



Thirty-ninth
session of ECLAC

Buenos Aires, 24–26 October | **2022**

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**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Buenos Aires, 24–26 October 2022



UNITED NATIONS



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Buenos Aires from 24 to 26 October 2022.

Attendance¹

2. The session was attended by representatives of 32 States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Suriname, Türkiye, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the resident coordinator in Argentina and representatives of the Offices of the Resident Coordinators.

4. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank, World Economic Forum and World Food Programme (WFP).

5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the session: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Integration System (SICA), the European Union, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Inter-American Institute for Statistics (IASI), Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI).

6. The President of Argentina attended the session as a special guest.

7. Representatives of cooperation agencies and other panellists, whose names figure in the list of participants, also attended.

¹ The list of participants appears as annex 2 to this report.

Election of officers

8. At the first plenary meeting, the delegations elected the officers of the thirty-ninth session.
9. The officers elected to preside over the thirty-ninth session were as follows:

Chair:	Argentina
Vice-Chairs:	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Jamaica
	Peru

Documentation

10. A list of the working documents submitted by the secretariat to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session is provided in annex 1.

B. AGENDA

11. The Commission adopted the following agenda:
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
 3. Presentation of the ECLAC position document, *Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability*.
 4. High-level seminar
 - Panel 1: Changes in globalization and challenges for the region
 - Panel 2: Growth and distribution – the central importance of employment creation
 - Panel 3: Sectoral investment and strategies – drivers of sustainable development
 - Panel 4: International cooperation in the face of a new multilateralism
 5. Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021.
 6. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2024.
 7. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-eighth session.
 8. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2023–2024.
 9. Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina; Arnoldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Mercedes Marcó del Pont, Secretary for Strategic Affairs of Argentina; Claudia Mojica, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Argentina; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video); José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and Alberto Fernández, President of Argentina.

13. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina briefly recalled the context in which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had been established. He highlighted the Commission's inspiring work and resulting documents that had sparked various transformations in the region. It had spread a future-oriented approach to thinking, with rigorous analysis of information at every step. Over the decades, ECLAC had addressed new issues and proposed new perspectives and was about to present a valuable road map for and accurate assessment of the region, using theoretical analysis to enrich public policies. The objective was to reduce inequalities and gaps between the region and the rest of the world. He expressed satisfaction that the countries had come to work together at the session and welcomed all the participants.

14. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, noted that, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Commission had successfully maintained the pace of intergovernmental work and formulate an agenda to promote recovery with sustainability, inclusion and equality. The region needed a stronger voice in the reconfigured world order. Given the urgent need for access to resources and innovative financing mechanisms that took regional specificities into account, regional cooperation and dialogue with cooperation entities must continue to be strengthened. It was vital for the region to adopt a firm stance amid reform of multilateral financial systems, and for that purpose it could rely on proposals grounded in an innovative agenda. Next, he highlighted some of the achievements of Costa Rica while serving as Chair. After listing a number of challenges, he highlighted as priorities the economic recovery, the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, gender equality and human rights, building more inclusive and sustainable societies, as well as the energy transition and digitalization, and called for continued progress towards a shared regional agenda.

15. The Secretary for Strategic Affairs of Argentina highlighted the Commission's contributions in the form of a conceptual framework and empirical evidence on the factors that ensured the viability of development processes. 'Productive transformation was not driven by the natural resources a country possessed, but by technological and industrial policy decisions aimed at structural change. The document to be presented at the meeting discussed those very issues, which were timely amid de-globalization and a climate crisis that were exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. The energy transition offered an enormous opportunity for countries, but could also generate new frustrations in the absence of policies to advance productive transformation and the incorporation of technology. The challenge was to produce and export high value added and high-technology products. The countries had the capacities, but also needed the political will to move towards that goal, and knew they could count on ECLAC to accompany them along the way.

16. The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Argentina expressed thanks for the invitation to participate in the opening session of the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC, which offered authorities and specialists the opportunity to discuss the major challenges facing the region. The document to be presented by ECLAC spoke of a region with significant challenges but which was highly committed to leaving no one behind, as aspired to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Argentina, in line with global and regional trends, faced the specific challenges of a country with immense resources and great potential. It was committed to multilateralism and its contributions within the United Nations system in the areas of peace and security, human rights, gender equality and development were widely recognized, as reaffirmed by its chairship of ECLAC. Regional gatherings such as the current one substantiated countries' expectations by providing tools to implement solutions to their problems. She wished countries every success in the session.

17. In his video message, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the session was taking place at a critical time, when the effects of the war in Ukraine compounded those of the pandemic. Low economic growth was expected in 2022, the GDP of many countries had not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and central governments held high levels of gross public debt. Added to that was the global crisis affecting a region both rich in biodiversity and well positioned for the energy transition, but highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In that framework, the launch of a stimulus plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), led by the Group of 20 (G20), would boost the sustainable development of developing countries, including middle-income countries. Multilateral banks needed to increase concessional financing for developing countries, ease their lending conditions and increase their risk appetite to ensure that funds reached all countries in need of them.

18. Regarding debt relief, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative should be promoted and expanded. An effective debt relief mechanism was needed for over-indebted developing countries, along with debt reduction mechanisms such as debt swaps for climate change adaptation projects. Lending criteria should go beyond GDP and include all dimensions of vulnerability that affected developing countries. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and largest central banks should immediately and significantly expand liquidity facilities and foreign exchange lines. Special drawing rights played an important role and the reallocation of these rights should be based on criteria of fairness and solidarity with developing countries. All barriers to finance had to be removed for a fair transition to digitalization, the care economy, renewable energy and green jobs. He concluded by thanking the Government of Costa Rica for its work as Chair of ECLAC and the Government of Argentina, as the incoming Chair.

19. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC emphasized that, despite the difficulties of the pandemic, ECLAC had been able to advance important issues and call for new forms of cooperation, design innovative mechanisms for financing and climate action, and make progress on a more accurate measurement of countries' vulnerability. The region needed transformative policies that offered realistic solutions to acute economic, social and environmental gaps. It was not enough to return to the situation existing prior to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine; transformative action was needed to enable countries to overcome the middle-income trap and become inclusive through sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth. To that end, the main message of the document ECLAC would be presenting was the need to progress on a transformative agenda for recovery that took into account the careful macroeconomic management required by the current situation and encouraged reform and investment in the medium and long term. It was a call for more ambitious development models and a move towards a multilateral system with greater financing and support for least developed and middle-income countries.

20. All countries were affected by a series of cascading crises, compounded by the threat of a global recession in 2023. The ECLAC position analysed the challenges and offered a series of recommendations in response. The Commission's priority areas of work were: promoting productivity, productive development, employment and inclusive growth; reducing inequality; strengthening social policies and social protection; education, professional training and investment in human talent; sustainability and environmental resilience; digital transformation; suitable management of migration flows; economic integration and regional and subregional cooperation; promoting gender equality and the care economy; and macroeconomic, monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies that were pro-growth and pro-investment. The desired changes could only be achieved by strengthening governance and institutional capacities, a topic addressed in the seminal document to be presented by Mariana Mazzucato, prepared at the request of ECLAC.

21. The President of Argentina said that the meeting was taking place in an adverse international situation, which called for a creative approach to challenges. ECLAC was a privileged forum for collaborative and pluralistic construction that proposed invaluable areas of work in the document to be presented. The region had to reduce the environmental gap by mobilizing opportunities to transition to renewable energies and develop value chains around lithium and other strategic minerals and green hydrogen. The region also had to reduce the technology gap with the developed world to boost connectivity, digital infrastructure, education, knowledge and industry 4.0. Advancing gender equality was another challenge. Argentina was hosting the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the theme of which was the care society as a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality. The pandemic had exposed inequalities and imposed an ethical duty to change the present. He invited countries to join ideas and forces to improve the condition of the peoples of the region.

Presentation of the ECLAC position document, *Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability* (agenda item 3)

22. The position document was presented by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, moderated the ensuing discussion, which included comments by: Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (virtual); Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel laureate in Economics; Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL); and José Antonio Ocampo, Minister of Finance and Public Debt of Colombia.

23. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that cascading crises were widening historical gaps and that, in the previous three years, the region had seen record setbacks in social indicators. Latin America and the Caribbean, which was at a turning point, faced a development crisis and another lost decade. Globalization had changed and geopolitical trends reflected a shift towards regionalization. Growth in trade in goods had slowed, but trade in services via digital channels had increased. The economic contraction in the previous few years had been the worst in history and ECLAC had revised downward its growth projections for the global economy. Amid that backdrop, urgent action was imperative; it was not a time for gradual or timid change, but for bold and transformative policies.

24. The health and social impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic persisted, and the school closures it had caused had deepened inequalities. He referred to the challenges and priorities for macroeconomic policies in the short term, as well as the challenges in fiscal matters, and said that, while it was essential to continue promoting work in macroeconomics for development in order to achieve nominal and real stability, it was also necessary to focus on microeconomics. After specifying the 10 priority areas

to be addressed in the transformation of the region's development model, he spoke about the importance of governance, institutional capacities, citizen dialogue and compacts for that transformation. He concluded by underscoring the need to strengthen forums for social dialogue.

25. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD said that the global assessment made by UNCTAD was fully in line with that of the ECLAC document and that the cascading crises were cascading inequalities and widened gaps both within and between countries. She spoke of the food crisis and said that there would be no solution without first addressing the financial crisis. She underscored the significance of geopolitics and said that globalization was under reconfiguration. Fragmentation at the global level had had serious consequences and generated massive disruptions in international trade, affecting developing countries in particular, as evidenced in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

26. There was a worldwide trend towards shorter value chains that were more diversified, environmentally-regulated and technology-intensive. Regionalization and regional supply chains played a more significant role, and regional trade was advantageous from both geopolitical and resilience perspectives. In Latin America and the Caribbean, it was necessary to increase investment and, in a changing world, the worst thing was to remain static, and that the case in the region in terms of geopolitics and trade. She concluded by saying that leadership, hope, solidarity, and above all, a collective voice, were needed to correct course.

27. The Nobel Laureate in Economics said that the ECLAC report was excellent in its detailed coverage and emphasis on the urgency of issues at play in the region. In terms of industrial policy, borders mattered, as evidenced by the vaccine apartheid practiced by the United States and Europe that had put the profits of pharmaceutical companies over the lives of people in Latin America. Industrial policies had to reflect the shift towards a service sector- and knowledge-based economy, and countries had to get the full value added out of their natural resources and recognize that much of the work required would be directed to those two areas. Navigating between austerity that would trigger a recession or slowdown in the region and unbridled inflation would be difficult, but was possible. Governments needed revenue to maintain spending, protect the vulnerable and advance agendas, and there were lots of opportunities for increasing revenues.

28. In terms of monetary policy, although more fiscal space was needed, governments should not go overboard on inflation as that would be counterproductive. Neoliberalism was dead and there was need of a new economic model focused not only on redistribution but also on pre-distribution, to lead to greater equality and dynamism. ECLAC should raise its voice on international issues such as the need for recycling of special drawing rights to allocate them to countries that needed it, a better debt management structure and a better framework for intellectual property rights. Latin America should agree on a pact for tax avoidance within the region. Key to the framework laid out in the report to address the great challenges and opportunities for the region was to recognize the limits and strengths of markets. Success would entail not only the public and private sectors working together, but also creating a rich ecology of institutions to increase the well-being of the citizens of Latin America in a sustainable way.

29. The Professor of the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at UCL spoke about four key areas within the framework of new economic thinking. First, in order to put the ECLAC report into practice, the policymaking process required a new framing. Industrial strategy should transform an economy, not leaving any one sector behind but forming missions and galvanizing investment, innovation and new forms of collective intelligence across many sectors. Second, there was a need to ensure that the natural resource sector did not fall down the rabbit hole of an extractive economy, for example in the case of lithium, building an ecosystem around that resource to ensure it was an input into a sustainable growth strategy. Third, it was necessary to tackle inequality in a pre-distributive way and get conditions right from the start to ensure that partnerships were symbiotic and not parasitic. Fourth, fiscal space had to be accompanied by the necessary public sector capabilities.

30. She said the challenges the report talked about were important in the short term, but the structural challenges were long-term issues that were not inevitable; the lagging productivity in the region was the outcome of lack of investment in the public and private sectors. It was important to think about labs needed inside governments to experiment, and she suggested that ECLAC organize an annual event with all the countries of the region to discuss how to approach the public sector differently. She said the report could have said more about the research and development problem, acknowledging that there was not just too little investment by both the public and private sectors in knowledge, but that knowledge also needed institutions in order to be truly collective intelligence.

31. The Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia said that the time was ripe for a major rethink of the development model. Uncertainty at the international level was being felt mainly through interest rates and exchange rates, and an analysis was needed of how to respond to interest rate hikes by the United States Federal Reserve, since capital outflows were likely to increase. In the absence of private financing, multilateral development banks played a key role as financing mechanisms for the region's economies. He supported a new issue of special drawing rights by IMF and the establishment of a mechanism for renegotiating countries' debt, and stressed the importance of fiscal space, not least because countries' debt levels were much higher after the pandemic.

32. He proposed further analysis of two issues: (i) traditional activities, which were so important for small- and medium-scale production, and the strengthening of what was termed the "popular economy" and (ii) development finance mechanisms, specifically national development banks. In that regard, he recalled that the three main objectives of the national development bank in Colombia were credit inclusion, the promotion of innovation and the green economy. He referred to the need to strengthen regional cooperation and highlighted two regional financial institutions: the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Latin American Reserve Fund (LARF). Lastly, he underscored the importance of cooperation in taxation and in science and technology.

High-level seminar (agenda item 4)

Panel 1: Changes in globalization and challenges for the region

33. Panel 1 was moderated by Gabriel Rubinstein, Secretary of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Argentina, and panellists included: Luis Felipe López-Calva, Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank; Rebeca Santos, President of the Central Bank of Honduras; Juan Carlos Moreno-Brid, Professor in the School of Economics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); and Werner Isaac Vargas, Secretary-General of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

34. The Secretary of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Argentina spoke of the challenge posed by macroeconomic management and import restrictions. Globalization had brought enormous benefits, but also challenges generated by successive crises and conflicts that made it necessary to organize and take measures to suffer as few consequences as possible. He mentioned, for example, the tensions between China and the United States, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, which had affected fertilizer and energy import costs. In Argentina, inflation had soared. He underscored the importance of cooperation among countries and of not losing sight of a future that implied being able to contribute to a form of globalization that would be increasingly favourable to all; globalization should not be abandoned, but instead made stronger and fairer for all stakeholders.

35. The Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank said that it would not be possible to achieve the goal of reducing poverty to 3% globally by 2030 unless governments' response was swift and proactive. As of 2020, there had been a record increase in poverty and inequality since the end of the Second World War. Thirty per cent of the region's population was below the poverty line in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic had had an even greater impact on the non-monetary dimensions of poverty. All countries had responded to the pandemic by implementing fiscal instruments, mainly through transfers. High-income countries had almost managed to contain the effects of the pandemic and not increase poverty, while middle- and low-income countries had been much less successful in that regard. Structural differences accounted for the dissimilar effects of the fiscal policies adopted. When the social failed to meaningfully meet the demand for redistribution of resources and power, there was what was termed an exit from the social contract. He mentioned five "loopholes" in the Latin American social contract: violence, migration, informality, a crisis of representation and the decision not to use public services. In concluding, he stressed the importance of governance in addressing power asymmetries.

36. The President of the Central Bank of Honduras said that growth forecasts had been revised downward for the fourth time in 2022 and that recessionary headwinds were projected for many economies in 2023. A further slowdown in growth was expected in the region. The tightening of monetary policy, the reconfiguration of macro-fiscal frameworks and the further weakening of purchasing power were weighing on well-being and leading to discontent among the population. The ECLAC document described the main challenges imposed on the region by a globalized economic model that was weakened and being overhauled. The document underscored the significant impact of external conditions on the region's economic and social conditions and environmental sustainability, resulting from a high degree of interdependence. Crises were increasingly recurrent and social fragility was growing. The onslaught of climate change was worsening environmental fragility and inflicting heavy losses. Honduras was experiencing high levels of social, environmental and food vulnerability, and a lag in human capital formation. After stressing that the models of the Bretton Woods institutions needed to be readjusted and that the globalization paradigm had to be aligned more closely with the reality of the region, she urged those present to acknowledge that conditions and impacts were not the same for all countries.

37. The Professor in the School of Economics of UNAM said that the pandemic, the war and other crises made for interesting times. Insofar as the challenges were long-standing, it was increasingly urgent to find solutions. He spoke of the modern-day effects of information and the existence of more barriers to trade in goods. In the context of globalization, decision-making was centred on the increasing importance of local considerations and political affinity, with focus on resilience. He spoke of building a decentralized economy, rooted in local communities and with an empowered citizenry. External constraints were not solely trade-related; they also meant that countries could not grow at the minimum rate necessary to absorb their labour force. He stressed that there was a crisis of globalization governance and emerging economies were forced to seek solutions on their own. The challenge was to balance the need to control inflation with the cost of credit, without curbing investment needs. It was necessary to review the way in which central banks set rates and targeted their actions.

38. The Secretary-General of SICA recalled that the System had been established as a platform for economic, social, cultural and political integration, with the aim of building a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development. Central American regional integration continued to advance and face new challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed greater inequities, both within and between countries. Because of its location, Central America served as a bridge and was greatly affected by the pandemic and armed conflicts occurring in different parts of the world. Among the initiatives employed to face those challenges were the establishment of contingency plans, institutional guidelines, protocols for goods transport, platforms for the registration and recognition of food and beverages, unified procedures,

joint negotiation and procurement of medicines and agrifood inputs, joint management of rapid response teams, geothermal and electricity market integration, the establishment of disaster response mechanisms and the adoption of common positions on climate issues. Migration and the high levels of human mobility in the subregion made joint action essential. He underscored the importance of regional integration as a response to globalization, with strong institutions and collective action.

