining support. The representative also pointed out that there was an urgent need to overhaul the language and move away from the agreed graduation model. A new narrative must be developed, in line with the proposals made.

57. The representative of Uruguay called for a distinction to be made between the effects of graduation and the low percentage of cooperation that was reaching the countries of the region. They were two distinct issues and could be treated fairly separately in order to generate more support. A regional consensus should focus on securing more international cooperation for the region, and in that respect all countries were on the same footing.

58. Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer of ECLAC, summed up the proposals, noting that the document *Development in transition: Concept and measurement proposal for renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, would be revised to include the contributions received from all the

countries in the region. It was important to improve the document with the guidance of the countries in order to generate more support. He noted the suggestion to hold a side event involving development banks and other donor countries at the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. He stressed that the production and dissemination of knowledge were indispensable in the process under consideration. Lastly, he called for capacity-building on the concept and core ideas of the transition to development. Training on the deeper meaning of development in transition was needed, and he invited the countries to consider holding a one-day session with the technical teams of the countries concerned.

59. The representative of Costa Rica said a space for dialogue and analysis on the issue of financial mechanisms was needed in the context of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The full breadth of the issue must be understood and a core group of like-minded countries formed. In addition to the ECLAC document on development in transition, the SEGIB declaration of 2021, which also outlined the importance of the concept and its implications, was also relevant. The focus should be on development in transition and understanding the requirements of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Regarding structural gaps, it was important to identify the most suitable forum for introducing the issue at international level, so as to ensure buy-in and cooperation in the areas where it was urgently needed. Regarding participation in the Development Assistance Committee, the representative questioned whether it would be better to be a member or an observer, and said that Chile and Costa Rica should work together as OECD member countries.

60. The representative of Chile said that the discussion should be held not just in the Committee but in the framework of the United Nations, but unfortunately that was not the case. The international context was very challenging and international cooperation varied greatly. For example, China's development cooperation was very different from what was understood as cooperation. The concept of development in transition was not widely known and there was a need to promote it globally. There was value in multilateralism. Chile, Colombia and Mexico were observers in the OECD Development Assistance Committee and should act together. Chile had worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on a document analysing the effects of graduation for Chile, which could be disseminated and updated. It was important to understand the dynamics of the Development Assistance Committee before engaging in dialogue.

61. The representative of Costa Rica was of the opinion that graduation should begin to be included in the literature, differentiating it from graduation to make it clear that it excluded countries from international development cooperation.

62. La delegación de Costa Rica opinó que la graduación debía comenzar a ser incluida en la literatura, diferenciándola de la gradación, para señalar que se trataba de una exclusión de la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

63. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis reiterated the issue of using the right indicators for measurement. The efforts undertaken by Caribbean countries to mitigate the effects of the crisis must be recognized. On the domestic front, it was necessary to identify the countries that had coped best with the crisis and those that had fared worst, from a human resource management perspective. The United States and Canada had spurred individuals to achieve their goals by establishing programmes and systems based on incentives and goals. Incentives should be used to motivate people.

64. The representative of Uruguay stressed the importance of building domestic political support in each of the countries and said that it would be strategic to form a core group of like-minded countries at a conference on these issues. Another prominent theme was the issue of democracy: the idea of a champion

country to show that democracy required development and would suffer without it should be placed on the agenda at the highest levels.

65. The representative of Costa Rica said that together with Panama and the Dominican Republic, it had signed a partnership for democratic development, which underscored the importance of democracy in development. A core group was to be set up and an action plan and a road map with concrete actions were to be developed. Bilateral and multilateral work had to be strengthened and discussion with key actors — donor countries and development banks— was needed. It was time for a strategy for action.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

66. The Head of the Cooperation Division of AGCID said that agreement existed on the diagnosis and on the actions to be taken, and listed the proposals, which had the support of ECLAC:

- (i) Enrich, at the request of Costa Rica, the 2021 document *Development in transition: Concept and measurement proposal for renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, by incorporating the perspectives of other countries of the region.
- (ii) Organize, together with ECLAC, a side event in the framework of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (March 2022) on development in transition, and seek consensus, taking into account that Latin American and Caribbean countries were in need of more cooperation from donor countries and traditional financial agencies.
- (iii) Incorporate the stakeholders that were absent in order to lend force and weight to the debate; the critical mass had to be expanded.
- (iv) Conduct a candid meeting with international financial agencies and donors and convene meetings with middle-income countries in other parts of the world, such as Asia and Africa, which were also affected by graduation. That had to be done in a convincing and manageable way, moving beyond the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations.
- (v) Establish other mechanisms for advancing the agenda, with short- and medium-term lines of action, bearing in mind that cooperation issues were but a part of the wider topic of multilateralism, as well as the broader debate on trade and development.

67. The Deputy Executive Secretary, in his closing remarks, highlighted the importance of export diversification and the trade balance. The global model into which some regions were increasingly integrated, but which Latin America and the Caribbean had struggled to enter, was not sustainable. In the global context, the region was not making its voice heard as it should. The theme of international cooperation for development was fundamental and should have a focus on solidarity. It was a dialogue that was crucial for multilateralism, and he pledged the support of ECLAC for the proposed actions.

**D. SIDE EVENT: LAUNCH OF THE BOOK EVALUATING
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN SIX LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES: SHARED CHALLENGES
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

68. The panellists were:

- Enrique Oviedo, Lydia Rosa Gény and Karen Haase, of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission
- Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez (also on behalf Jessica Byron), speaking on chapters I and IV of the book, on Barbados and Jamaica
- Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, speaking on the contributions of the subregional headquarters and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados and of Jamaica
- Lianne Guerra Rondón, author of chapters II and III of the book, on Colombia and Cuba
- Paola Vaccotti Ramos, author of Chapter V, on Paraguay
- Cecilia Alemany and Ricardo Herrera, authors of chapter VI, on Uruguay
- Nahuel Oddone, Head of Promotion and Exchange of Social Policies at the MERCOSUR Social Institute (ISM)

69. The publication, for which the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) contributed financing, was the result of reflection, research, systematization and discussion by authorities, researchers and cooperation professionals conducted within the framework of the commitments of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC in following up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

70. The study aimed to contribute to reflection about the regional standardization of South-South cooperation evaluation and to support the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices on South- South and triangular cooperation in pursuit of sustainable development.

71. It was hoped that adjusting the formats in which countries presented the results of their South-South cooperation would make it possible to collate that information for sharing and to support intraregional and interregional comparative analyses, generating useful knowledge for country decision-makers, non-governmental organizations, researchers and international agencies, other significant cooperation actors and the general public and thereby underscoring the fact that the road to development required mutual collaboration.

72. The publication offered keys to understanding the value of South-South and triangular cooperation in the region, while providing data on the experiences of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as necessary inputs for advancing in the process of sharing and standardizing methodologies for measuring cooperation at the regional level.

73. International cooperation had undergone significant changes in recent decades, including the rising prominence of South-South and triangular cooperation. Within international development cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation—which were not a substitute for North-South cooperation—had become increasingly relevant for mobilizing resources and bolstering cooperation capacities, as they provided flexible and adaptable solutions to development challenges.

74. South-South cooperation was expected to play a strategic role by complementing the other forms of cooperation, innovating, deploying its best programmes and projects and demonstrating its worth through its actions and products and their economic and social fruits. The region had experience with bilateral and triangular South-South cooperation and other regional modalities guided by the goal of creating and building capacities that had contributed to the countries' development.

75. There was, however, a regional deficit in the systematization of those experiences, their monetary and non-monetary appraisal and the evaluation of their impact, which had prevented them from showcasing the enormous contributions they made to international development cooperation.

