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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

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UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

The thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico in Mexico City, from 23 to 27 May 2016. By resolution 689(XXXV), adopted at the thirty-fifth session, held in Lima in 2014, and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 2014/34, the member States accepted the offer extended by Mexico to host the session. The meeting is being held in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2015-2016.¹

The session is the most important event of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for the consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and an opportunity to review the progress of the Commission's activities. In consultation with the host country, the theme selected for this session is "horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development". This theme is addressed in a document which ECLAC makes available to the countries as an input for identifying the region's priorities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The session also enables the Governments of member States to examine the secretariat's report on the Commission's activities and thus apprise themselves of the work accomplished by ECLAC during the two preceding years. Furthermore, through the programme of work that the Governments adopt and the calendar of conferences they approve, they also define the mandates that will guide the Commission's work in the future.

The following annotations to the provisional agenda provide background information on each of the proposed items and suggestions regarding their consideration at the session. In this respect, it may be useful to recall resolution 419(PLEN.14), which states that, in order for the session to be fully successful, Government delegations should include experts in the specific matters to be covered.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-sixth session.
3. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-fifth session.
4. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-fifth session.
5. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2018-2019.
6. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2017-2018.
7. Regional dimension of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹ ECLAC resolution 676(XXXV).

8. Committee on South-South Cooperation.
9. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*.
10. High-level seminar Horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development.
11. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities.
12. Report by the secretariat on the request of the Government of the Republic of Turkey for admission as a member of ECLAC.
13. Other matters.
14. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-sixth session.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, at the commencement of each session, the Commission shall elect a chair, two or more vice-chairs and a rapporteur. These officers shall then hold office until their successors are elected. It is customary for the Commission to be chaired by the head of the delegation of the host country. It should also be noted that rule 20 provides that the chair or vice-chair shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, rather than as a representative of the member country by whom she or he was accredited.

It is suggested that the Committee on South-South Cooperation should have its own presiding officers, consisting of a chair, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

It is proposed that the selection of the presiding officers for the session should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 23 May 2016 from 5.30 to 6 p.m. in Salón José María Morelos y Pavón, room 2, first floor.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-sixth session

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda (LC/G.2658(SES.36/1)/Rev.2) for their consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. The representatives of member States may formulate observations and suggest such modifications as they consider appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

It is suggested that the agenda should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 23 May.

3. Report on the activities carried out by the Commission since its thirty-fifth session

The secretariat will submit a report to the delegations summarizing the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved by the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), under its programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2014 to December 2015 (LC/G.2664(SES.36/7))

4. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-fifth session

The chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Commission have been invited to report briefly on the activities carried out by those bodies since the thirty-fifth session:

- Statistical Conference of the Americas, by the representative of Mexico
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of the Dominican Republic
- Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Mexico
- Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Peru
- Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, by the representative of Peru
- Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, by the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), by the representatives of Ecuador and Guatemala
- Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the representative of Mexico
- Presiding officers of the meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the 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, by the representatives of Chile and Costa Rica
- Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Financing for Development, by the representative of Chile
- Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, by the representative of Chile

Reference document:

- Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings since the thirty-fifth session (DDR/1)

5. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2018-2019**Working document:**

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2018-2019 (LC/G.2665(SES.36/8))

The secretariat will submit for consideration the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for the 2018-2019 biennium, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The frame of reference for this draft programme is the proposed strategic framework and substantive priorities for ECLAC for the 2018-2019 biennium, currently being considered by the relevant subsidiary organs of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York; this framework is used to derive the essential elements that are reflected in the logical matrix incorporated into the structure of each subprogramme.

The draft programme of work is based on the draft strategic framework of the Commission and the priorities that are being considered on a parallel track by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The overall purpose of the programme is to promote the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through continuous international cooperation, by undertaking comprehensive research and analysis of development processes and providing the relevant normative, operational and technical cooperation services in support of regional development efforts. The mandate for the programme, which falls within the purview of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI), by which the Council established the Commission for the purpose of contributing to and coordinating action towards the economic and social development of the region and strengthening economic relationships among the countries of the region as well as worldwide. In 1996, by virtue of ECLAC resolution 553(XXVI), the Commission was instructed, inter alia, to collaborate 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.

The Commission's overall strategy for achieving the objectives of the programme is structured around 13 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, implemented through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

The basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 were drawn from the internationally agreed development goals stemming from the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2017-2018

Pursuant to resolution 419(PLEN.14), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC at its fourteenth session, held in November 1980, the focal point around which meetings of the Commission are organized is the biennial session. It was decided, as set down in that resolution, that sessions should be held in even-numbered years so as to coincide with the two-year budget programming cycle established by the United Nations General Assembly. It was also agreed that at each session the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the following session should be considered and that, whenever possible, the date, duration and location of each meeting should be specified.