Panel 2: Growth and distribution – the central importance of employment creation

39. Panel 2 was moderated by Raquel Kismer de Olmos, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina, and the panellists were Marta Eugenia Esquivel Rodríguez, President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (virtual); Pablo Mieres, Minister for Labour and Social Security of Uruguay; Felipe Morgado, Superintendent for Vocational and Higher Education of the National Industrial Apprenticeship Service (SENAI) of Brazil; and Anna Terrón Cusí, Director of the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP).

40. In her opening remarks, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina said that growth and distribution were among the main factors affecting economic and social trends. Income distribution inequality had been increasing since the 1980s, and was now being compounded, in a context of pandemic and war, by plummeting GDP, slower growth, loss of jobs and global inflation. In Latin America and the Caribbean, one in every two workers was employed in the informal sector and the growth of the middle income strata seen at the turn of the century had been hampered by the crisis and by debt. Governments must take resolute action to avoid greater social setbacks, but must find efficient means of doing so. Employment and training policies could only be effective as part of a national and continental development project. Absent the ability to earn a stable income, workers trained in the region would migrate, a form of capital flight that negatively affected economies. The topic of the panel discussion was therefore of great relevance.

41. The President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund explained that productive development in Costa Rica was highly centralized, since 79% of the population lived in production zones and 69% of total export value originated in the central metropolitan region, which was also home to 84% of universities and 91% of start-ups. That model had not worked, as the unemployment problem was concentrated outside the greater metropolitan area. It was vital to develop the rest of the country and avoid reinforcing cycles of urban poverty, creating systems with development clusters and value added chains, connecting established companies with micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises so the former could support the latter and increase their longevity, and determining the needs of employers and the available labour supply. With that goal in mind, the National Employment Agency had been launched. More than just a job bank, it generated data that provided insight into employment demand and informed the training offered by the National Training Institute and universities.

42. The Minister for Labour and Social Security of Uruguay said that the topic of the panel discussion could only be analysed in the context of the crisis wrought by the pandemic, which had shaped countries' policies on distribution and growth. Post-pandemic recovery had also been hindered by the consequences of the invasion of Ukraine, in particular rising food prices. Against this challenging backdrop, the economic slowdown in Uruguay had been moderate and the recovery had been rapid, likely the result of the decision to refrain from imposing blanket lockdowns and to maintain productive and economic activity. One of the main lessons learned had been the importance of social safety net and social security benefits for the most vulnerable that is a permanent, adaptable and based on objective criteria. The other had been the importance of maintaining broad social dialogue to reach agreement on crisis responses. However, there was a need to make further progress towards returning to pre-pandemic poverty and wage levels, design targeted labour training policies and combat inequalities related to gender, age and disability.

43. The Superintendent for Vocational and Higher Education of SENAI of Brazil, said that all public policies for training workers should be aligned with productive sector needs based on analysis of demand. In Brazil, the highest rates of job growth were found in high-level industrial and technical jobs in automation and mechatronics, the environment, and transport and logistics, hence the need to invest in training in those areas. SENAI was the largest private complex of professional education and technology services in Latin America and a national model of innovation and business support. There were opportunities in the country to accelerate progress through professional training to help workers build skills, reskill and upskill, activities that could add US\$ 8.3 trillion to global GDP by 2030. That would require modernizing legislation on vocational training and leveraging technology to identify skills gaps and create retraining programmes that were shorter and better aligned with the needs of the productive sector. Training programmes should be oriented towards boosting companies' productivity and should align with environmental, social and governance policies and the development of specialized skills.

44. The Director of FIIAPP said that, since the role of jobs in society was fundamental, they should take priority over growth. Efforts should be made to increase formality and to bring those facing the steepest challenges into the labour market while also protecting those who were already employed. One good practice in that regard had been the temporary workforce restructuring plan (ERTE) in Spain, through which the government had paid a significant portion of the wages of persons whose jobs had been at risk because of lockdowns. That approach had guaranteed the payment of contributions and had maintained fiscal space and facilitated the resumption of activities in some sectors during the recovery. She underscored that employment and wages could not be the adjustment factor for increasing competitiveness at the cost of weakening the job market, as such an approach could erode faith in democratic institutions. She also emphasized the importance of the green and digital transition—which would require teaching students to learn and ensuring lifelong learning—, of building local capacity so that certain regions would not be condemned to poverty, and of working on the international distribution of labour with a view to creating virtuous circles to improve the return on migrants' income. In closing, she proposed a shift from interregional cooperation to concerted efforts to work together on projects to strengthen public institutions and improve public policies in order to achieve the SDGs.

45. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Jamaica explained that her country was reforming its social safety net through a new framework that focused on building human capital through a life-cycle approach to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by improving educational attainment and health outcomes and reducing child labour. During the pandemic, workers had pivoted towards self-employment, leading to an all-time low in unemployment. In that context, greater emphasis was being placed on reviewing business processes, embracing digitalization, encouraging new areas of commerce and trade and reducing informality. The representative of Chile said that there was a need to exercise foresight with regard to the changes brought about by automation and their potential repercussions for workers in jobs at risk of obsolescence. At the regional level, the service sector was the doorway to the labour market and most of its workers were female. Creating pathways to enable worker mobility and incorporating the gender perspective were therefore critical aspects of public policy design for the sector. Lastly, he said that cooperation between regions was essential for the achievement of progress and called for continued efforts to work together and share knowledge and best practices.

46. The representative of the Dominican Republic emphasized that, while productivity was important for improving employment levels, it should not come at the cost of declining job quality. Although countries' productivity appeared to be increasing, that growth was not translating into wage increases, meaning that there was a need to focus on finding ways to create positive impacts on social welfare. His country sought to achieve this through a national employment plan, which included coordinated workforce training, labour intermediation and productive sector stimulus. There was also a need to make training more attractive for workers than

continuing to work in the informal sector. Lastly, the representative of Panama said that existing challenges required more diligent action, mainly as regarded gender equality. Women's level of participation in events and panels such as the current one was generally quite low, and regulations should be established to boost it. International and regional organizations had been managed by men for decades, but the role of women was fundamental for the transformation that was sought.

Panel 3: Sectoral investment and strategies – drivers of sustainable development

47. Panel 3 was moderated by Mercedes Marcó del Pont, Secretary of Strategic Affairs of Argentina, and the panellists were Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (virtual); Mario Lubetkin, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Fernando Yanez, Undersecretary for Monitoring of the National Secretariat for Planning of Ecuador, and Vanessa Gibson, Investment Climate Director of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE).

48. The Secretary for Strategic Affairs of Argentina said that the panel aimed to address the factors that could boost the development and diversification of production structures in the countries of the region in light of the changes that were taking place in the world, including de-globalization, which affected energy and food security in particular. The energy transition offered opportunities to be seized depending on the approach taken to decarbonization. The region had natural resources, but could see another “lost decade” if it did not develop its productive structures to enable the export of more technology-intensive products. The challenge for domestic and foreign investment was enormous, notably with regard to: the attraction of investment, the rules of the game for attracting foreign investment and the ability of States to set those rules, monitor processes and finance necessary policies. Discussion should focus on the investment opportunities available to diversify production structures and on the State policies required.

49. The Secretary General of CARICOM said that the Community's member States had not been able to attract sufficient foreign direct investment within the last decade to drive economic growth and development. Investment in key sectors could stimulate structural change, but this required access to financing, labour capacities, appropriate regulation and social policies. Potential drivers of growth and development included information and communications technology (ICT), energy and agriculture. In ICT, strategies and projects were being pursued, but most of the countries were in the early stages of digital transformation. In energy, a transition to sustainable forms was urgently needed, founded on policy, capacity-building and finance. In agriculture, CARICOM aimed to reduce dependence on food imports and improve production of key products by increasing investment in the sector and leveraging new technologies. How those sectors were planned and developed would affect the region's viability and prosperity. A shift was required in education, training and business to address vulnerabilities and social inequalities and to protect the natural environment.

50. The Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO said the region played a key role in world food production and trade but wide gaps existed in terms of equity and food security. The unprecedented crisis wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic would not make recovery easy. Ongoing inflation was complicating access to food worldwide. Economic recovery and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 were at risk and countries needed to adapt. A transformation of the food sector was necessary to make processes more efficient, resilient and sustainable. Measures to improve access to financial and non-financial assets, as well as digital innovation for marketing, were key. He referred to two FAO initiatives: Hand-in-Hand, which supported investment projects to diversify and increase value added in prioritized production chains, and 1,000 Digital Villages, to implement digital tools in agro-tourism ventures, both of which aimed at achieving the SDGs and in particular the goal of eradicating poverty. He concluded by calling for greater inter-institutional collaboration to ensure truly sustainable development in the region.

51. The Undersecretary for Monitoring of the National Secretariat for Planning of Ecuador said that the effects of the pandemic and multiple uncertainties accentuated by the war in Ukraine had profoundly affected the economic and social development of the countries and disrupted certain achievements, however modest. Countries had therefore taken short- and long-term action and highlighted the importance of combining macroeconomic and sectoral strategies. Ecuador's strategy focused on social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions, always in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. He outlined progress that had been made in various areas in the country and, referring to the sectors that drove development proposed by ECLAC, he noted that the Constitution of Ecuador had also established a number of priority sectors for development efforts. Public-private partnerships could also drive development, attract investment and thus generate employment, which required the establishment of appropriate frameworks.

52. The Investment Climate Director of CINDE stated that Costa Rica's economy had been transformed in recent decades as a result of foreign trade and investment attraction strategies. Attracting companies in the medical device industry, for example, had enabled the development of an ecosystem with local suppliers and contractors. Gradual progress had been made in product sophistication, with a sustained increase in employment that had even mitigated the impact of the pandemic. A high-tech industry that employed a majority of women and transferred knowledge from companies, it had fostered the concept of learning to learn, compliance with standards, the transformation of talent, academic development, and generated a supply of operators and technicians in step with new needs. A worldwide network of academic partners had been created, as well as partnerships with research and technical training centres. In addition to device design and manufacturing, clinical studies were being conducted that were linked to the national healthcare system as well as to agriculture and the bioeconomy.

53. The moderator said that the presentations shared certain elements. In Costa Rica, a virtuous relationship existed between foreign investment and internal capacity which was only possible with help from the government to facilitate these synergies. Niche sectors such as sustainable tourism and agriculture could promote production transformation. The objective of improving productivity in agrifood systems was at odds with the technology transformation that needed to develop in tandem, as happened in the energy sector in the transition from fossil fuels to a more diversified mix. Time as well as funding were needed for the transition. As the Secretary-General had noted, developing countries needed financial oxygen in the form of more capital and lending capacity in order to meet future challenges.

54. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Cuba said that the country had prioritized a number of key areas, some of which coincided with the proposals of ECLAC. Cuba was committed to the continued implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but the economic and trade embargo imposed by the United States, together with the classification of Cuba as a country that supported terrorism, hindered the fulfilment of that commitment. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that there were 18 drivers of production on its economic agenda and a process was under way to establish five special economic zones. Like Cuba, sanctions and other restrictive measures by various States against his country affected not only Venezuela, but the region as a whole, affecting performance and making it impossible to measure the country's progress against the rest of the region.

55. The representative of the Dominican Republic underscored the region's diversity and the way in which sectoral policies created value chains that countries could choose to join, depending on their characteristics. The country was moving towards a manufacturing sector with higher-skilled workers. That process required a long-term vision and the capacity to coordinate the various sectors, which was essential to advance policy. The representative of the Bahamas said that one area that had not been mentioned was the orange economy, which referred to investment in intellectual property. Within CARICOM, calls had been made to invest heavily in sports and culture, and he emphasized that athletes and musicians could do

much to promote their countries overseas. The people of the region had great potential, so discussions about the economy should not overlook the enormous benefits of investing in them. Furthermore, the orange economy offered low-carbon, exponential growth.

Panel 4: International cooperation in the face of a new multilateralism

56. Panel 4 was moderated by Sabina Frederic, President of the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets, and the panellists included Eva del Hoyo Barbolla, Director-General of Sustainable Development Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain; Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission; Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; Gloria Sandoval, Director-General for Project Execution Abroad of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID); Enrique O’Farrill, Executive Director (a.i.) of the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID); and Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (virtual).

57. The President of the Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets said that the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean was the most unequal region in the world could be corroborated at the country level, where there were profound asymmetries and inequality gaps. The graduation system—which, using per capita income as the sole indicator, classified all the countries of the region (except Haiti) as middle- or high-income countries—had recently imposed limitations on most of the countries of the region. The effect was negative, because it restricted access to funding to scale up various types of technical cooperation. Panellists would discuss how to move beyond and leave behind the logic of graduation and promote a pattern of development cooperation that was more horizontal, inclusive and solidarity-based; which indicators, using a multidimensional perspective, could be used to identify the different vulnerabilities and inequalities in the region; and how to strengthen cooperation agencies.

58. The Director-General of Sustainable Development Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain said that the relationship between Europe and the region was at a key juncture and that, over the previous two years, the joint work under way had been interrupted. Spain was a proponent of the use of multidimensional indices and Latin America and the Caribbean was a priority region for Spanish cooperation. Her country had always been committed to the multilateral development system and the social transition, which was the sum of many underlying transitions (productive, digital and green). The transition must be just and collaborative, and policy dialogue was a necessary step before proposing a package of instruments and solutions. In closing, she said that there was a new way of working called “advanced cooperation” and emphasized that Spanish cooperation had never left the region.

59. The Deputy Director-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission said that it was imperative to work on alliances or partnerships at the global level, which meant moving away from the dichotomous rationale of donors and beneficiaries towards a model of partners on the same level who engaged in discussions to find global solutions for global problems. She listed the main challenges that countries were facing: climate change, the digital transition, transportation and energy connectivity, establishing quality education systems, strengthening health systems and fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Lastly, she said that political and cooperation partnerships would be sought, triangular cooperation would be fostered with countries that shared the same values, and opportunities for joint activities would be pursued with a view to supporting multilateralism on a global scale.

60. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba said that international cooperation was essential to enable joint action and promote the achievement of the SDGs. The notion of graduation must be abandoned; the needs of countries should be measured using a more comprehensive system that went beyond GDP. He welcomed the United Nations initiative to create a multidimensional index and said that there was a need for renewed international cooperation and strengthened multilateral dialogue, involving all stakeholders. United Nations system entities should play a more active role in international cooperation and work should be better coordinated to make cooperation more efficient. Like many countries, Cuba had encountered hurdles in gaining access to COVID-19 vaccines, but had managed to develop its own vaccines and had even donated some to countries in the Caribbean and other regions.

61. The Director-General for Project Execution Abroad of AMEXCID said that because data accuracy and accessibility were increasing worldwide, a commitment should be made to translate it into projects with an ever-lower margin of error. A humanist approach to social development should be promoted. Unilateral action limited societal development, delayed inclusion processes, widened inequality gaps and excluded the most vulnerable (the most recent and significant example of such action at the international level had been seen during the pandemic). She underscored that the great challenges faced by humanity demanded immediate action and explained that Mexico had joined forces with some Central American countries to implement projects geared towards the most vulnerable.

62. The Executive Director (a.i.) of AGCID said that classifications based on per capita GDP alone were no longer viable because they did not reflect all the multidimensional vulnerabilities, structural divides, funding and technical cooperation needs, and human capital formation opportunities of the countries. The rationale for moving beyond graduation was mainly to focus on well-being at both the global and regional levels rather than making a distinction between rich and poor countries. After underscoring the need to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation and rethink development models, he urged countries to join together and take concrete action, which was essential in a region where structural divides were broader than ever in the wake of the pandemic.

63. The Director of the Development Centre of OECD said that new metrics beyond GDP were needed, which combined economic, social and vulnerability indicators. There was a need to work together, irrespective of income level, and to address outdated asymmetries, such as limited access to financing. With the right policies, the ambitious green agenda could trigger a shift towards more just societies and a greener international cooperation system. Discussions on transforming the region's energy matrix and maximizing the potential of the green transition were pertinent. She underscored the need for increased financing, more dialogue on the risks and opportunities of the low-carbon transition, and greater technical cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building. Those elements were key for the region to adopt newly established green international regulations and for the international cooperation system to adapt to shared global challenges.

64. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Colombia said that his country had benefited from significant cooperation for development, in particular in the context of peace processes, and that the United Nations should place greater emphasis on cooperation with middle-income countries. He underscored the problem of unequal financing and the importance of development banks and mentioned international tax cooperation and the need to strengthen regional cooperation on migration. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that cooperation was key for the development of countries and that it was important to strengthen the concept of associations or partnerships. A good development plan was needed to align cooperation with country priorities and countries should receive support in designing, coordinating and implementing comprehensive financing for development frameworks.

65. The representative of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) said that the Organization was working as a bloc on different areas (biodiversity, Indigenous peoples, the bioeconomy and others). ACTO member countries had faced difficulties in accessing international cooperation because they were classified as middle-income countries (the Amazon region was not middle-income), and access to greater and more flexible financing was needed. The representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) underscored that some topics, such as climate change, could only be addressed through a regional approach. Latin America and the Caribbean being one of the most poorly connected regions in the world, focus should be placed on transport and logistics, without which it would be impossible to develop two key pillars of the region's economy: commerce and tourism. The representative of Argentina said that his country would serve as Chair of the Presiding Officers for the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC in 2023, a space for establishing partnerships and knowledge networks. South-South cooperation was a priority for Argentina and making progress towards speaking with one voice on topics of common interest was crucial.

Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021, and draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2024 (agenda items 5 and 6)

66. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Commission presented the report on the activities carried out in 2021 and the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for 2024. The first summarized the main outcomes and achievements of the Commission in 2021, including the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean on Sustainable Development; the preparation of the plan for self-sufficiency in health matters,² at the request of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), to expand capacities to produce and distribute vaccines and medicines in the region; the progress made with regard to the debt swap for climate change adaptation initiative and the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund; the preparation of the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico, at the request of these four countries, which aimed to tackle the structural causes of migration from a development and human security perspective so that migration would be an option and not an obligation; and, lastly, the entry into force on 22 April 2021 of the Escazú Agreement, the first treaty concluded under the auspices of ECLAC and the first in the world to provide protection to environmental activists, which had been signed by 24 countries and ratified by 13 to date.

