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**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Santiago, 16 April 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 16 April 2015. The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission pursuant to resolution 694(PLEN.30), adopted at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 19 and 20 March 2015.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay.

3. The British Virgin Islands, an associate member of the Commission, was also represented.

Chair

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

B. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. At the opening session statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the representative of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

6. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the representatives of the member States for their engagement and interest in the progress of the Commission's activities, and recalled the three resolutions adopted at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 19 and 20 March 2015, in which it was decided to convene the sixteenth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole to consider the draft resolution on the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The secretariat had been requested to provide information that would be useful for the consideration of the draft resolution, and informal consultations, under the leadership of Peru, had been held with the representatives of the member States of ECLAC at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

¹ See annex 2 for the full list of participants.

7. The Executive Secretary reaffirmed the Commission's willingness to serve the Governments of member States in any capacity, whenever they so required. In this regard, she offered to set up a working group to organize a consultation process as soon as the representatives had agreed to set it in motion. She also stressed that while several important processes were already under way in relation to the sustainable development agenda, and that these would culminate in 2015, there was nothing to prevent certain tasks being brought forward so that shared responses to the similar issues raised in the draft resolution would be readied by the end of the year. In conclusion, she thanked the Chair and representative of Peru for his consensus-building efforts.

8. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole recalled the intense negotiations on the proposed draft resolution, which had taken place at United Nations Headquarters between the representatives of the member States of ECLAC in meetings led by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations. Considering that the content of the resolution took account of the different positions expressed by the representatives, and that starting the consultation process would not entail any budgetary implications, he advocated the adoption of the draft resolution.

C. AGENDA

9. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development", presented at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole (New York, 19 and 20 March 2015).
3. Other matters.

D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development", presented at the thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole (New York, 19 and 20 March 2015) (agenda item 2)

10. The representatives considered the draft resolution sponsored by Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, after informal consultations with representatives of the member States of ECLAC at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

11. The resolution was adopted by acclamation (see resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) in annex 1).

12. The representatives agreed on the need to start the regional consultation process as soon as possible.

Other matters (agenda item 3)

13. The representative of the British Virgin Islands expressed support for the draft resolution on the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which he believed would be a highly effective instrument for environmental protection and economic, social and environmental development. He stressed that the consultation process to establish the Forum should be inclusive, guaranteeing the participation of the associate members of ECLAC and broadly reflecting their views. Some of these countries were small island developing States which, given their characteristics, faced specific sustainable development challenges. The British Virgin Islands could contribute to the Forum on the basis of its own recent achievements, such as the legislative progress achieved in the area of marine protection.

14. In closing, the Executive Secretary took note of three priorities that the delegations raised for discussion in the regional consultation process: coherence between the regional forum and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries; and modalities for the participation of other stakeholders.

Annex 1

**695(PLEN.16-E) FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the ability of regional frameworks to complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,¹ and emphasizes that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,²

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which urge the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,³

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries, and *recognizing* the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and middle-income countries,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 69/214, which acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension and invite the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through regional annual meetings, with the involvement of other regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,⁴

Bearing in mind that the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as achieving a balanced integration of the different dimensions of sustainable development, are essential tasks for the countries of the region, and that such tasks will be defined in the context of the post 2015 development agenda to be adopted in the September Summit,

1. *Decides* to launch a regional consultation process aimed to establish 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;

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 97.

² *Idem*, para. 100.

³ General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 9, and General Assembly resolution 66/288, para. 83.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 67/290, para. 13; General Assembly resolution 69/214, para. 9.

2. *Also decides* that the regional consultation process will define the mandate, structure, operational modalities, and expected outcomes of the forum, taking into account the outcome of the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development agenda, and in accordance with the priorities and mechanisms related to sustainable development established by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. The following issues, inter alia, related to the proposed regional forum, should be defined at the regional consultation process:

- Modalities for the participation of other relevant stakeholders.
- Relation of the forum with other regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms and schemes related to the post 2015 development agenda.
- Contribution to development and national capacity building for the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, including through south-south cooperation.
- Measurement tools for the achievement of the post 2015 development agenda, including through regional indicators.
- Budgetary implications.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to issue, by December 2015, a report with recommendations on the issues to be defined at the regional consultation process.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
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