76. The publication described the South-South cooperation evaluation experiences of Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Paraguay and Uruguay, offering examples of how that form of development cooperation occurred Latin America and the Caribbean and how its worth or merit was estimated or appraised in the region. To make its values—so often set down and confirmed by the region's countries—a reality, South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean must undergo evaluation processes, studies and data analyses. It must also provide responses based on policy frameworks that defined the expected impacts of its initiatives, in the medium or long term, as well as on evidence that served to clarify the facts and consequently enabled the adoption of decisions that offered a solution to development problems, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

77. The publication aspired to contribute to the discussion and, at the same time, to serve an input for the design of methodologies for evaluating regional South-South cooperation that integrated innovatively with the new construction of post-pandemic international cooperation, incorporating awareness of gender and disability and other perspectives, and supporting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their transition towards development and towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

In-person		
Chile	1.	Andrés Allamand, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
	2.	Cristián Jara, Director Ejecutivo de la Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID)
	3.	Enrique O’Farrill, Jefe de División de Cooperación (AGCID)
	4.	Fernando Ortiz, Jefe de Gabinete (AGCID)
	5.	Carla Guazzini, Jefa del Departamento de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Desarrollo Nacional (AGCID)
	6.	Elisa Araya, Profesional del Departamento de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Desarrollo Nacional (AGCID)
	7.	Pilar González, Comunicaciones
	8.	Edgar Riquelme, Comunicaciones
	9.	Oswaldo Álvarez, Comunicaciones
	-	Roberto Bravo (pianista)
	-	Andrea Cárdenas (cantante)
Costa Rica	10.	Adriana Bolaños Argueta, Viceministra de Asuntos Bilaterales y de Cooperación Internacional
	11.	Esteban Alfonso Penrod, Director, Dirección de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
	12.	Adriana Murillo, Embajadora de Costa Rica en Chile
Guatemala	13.	Embajador Carlos Ramiro Martínez Alvarado, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores
	14.	Embajadora Lynsay Hernández de Muñoz, Directora General de Relaciones Internacionales Bilaterales
	15.	Romeo Manuel Escobar Castillo, Ministro Consejero y Encargado de Negocios interino, Embajada de Guatemala en Chile
	16.	Liza María Cifuentes Yee, Consejera Comercial, Embajada de Guatemala en Chile
	17.	María Luz Enríquez León de Zyriek, Cónsul y Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Guatemala en Chile
Panamá	18.	Mario Velásquez, Embajador de Panamá en Chile
	19.	Carmen de Gracia, Primera Secretaria de Carrera Diplomática y Consular, Encargada de los Asuntos Consulares, Embajada de Panamá en Chile
Uruguay	20.	Carolina Ache, Subsecretaria de Relaciones Exteriores del Uruguay
	21.	Alberto Fajardo, Embajador del Uruguay en Chile
	22.	Silvana Montes de Oca, Ministra Consejera, Embajada del Uruguay en Chile
	23.	Carina Vigilante, Embajada del Uruguay en Chile
Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)	24.	Alejo Ramírez, Director de la Oficina Subregional para el Cono Sur
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	25.	Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary.
	26.	Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary
	27.	Luis Fidel Yáñez, Secretary of the Commission
	28.	Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer
	29.	Lydia Rosa Gény, Political Affairs Officer
	30.	Jimena Arias, Social Affairs Officer
	31.	Luis Flores, Research Assistant
	32.	Karen Haase, Senior Documents Management Assistant

On line		
Antigua and Barbuda	1.	Everly Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration
Panama	2.	Ana Luisa Castro, Viceministra de Asuntos Multilaterales y Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá
	3.	Karen Zamora, asesora de la Viceministra
Saint Kitts and Nevis	4.	Warren Everson Alarick Hull, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS).
Trinidad and Tobago	5.	Meera Ramesar, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development
	6.	Ms Lisa Barrow, Assistant Director, Technical Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development.
Andean Development Corporation (CAF)	7.	Santiago Rojas, Representante de la CAF en la Argentina