67. He then spoke about the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, intergovernmental bodies that allowed for dialogue between countries on sectoral policies and the establishment of consensus to guide public action at the national level, and about the creation of a new subsidiary body, the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also listed the Commission's main sources of funding and strategic partnerships in 2021. Knowledge production and dissemination, among the Commission's most important mandates, had been carried out in different ways. These included the various observatories and data repositories, recurrent and flagship publications and special reports on different aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery in the region. In 2021, more than 300 publications and technical documents had been produced; 41 meetings of experts, 53 courses, workshops and seminars, and 20 intergovernmental meetings had been organized; 36 technical cooperation projects had been implemented and there had been more than 14 million downloads of ECLAC publications from its website, all of which had enabled the Commission to deliver on its programmatic commitments despite the difficulties of the pandemic.

² *Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: lines of action and proposals (LC/TS.2021/115)* [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47253>.

68. The proposals for strategic action and priorities for the following year had been incorporated into the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system—a strategic planning exercise aligned with the 2030 Agenda and with the main global and regional development agendas—which would be submitted for consideration and adoption by the member States. The programme's priorities were geared towards transformative recovery, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, and incorporated the Commission's gender mainstreaming strategy and the disability inclusion strategy. It was structured into 13 interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, grouped into five thematic clusters (economic development, social development, sustainable development, public management and statistics, and subregional activities) to facilitate integrated implementation with a more multidisciplinary approach and aligned with the objectives of the reform of the United Nations development system; as a result, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean had been created, which had represented a qualitative leap in terms of coordination and efficiency.

69. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico said that the presentation had placed on record the great work that ECLAC had done and how it had managed to adapt to the enormous changes and challenges that had arisen, and urged the secretariat to maintain the same level of commitment in the future, since its work had a very positive impact on the countries of the region. The representative of Brazil suggested that the Commission work further on the definition of certain concepts that, although widely used, did not yet have a clear definition, such as "circular economy" and "due diligence". The representative of Suriname said that ECLAC had been instrumental in making the region and the world understand the challenges faced from an analytical perspective. However, the enormous diversity of Latin American and Caribbean countries had to be translated into the workload of the secretariat, it was important to move beyond an analytical approach towards advocacy in the region to obtain concrete results, and the short-term challenges should not be forgotten, but had to be translated into national agendas and budgets in the region.

70. Next, the representative of Colombia underscored the importance of ECLAC supporting the regional dialogue in relation to three themes: tax issues, the strengthening of financing organizations to ensure that the region had accessible sources of financing and the challenges faced by middle- and low-income countries. The representative of Costa Rica agreed with the representatives of Suriname and Colombia that it was necessary to continue the dialogue on innovative financing for development, moving from analyses and proposals to concrete results.

71. In conclusion, the Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Commission said that he took note of the suggestions of the delegations, recognizing the need to localize the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the particularities of the different national and subregional realities, and to turn the aforementioned topics into priorities of the regional agenda. The vision of the new Executive Secretary of ECLAC was focused on obtaining results, so efforts would be made not to limit the work done to analytical and normative aspects, but to place more emphasis on concrete public policy proposals.

Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-eighth session (agenda item 7)

72. First, the representative of Argentina, in her capacity as moderator of the session, recalled that the intergovernmental architecture of ECLAC was crucial for its work and that the Commission engaged with sectoral authorities from member States through a variety of thematic intergovernmental meetings. That enabled ECLAC to maintain tremendous consistency in the institutional approach to its work with member countries. Next, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and representative of other intergovernmental meetings reported to the delegations on the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved during the period.

73. The representative of Suriname presented the report of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and said that the pandemic had laid bare the endemic structural problems facing the Caribbean. High levels of public debt and debt servicing costs had constrained fiscal space and heightened sovereign debt default risk. The Caribbean had experienced successive natural disasters and there was a need for innovative sources of financing that were affordable and accessible, investment in social inclusion to combat high levels of unemployment, poverty and crime, and improved access to technology and connectivity. In addressing those challenges, CDCC would focus on key areas, including recovery, repositioning and sustainable growth; debt and liquidity constraints; the multidimensional vulnerability index; statistical capacity and the availability of data; the role of global partnerships in building resilience; and the need for economic restructuring and diversification, including for the optimization of market integration.

74. Reporting by video link on the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,³ the representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that despite pandemic-related challenges, work on the implementation of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development had continued and several activities and workshops had been conducted. There was a need to address a variety of topics, including mental health issues arising from pandemic lockdowns, the difficulties of the most vulnerable households in meeting basic needs, consideration of per capita GDP in the classification of middle-income and high-income countries, challenges in accessing financing and international cooperation, the challenges of creating a vulnerability index in the region and the capacity of local social protection and emergency institutions. Transformative recovery was a priority, including in aspects related to post-disaster employment protection and labour inclusion, challenges for regional trade and food security, social inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, resilient and accessible housing and public health issues.

75. The representative of the Dominican Republic, referring to the activities of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), recalled that the Council was a space for technical, political and intergovernmental dialogue in which the planning authorities of countries could exchange information on how to overcome the challenges in that area. He listed the achievements of the Council over the previous 12 months (including the convening power of its eighteenth meeting and the work done to convert face-to-face training to distance learning courses during the pandemic) and the activities that were scheduled to take place in the coming months. The Regional Council for Planning should be maintained as an active space for open discussion on topics such as the challenges of planning for post-pandemic recovery, and he underscored that, to address the various challenges, it was important for countries to be able to exchange experiences on tools for the improvement of public administration and for government public planning and administration capacities to be strengthened.

76. With regard to the work of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Paraguay said that it was important to advance the implementation of the Asunción Declaration and provided a briefing on related activities carried out. ECLAC had supported the countries of the region in the preparation and presentation of national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, which would serve as the basis for the regional report to be presented by ECLAC at regional and global forums. It was necessary to step up the sharing of experiences on public policy (with the participation of older persons), strengthen the technical capacity of countries to address the demographic change under way and build cooperation networks among various spheres —government, civil society, universities, research centres and professional organizations— in order to understand and be able to meet the needs of older persons.

³ See the *Report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CDS.4/4), Santiago, 2022 [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47809>.

77. Next, the representative of Costa Rica reported on the work of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, noting that it had focused on identifying shared needs and promoting concrete proposals that would contribute to development, such as access to international cooperation and financing for development. South-South cooperation was a key issue for the region and work to refine cooperation mechanisms must continue. Five virtual meetings had been held and work had continued on strengthening existing institutional frameworks. With a view to revitalizing and bolstering the work of the Committee and driving greater cooperation for development, both within and outside the region, the Committee had been transformed into the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Argentina had expressed its interest in serving as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the first session of the Regional Conference. In closing, he underscored the need to strengthen the regional narrative and voice on cooperation matters in the post-pandemic recovery.

78. Reporting on the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the representative of Argentina emphasized the importance of the comparability of statistical data between countries, which deepened technical cooperation and provided a comprehensive view of statistics that would inform the region on how to position itself on various global issues. He gave an overview of the progress made in the work of the 11 working groups of the Conference, placing particular emphasis on the importance of data governance. The work accomplished over the biennium had been intense and somewhat atypical, since all national statistical offices had had to adapt to working virtually because of the pandemic. Among other achievements during the period, six documents on regional standards, which established guidelines for gathering statistics as well as protocols and methodologies for their preparation, had been adopted.

79. Reporting on the work of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the representative of Argentina said that the Conference had sought to strengthen the role of science and technology as fundamental tools for boosting both productive diversification and social inclusion. Against the current global backdrop, the focus of work until the end of 2021 had been the pandemic response. Various studies had been conducted as a basis for an analysis of the health situation in the region, which was later used to craft the regional plan for self-sufficiency in health matters. Concrete actions had also been defined to build institutional capacity for public policy design in the areas of science, technology and innovation, which were crucial for the development of countries, with an emphasis on sharing information and good practices on matters of regional interest.

80. The representative of Uruguay provided a briefing on the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), recalling that it had come into force on 22 April 2021 and was the only international agreement that had resulted from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Describing in detail the process by which government delegations had drafted the Agreement, he said that the public had participated through an innovative mechanism for election and representation. The six decisions adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement had already begun to be implemented. He urged all countries signatory to the Escazú Agreement that had not yet ratified it to do so at the earliest opportunity and encouraged countries of the region that were not yet signatories or parties to sign it promptly.

81. The Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation of the Ministry of the Environment and Social Development of Argentina requested the floor, and referring to the Escazú Agreement, said that, for her country, strengthening the environmental agenda and confronting the challenges for sustainable development was more than just a goal of the government, it was State policy. Diligent efforts were being made to raise awareness about the Escazú Agreement and encourage all

countries of the region to join the process, and the first meeting of its Conference of the Parties, held in Chile, had been a key milestone for countries to advance in ensuring the right to information on environmental matters, public participation in decision-making and the unrestricted defence of human rights. She underscored the need for funding to implement and ensure compliance with the Agreement, and recalled that, because time was of the essence regarding environmental issues, Argentina had offered to organize an extraordinary Conference of the Parties.

82. Regarding the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Chile, speaking by video link, recalled the importance of the Santiago Commitment, which included, among others, agreements on eradicating gender-based violence and guaranteeing universal access to comprehensive health services for women (including sexual and reproductive health services), women's labour participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the implementation of policies and programmes that contributed to healthy ageing for women. In particular, she mentioned the implementation of the Santiago Commitment in different countries in recent years in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main theme of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2022, had been chosen in September 2021 at the sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, at which the road map towards the fifteenth session had also been adopted. Later, at the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers, held in January 2022, a briefing had been provided on recent progress related to the *Todas Conectadas* platform and proposals had been shared on preparations for the next session of the Conference.

83. Speaking, by video link, on the work of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Ecuador said that the focus over the period had been the adoption and implementation of a cooperation programme for 2020–2022, including the organization of various activities related to capacity-building, political dialogue, technical cooperation and generating knowledge through reports and studies, as well as reflection on the design of digital agendas and the deployment of information and communications technology (ICT) networks, in particular 5G technology. To foster policy dialogue, efforts had been made to discuss the formation of a regional digital market and cooperation between regional integration blocs. The goal was regional digital transformation and integration.

84. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, speaking by video link, reported on the work of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and recalled that his country had served as Chair of its fourth session,⁴ held in June 2022, with participants from governments, civil society, international organizations and academia. The Regional Conference and the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus required a very ambitious and demanding programme of work. Despite the forced hiatus owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, preparations had been made in 2021 to hold the executive meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference in virtual format and a timeline had been proposed for the submission of reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus by the countries of the region. Lastly, he listed the activities to be conducted over the next two years in the framework of the Regional Conference.

Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2023–2024 (agenda item 8)

85. The secretariat submitted the proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2023–2024 for consideration by delegations, and it was adopted as reflected in the annex to resolution 755(XXXIX).

⁴ See *the Report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRPD.4/7/Rev.2), Santiago, 2023 [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/browse?type=symbol&value=LC%2FCRPD.4%2F7%2FRev.2>.

Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean
(agenda item 9)

86. The dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC. In his opening remarks, he said that the session had included three days of intense work and interesting discussions in a context marked by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, environmental degradation and the weakening of globalization as a driver of growth. The roots of the enormous challenges facing the region lay in historical inequality, productivity and gender gaps, which were now being compounded by other contemporary issues. The position paper presented by ECLAC, which described the current situation in the region and provided suggestions to overcome it, was timely. Lastly, he said that a path forward must be found to enable the region to make a transition towards economic development that included social justice.

87. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that Latin America and the Caribbean was at a crucial moment, with the cascading effects of crises indicating that the region was heading towards a lost decade. He summarized the 10 main challenges for the region as outlined in the position document: (i) productivity; (ii) inequality; (iii) social gaps; (iv) education, vocational training and human talent; (v) sustainability and climate change; (vi) digital transformation; (vii) migration; (viii) regional economic integration; (ix) gender equality; and (x) macroeconomics for development. Post-pandemic, there was a need to promote transformative action to enable countries to achieve development and social inclusion. It was high time to start building a better future for the region. Multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue was needed to establish a regional consensus that could lay the foundation for shared analyses and public policy proposals that could be sustained over time.

Statements by ministers of foreign affairs of Latin America and the Caribbean

88. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service of the Bahamas said that the ECLAC position paper offered valuable data for policymaking and underscored that climate change was a priority issue for his country, which had suffered its worst ever hurricane in 2019. The Bahamas continued to argue for a multidimensional vulnerability index because GDP did not properly reflect vulnerabilities. Regarding Haiti, he expressed hope that the countries of the region would support an upcoming Security Council resolution to meet the country's humanitarian needs. Turning to fiscal matters, the European Union was portraying tax competition as immoral, changing rules unilaterally and framing such competition as a robbery of tax revenues (which was incorrect, as money was only temporarily in the Caribbean and then returned to the European Union). He expressed the desire for a true partnership in that area in the future, considering the net effect of decisions on tax. Lastly, he said that growth and development required support for and investment in young people, who represented countries' futures.

89. Next, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that, in the current context of multidimensional, systemic and structural crises, multilateralism was the only guaranteed path towards respect between States and international peace and security. He underscored the significance of the climate crisis and the imperative need for developed countries to meet their emissions reduction targets. The world was still emerging from the pandemic, which had worsened the food crisis and exposed the inequalities and weaknesses of the region's health and financial systems, and it was time for policies to focus on rebuilding and transforming economies.

90. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile highlighted three key issues for the region —production, sustainability and inclusion— and said that the food, energy and climate crises were raising the level of

uncertainty, a situation that called for coordinated regional action and dialogue. It was important to address challenges together and strengthen regional ties through inclusive dialogue, in furtherance of sustainable development. None of the region's problems could be solved without work in two areas: environmental protection (it was important for the region to position itself as a producer of green hydrogen) and the gender perspective (more investment was needed in the economic inclusion of women to eliminate gender inequalities).

91. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that it was during cascading crises that greater efforts must be made to identify common needs and promote joint action for progress on economic recovery and social inclusion and to face the challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss. Multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity were fundamental for economic, social and environmental recovery. Crisis recovery strategies should include urgent action on financing for development. Solutions could only be sustainable if environmental variables were considered and there was an urgent need for responsible action on the issue of migration.

92. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba said that the pandemic had caused setbacks in several sustainable development indicators and had deepened systemic structural divides, rekindling the need to rethink production patterns and transform the development model. He reiterated the importance of preserving the environment and tackling climate change and called for special, fair and equitable treatment for the countries of the Caribbean and Central America and for regional unity. Lastly, he stressed that international cooperation, multilateralism, integration and solidarity were critical.

93. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said that the document presented by ECLAC provided a clear description of the context of various sequential crises affecting countries in the region, in particular the cost of living crisis, which had worsened poverty and its effects on vulnerable populations. The region was suffering from the consequences of the war in Ukraine, price increases, the supply crisis and high unemployment. Despite those challenges, the Government of Ecuador continued its work to combat poverty and create jobs. He described a range of initiatives on persons with disabilities, access to financing, and support for productive units, business owners and the agriculture sector that had created jobs. However, as regional cooperation remained a crucial complement to such work, ECLAC should continue to promote not only reflection but also cooperation.

94. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador said that in such a challenging international context, it was imperative to engage in collective reflection. Countries should not simply strive for a return to normal following the pandemic. They must build synergies and look beyond their differences. Major economic challenges and inequalities could be addressed through good management and by promoting models based on creativity and innovation. Her country had addressed the crisis using its own resources and relied on strategic plans to keep the focus of economic growth on human talent, business, exports, access to information and novel incentives. While obtaining public and private funding was important, so was improving transparency and accountability. El Salvador shared the vision of a new multilateralism and urged ECLAC to continue to work for a fairer classification of countries and for more equitable allocation of resources. Lastly, she said that there was a historic debt towards those most in need and that prompt action was necessary.

95. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala said that the region had shown resilience during the pandemic. He emphasized that crises were opportunities to work together and mentioned that achieving fair access to vaccine markets had been one such opportunity. Referring to the conflict in Ukraine, he said that the region could become a beacon of hope for the world, especially in a food crisis. His country was

committed to peace and it was urgent to bring an end to the war in Ukraine. Guatemala and other countries were more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and to disasters such as Hurricane Julia. He touched on other factors that affected Guatemala, such as its situation as a transit country for migrants, which meant that it was essential to combat the causes of migration, renew efforts to provide care for migrants and fight the related organized crime. Lastly, he reiterated the need for true integration and expressed his confidence that the region could move forward as one.

96. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Honduras said that the juncture was one of enormous challenges and global uncertainty, and that slower growth, loss of purchasing power and a deterioration in the well-being of the population were projected. Welcoming the document presented by ECLAC, he said that it included critical aspects of the challenges for the region resulting from a weakened globalization model and increasingly frequent external shocks. The international context was ever more fragmented, fragile and prone to crises, in a global environment where the weakest links were the most vulnerable and were exposed to greater risks. Honduras was a small economy, and in addition to global crises, it was facing elevated levels of structural social, environmental and food vulnerability. In that regard, his government was taking several steps to strengthen the social safety net. In closing, he emphasized that it was time to rethink the globalization paradigm in accordance with the circumstances of the countries in the region, with citizens playing a leading role.

97. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said the global environmental emergency was one of the greatest challenges the world was facing, involving climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. In terms of climate change, the 1.5°C temperature rise targeted by the Paris Agreement would give the world a fighting chance, but there were gaps in climate financing. Her country therefore backed efforts to replenish the Green Climate Fund and welcomed support for the implementation of nationally determined contributions, as small island developing States (SIDS) were on the front line of a disaster that was not of their making, with an unaffordable social and economic price. High emitters must take urgent and significant mitigation action, accompanied by scaled-up finance. Jamaica had also declared three new protected areas on land and in the ocean, and was drafting and amending legislation on issues such as air quality, wastewater, sludge, plastic waste and cross-border transport of hazardous waste.

98. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua said that, historically, his country had resisted imperialist aggression manifested in so-called sanctions, which were illegal, arbitrary, unilateral and intended to suffocate the country's economy, running counter to the ideas being shared at the meeting. His country was located in a zone characterized by extreme vulnerability and constantly suffered the effects of climate change, which hit the economy hard, and should therefore remain a priority focus for ECLAC. In that regard, his country supported the concept and practice of climate justice. Nicaragua had made great efforts to lay the foundations for a development model centred on the welfare of all, a culture of peace, coexistence and combating poverty and inequalities. ECLAC should create guidelines for overcoming current challenges. Nicaragua hoped that the reflections and proposals emanating from ECLAC would give the country a better sense of the road ahead.

99. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama listed three concrete ways in which her country was combating inequality. First was *Plan Colmena*, which was intended to coordinate the comprehensive implementation of public policies throughout the country, ensuring territorial development by working with local authorities, who understood the needs of the population. She then mentioned the colossal undertaking during the pandemic of a Bicentenary Pact "*Cerrando Brechas*" (closing gaps), which had given citizens a chance to express their vision for the country through a platform that was accessible to all. After an exhaustive analysis of the proposals by a group of experts, measures that would outlast changes of government had been developed. Lastly, Panama was providing food, shelter and health care

to the migrants that arrived in the country, using resources that it could have used to further the development of its population, because it understood the humanitarian role that countries were called to fulfil in times of crisis.

100. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay said that his country remained committed to addressing crises through cooperation and integration. In view of the current challenges, there was a need for dialogue to renew the relationship between the State, civil society and the private sector in order to confront similar crises in the future. Although the war in Europe was affecting food security in Paraguay, the agriculture sector, a critical part of the national productive network, had not halted production. Noting that landlocked countries faced barriers to external trade, including lower competitiveness because of additional costs, which at times meant reducing taxes to attract capital investment and affected the State's room for manoeuvre, he underscored the importance of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. Paraguay was a proponent of open, fair and predictable international trade that addressed environmental concerns. In closing, he expressed his country's conviction that the current context represented an opportunity to generate consensus and said that ECLAC could serve as an enabling framework to achieve it.

101. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru reaffirmed his country's interest in strengthening its ties with ECLAC and said that the current context was affecting the region and especially the most vulnerable segments of the population. Multiple crises were weakening globalization and triggering doubts about multilateralism for many leaders. Countries could not achieve their objectives without reassessing the prevailing conditions, through what the Secretary-General had called "a new global compact". Peru believed in a new multilateralism, and he referred to the concept of a "constitution for the Earth", which should be drafted collaboratively to drive action for sustainability. It was more important than ever to strengthen public administration. Sustainable investment must also be prioritized and should be promoted by the State to foster sustainable and inclusive development. In that context, the support provided by ECLAC through studies and recommendations was fundamental. In closing, he said that without full respect for human rights, defence of democracy and promotion of the rule of law, it would be impossible to promote development for all citizens.

102. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname expressed support for the documents presented, the road map laid out by the new Executive Secretary and the resolutions. However, the recommendations needed to be applied to the work and finance programmes of the multilateral system in the Americas, including financial institutions. He proposed that ECLAC should organize meetings with those institutions, to align finances with implementation. CDCC had met in the previous week in Suriname, discussing critical issues including vulnerability, debt burdens, the multidimensional vulnerability index, data and statistical capacity needs, global partnerships and economic restructuring. Countries did not need any more studies on climate change; they needed more financing for their projects. Haiti was suffering a political, humanitarian and security crisis and needed real help. Globally, the war in Ukraine and COVID-19 had created uncertainty, with repercussions for the region. The situation called for greater resolve, unity and concerted action.

103. The Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that given the challenging and complex regional and global post-pandemic context, fostering growth in 2023 would take work. Amid the pandemic, coercive measures against his country had prevented or limited the procurement of necessary supplies, a situation that had been overcome with the support of other countries. Time had shown that the negative impact of COVID-19 on the population had been minimal. Support had been provided to create businesses, regularize entrepreneurs and strengthen small businesses through facilities and loans. A general policy had been implemented to drive and diversify the economy to

successful effect, leading to significant growth in the country despite the unilateral coercive sanctions. The threat represented by war in various regions of the world should be borne in mind and he reaffirmed his country's commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, based on respect for the principles and rules of international law.

Statement by Josep Borrell, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission

104. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission said that the time was right to re-establish the ties between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. The ecological and energy transition required investment in technology, regulation and standards. Europe was trying to reduce its dependence on gas from the Russian Federation, and that was opening up opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean, which had a lot of potential in green hydrogen and strategic minerals. While the region was the most biodiverse in the world, it was also one of the most vulnerable to climate change, making the development of renewable energies critical to its future and the future of all. Regarding the digital transition, the world was on the threshold of a new era, and that the digital alliance being built with the region would be based on four pillars: cooperation and political dialogue on standards and regulatory frameworks, structural connectivity, cooperation with the private sector, and electronic services and products to enable Earth observation. Lastly, he stressed that the region's tax burden was too low to create public services that would guarantee social cohesion and, without social cohesion, citizens would reject those changes. There was need of a social contract that worked, as only the health and well-being of the people guaranteed the legitimacy of governments, and he proposed that both regions collaborate in the creation of such a contract.

Statements by representatives of other high-level authorities

105. The Director of the Department of Economic Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil recognized the importance of supporting multilateralism and said that, rather than aiming to re-establish international cooperation, effective cooperation was necessary. He said that the SDGs and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation of 2019 would serve as guides. It was crucial for developed countries to fulfil their obligations and he underscored the role of South-South cooperation. It was important for ECLAC to focus on key issues such as project financing. In relation to the energy and food crisis, he mentioned a set of initiatives being implemented by Brazil to maintain flows of inputs, including fertilizers. He also referred to the thirtieth anniversary of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), which he described as a force that had enabled growth and contributed to the strengthening of democracy.

106. The Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia conveyed four main messages. First, the Government of Colombia was committed to the political and socioeconomic reintegration of the country into the region, with a vision of peace and sustainable development. Second, the decision had been made to adopt a feminist foreign policy and to try to guarantee the role of women in production. Third, it was hoped that ECLAC would help the region to preserve its enormous biodiversity and fourth, Colombia would take a rights-based approach to massive migratory flows, since migration was a challenge of development and not just of humanitarian assistance. She urged development banks to take these flows as development opportunities and announced that her government would soon convene a regional conference on migration.

107. The Director General for American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico mentioned some of the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, then said that joint action must be taken to overcome them and that dialogue was more important than ever. The 2030 Agenda had been conceived since its negotiation as a guide to be adapted to different specificities, and stakeholders continued to want to address the challenges it posed and to move towards the full implementation of its Goals. There was a need to strengthen cooperation between the countries. South-South and triangular cooperation had been the main instruments employed for that purpose, but had to be re-examined as a result of the crisis. Regional forums for integration and development were fundamental and, for his government, the principle of international cooperation was a priority. Therefore, he reaffirmed the commitment to a united region and called for gender equality to be considered a requirement for achieving prosperous and sustainable societies.

108. The Ambassador of Uruguay to Argentina said that the pandemic had revealed the fragmentation of development processes and the persistence of inequalities. It was imperative to move from rhetoric to the achievement of goals, and Uruguay was implementing active policies to that end. An open trading system that eliminated constraints was important to achieve greater development and reduce inequality gaps. His government was betting on innovative financing mechanisms that would bring about a breakthrough in the global financial system. Uruguay was contributing to global food security by moving towards green production. He mentioned the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held soon in his country with the aim of defining regional priorities for fostering digital technologies and that would be an excellent opportunity to address challenges such as those posed by artificial intelligence and 5G technology. Lastly, he said that ECLAC was perhaps the oldest instrument in the region and reaffirmed its validity as a forum for integration.

109. In summing up, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina said that such immense challenges could not be addressed without integration. In addition to structural difficulties, there were those caused by a crisis that the region had not caused, but which had to be addressed with autonomy, knowledge of national production networks and strengthened regional and interregional cooperation, in order to implement joint and solidarity-based actions. Latin America and the Caribbean was a region of peace, and it was necessary to develop the continent's productive chains, which had an enormous potential market, in order to survive in a world where unilateralism and isolation were emerging as part of a policy of preservation. Without rejecting the blessing of natural resources —green hydrogen would be strategic in the energy transition— it was necessary to add value, talent and technology, fostering energy integration. He concluded by saying that the problems at the centre of the international debate —food production, the energy crisis and inflation— required collective solutions and joint development, as well as a multilateralism based on solidarity that did not exclude any country, and the defence of human rights and democratic principles to combat hate speech and anti-democratic processes.

110. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain said that ECLAC was an essential partner to tackle the challenges posed by the new global context. Spanish cooperation with the region, through AECID, encouraged a transformation of development models and a new social contract adapted to that context, by investing in strengthening fiscal policy and public planning and management in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and fostering gender equality. Far from being dragged down by pessimism, Spain's response to those turbulent times was clear: continue to support Latin America and the Caribbean and sustainable development on the basis of the shared values that united the two regions. Spain had donated 22 million vaccines to the region and would continue to work for the countries' access to international financing mechanisms, within the European Union or financial institutions, and to encourage investment and trade between the regions. He concluded by emphasizing that the region could count on the support of Spain in those decisive moments that would determine the course of that generation and those to come.

111. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan reiterated his country's determination to work together with Latin America and the Caribbean to promote sustainable development in the region. To that end, cooperation would focus on three key aspects. First, the reinforcement of social resilience, in order to strengthen the capacity to respond to infectious diseases and natural disasters, taking into account the specific needs of countries, and not only their per capita GDP. Second, boosting growth, through digitalization as a means to address inequalities in education and health and increase production efficiency, green transformation to build resilient societies and address climate change that generated inequality, and strengthening industry by encouraging Japanese companies to invest in the region and fostering the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and women's entrepreneurship. Third, strengthening international order and peace by addressing violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as unilateral changes to the status quo by force and economic coercion.

112. The Canadian Ambassador to Argentina acknowledged and thanked ECLAC for the important work it did each year in developing analysis and knowledge that strengthened public policies and evidence-based decision-making, and in fostering dialogue and mutual collaboration. His country would continue to work with its partners to strengthen global health security and increase capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to health crises in the future. His government's feminist foreign policy promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through diplomatic, trade and international assistance initiatives. He also reaffirmed the commitment to continue working with the region on priorities of mutual interest, such as addressing the root causes of migration and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Moreover, to curb food insecurity in the countries of the hemisphere, Canada was committed to a climate-smart agriculture system, sustainable agrifood value chains and nutritious food security systems to help vulnerable and import-dependent countries.

113. The Acting Director of the Office of Economic and Development Affairs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs of the Department of State of the United States, speaking by video link, reiterated her country's commitment to the success of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, which played a critical development role. The core of the United States mission at home and abroad aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and her country applauded the session's emphasis on urgent environmental challenges and the technological revolution— both of which were top priorities and prominent themes in the government's engagement throughout the region. She highlighted United States cooperation with the United Nations system, with billions of dollars announced in humanitarian and development aid for global food security and committed to COVID-19 health programmes and assistance, and in its steadfast stance with Ukraine in defence of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Lastly, she asked States to reach out to her country's embassies with ideas for expanding cooperation with ECLAC to make the SDGs a reality.

114. The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Argentina said that the international geopolitical system continued to face unprecedented post-pandemic challenges and had failed to provide a joint response amid the erosion of multilateralism and respect for international law, a return to protectionism and ineffective global governance. ECLAC, however, was well-placed to respond at the regional level. It was time to reform an outdated system of globalization that benefited the few and to ensure genuine international cooperation and effective multilateralism through institutional reorganization, free and fair international trade and a recognition of global interconnectedness. He outlined his country's strategic outreach in the region, citing free trade agreements with various countries and the more than 500 projects undertaken by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, as well as soft power initiatives that brought his country and the region closer. In the face of the current challenges, transforming the approach to global development and governance was no longer a choice, but a necessity.

Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session (agenda item 11)

115. The secretariat presented to the delegations of States members a document containing the resolutions of the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC, for their consideration. The resolutions were adopted, and their text is included in section D of this report.

Closing session

116. At the closing ceremony, statements were made by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video); Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina; and José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

117. In a pre-recorded message, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to the region and said that social and economic policies must be put forward to address the structural inequalities exacerbated by the current food, fuel and cost of living crises. Strategic approaches to public spending were required to address the acute needs resulting from the current situation and to build the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development in the medium and long term. Several strategic sectors identified across the digital economy, the circular economy, research and development and clean energy were key to help boost economic growth and reset the course to achieving the SDGs. It was essential to advance gender equality, empower women in the labour force, and end violence against women and children. The region's rich natural resources and biological diversity must be used wisely to counter slow growth and widening social and economic gaps. Renewed forms of cooperation would be needed to mobilize sustainable investments and to build national and regional capacities.

118. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina expressed his appreciation for the opportunities for dialogue and work during the session, and emphasized that the document presented by ECLAC put forward extremely interesting ideas and encouraged debate on the design of new public policies. Behind the achievement of territorial equity were possibilities for development (productive, economic, scientific, technological and educational), and all those issues were intertwined with the gender perspective and, fundamentally, the need to continue on the path of recognizing and expanding the rights of women, genders and diverse identities. He was grateful for the opportunity to chair the session, which, in addition to being a source of pride, involved the challenge of collective work, and he underscored that no one saved themselves on their own.

119. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC expressed his gratitude for the congratulatory messages received following his appointment to the position and said that the previous few days had involved interesting technical discussions and attentive listening in order to address the challenges that lay ahead and to learn about the broad opportunities for cooperation. Cascading crises were weighing on all the countries of the region and on various sectors of the population, so economic recovery was urgently needed. Globalization was shifting towards greater regionalism and a new generation of productive development policies had to be adopted. Although the countries of the region faced many common challenges, the situation among the subregions was mixed; each country and subregion had various assets and instruments to foster inclusive development without leaving anyone behind. He highlighted the emphasis that had been placed on financial and resource mobilization issues, and said that it was time to design bold, transformative policies; there was no more time for gradual or timid change.

D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

120. At its thirty-ninth session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolutions reproduced below.

754(XXXIX) BUENOS AIRES RESOLUTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, together with operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Bearing in mind the document *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission,¹

Bearing in mind also the document *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,²

Bearing in mind further the document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission,³

Bearing in mind the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,⁴

Bearing in mind also the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,⁵

Bearing in mind further the document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission,⁶

Emphasizing that General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, offers an opportunity for all the countries in the region to progress towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as well as ending hunger and reducing inequalities, as proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the documents presented at its past five sessions,

¹ LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

² LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

³ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

⁴ LC/G.2660(SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661(SES.36/4).

⁵ LC/SES.37/3-P and LC/SES.37/4.

⁶ LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1 and LC/SES.38/4.

Bearing in mind that the guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023, incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and General Assembly resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental spheres,⁷

Having reviewed the document *Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability* and its summary, prepared by the secretariat, which complements the trilogy of equality,⁸

1. *Takes note* of the document *Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability* and welcomes the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception;

2. *Recognizes* the relevance of the issues examined and supports the general tenor of the document’s conclusions;

3. *Instructs* the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries, in close cooperation with their policymakers, with a view to supporting the building of national capacities for the achievement of sustainable development, and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Calls upon* the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country’s national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

⁷ LC/PLEN.36/3.

⁸ LC/SES.39/3-P and LC/SES.39/4.

**755(XXXIX) CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES OF ECLAC
FOR THE PERIOD 2023–2024**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 419(PLEN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the system of the Commission, in which it decided that, at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next regular session should be considered,

Taking into account resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the Commission's intergovernmental structure and functions, in which it was recommended that the current institutional structure should be maintained,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 entitled "Pattern of conferences" and the provision concerning the principle of rotation of the venue for the sessions of the Commission as laid down in rule 2 of its rules of procedure and reiterated in its resolution 480(XXI),

Taking into account resolution 553(XXVI) on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission, in which it was recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the Commission's system should continue to serve as the basis for maintaining the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of its work,

Bearing in mind the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that establish and govern the periodicity of the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also resolution 676(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, in which it was decided, for economic and environmental reasons, to employ documents in electronic format for the future sessions and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Having examined the proposed calendar of the Commission's intergovernmental conferences for the period,¹

Considering the objectives and priorities established in the subprogrammes of the work programme approved by the member States at the thirty-eighth session,

1. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approves the calendar of conferences of the Commission as it appears in the annex to this resolution, along with the observations and suggestions included in the report of thirty-ninth session;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission's current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms as well as cost-effective, and recommends that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary with a view to an ongoing and sustained improvement in those services;

¹ See *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2023–2024. Note by the secretariat* (LC/SES.39/7).

3. *Further reaffirms* the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic, social and sustainable development fields;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary to ensure implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fortieth session.

ECLAC CALENDAR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2023–2024

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2023	Nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC and ILPES regular budget
2023	Thirty-seventh session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Twenty-third session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	First session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Resolution 752(PLEN.36) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Sixty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Fourth session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters, Santiago, 24–28 April	ECLAC resolution 700(XXXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12–15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Preparatory meeting for the Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	ECLAC regular budget and extrabudgetary resources
2023	Twenty-second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2023	Twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Special meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	Argentina, April	Decision I/5 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	ECLAC regular budget
2023	Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	^{a b}	Decision I/1 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	^{a b}	Decision I/5 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	^{a b}	Decision I/1 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 700(XXXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Fortieth session of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI)	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Thirtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	Regular budget of ILPES and ECLAC
2024	Sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Fifth meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12–15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Twenty-third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2024	Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	ECLAC regular budget and extrabudgetary resources

^a Place to be determined.

^b Date to be determined.

**756(XXXIX) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, at which the region adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development,

Recalling also that the forty-fifth anniversary of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was celebrated in 2022,

Recalling further resolution 558(XXVI), in which it adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001,

Recalling that, in the Lima Consensus, adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries undertook to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action beyond the year 2001,¹

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits, which reaffirms that gender mainstreaming must form an integral part of the implementation of the decisions of recent United Nations summits and conferences,

Mindful of the agreements adopted by States that are parties to relevant human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, as well as of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews,

Recalling the countries' commitment to implement and monitor the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide, and recognizing its contribution to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard,²

Highlighting that, at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, the countries adopted the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030,³

Taking note of the adoption of the Santiago Commitment⁴ at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 27 to 31 January 2020,

¹ See *Report of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2087(CRM.8/6)).

² LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

³ See *Report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRM.13/6/Rev.1).