At its thirty-fifth session, the Commission considered the document entitled “Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2015-2016. Note by the secretariat”.² Following consideration of that item, the Commission decided, by virtue of resolution 676(XXXV), to retain the existing intergovernmental structure and pattern of meetings and to approve the calendar of conferences for the aforementioned period.

Pursuant to this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table (contained in the annex to document (LC/G.2666(SES.36/9)), which lists the scheduled meetings for the period 2017-2018 in accordance with the mandates adopted by the Governments at meetings of ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies.

Working document:

- Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2017-2018. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2666(SES.36/9))

7. Regional dimension of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Under this agenda item, the various challenges for the region regarding follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be examined. The session will be held on the morning of Wednesday, 25 May, and will be divided into four segments. In the first segment, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will give a presentation, followed by remarks by the Co-Chair of the Independent Team of Advisers involved in the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the second segment, statements will be made by permanent representatives of some regional Member States to the United Nations. In the third segment, Secretaries-General of international organizations and regional integration agencies will deliver statements. Regional directors of the United Nations agencies that are members of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) will present their remarks in the last segment.

Subsequently, the floor will be opened for statements by delegations.

Reference documents:

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)
- Report of the sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole (LC/L.4021)

² LC/G.2589(SES.35/6).

8. Committee on South-South Cooperation

The Committee on South-South Cooperation will meet in the afternoon of Wednesday 25 May. The work of the Committee will be organized according to the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Panel on South-South cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Presentation of the action lines of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018.
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.

Working documents:

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2662(SES.36/5)/Rev.2)
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2663(SES.36/6)/Rev.3)
- Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2667(SES.36/10))
- Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2014-2015 biennium (LC/G.2668(SES.36/11))
- Proposed action lines of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2671(SES.36/14))

Reference document:

- Draft report of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation

9. Presentation of the document prepared by the secretariat, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*

The Executive Secretary will present the document during the morning of 26 May, after which it will be commented on by an eminent panellist.

The position document for the thirty-sixth session examines the main challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean in the economic, social and environmental spheres. There is a growing consensus within the international community that the current development pattern is unsustainable. This is borne out by a number of indicators: rising inequality in the countries, slow and weak recovery in the global economy and trade, and environmentally unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, which are jeopardizing the well-being of future generations. On the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals and in light of global economic trends, ECLAC considers the policies and partnerships that the region will need in order to move towards a development path capable of ensuring greater equality and environmental sustainability. The document prepared by the secretariat

argues that new global public goods are required to guarantee stable growth with inclusion, the creation of good-quality employment and environmental stewardship. It also makes regional and national policy proposals geared towards an environmental big push, in the framework of a renewed relationship between the State, the market and society.

Working documents:

- Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development (LC/G.2660(SES.36/3))
- Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development. Summary (LC/G.2661(SES.36/4))

Reference documents:

- Time for Equality: Closing gaps, opening trails. Summary (LC/G.2433(SES.33/4))
- Structural Change for Equality: An integrated approach to development. Summary (LC/G.2525(SES.34/4))
- Compacts for Equality: Towards a sustainable future. Summary (LC/G.2587(SES.35/4))
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)

10. High-level seminar Horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development

With a view to fostering in-depth consideration of the central theme of the thirty-sixth session, the secretariat has invited ministers, representatives of member States, eminent scholars and distinguished experts to participate in a high-level seminar on this subject. This seminar, which will be held on 26 and 27 May, will be divided into four panels, which will discuss the main themes examined in the document.

Each panel's presentations will be followed by a general discussion. In accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the representatives of the member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be opened to other participants.

11. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities

In the morning of 27 May, ECLAC and the Government of Mexico have organized a dialogue with a number of ministers of foreign affairs of the region and political figures, to reflect upon the main issues being examined at the session. It is expected that the senior authorities invited, taking into account these discussions and reflections, will take the opportunity to share ideas on the regional perspective in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

12. Report by the secretariat on the request of the Government of the Republic of Turkey for admission as a member of ECLAC

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will report on the note dated 22 January 2016, in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey conveyed to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the request of its Government that Turkey be admitted as a member of ECLAC.

Working document:

- Request of the Government of the Republic of Turkey for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2669(SES.36/12))

13. Other matters

This item provides for consideration of any other issues which delegations may wish to raise.

14. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-sixth session