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**REPORT ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twenty-eighth session of the Committee of the Whole took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 22 May 2014.

Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.
3. The following associate members were also represented: Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

Chair

4. The Committee of the Whole of ECLAC was chaired by the representative of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC.

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

5. The Executive Secretary welcomed the delegations to the meeting and declared the session open. She then recalled that the Committee of the Whole was the meeting of all of the States members of ECLAC, traditionally held at United Nations Headquarters, to review progress on the activities of the Commission between sessions. She noted this was principally an informative meeting, to report on the outcomes of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014.

C. AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Report on the thirty-fifth meeting of ECLAC, Lima, 5-9 May 2014.
 3. Other matters.

D. PROCEEDINGS

Report on the thirty-fifth meeting of ECLAC, Lima, 5-9 May 2014 (agenda item 2)

7. In her presentation on this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC noted that the thirty-fifth session had been attended by the President of Peru, the Vice President of Uruguay, five ministers of foreign affairs and another 15 government ministers from the countries of the region. The presence of 41 delegations of members and associate members of ECLAC reflected the interest raised by the work of ECLAC in the region, and by the document *Compacts for equality: Towards a Sustainable Future*, which completed the trilogy of equality towards which the Commissions' work had been geared since 2010.

8. The Executive Secretary recalled that 16 resolutions had been adopted at the session in Lima, and referred in particular to the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a new subsidiary body of the Commission.

9. Next, the Chief of the Programme Planning and Operations Division (PPOD) of ECLAC referred to the report on the activities of ECLAC since its thirty-fourth session and to the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for 2016-2017, which had been presented in Lima. He reviewed the main activities conducted by ECLAC and mentioned that the Commission's work in the area of applied research was evident in the more than 600 working documents and technical inputs prepared for seminars and conferences, including 250 final publications. He also referred to the 17 intergovernmental meetings and conferences in which the Commission had participated during the biennium. With regard to technical cooperation missions, over 1,000 had been conducted in the period in the economic, social and environmental fields, thus helping to promote a comprehensive approach to development in the countries of the region. These missions had been made possible by 240 technical cooperation projects entrusted to the Commission, which supported a large number of activities in addition to those carried out using the ECLAC regular budget.

10. The Chief of PPOD also referred to the fruitful cooperation between the Commission and other intergovernmental agencies and listed the main activities carried out in the framework of the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Central American Integration System (SICA), among others.

11. The Chief of PPOD indicated that strategic partnerships with countries and agencies had mobilized some US\$ 31 million in the biennium for technical cooperation programmes: US\$ 14.7 million from bilateral sources and US\$ 16.9 million from multilateral sources. In this regard, he mentioned pluriannual and multisectoral programmes with France, Germany and Spain; cooperation with Australia for statistical capacity-building; projects in which the Commission worked with Canada, and the contributions of the Government of Norway regarding dialogue and exchange of experiences on topics of equality. As regards multilateral partners he referred to the European Commission in the fields of the information society and the environment; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Kellogg Foundation in the area of social innovation; and the Rockefeller Foundation on social cohesion and financing for health, among others.

12. Referring to the programme of work adopted by the member countries of ECLAC at the thirty-fifth session, which would govern the Commission's activities for the 2016-2017 biennium, the speaker noted that it was based on the draft Strategic Framework 2016-2017 and on the priorities of the Commission which were being examined in parallel by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters. The overall purpose of the programme was to promote the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through international cooperation, by undertaking applied research and comparative analysis of development processes and providing the relevant normative, operational and technical cooperation services in support of regional development efforts. The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme was structured around 14 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, implemented through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The speaker briefly described the five subprogramme clusters: economic development (subprogrammes 1 to 4); social development (subprogrammes 5 to 7); environmentally sustainable development (subprogrammes 8 and 9); two cross-cutting subprogrammes focusing on training and public administration (subprogramme 10) and statistics (subprogramme 11); and three subprogrammes of subregional scope, one of which focused on Mexico, Central America and the Spanish- and French-speaking Caribbean (subprogramme 12), another on the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean (subprogramme 13), and the last one on strengthening Latin American and Caribbean regional and subregional groups and schemes by providing technical support (subprogramme 14).