⁴ See *Report of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRM.14/7).

Bearing in mind that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, has held four meetings of the Presiding Officers: the sixtieth meeting, in virtual format, from 23 to 25 February 2021, the sixty-first meeting, in virtual format, on 29 and 30 September 2021, the sixty-second meeting, in virtual format, on 26 and 27 February 2022, and a special meeting in Santiago, on 22 and 23 June 2022,

Having in mind the outcomes of and the commitments adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,

Taking into account the work carried out by the Commission and the other agencies which support the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the considerable progress achieved in disseminating and redesigning the Observatory,

Taking note of the initiatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to mainstreaming the gender perspective,

Deeply concerned that the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the social and economic situation of all women and girls, including adolescent girls, and their access to quality education and essential healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as the increased demand for paid and unpaid care and domestic work, are deepening existing inequalities and risk reversing the progress in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls as well as the economic autonomy of women made in recent decades,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the sixtieth meeting, sixty-first meeting, sixty-second meeting and the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in virtual format from 23 to 25 February 2021, on 29 and 30 September 2021, on 26 and 27 January 2022, and in Santiago on 22 and 23 June 2022, respectively;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms, and to take action to fulfil the Goal on the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course, as well as the other 16 Goals, in order to achieve robust sustainable development;

3. *Recommends* the redoubling of efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals reflect gender inequality and can be used to design effective public policies for overcoming such inequalities;

4. *Commends* the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasizes the need to strengthen work at all levels in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers, and machineries for the advancement of all women and girls throughout their life course, as well as relevant civil society organizations, the private sector and academia;

5. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in the work relating to gender statistics in the region, as well as in shedding light on gender affairs at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission, as well as in the work related to the organization and follow-up of the Regional Conferences and the support provided to the Governments;

6. *Also acknowledges* the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including adolescent girls, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Calls for* active participation in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 7 to 11 November 2022 under the theme “The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality”;

8. *Recommends* that the delegations participating in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean bear in mind and promote gender balance in their composition;

9. *Requests* that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society, inter alia, women’s organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector and national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference, as appropriate, on the understanding that the quality of democracy is contingent on citizen participation;

10. *Encourages* the design and implementation of comprehensive public policies and programmes that integrate sustainable development, including mainstreaming a transformative gender perspective, to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other multiple crises, and reiterates the call to include actions that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of all women in strategic sectors of the economy for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery.

757(XXXIX) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 340(AC.66) of 25 January 1974, in which it directed that the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) should become a permanent institution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with its own identity and directly responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission,

Reiterating its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provide to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

Noting that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Regional Council for Planning held its eighteenth meeting in virtual format, from 19 to 21 October 2021,

Noting also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Council for Planning, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, held the twenty-eighth meeting of its Presiding Officers virtually on 12 November 2020,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,¹

1. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted at the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held virtually from 19 to 21 October 2021, and of the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Council at their twenty-eighth meeting, held virtually on 12 November 2020;

2. *Expresses* its conviction that the policies adopted by States should be geared towards long term aims and afford increasing attention to building visions for the future, centred on reducing inequalities, promoting the prosperity of their peoples, and furthering sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of public policy consistency for strengthening the processes and instruments of planning for development and public management for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the Institute to maintain applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training to promote cross-sectoral and multilevel integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in planning for development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Regular System of Government Financing is essential for the continuity of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work, as a complement to the regular budget of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

¹ See *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/CRP.18/6); *Report of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/MDCRP.28/4).

5. *Expresses* its concern at the critical level of resources reached by the Regular System of Government Financing² and requests member States to take the necessary measures to make and regularize their contributions to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning in conformity with their respective normative frameworks and circumstances, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to ensure and strengthen the operation of the Institute within existing resources of the regular budget of the organization, and to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds;

7. *Reiterates* the recommendation that the Institute should strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and should step up the activities it conducts in that area in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of the Commission and other international institutions;

8. *Decides* to convene the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in the second half of 2023.

² See *Report on the status of the Regular System of Government Financing for the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/MDCRP.29/4).

**758(XXXIX) STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by which it approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

Bearing in mind also that the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its eleventh meeting in virtual format, from 23 to 25 November 2021,¹

Taking into account also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its twentieth meeting, in virtual format on 7 and 8 April 2021, and its twenty-first meeting, in Santiago on 24 and 25 August 2022,

Taking into account further that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,²

Recognizing the increasing importance of reliable, good-quality, timely, disaggregated public statistics and the growing need to provide these for the sake of transparency, accountability of the public authorities and the evidence-based evaluation of public policy outcomes, which are key elements for sustainable development and for enhancing democracy in the region, as well as for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing further the contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on the development of the region's indicators,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in virtual format, from 23 to 25 November 2021, and of twentieth and twenty-first meetings of its Executive Committee, held virtually on 7 and 8 April 2021, and in Santiago on 24 and 25 August 2022, respectively;

¹ See *Report of the eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.11/14).

² See *Report of the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.20/5) and the draft report of the twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CE.21/PINF).

2. *Also takes note* of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;³

3. *Encourages* the countries to share statistical information on the Sustainable Development Goals including through the use of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals —SDG Gateway— to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Commends* the Conference on the steps taken to mainstream the gender perspective in official statistics through the endorsement of the *Guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas*⁴ and the establishment of the advisory group on gender mainstreaming of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,⁵ which will issue recommendations and suggestions for the proper consideration of the gender perspective in the outputs of the working groups of the Conference;

5. *Expresses its thanks* to the national statistical offices and other agencies producing official statistics for having maintained regional collaboration and the production of the agreed outputs of the working groups, despite the restrictions imposed on their work as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

6. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the activities carried out by the Knowledge Transfer Network in organizing remote meetings and jointly constructing a repository of information relevant to the production and dissemination of statistics, as well as in the creation of virtual communities intended to encourage dialogue and the sharing of experiences on issues of importance for the countries of the region;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of multidimensional and complementary development measures and urges close collaboration between national statistical offices and ministries or institutions;

8. *Urges* the member States of the Conference to support the proper conduct of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, both by applying relevant international recommendations and standards, and by mobilizing the necessary financial resources to carry out these censuses, as they are essential to decision-making in the framework of a sustainable and inclusive recovery that leaves no one behind.

³ LC/CEA.11/11.

⁴ LC/CEA.11/9.

⁵ LC/CEA.11/13.

**759(XXXIX) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development, as well as other relevant internationally agreed instruments, constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national, regional, and international levels,¹

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, represents an opportunity for the countries of the region to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions, as well as eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling also that by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2014, the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind that, by virtue of resolution 2014/32, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in resolution 682(XXXV) of the Commission,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its fourth session in virtual format, from 26 to 28 October 2021 in Santiago,

Bearing in mind that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held the fourth and fifth meetings of its Presiding Officers, in virtual format on 13 January 2021 and in person in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 29 September 2022, respectively,

Considering that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,²

¹ See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development* (Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995) (A/CONF.166/9).

² See *Report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CDS.4/4), *Report of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDS.4/4) and the draft report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/MDS.5/PINF).

Taking into account the additional challenges brought about by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in terms of poverty and inequalities, and acknowledging that such challenges require universal and comprehensive, sustainable, equitable and resilient social protection systems to be strengthened,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually from October 26 to 28 2021;

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the fourth and fifth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually on 13 January 2021 and in person in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 29 September 2022, respectively;

3. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal and inclusive action plan based on the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental— whose goals and targets are indivisible, and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the platforms in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimension of sustainable development, in line with the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, adopted in 2019;

4. *Requests* that the secretariat support the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries in identifying key policy areas that can be strengthened in accordance with the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, in keeping with national and subnational realities and with a view to the factors that hinder poverty eradication and perpetuate social inequalities in the region;

5. *Also requests* that the secretariat organize, maintain and systematically update the Observatory on Social Development, on the basis of official data provided by the countries;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to convene the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, jointly with the XV Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is convened by the United Nations Development Programme.

**760(XXXIX) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, and resolution 65/234 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, whereby it was decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as an instrument for realizing the human rights of all, reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind,

Recalling also the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and their contribution to following up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its fourth session in Santiago, from 28 to 30 June 2022,

Bearing in mind also that since the thirty-eighth session of the Commission the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held an executive meeting in virtual format, on 20 May 2021,

Considering all relevant regional and international developments on population and development matters, in particular the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, at which the Asunción Declaration, “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, was adopted, the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, at which the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted, and the International Migration Review Forum, held at United Nations headquarters in New York from 17 to 20 May 2022,¹

1. *Takes note* of the agreements adopted by the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at its fourth session, held in Santiago from 28 to 30 June 2022, and by the Presiding Officers at their executive meeting, held virtually on 20 May 2021, which are reflected in the respective meeting reports;²

¹ See the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum (A/RES/76/266) [online] <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/376/66/PDF/N2237666.pdf?OpenElement>.

² See *Report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRPD.4/7) and *Report of the executive meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/REMP.2021/3).

2. *Renews* the countries' commitment to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide³ as a voluntary technical tool for assisting countries, values the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus as a tool that can help to identify gaps and common challenges with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus,⁴ and recognizes the contribution of the *First regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*⁵ to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

3. *Invites* member States to participate in the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago from 13 to 15 December 2022, and in the fourth global five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which will take place in 2023;

4. *Urges* all member States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, and invites all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation;

5. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Population Fund for its support for the activities of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to make their contributions, as appropriate, to the activities to be carried out by the Conference.

³ LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

⁴ See paragraph 15 of resolution 4(IV) adopted at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, 28-30 June 2022 [online] <https://crpd.cepal.org/4/en/documents/resolution-4iv>.

⁵ LC/CRPD.3/6.

**761(XXXIX) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recognizing that the benefits of the information technology revolution are today unevenly distributed between developed and developing countries and within societies, and reaffirming our full commitment to turning these digital divides into digital opportunities for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized,

Recognizing also that building an inclusive information society requires new forms of solidarity, partnership and cooperation among governments and other stakeholders, namely the private sector, civil society and international organizations,

Taking into account the potential of information and communication technologies for furthering the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reaffirming the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society and the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, which reaffirms the need to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and requests that a high-level meeting be held in 2025,

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 68 of that resolution, in which the regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and to contribute reviews thereof, including through regional reviews,

Recognizing that the digital economy forms a crucial component of progressive structural change aimed at increasing the relative share of knowledge-intensive production activities in the economy, enhancing competitiveness and making progress towards social inclusion and the reduction of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing the urgent need for capacity-building to create, share and utilize digital technologies to benefit from the new digital revolution and accelerate the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries,

Emphasizing the need to create conditions in which to boost the digital economy, by addressing barriers that hinder the deployment and diffusion of digital technologies and promoting the exchange of goods and services online,

Mindful that the development of a regional digital market could generate opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth, while stimulating investment, productivity and competitiveness,

Aware of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to the information society and information and communications technologies,

Recognizing that, in the 17 years since its formal establishment in 2005, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant contributions to a common vision for building an inclusive information society in the region,

Emphasizing that digital technologies have been essential to the functioning of the economy and society during the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including by facilitating access to essential goods and services,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in virtual format from 23 to 26 November 2020, and of the adoption of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022);¹

2. *Reinforces* the call for digital solidarity, both at national and international levels, in line with the Geneva Declaration of Principles, in which it is acknowledged that achieving the ambitious goal of bridging the digital divide and ensuring harmonious, fair and equitable development for all will require strong commitment by all stakeholders;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to take the necessary measures to ensure that all countries of the world have equitable and affordable access to information and communication technologies, so that their benefits in the fields of socioeconomic development and bridging the digital divides are truly inclusive;

4. *Calls upon* all member States to participate in the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Montevideo from 16 to 18 November 2022;

5. *Commends* the joint efforts made by member States to strengthen regional collaboration on the information society with a view to identifying the advances achieved by Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of rethinking the digital governance model within the framework of a digital welfare state that promotes universal, meaningful and affordable access to information and communications technologies, protects the economic, social and labour rights of the population, repudiates the unauthorized collection and improper or unauthorized use of personal data, and fosters innovation and the diffusion of technology in the productive system, for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms the need to promote public policies for this purpose;

7. *Stresses* the need to close all digital divides, which have been widened by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, both between and within countries and including rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to promote digital inclusion, by taking into account national and regional contexts and addressing the challenges associated with access, affordability, digital literacy and digital skills

¹ LC/CMSI.7/5.

and awareness and by ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are available to all, taking into account the needs of those who are in vulnerable situations, and noting the efforts to help to bridge digital divides and expand access, including the Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology, including Broadband, for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially with regard to the advisability and feasibility of advancing an agenda for the development of a regional digital market in close cooperation with stakeholders.

**762(XXXIX) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2024**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Commission and the mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations concerning the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies of the system,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”¹ and General Assembly resolutions 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 69/313 “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)”, as well as the Paris Agreement,²

Recalling further paragraphs 80 and 81 of resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which welcome the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encourage the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as General Assembly resolutions 72/279, 72/236, 73/248 and 74/297 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2019/15 and 2020/23,

Reaffirming the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its role as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States, with a view to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner at the regional level,

Emphasizing the importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations development system by: (i) strengthening regional and subregional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits; (ii) the need to address gaps and overlaps bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for the regional approach and that it is necessary to consider the specificities of each region and the strengths of its regional mechanisms; (iii) the need to preserve the existing functions already performed by the United Nations development system at the regional level, including current interactions between the regional economic commissions and member States; and (iv) the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commissions,

Having reviewed the outcomes and activities of 2021 as reflected in the *Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021*,³ as well as the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the draft programme

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

³ LC/SES.39/5.

of work of the ECLAC system, 2024,⁴ which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, which updates and reinforces the priorities endorsed by the Commission at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole, and further strengthens programming, results-based management and evaluation,

Bearing in mind that the basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the draft programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to provide integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental dimensions,

Recognizing the efforts made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to update and align the content and modalities of the programme of work with the new requirements emerging from the aforementioned agendas, action plans and instruments,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration on a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, signed by ministers of foreign affairs and high-level representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission,

Taking note of the United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19 to address the consequences of the coronavirus disease pandemic,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Latin America and the Caribbean and reiterating the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in the regional and global response to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by engaging all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Recognizing also the challenge to accelerate the cultural change necessary to fully implement the new management paradigm in the United Nations that promotes, inter alia, delegation of authority, transparency and accountability, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and a culture of continuous learning,

Reiterating the importance of empowered, strategic, effective and impartial leadership through the resident coordinator system and that all entities of the United Nations development system fully support the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including through inter-agency collaboration,

Recognizing the efforts made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to implement its programme of work in a timely manner despite the constraints imposed by the coronavirus disease pandemic,

⁴ LC/SES/39/6.

Recalling its rules of procedure,

1. *Adopts* the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024 in its totality, which, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production and dissemination of a broad range of knowledge products and publications identified therein;

2. *Emphasizes* and welcomes the fact that the draft programme of work and priorities of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2024 reflect the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities of the programme of work to the requirements arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, including the accelerated modalities and priorities of the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as from other internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work, 2024 to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

4. *Welcomes* the *Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021* and underlines the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by the Commission in the different areas of work, commending its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the member States of the region;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* for the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Commission to the benefit of the region's development and recommends pursuing those efforts further;

6. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the continuity of its operations and availability of products and services considering the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic;

7. *Stresses* that a downward trend in funding allocated to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean would limit its ability to carry out the activities set forth in its programme of work, and the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to it;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the implementation of best practices in the gradual return to a new normality in the context of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to monitor those practices regularly to ensure that they contribute to the operations of the Commission and the implementation of its mandates;

9. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening and broadening the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-seventh session of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission.

**763(XXXIX) CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,¹

Considering the key role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to science, technology and innovation, as well as policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva Plan of Action), especially as regards the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

Recalling resolution 672(XXXIV) adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/242 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 22 December 2017,

Reaffirming that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Aware of the importance of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies,

Recognizing the strategic and essential role of science, technology, innovation and digital technologies in addressing the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including by facilitating access to essential goods and services,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies held its third meeting, in hybrid format, from 13 to 15 December 2021,

¹ See chapter I of *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978 (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1)*.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, held in hybrid format from 13 to 15 December 2021, the adoption of the Buenos Aires Declaration and the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2022–2023 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies, contained in the annex to that Declaration;²

2. *Reaffirms* the need to improve the positioning of science, technology and innovation policies with a view to fostering dynamic sectors that lay the foundations for more sustainable and inclusive development in the countries of the region.

² LC/CCITIC.3/4.

764(XXXIX) CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recognizing the important role of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a forum in which the Governments of the subregion exchange information and share experiences with a view to addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges and furthering sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,

Bearing in mind that the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twentieth meeting in virtual format on 5 November 2021, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-ninth session on 14 October 2022, and that, on those occasions, they adopted conclusions and resolutions, which appear in their respective reports,¹

Recalling that the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which brings together high-level experts and policymakers to consider key issues relating to development in the subregion, was first established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in March 2010,²

Recognizing the Caribbean Development Roundtable as a valuable forum for fostering strategic thinking and stimulating the consideration of policy options to address critical Caribbean development challenges, and as a mechanism for forging partnerships between Latin America and the Caribbean through dialogue and engagement,

Highlighting the positive contribution made by the seventh meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable to the consideration of key issues on the sustainable development agenda of Caribbean small island developing States, particularly debt sustainability, resilience-building and economic recovery post- COVID-19,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its twentieth meeting and the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-ninth session;

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the Caribbean Development Roundtable on a biennial basis and calls on development partners to work in collaboration with the members of the Commission in support of these meetings;

3. *Reaffirms* the key role of the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in coordinating development support for the subregion, in collaboration with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and through direct engagement with Caribbean development partners, including the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;

¹ See the resolutions adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and *Report of the twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* (LC/MCCDCC.20/4).

² See resolution 73(XXIII), adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session, held in St. George's on 15 and 17 March 2010 (LC/CAR/L.257).

4. *Welcomes* the role that the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, is mandated to play in supporting the efforts of the small island developing States to monitor and advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global instruments, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Paris Agreement;

5. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-ninth session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its twentieth meeting and the conclusions reached at the seventh meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

**765(XXXIX) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
FOR THE DECADE 2014–2024**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹ adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner,

Recalling that, in its resolution 69/232, the General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner,

Recalling also its resolutions 711(XXXVI), 732(XXXVII) and 745(XXXVIII) on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the Commission, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,²

Bearing in mind also that the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation, are fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies at the national and regional level, as well as its invitation to regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation; and again encourages the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships;

2. *Calls upon* the secretariat to continue providing technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, trade facilitation, transport facilitation, logistical integration and logistics cost studies and its impact on the gross domestic product (GDP) of these countries,

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/137.

² General Assembly resolution 74/15.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

3. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation are vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation;

4. *Encourages* financial institutions and regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make investments to address gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure.

766(XXXIX) PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of its terms of reference and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Peru to host the fortieth session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Peru for its generous invitation;
2. *Accepts* this invitation with appreciation;
3. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations approve the decision to hold the fortieth session of the Commission in Peru in 2024.

Annex 1

**DOCUMENTOS PRESENTADOS AL TRIGÉSIMO NOVENO
PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN**

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE THIRTY-NINTH
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

A. DOCUMENTOS DE TRABAJO/WORKING DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| LC/SES.39/1/Rev.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional – Provisional agenda – Ordre du jour provisoire – Agenda provisória |
| LC/SES.39/2/Rev.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temario provisional anotado y organización del trigésimo noveno período de sesiones – Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the thirty-ninth session – Annotations à l'ordre du jour provisoire et organisation de la trente-neuvième session – Agenda provisória anotada e organização do trigésimo nono período de sessões |
| LC/SES.39/3-P | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hacia la transformación del modelo de desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe: producción, inclusión y sostenibilidad – Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability |
| LC/SES.39/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hacia la transformación del modelo de desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe: producción, inclusión y sostenibilidad. Síntesis – Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability. Summary – Vers la transformation du modèle de développement en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes: production, inclusion et durabilité. Synthèse – Rumo à transformação do modelo de desenvolvimento na América Latina e no Caribe: produção, inclusão e sustentabilidade. Síntese |
| LC/SES.39/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Informe de actividades del sistema de la CEPAL, 2021 – Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021 |

- LC/SES.39/6
- Proyecto de programa de trabajo del sistema de la CEPAL, 2024
 - Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2024
- LC/SES.39/7
- Calendario de conferencias de la CEPAL propuesto para el período 2023-2024. Note by the Secretariat
 - Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2023–2024. Note by the secretariat
- LC/SES.39/8
- Documentos presentados al trigésimo noveno período de sesiones de la Comisión
 - Documents presented at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

B. DOCUMENTOS DE REFERENCIA/REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- LC/SES.39/DDR/1
- Informe de las actividades de los órganos subsidiarios de la CEPAL y de los resultados de otras reuniones intergubernamentales organizadas por la CEPAL desde su trigésimo octavo período de sesiones
 - Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its thirty-eighth session

Annex 2

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS¹**

A. Estados miembros de la Comisión/Member States of the Commission

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

- Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, email: dean.jonas@ab.gov.ag (virtual)

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- Santiago Cafiero, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: cller@cancilleria.gov.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Raquel Olmos, Ministra de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: ceremonial@trabajo.gov.ar
- Daniel Fernando Filmus, Ministro de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, email: privada@mincyt.gov.ar
- Raquel Cecilia Kismer, Ministra de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: kolmos@trabajo.gov.ar
- Mercedes Marcó del Pont, Secretaria de Asuntos Estratégicos, Presidencia de la Nación, email: sae@presidencia.gov.ar
- Pablo Anselmo Tettamanti, Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: privadaseree@mrecic.gov.ar
- Cecilia Todesca Bocco, Secretaria de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: privadascrei@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gabriel Rubinstein, Secretario de Política Económica, Ministerio de Economía
- Marcelo Bellotti, Secretario de Trabajo, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: mcbellotti@trabajo.gov.ar
- Leonardo Julio Di Pietro Paolo, Secretario de Empleo, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: Idipietro@trabajo.gov.ar
- Luis Bulit Goñi, Secretario de Seguridad Social, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: lbulit@trabajo.gov.ar
- Luciana Tito, Jefa de Gabinete, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: cgabi@mrecic.gov.ar
- Claudio Javier Rozencwaig, Subsecretario de Política Exterior, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: privadasubpe@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gustavo Daniel Martínez Pandiani, Subsecretario de Asuntos de América Latina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: suala@mrecic.gov.ar

¹ Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión. The information contained in this list is as supplied by the participants themselves, in the register provided for the meeting.

- Federico González Perini, Subsecretario del MERCOSUR y Negociaciones Económicas Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: privadasumen@mrecic.gov.ar
- Martín Schapiro, Subsecretario de Asuntos Estratégicos Internacionales, Presidencia de la Nación
- Candelaria Alvarez Moroni, Subsecretaria de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Economía
- Diego Javier Schleser, Subsecretario de Planificación, Estudios y Estadística, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- Sabina Frederic, Presidenta, Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria Cascos Blancos, email: fdk@mrecic.gov.ar
- Marco Lavagna, Director, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), email: mlavagna@indec.gob.ar
- Mariano Poledo, Director Nacional de Planificación, Relaciones Institucionales e Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), email: mpoledo@indec.gob.ar
- Martín Chojo, Director de Relaciones Institucionales e Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), email: mchojo@indec.gob.ar
- María Sandra Winkler, Directora de Integración Económica de Latinoamérica y Caribe, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: maw@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gerardo Díaz Bartolomé, Director de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: dbg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Enrique Hurtado, Director, Centro de Economía Internacional (CEI), Secretaría de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales
- Gerardo Alfredo Corres, Director de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: gcorres@trabajo.gob.ar
- David Edgardo Trajtemberg, Director de Estudios y Estadísticas de Relaciones de Trabajo, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: dtrajtem@trabajo.gob.ar
- Alejandro Javier Negro, Director de Ceremonial y Relaciones Institucionales, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: anegro@trabajo.gob.ar
- Karina Pombo, Directora Nacional de Promoción de la Política Científica, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, email: kpombo@mincyt.gob.ar
- Roberto Sukerman, Titular de la Unidad Gabinete de Asesores, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: rsukerman@trabajo.gob.ar
- Layla Brandy, Asesora Principal, Secretaría de Empleo, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: lbrandy@trabajo.gob.ar
- Marysol Rodríguez, Jefa, Departamento de Asuntos Regionales y Multilaterales, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- María José Olguin, Analista, Dirección de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- Thiago Sabato Martins, Analista, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, email: tsabato@trabajo.gob.ar
- Frida Armas Pfrirter, Coordinadora General, Comisión Nacional del Límite Exterior de la Plataforma Continental (COPLA), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: fza@mrecic.gov.ar
- Luciano D'Ascenzo, Coordinador de Cooperación Multilateral, Dirección Nacional de Promoción de la Política Científica, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, email: ldascenzo@mincyt.gob.ar
- Ignacio Nesci, Coordinador de Ceremonial y Protocolo, email: ignacionesci@gmail.com
- Nicolás Petresky, Coordinador de Relaciones Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), email: npetresky@indec.gob.ar
- Luciano Hernán Escobar, Gabinete del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: lhs@mrecic.gov.ar

- Santiago Galar, Director Nacional, Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria Cascos Blancos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: sg2@mrecic.gov.ar
- Juan Ignacio Roccatagliata, Director de Cooperación Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: ignaciorocca2010@gmail.com
- Alicia Barone, Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria Cascos Blancos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: abr@mrecic.gov.ar
- María Laura Falótico, Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria Cascos Blancos, email: fml@mrecic.gov.ar
- Francisco López Achaval, Consejero, Dirección de Integración Económica de Latinoamérica y Caribe, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: fzl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Esteban de Anchorena, Consejero, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: tj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Leandro Abbenante, Consejero, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: nnt@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mariana Eyharchet, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: mey@mrecic.gov.ar
- Viviana Sosa, Secretaria de Primera Clase, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: vsq@mrecic.gov.ar
- Natalia Babio, Secretaria de Primera Clase, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: bnv@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mariano Javier López Ferrucci, Funcionario, Dirección de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: jly@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lucila Agustina Rosso, Asesora, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, email: lrosso@mincyt.gob.ar

BAHAMAS

Representante/Representative:

- Frederick Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, email: aecchair@gmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Meghan Cooper, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, email: meghancooper@bahamas.gov.bs

BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)/BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Representante/Representative:

- Rogelio Mayta, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mreuno@rree.gob.bo

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Erwin Freddy Mamani Machaca, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: efmamani@rree.gob.bo
- Jorge Ramiro Tapia Sainz, Embajador del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en la Argentina
- Iván Mauricio Rodríguez Leigue, Consejero, Embajada del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en la Argentina

BRASIL/BRAZIL

Representante/Representative:

- Fernando Meirelles de Azevedo Pimentel, Director, Departamento de Política Comercial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: dpc@itamaraty.gov.br

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Reinaldo Salgado, Embajador del Brasil en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: reinaldo.salgado@itamaraty.gov.br
- Mauricio Favero, Ministro Consejero, Embajada del Brasil en Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mauricio.favero@itamaraty.gov.br
- Pablo Gustavo Barbosa Martins, Primer Secretario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: paulo.gustavo@itamaraty.gov.br

CANADÁ/CANADA

Representante/Representative:

- Reid Douglas Sirrs, Embajador del Canadá en la Argentina, email: reid.sirrs@international.gc.ca

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Daniel Arsenault, Consejero Político, Embajada del Canadá en la Argentina, email: daniel.arsenault@international.gc.ca

CHILE

Representante/Representative:

- Antonia Urrejola, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cmunoz@minrel.gob.cl

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Bárbara Figueroa Sandoval, Embajadora de Chile en la Argentina, email: bfigueroa@minrel.gob.cl
- Alex Wetzig, Secretario General de Política Exterior, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: awetzig@minrel.gob.cl
- Lorena Díaz, Embajadora Directora de Comunicaciones Estratégicas, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ldiaz@minrel.gob.cl
- Enrique O’Farrill, Director Ejecutivo (S), Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), email: eofarrill@agci.gob.cl
- Alberto Rodríguez, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: arodriguez@minrel.gob.cl
- Bernardo del Picó, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: bdpico@minrel.gob.cl
- Pablo Bustos, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cdegueldre@minrel.gob.cl
- Patricio Williams, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: pwilliams@minrel.gob.cl
- Catalina Barcelo, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cbarcelo@minrel.gob.cl
- Bruno Aguirre, Segundo Secretario, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: baguirre@minrel.gob.cl

- Camila Manríquez, Tercera Secretaria, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cmanriquezs@minrel.gob.cl
- Vadim Belloni Boldina, Tercer Secretario, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: vbelloni@minrel.gob.cl
- Nicolás Godoy, Asesor, Embajada de Chile en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ngodoy@minrel.gob.cl

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

- Álvaro Leyva, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: carolina.jimenez@cancilleria.gov.co

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- José Antonio Ocampo Gaviria, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público, email: jose.ocampo@minhacienda.gov.co
- Laura Gil, Viceministra de Asuntos Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: claudia.monroy@cancilleria.gov.co
- Camilo Romero, Embajador de Colombia en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Inés Elvira Herrera, Ministra Plenipotenciaria, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ines.herrera@cancilleria.gov.co
- Laura Moreno, Asesora, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público, email: lmoreno@minhacienda.gov.co
- Magdalena Durana, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Colombia en la Argentina, email: magdalena.durana@cancilleria.gov.co
- Nadia Borja, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de Colombia en la Argentina
- Lina Ramírez, Segunda Secretaria, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: lina.ramirez@cancilleria.gov.co
- María Camila Mugno, Asesora
- Luis Alejandro Ortiz, Asesor
- Gustavo Adolfo Alba, Asesor

COSTA RICA

Representante/Representative:

- Arnoldo André Tinoco, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: despacho-canciller@rree.go.cr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Vicecanciller para Asuntos Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: desp-vm@rree.go.cr
- Adriana Solano, Directora General de Política Exterior, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: dpoliticaexterior@rree.go.cr
- Ginnette Campos Rojas, Embajadora de Costa Rica en la Argentina, email: ginnette.campos@rree.go.cr
- Adriana Murillo, Embajadora de Costa Rica en Chile, email: ammurillo@rree.go.cr
- Carlos Roberto Rodríguez Brenes, Ministro Consejero y Cónsul General, Embajada de Costa Rica en la Argentina, email: carodriguez@rree.go.cr

CUBA

Representante/Representative:

- Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Ministro del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de Cuba, email: despacho@mincex.gob.cu

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Déborah Rivas Saavedra, Viceministra, Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, email: deborah.rivas@mincex.gob.cu
- Carlos Luis Jorge Méndez, Director General de Inversión Extranjera, Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, email: carlos.jorge@mincex.gob.cu
- Solangel Santana Viaña, Especialista, Dirección de Organismos Económicos Internacionales, Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, email: solangel.santana@mincex.gob.cu
- Pedro Pablo Prada Quintero, Embajador de Cuba en la Argentina, email: embajador@ar.embacuba.cu
- Dagmara Calzada Pérez, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: asuntospoliticos@ar.embacuba.cu

ECUADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Juan Carlos Holguín Maldonado, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: eecuchile@mmrree.gob.ec

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Lotty Andrade Abdo, Subsecretaria de América Latina y el Caribe, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: lfandrade@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Gabriela Lizzet Gallegos, Directora de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, email: gabriela.gallegos@mintel.gob.ec
- Fernando Rafael Yanez Valverde, Subsecretario de Seguimiento, Secretaría Nacional de Planificación, email: fyanez@planificacion.gob.ec
- Xavier Alfonso Monge Yoder, Embajador del Ecuador en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: xmonge@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Ivonne del Consuelo Garcés Almeida, Ministra, Embajada del Ecuador en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: ivgarces@cancilleria.gob.ec
- Verónica Gómez Ricaurte, Directora de Integración Regional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: vgomez@cancilleria.gob.ec (virtual)
- Tatiana Unda Proaño, Analista, Dirección de Integración Regional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, email: tunda@cancilleria.gob.ec (virtual)

EL SALVADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ejcardoza@rree.gob.sv

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Eduardo José Cardoza Mata, Embajador de El Salvador en Argentina, email: embajadaargentina@rree.gob.sv
- Rina Yessenia Lozano Gallegos, Coordinadora Nacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: rylzano@rree.gob.sv

- Patricia Griselda Uceda Guevara, Agregada de Protocolo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: pguceda@rree.gob.sv
- Mario René Pascasio, Técnico, Producción Audiovisual, Dirección de Comunicaciones, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mpascasio@rree.gob.sv
- Rómulo Edgardo Romero Galdámez, Ministro Consejero, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: reromero@rree.gob.sv

ESPAÑA/SPAIN

Representante/Representative:

- José Manuel Albares Bueno, Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: juan.gala@maec.es

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Juan Fernández Trigo, Secretario de Estado para Iberoamérica y el Caribe y el Español en el Mundo, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: sepicem@maec.es
- María Lledó Laredo, Secretaria General para la Unión Europea, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: maria.lledo@maec.es
- María Jesús Alonso Jiménez, Embajadora de España en la Argentina, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: mjesus.alonso@maec.es
- Diego Martínez Bello, Director de Gabinete del Ministro, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: diego.martinez@maec.es
- Julio Pastor Bayón, Director General de Comunicación, Diplomacia Pública y Redes, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: julio.pastor@maec.es
- Luis Tejada Chacín, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de España en la Argentina, email: emb.buenosaires@maec.es
- Christian Celdrán Kuhl, Segundo Introdutor de Embajadores, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: christian.celdran@maec.es
- Adriana Viz Fernández, Asesora del Ministro, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: adriana.viz@maec.es
- Alejandra García Fuentes, Asesora del Ministro, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: alejandra.garcia@maec.es
- Javier Hernández Martín, Cámara Oficial Española de Comercio, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: javier@nolsom.com
- Felix Pablo Rico Carpeño, Jefe de Escoltas, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email : felix.rico@maec.es
- Oscar García Ramos, Escolta, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: oscar.garcia@maec.es
- Eva del Hoyo Barbolla, Directora General de Políticas de Desarrollo Sostenible, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: eva.delhoyo@maec.es
- José Antonio Sanahuja, Director, Fundación Carolina, email: sanahuja@fundacioncarolina.es

ESTADOS UNIDOS/UNITED STATES

Representante/Representative:

- Ernest Abisellan, Economic Counselor, U.S. Embassy in Argentina, email abisellanej@state.gov

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Kate Skarsten, Deputy Director (Alternate Representative), Office of Economic and Development Affairs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, email: skarstenkp@state.gov
- Diva Joshi, Economic Officer (Government Advisor), Office of Economic and Development Affairs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, email: joshid@state.gov
- Paul Stempel, Economic Officer (Government Advisor), Office of Economic and Development Affairs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, email: stempelpa@state.gov

FRANCIA/FRANCERepresentante/Representative:

- Inès Louise Bouffartigue Sebastia, Encargada de la Cancillería Política, Embajada de Francia en la Argentina, email: ines.bouffartigue-sebastia@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Charlotte Brial, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Francia en la Argentina, email: sec.buenos-aires-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Matilde Xavier, Agregada a la Cancillería Política, Embajada de Francia en la Argentina, email: chloe.chalumeau@diplomatie.gouv.fr

GUATEMALARepresentante/Representative:

- Mario Adolfo Búcaro Flores, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: dipom@minex.gob.gt

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Ana Isabel Carrillo Fabián, Directora General de Relaciones Internacionales, Multilaterales y Económicas, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: kdescobar@minex.gob.gt
- Rony Abiú Chali-López, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario, Embajada de Guatemala en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: embargentina@minex.gob.gt
- Roque Abel Arriaga Martínez, Primer Secretario y Cónsul, Embajada de Guatemala en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: rarriaga@minex.gob.gt
- José Lambour, Embajador de Guatemala en Bélgica, email: embargentina@minex.gob.gt

HONDURASRepresentante/Representative:

- Eduardo Enrique Reina García, Secretario de Estado, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional, email: despachoministerial@sreci.gob.hn; emb.sc.hondurasar@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Eduardo Federico Rosales Ramírez, Asesor Ministerial, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional, email: emb.hondurasar@gmail.com
- Elean Michell, Asistente Ejecutiva del Despacho Ministerial, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional, email: emb.sc.hondurasar@gmail.com
- Carlos Alberto Rojas Santos, Encargado de Negocios a. i., Embajada de Honduras en la Argentina, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional, email: emb.sc.hondurasar@gmail.com

ITALIA/ITALYRepresentante/Representative:

- Fabrizio Lucentini, Embajador de Italia en la Argentina, email: amb.buenosaires@esteri.it;

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Alberto Scarano, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Italia en la Argentina, email: amb.buenosaires@esteri.it;
- Lorenzo Vermigli, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Italia en la Argentina, email: amb.buenosaires@esteri.it;

JAMAICARepresentante/Representative:

- Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, email: bilat.assistant@mfaft.gov.jm

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Janice Miller, Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, email: janice.miller@mfaft.gov.jm

JAPÓN/JAPANRepresentante/Representative:

- Shunsuke Takei, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: yoshinori.yamaguchi@mofa.go.jp

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Takahiro Nakamae, Embajador del Japón en la Argentina, email: gabriela.rafecas@bn.mofa.go.jp
- Naofumi Fujita, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: naofumi.fujita@mofa.go.jp
- Toshiaki Ando, Executive Assistant to the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: tomoyuki.yashima@mofa.go.jp
- Chitaru Shimizu, Director, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean Division, Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: tomohiro.imura@mofa.go.jp
- Maya Yoshizaki, Assistant Director, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean Division, Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: karen.shimajiri@mofa.go.jp

MÉXICO/MEXICORepresentante/Representative:

- Efraín Guadarrama Pérez, Director General de Organismos y Mecanismos Regionales Americanos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, email: eguadarrama@sre.gob.mx

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Gloria Sandoval Salas, Directora General de Ejecución de Proyectos en el Exterior, Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID), email: gsandovals@sre.gob.mx
- Lilia Eugenia Rossbach Suárez, Embajadora de México en la Argentina, email: embajadaarg@sre.gob.mx

- Rosalinda Bueso, email: asistentetitulararg@sre.gob.mx
- Gabriel Jorge Terrés Cruz, Jefe de Cancillería, Embajada de México en la Argentina, email: gterres@sre.gob.mx
- Camila del Carmen Aviña Zavala, Encargada de Asuntos Políticos, Embajada de México en la Argentina, email: cavina@sre.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

Representante/Representative:

- Denis Moncada Colindres, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: dmoncada@cancilleria.gob.ni

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carlos Midence, Embajador de Nicaragua en la Argentina, email: cmidence@cancilleria.gob.ni
- Carlos Cerda Gaitán, Asesor Jurídico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cc.academico2018@gmail.com

NORUEGA/NORWAY

Representante/Representative:

- Iver Williksen, Consejero y Jefe de Misión Adjunto, Embajada de Noruega en Chile, email: emb.santiago@mfa.no

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Laars Vaagen, Embajador de Noruega en la Argentina, email: emb.buenosaires@mfa.no

PANAMÁ/PANAMA

Representante/Representative:

- Janaina Tewaney, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores, email: jtewaney@mire.gob.pa

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Inés Castillo de Sanmartín, Ministra de Desarrollo Social, email: mariainescastillo@mides.gob.pa
- Minerva Lara Batista, Embajadora y Cónsul General de Panamá en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mlara@mire.gob.pa
- Nischma Villarreal, Directora de Políticas Sociales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: nivillarreal@mides.gob.pa
- Virginia Barreiro, Directora de Cooperación Técnica Internacional, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: vbarreiro@mides.gob.pa
- Aida Batista, Agregada Cultural, Embajada de Panamá en la Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: abatista@mire.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Julio César Arriola, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: secretariaprivada@mre.gov.py

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Juan Carlos Portillo, Director General de Planificación y Evaluación, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social, email: juan.portillo@mspbs.qov.py

- Helena Felip, Directora General de Política Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: dgpm@mre.gov.py
- Eliana Duarte, Primera Secretaria, Jefa de Integración Regional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: erduarte@mre.gov.py
- Luis Ramiro Bianchi Fanego, Consejero, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Paraguay en la Argentina, email: secretaria@paraguay.int.ar
- Raúl Cano Montaña, Ministro, Embajada del Paraguay en la Argentina, email: jcano@mre.gov.py
- Guido Turitich Fariña, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Paraguay en la Argentina, email: gturitich@mre.gov.py
- Víctor Preda Galeano, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Paraguay en la Argentina, email: vpreda@mre.gov.py
- Elvira Encina Franco, Primera Secretaria, Embajada del Paraguay en la Argentina, email: cencina@mre.gov.py

PERÚ/PERU

Representante/Representative:

- César Rodrigo Landa Arroyo, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, email: avelarde@embajadadelperu.int.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- John Peter Camino Cannock, Embajador del Perú en la Argentina, email: shume@embajadadelperu.int.ar
- Víctor Antonio Muñoz Tuesta, Ministro, Jefe de Cancillería, Embajada del Perú en la Argentina, email: vmunoz@embajadadelperu.int.ar
- Claudia Nora Alemán Urteaga, Ministra Consejera, Embajada del Perú en la Argentina, email: caleman@embajadadelperu.int.ar
- Jorge Roberto Medina Dancé, Consejero, Embajada del Perú en la Argentina, email: jmedina@embajadadelperu.int.ar
- Lourdes Mochizuki Tamayo, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada del Perú en la Argentina, email: lmochizuki@embajadadelperu.int.ar

REPÚBLICA DE COREA/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representante/Representative:

- Jang Myung-soo, Embajador de la República de Corea en la Argentina, email: msjang87@mofa.go.kr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Lee Hanil, Ministro Consejero y Cónsul General, Embajada de la República de Corea en la Argentina, email: hilee07@mofa.go.kr
- Jang Jinwoo, Secretario, Embajada de la República de Corea en la Argentina, email: jwjang19@mofa.go.kr
- Rodrigo Pedro Calixto Calderón, Asesor, Embajada de la República de Corea en la Argentina, email: rcalderon67@mofa.or.kr
- Carolina Mauri, Asesora, Embajada de la República de Corea en la Argentina, email: carolinamauri@mofa.or.kr

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Rubén Silié, Viceministro de Política Exterior Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: portiz@mirex.gob.do
- Luis Madera Sued, Viceministro de Planificación e Inversión Pública, Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, email: luis.madera@economia.gob.do

SURINAME

Representante/Representative:

- Albert Ramchand Ramdin, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, email: sec.protocol.mofa@gov.sr

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Charissa Chantal Dhauri, Junior Desk Officer, Directorate International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, email: sec.protocol.mofa@gov.sr

TÜRKIYE

Representante/Representative:

- Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, email: bozkloj@mfa.gov.tr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Tanju Bilgiç, Spokesperson of the Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: tbilgic@mfa.gov.tr
- Ömür Budak, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: omur.budak@mfa.gov.tr
- Mehmet Sait Uyanık, Chief, Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: msuyanik@mfa.gov.tr
- Murat Eriş, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: murat.eris@mfa.gov.tr
- Metinçan Suran, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: metinçan.suran@mfa.gov.tr
- Gürhan Cihanoglu, Protocol Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: gurhan.cihanoglu@mfa.gov.tr
- Çağdaş Sina Çörekli, Protocol Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: cagdas.corekli@mfa.gov.tr
- Şefik Vural Altay, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: valtay@mfa.gov.tr
- Adil Cüneyt Akbal, Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: cuneyt.akbal@mfa.gov.tr
- Sümeyye Ceren Özkan, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: ceren.ozkan@mfa.gov.tr
- Şule Özyörük, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: sule.ozyoruk@mfa.gov.tr
- Ümran Erkol, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, email: umran.erkol@mfa.gov.tr
- Estefanía María Manfredi, Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, email: estefania.manfredi@mfa.gov.tr
- Carolina Ríos Centeno, Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, email: carolina.canteno@mfa.gov.tr
- Gabriela Tortorella, Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Buenos Aires, email: gabriela.tortorella@mfa.gov.tr

URUGUAYRepresentante/Representative:

- Pablo Mieres, Ministro de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, email: ministro@mtss.gub.uy

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carlos Fernando Enciso Christiansen, Embajador del Uruguay en la Argentina, email: secembajador.uruguay@mree.gub.uy
- José Reyes, Ministro, Embajada del Uruguay en la Argentina, email: jose.reyes@mree.gub.uy
- Karla Beszkidnyak, Ministra, Embajada del Uruguay en la Argentina, email: karla.beszkidnyak@mree.gub.uy
- José Enrique Sienna Barbani, Ministro Consejero, Embajada del Uruguay en la Argentina, email: jose.sienra@mree.gub.uy

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)Representante/Representative:

- Carlos Rafael Faría Tortosa, Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: despachomovilmpre@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Ruben Darío Molina, Viceministro para Temas Multilaterales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: despacho.temasmultilaterales@gmail.com
- Rander Peña Ramírez, Viceministro para América Latina y el Caribe, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: randerip2020@gmail.com
- Karleidys Alejandra Andrade Brito, Directora General, Secretaría General Ejecutiva, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: karleidysandradeb@gmail.com
- Stella Marina Lugo de Montilla, Embajadora de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en la Argentina, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: stella.embavenezargentina@gmail.com
- Enzo Bitetto, Ministro Consejero Coordinador, Dirección de Organismos Internacionales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: doi.correspondencia@gmail.com
- Sofía González, Primer Secretario, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: sofiagonzalezp11@gmail.com
- Josreli Estaba, Consejera, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: josreli.gobierno2021@gmail.com
- Lenni Martina Fernández Rodríguez, Analista del Despacho, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: leymia13@gmail.com
- José Jesús Jatar Díaz, Primer Secretario, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: jjjatar@yahoo.com
- Flor Isabel Jurado Garanton, Asistente Protocolar, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: florisabeljg@gmail.com
- Ulises Ernesto López Charo, Asistente Protocolar, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: alfa8253@gmail.com
- Yohanna Navas, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: ynavas.argentina@gmail.com
- María del Carmen Prin de Martignetti, Asistente del Canciller, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: prinh.maria@gmail.com

- Alirio José Rivero González, Analista del Despacho, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: aliriocifras@gmail.com
- Víctor Daniel Vásquez Ramos, Asistente del Canciller, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: v_d_vasquez@hotmail.com
- Luxmar Aular, Directora, Oficina de Gestión Comunicacional, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: ogc.direcciongenceral@gmail.com
- Pedro Albarrán Depablos, Coordinador, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: paadval22@gmail.com
- Martha Arias, Coordinadora, Área de Institutos, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, marthyca.arias@gmail.com
- Yván Gil, Viceministro para Europa, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: yvangilpinto@gmail.com
- Reina Pérez Guerrero, Directora, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: reiper@gmail.com
- Yhony García, Director General, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: yhonnyg@gmail.com
- Yusmeida González, Comisionada de Protocolo, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: gonzalezusmeida@gmail.com
- Aura Rosa Hernández, Comisionada, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: camiloparejo@gmail.com
- Jessy Moreno, Directora de Ceremonial, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: morenojessy@gmail.com
- Wilson Rosales, Director General, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: wilsonrosaleslopez@gmail.com

B. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations Secretariat

Secretario General/Secretary-General

- António Guterres, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas (mensaje por video)

Vicesecretaria General/Deputy Secretary-General

- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General de las Naciones Unidas (mensaje por video)

Coordinadores Residentes/Resident Coordinators

- Claudia Mojica, Coordinadora Residente en la Argentina, email: mojjicac@un.org

Oficinas de Coordinadores Residentes/Resident Coordinators offices

- Gonzalo Alcalde, Jefe de Oficina, Perú, email: 76ulvia76.alcalde@un.org
- Jacinto Javier Chamorro, Oficial de Coordinación, Argentina, email: jacinto.chamorro@un.org
- Fulvia Farinelli, Oficial de Coordinación, Economista Senior, Argentina, email: 76ulvia.farinelli@un.org

C. Sistema de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations system

Banco Mundial/World Bank

- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director General de la Práctica Mundial de Pobreza y Equidad, email: lflopezcalva@worldbank.org

Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD)/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Rebeca Grynspan, Secretaria General, email: rebeca.grynspan@unctad.org (virtual)
- Danielle Daou, External Relations Associate, email: danielle.daou@unctad.org

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Cecilia Alemany Billorou, Representante de la Argentina y Directora Regional Adjunta para las Américas y el Caribe, Argentina, email: cecilia.alemany@unwomen.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Florbela Fernandes, Directora Regional Adjunta, email: ffernandes@unfpa.org
- Juan José Calvo, Consultor Internacional, email: calvo.juanjo@gmail.com
- Rocío Muñoz Flores, Asesora Regional de Género, Panamá, email: munozflores@unfpa.org
- Mariana Isasi, Jefa de Oficina, Argentina, email: isasi@unfpa.org

Foro Económico Mundial/World Economic Forum (WEF)

- Lina Anllo, Directora, WEF Argentina, email: linaallo@gmail.org

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Claudia Rodríguez Sirtori, Representante Regional a. i., email: rodriguc@unhcr.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- Manuel Albaladejo, Representante Regional para Chile, email: m.albaladejo@unido.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Mario Lubetkin, Subdirector General, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: rlc-adg@fao.org
- María Laura Escuder, Representante Interina en la Argentina, email: maria.escuder@fao.org
- Julia Andrea Luzuriaga, Responsable de Comunicación, Argentina, email: julia.luzuriaga@fao.org

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Yukiko Arai, Directora, Oficina de País en la Argentina, email: arai@ilo.org
- José Luis Viveros Añorve, Senior Technical Specialist, email: viveros-anorve@ilo.org

Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- Eva Jané Llopis, Representante, Argentina, email: janellopis@paho.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Guillermo Anlló, Especialista Regional a Cargo del Programa Política Científica y Tecnológica, Uruguay, email: g.anllo@unesco.org
- Alejandra Cardini, Coordinadora de Gestión y Movilización de Conocimientos, Instituto Internacional de Planeamiento de la Educación (IIPE), email: a.cardini@iiep.unesco.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Claudio Tomasi, Representante Residente, Argentina, email: vanesa.andreani@undp.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Andrea Brusco, Coordinadora Regional de Gobernanza Ambiental, email: andrea.brusco@un.org

Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/Sida (ONUSIDA)/Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS/(UNAIDS)

- Alberto Stella, Director, Panamá, email: stellaa@unaids.org

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Lola Castro, Directora Regional, email: lola.castro@wfp.org
- Stephanie Wertheimer, Asesora de la Directora Regional, Panamá, email: stephanie.wertheimer@wfp.org

D. Organizaciones intergubernamentales/Intergovernmental organizations

Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)/Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretario General, email: rsabonge@acs-aec.org

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Ricardo Rozemberg, Especialista en Integración y Comercio, email: rrozemberg@iadb.org
- María Florencia Merino, Consultora, Argentina, email: mfmerino@iadb.org
- Sofía Sternberg, Consultora, email: ssternberg@iadb.org
- Ana Inés Basco, Directora, Instituto para la Integración de América Latina y el Caribe (INTAL), email: anainesba@iadb.org
- Florencia Merino, Instituto para la Integración de América Latina y el Caribe (INTAL), email: mfmerino@iadb.org
- Huilen Amigo, Instituto para la Integración de América Latina y el Caribe (INTAL), email: huilena@iadb.org

Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Carla Barnett, Secretaria General, email: osg1@caricom.org (virtual)

Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)/Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO)

- Karina Batthyány, Directora Ejecutiva, email: kbatthyany@clacso.edu.ar
- Nicolás Arata, Director de Formación, email: clacsoinst@clacso.edu.ar
- Pablo Vommaro, Director de Investigación, email: pvommaro@clacso.edu.ar
- Gustavo Lema, Director de Comunicación, email: glema@clacso.edu.ar

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Fernando Silveira Camargo, Representante en la Argentina, email: fernando.camargo@iica.int

Instituto Interamericano de Estadística (IASI)/Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)

- Silvana Specogna, Vicepresidenta, email: silvana.specogna@yahoo.com.ar; sspecog@gmail.com
- Clyde E. Charre, email: clyde.charre@gmail.com

Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Directora, Centro de Desarrollo de la OCDE, email: ragnheidur.arnadottir@oecd.org (virtual)

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (OEI)/Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)

- Luis Scasso, Director, OEI en Argentina, email: oei.arg@oei.int
- Diego Filmus, Responsable de Proyectos Nacionales, OEI en Argentina, email: oei.arg@oei.int

Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA)/Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

- María Alexandra Moreira, Secretaria General, email: secretaria.permanente@otca.org

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)/Central American Integration System (SICA)

- Werner Vargas, Secretario General, email: mdzuleta@sica.int
- Miriam Desiree García Flores, Asesora del Secretario General, email: desiree.garcia@sica.int
- Evelyn Lissette Solís Varela, Asistente, Despacho del Secretario General, email: evelyn.solis@sica.int

Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA)/Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

- Clarems Endara, Secretario Permanente, email: sela_sp@sela.org
- Yeimy Ramírez, Jefa, Gabinete del Secretario Permanente, email: yramirez@sela.org

Unión Europea/European Union

- Josep Borrell Fontelles, Alto Representante de la Unión para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad y Vicepresidente de la Comisión Europea, email: americas-DMD@eeas.europa.eu
- Amador Sánchez Rico, Embajador de la Unión Europea en la Argentina, email: amador.sanchez-rico@eeas.europa.eu
- Pelayo Castro Zuzuarregui, Senior Advisor to High Representative/Vice-President
- Joan Llorach, Personal Assistant to High Representative/Vice-President
- Brian Glynn, Managing Director, Americas, email: brian.glynn@eeas.europa.eu
- Javier Niño Pérez, Director de Gestión para las Américas, Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior(SEAE), email: javier.nino-perez@eeas.europa.eu
- Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General, email: myriam.ferran@ec.europa.eu
- Ioana Logofatu, Political Assistant to Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director, email: ioana.logofatu@eeas.europa.eu
- Claudia Gintersdorfer, Head, Division for Americas Regional Affairs, email: claudia.gintersdorfer@eeas.europa.eu