13. Following the presentation, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the third part of the trilogy of equality, *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future*. She referred to the Commission's proposal that equality, with a rights-based approach was the aim; structural change was the path towards achieving it; and the art of politics and policy-making was the instrument. The document included some new elements, such as precise measurements of inequalities, analysis of private consumption and natural resources governance, and the importance of forging compacts. In order to achieve development with equality, it was necessary to overcome certain structural problems in the economic field (external vulnerability), in production, labour and society (structural heterogeneity) and in the institutional domain (weakness of the State).

14. The document proposed compacts for seven pillars of transformation in the region's development model: (i) a fiscal compact to endow the State with the resources needed to drive policies towards equality, sustainability and structural change; (ii) a compact for investment and industrial policy to coordinate public and private agents to increase investment and shift sector composition towards enhanced productivity; (iii) a social and labour compact to strengthen the State's redistributive capacity in various spheres of inequality, with labour institutions keeping step with structural changes, and reducing gaps in relation to gender productivity, quality employment and the distribution of benefits between capital and labour; (iv) a compact for greater social well-being and better public services, with public policy instruments to harmonize private consumption dynamics and broad access to high-quality public goods (transport, education, health and environmental services), aimed at increasing the sense of belonging and reducing welfare gaps; (v) a compact for environmental sustainability, which was crucial to intergenerational solidarity and acknowledged the various groups affected by the multiple forms of environmental degradation and the depletion of non-renewable resources; (vi) a compact for transitioning to low-carbon growth paths, preventing natural disasters, avoiding degradation and air, water and soil pollution, and protecting biodiversity, as well as promoting natural resources governance to regulate more equitably the ownership, appropriation and distribution of rents, and to tie booms in the natural resource markets with investment in infrastructure, innovation and production diversification, through more

productive employment and funds for capacity-building and better access to services; and (vii) a compact among the international community for development and cooperation beyond 2015, aimed at building a global economic structure able to guarantee thresholds of environmental sustainability and social well-being for the majority of the population, not only covering basic needs, but also tackling deep and asymmetric inequalities within societies and respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

15. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of El Salvador thanked the Executive Secretary for her presentation and said that he would like to see the problem of informality in the economy included more explicitly in the ECLAC proposal, from a rights-based perspective. He also referred to the need to link these proposals with the post-2015 development agenda, to ensure that the voice of the region would be represented in New York in 2015.

16. The representative of Argentina said that ECLAC publications were a permanent point of reference for the countries and were useful in establishing a regional position that would place the Latin American and Caribbean countries on a better footing to participate in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The themes raised in *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* should be a part of that agenda.

17. The representative of Colombia said that the ECLAC document represented a roadmap for the region and was useful for the countries in arriving at a regional position, which was essential for the negotiation of the post-2015 development agenda. The representatives of Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay agreed upon the urgent need for unified regional position so that the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean could be heard forcefully.

18. The representative of the Republic of Korea commended the Commission upon the thirty-fifth session and emphasized that the trilogy of equality constituted a key contribution to development in the region; he indicated that his country looked forward to continued cooperation with the countries of the region through social and sustainable development projects.

19. Next, the Chair gave the floor to the Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, who referred to the resolutions adopted by the States members of ECLAC at the thirty-fifth session. The Officer mentioned, first, resolution 682(XXXV) on the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. He referred to the objectives and functions of this new subsidiary body and the budget implications for the programme of work outlined by the Chief of PPOD verbally in Lima. Second, he emphasized the importance of the incorporation of Sint Maarten into ECLAC as an associate member, and third, he referred to resolution 687(XXXV) on the regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda. This resolution requested the secretariat of the Commission to prepare, on the basis of the deliberations at the thirty-fifth session and the content of the document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future*, a report identifying areas of convergence between the countries of the region as regards the issues to be covered under the post-2015 development agenda. This report was to be submitted to Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, as the contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the intergovernmental negotiation process leading towards the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

20. Lastly, the Chair drew attention to the fact that the delegations attending the thirty-fifth session had acknowledged the Commission as an important forum for regional discussion for advancing the discussions on the regional vision with respect to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and had recognized the complementarity and coordinated work of the various subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, including the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

21. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole thanked the participants for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Annex

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