- Alessandro Rossi, Policy Officer, Division for Americas Regional Affairs, email: alessandro.rossi@eeas.europa.eu
- Eran Nagan, Head, Political, Press and Information Section, EU Delegation in Argentina, email: nagan.eran@eeas.europa.eu
- Guillaume Duval, Communication Advisor to the High Representative/Vice-President

E. Invitado de honor/Guest of honour

- Alberto Fernández, Presidente de la Argentina

F. Panelistas/Panellists

- Santiago Cafiero, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto de la Argentina
- Arnoldo André Tinoco, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de Costa Rica
- Mercedes Marcó del Pont, Secretaria de Asuntos Estratégicos de la Argentina
- Claudia Mojica, Coordinadora Residente de las Naciones Unidas en la Argentina
- António Guterres, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas (mensaje por video)
- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL
- Alberto Fernández, Presidente de la Argentina
- Joseph Stiglitz, Premio Nobel de Economía
- Mariana Mazzucato, Profesora de Economía de la Innovación y el Valor Público en la University College London (UCL)
- José Antonio Ocampo, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público de Colombia
- Rebeca Grynspan, Secretaria General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) (virtual)
- Gabriel Rubinstein, Secretario de Política Económica del Ministerio de Economía de la Argentina
- Rebeca Santos, Presidenta del Banco Central de Honduras (virtual)
- Juan Carlos Moreno-Brid, Profesor de la Facultad de Economía de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
- Werner Isaac Vargas, Secretario General del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)
- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director General de la Práctica Mundial de Pobreza y Equidad del Banco Mundial
- Raquel Kisper de Olmos, Ministra de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social de la Argentina
- Marta Eugenia Esquivel Rodríguez, Presidenta de la Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social (CCSS) (virtual)
- Pablo Mieres, Ministro de Trabajo y Seguridad Social del Uruguay
- Felipe Morgado, Superintendente de Educación Profesional y Superior del Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje Industrial (SENAI) del Brasil
- Anna Terrón Cusí, Directora de la Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP)
- Carla Barnett, Secretaria General de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) (virtual)
- Mario Lubetkin, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)
- Fernando Yanez, Subsecretario de Seguimiento de la Secretaría Nacional de Planificación del Ecuador

- Vanessa Gibson, Directora de Clima de Inversión de la Coalición Costarricense de Iniciativas de Desarrollo (CINDE) de Costa Rica
- Sabina Frederic, Presidenta de la Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria Cascos Blancos
- Eva del Hoyo Barbolla, Directora General de Políticas de Desarrollo Sostenible del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación de España
- Myriam Ferran, Directora General Adjunta para Asociaciones Internacionales de la Comisión Europea
- Rodrigo Malmierca, Ministro del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de Cuba
- Gloria Sandoval, Directora General de Ejecución de Proyectos en el Exterior de la Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID)
- Enrique O’Farrill, Director Ejecutivo (S) de la Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID)
- Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Directora del Centro de Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE) (virtual)
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto para Administración y Análisis de Programas de la CEPAL
- Daniel Filmus, Ministro de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación de la Argentina
- Luis Madera, Viceministro de Planificación e Inversión Pública del Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo de la República Dominicana
- Marco Lavagna, Director del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC) de la Argentina
- Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Vicecanciller para Asuntos Multilaterales del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de Costa Rica
- Albert Ramchand Ramdin, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Negocios Internacionales y Cooperación Internacional de Suriname
- Juan Carlos Portillo, Director General de Planificación y Evaluación del Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social del Paraguay
- Marcelo Cousillas, Director del Área Jurídica del Ministerio de Ambiente del Uruguay
- Antonia Orellana, Ministra de la Mujer y la Equidad de Género de Chile (virtual)
- Gabriela Lizzet Gallegos Delgado, Directora de Asuntos Internacionales del Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información del Ecuador (virtual)
- Dean Jonas, Ministro de Transformación Social, Desarrollo de Recursos Humanos y Economía Azul de Antigua y Barbuda (virtual)
- Sergio Cusicanqui, Ministro de Planificación del Desarrollo del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (virtual)
- Josep Borrell, Alto Representante para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad de la Unión Europea y Vicepresidente de la Comisión Europea
- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General de las Naciones Unidas (mensaje por video)

G. Sector académico/Academia

- Pedro Albertti, Secretario de Cooperación Internacional e Internacionalización, Universidad Nacional de Luján, Argentina, email: alberttipedropablo@gmail.com
- Débora Eliana Ascencio, Becaria Doctoral, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina, email: deborascencio@gmail.com
- Jesica Pamela Ávalos, Académica, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: avalosjesicapamela@gmail.com

- Beatriz Bechara de Borge, Director, Millennium Project Caribbean Node, Colombia, email: becharadeborge@gmail.com
- Rafael Boderó, Estudiante, Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), Ecuador, email: rafaboderó68@gmail.com
- Esther Delgado, Profesora-Investigadora, Ministerio de Educación, Argentina, email: ester.delgado@bue.edu.ar
- Andrés Fortunato, Research Fellow, Harvard University, Argentina, email: andres_fortunato@hks.harvard.edu
- Jorge Herrera Valderrábano, Cofundador, Ágora México, México, email: contacto@agoramex.org
- Gala Kumeć Napal, Tesista de la Maestría en Estudios Internacionales, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina, email: gkumeć@gmail.com
- Manuel Maldonado, Policy Designer, University College London - Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, United Kingdom, email: m.maldonado@ucl.ac.uk
- Celina Manso, Auxiliar Docente e Investigadora, Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, email: celimanso@gmail.com
- Franco Mendoza, Académico, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: mendozaantoniofranco@gmail.com
- Reyes J. Morales, Investigador, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)-México, México, email: reyes.morales@estudiante-flacso.mx
- Leandro Ezequiel Navarro Rocha, Becario Doctoral/Docente Universitario, Universidad de San Martín/Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina, email: lnavarro@unsam.edu.ar
- Tomás Nievas, Académico, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: tomitrux@gmail.com
- Javier Papa, Profesor, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), Argentina, email: jpapa@unsam.edu.ar
- Bruno Pérez Almansi, Investigador, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina, email: bperezalmansi@unsam.edu.ar
- Javier Ignacio Pérez Ibáñez, Becario Doctoral, Escuela Interdisciplinaria de Altos Estudios Sociales (IDAES), Argentina, email: javier.p.ibanez@gmail.com
- María Virginia Perrino, Subdirectora, Observatorio de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, email: mvperrino@gmail.com
- Florencia Pizzarulli, Directora Académica, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: florenciapizzarulli@gmail.com
- Gabriela Plump, Managing Director, Columbia University, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Estados Unidos, email: gp2535@columbia.edu
- Paloma Morena Quadrana, Académico/Economista, Centro de Estudios UIA (CEU)/Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: palomaquadrana@gmail.com
- Lautaro Martín Ramírez, Director, Observatorio de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, email: lautaromr@hotmail.com
- Carlos Rivera, Asesor Institucional del Rectorado/Profesor, Universidad Estatal de Milagro/Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Ecuador, email: cirivera@espol.edu.ec
- Isabel Esther Roccaro, Directora, Doctorado en Ciencias Económicas, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina, email: isabel.roccaro@fce.uncu.edu.ar
- Mariana Saavedra, Académica, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: marianacsaaavedra@outlook.com
- Hayley Stevenson, Profesora-Investigadora, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina, email: hstevenson@utdt.edu

H. Gobierno local/Local government

- Luis Cabrera Quiñones, Representante de la Sociedad Civil Organizada, Consejo de Coordinación Local Distrital de Los Olivos, Perú, email: luisd_cabreraq@yahoo.es
- Raúl Chico, Ministro de Integración Regional, Logística y Transporte de Catamarca, Argentina, email: atacalaroficial@gmail.com
- Débora Giorgi, Secretaria de Producción, Municipio de La Matanza, Argentina, email: debgiorgi@gmail.com
- Ivana Carolina Lencina Acevedo, Directora Provincial de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Integración Regional, Logística y Transporte de Catamarca, Argentina, email: ilencina@catamarca.gov.ar

I. Sector privado/Private sector

- Alfredo Rodolfo Amigorena, Global Vice-President, Mercosur-Asean Chamber of Commerce, Argentina, email: alfredoramigorena@gmail.com
- Claudio Caprarulo, Director, Anlytica Consultora, Argentina, ccaprarulo@analyticaconsultora.com
- Horacio Cepeda, Asesor, Asociación de Industriales Metalúrgicos de la República Argentina (ADIMRA), Argentina, email: hocepeda@yahoo.com
- Norma Fernández, Director, Sur Developers, Mercosur-Asean Chamber of Commerce, Argentina, email: surdevelopers@yahoo.com.ar
- Mario José Mora Florez, Coordinador Proyecto, Echa Mano de la Vida Eterna, Colombia, email: marioedu2009@hotmail.es
- Felipe Esteves Pinto Morgado, Superintendente de Educação Profissional e Superior, Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Industrial (SENAI), Brasil, email: fmorgado@senaicni.com.br

J. Parlamentarios/Parliamentarians

- Mónica Macha, Diputada Nacional, Honorable Cámara de Diputados, Argentina
email: mmacha@hcdn.gob.ar

K. Instituciones financieras/Financial institutions

- Haroldo Montagu, Gerente de Estudios Económicos, Banco de la Nación Argentina, Argentina, email: hmontagu@bna.com.ar

L. Organizaciones no gubernamentales/Non-governmental organizations

Baha'i International Community

- Tiago Masrour, Representante Regional ante CEPAL, Chile, email: tmasrour@bic.org

Central de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de la Argentina (CTA)

- Andrés Larisgoitia, Director de Relaciones Internacionales, Argentina, email: andreslarisgoitia@cta.org.ar

Coalición Costarricense de Iniciativas de Desarrollo (CINDE)

- Vanessa Gibson Forbes, Directora, Clima de Inversión, Costa Rica, email: vgibson@cinde.org

Coletivo Passarinho

- Danielle de Santana Santos, Dirigente, Brasil, email: daniellesantanadc@gmail.com

CEPEI

- Javier Surasky, Oficial de Programa, Gobernanza del Desarrollo Sostenible, Colombia, email: j.surasky@cepei.org

M. Otros participantes/Other participants

- Evelyn Martínez Morales, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Cuba, email: emmorales812@gmail.com
- Adriana Velarde Rivas, Ministra Consejera, Embajada del Perú, email: avelarder@rree.gob.pe
- Shineco Sutherland, Economist, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, email: ssutherland@svgcpd.com
- Chris Curry, Aide to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, email: mr_chris_curry@hotmail.com
- Nadia Borja, Segundo Secretario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Colombia, email: nadia.borja@cancilleria.gov.co
- Juan Carlos Alurralde, Secretario General, Comité Intergubernamental Coordinador de los Países de la Cuenca del Plata (CIC), Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: alurralde@cicplata.org,
- Winston Bravo, Fotógrafo, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: wistonbravo@gmail.com
- Angie González Perez, Asistente del Canciller, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: angiegonzalezsp@gmail.com
- Yadriel Martínez, Fotógrafo, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: y4dr13177@gmail.com
- Enio Meleán, Periodista, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: eniomelean@gmail.com
- Salvador Rueda Rabanal, Director General de Integración y Coordinación de Asuntos Generales de la Unión Europea, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, España, email: salvador.rueda@maec.es
- Hülya Çavuşoğlu, Türkiye, email: mercan.guven@mfa.gov.tr
- Gökay Daşdelen, Advisor of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: gokay.dasdelen@mfa.gov.tr
- Soner Kök, Advisor of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: soner.kok@mfa.gov.tr
- İlke Tanlay, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: ilke.tanlay@mfa.gov.tr
- Önder Tellioglu, Head of Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: onder.tellioglu@mfa.gov.tr
- Zeki Gümrükçü, Ambassador/Director General for Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: lgumrukcu@mfa.gov.tr

- Selim Akdaş, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: selim.akdas@mfa.gov.tr
- Kürşad Alcan, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: kursad.alcan@mfa.gov.tr
- Fatih Ziya Gültekin, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: fatih.gultekin@mfa.gov.tr
- Yunus Seven, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: yunus.seven@mfa.gov.tr
- Alpay Seven, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: alpay.sezen@mfa.gov.tr
- Gülşah Sönmezer, Security Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: gulsah.sonmezer@mfa.gov.tr
- Çağrı Korucu, Official Cameraman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: cagri.korucu@aa.com.tr
- Cem Özdel, Official Photographer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, email: cem.ozdel@mfa.gov.tr
- Matías Aguirre, Técnico en Informática, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio y Culto, Argentina, email: matias.ezze.92@gmail.com
- Raquel Ahumada Paz, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: raquel_ap@hotmail.com
- Yuta Amataka, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, Japón, email: yuta.amataka@mofa.go.jp
- Lisandro Anglese, Producción/Logística, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: qaw@cancilleria.gov.ar
- Leonardo Arias, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: wlg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Fernando Ayala, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: afl@mrecic.gov.ar
- James Marlon Azevedo Gorgen, Coordinador de Economía 4.0, Ministerio de Economía, Brasil, email: james.gorgen@economia.gov.br
- Ana Baqueriza, Oficial de Protocolo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: bq@recic.gov.ar
- Matías Nicolás Barreiro, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: bbi@mrecic.gov.ar
- Atilio Berardi Hueda, Jefe, Coordinación Diplomática, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: abh@mrecic.gov.ar
- Andres Bizzozero, Coordinador Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: biz@mrecic.gov.ar
- Marcelo Boffi, Secretario de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ofi@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lucas Boiero, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: byo@mrecic.gov.ar
- Martín Boragina, Director General de Administración, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: boraginam@cancilleria.gob.ar
- María Noel Borsellino, Funcionaria, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: bxo@mrecic.gov.ar
- Layla Brandy, Asesora Principal, Secretaría de Empleo, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Argentina, email: Lbrandy@Trabajo.Gob.Ar
- Bibiana Brest, Funcionaria, Ministerio De Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional Y Culto, Argentina, email: Bib@mrecic.Gov.Ar
- Tom Brine, Security Officer, High Representative/Vice President Cabinet, European Union, email: tom.brine@ec.europa.eu

- Juan Martin Bustos, Consultor, oficina de la CEPAL en la Argentina, Argentina, email: jmartinbustos@gmail.com
- Karina Cáceres, Seguridad, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: karinitemm@gmail.com
- Ailén Caraballo, Pasante, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ako@cancilleria.gob.ar
- Federico Carminati, Consultor Audiovisual, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fedecarmi@hotmail.com
- Vanesa Carnero Contentti, Coordinadora de Relaciones Institucionales e Internacionales, Dirección Nacional de Población, Argentina, email: vanecarnero@gmail.com
- María Belén Castiñeira, Producción, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: tie@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lucila Caviglia, Secretario de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: qlu@cancilleria.gob.ar
- Carlos Alberto Cerda Gaitan, Asesor Jurídico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Nicaragua
- Clyde Elisa Charre, Miembro del Consejo Consultivo, Instituto Argentino de Seguridad Integral (IASI), Argentina, email: clyde.charre@gmail.com
- Juan Coll, Consejero, Embajada de España en la Argentina, email: consejeriagen@yahoo.es
- Rodrigo Javier Conde Garrido, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: xgr@mrecic.gov.ar
- Julieta Vanesa Contreras, Arquitecta de Infraestructura, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: cji@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mariano Alberto Corrado, Consultor Audiovisual, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: cm1@mrecic.gov.ar
- Irma Cristóbal, Doctorando, Guatemala, email: irmisbal@yahoo.com
- Henry Alberto Cuentas Vasquez, Asesor, Ministerio de Defensa, Perú, email: hcuentas@mindef.gob.pe
- Carlos Devicenzi, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: idc@mrecic.gov.ar
- Charissa Chantal Dhauri, Junior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, Suriname, email: sec.protocol.mofa@gov.sr
- Francisco Díaz, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: diaz.francisco.santiago@gmail.com
- Guillaume Duval, Communication Adviser, High Representative/Vice President Cabinet, European Union, email: guillaume.duval@eeas.europa.eu
- Ariel Elustondo, Asistente Técnico, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: arieelelus@hotmail.com
- Karla Isabel Enamorado Salmerón, Jefe, Departamento de Estadísticas Macroeconómicas, Banco Central de Honduras, Honduras, email: karla.enamorado@bch.hn
- Luciano Hernán Escobar, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: lhs@mrecic.gov.ar
- Javier Falcon, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ofj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Antonio Fernández, Encargado de Cooperación Internacional, Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social (FOSIS), Chile, email: antonio.fernandez@fosis.gob.cl
- Claudio Rodrigo Fernández, Técnico en Informática, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: clf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Graciela Fernández Bravo, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: protocolo@mrecic.gov.ar

- Paula Ferrari, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fpx@mrecic.gov.ar
- Andrea Ferrero, Asistente Administrativo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ferrero.as@gmail.com
- Gastón Eduardo Ferreyra, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fye@mrecic.gov.ar
- Hernán Ferrúa, Técnico Informático, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: hhf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lautaro Forte Artusi, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: lautaroforte@protonmail.com
- Juan Francisco Frola, Coordinador de Control de Accesos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fkf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Micaela Galarza, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: micaelagalarza13@hotmail.com
- Maximiliano Gianmichelli, Jefe de Viajes y Visitas Oficiales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gmh@mrecic.gov.ar
- Juan Giménez, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gjl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Marcela Sabrina Girod, Productora, Barrell, Argentina, email: marcelagirod@gmail.com
- Gabriel Alejandro Girolamo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gkj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mariana Godoy Goette, Co-Founder, Prozesse Consulting Co., Argentina, email: mjggoette@gmail.com
- Agustina Gómez, Administrativo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: egw@mrecic.gov.ar
- Daiana González, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: dqg@mrecic.gov.ar
- María Lorena González Castro Feijoo, Presidente, Asociación Civil de Magistrados y Funcionarios del Ministerio Público de la Defensa de la República Argentina (ADEPRA), Argentina, email: presidencia@adepra.org.ar
- Gisela González Servat, Asesora de Prensa y Diplomacia Pública, Unión Europea, email: gisela.gonzalez@eeas.europa.eu
- Martín Enrique Granovsky, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gki@mrecic.gov.ar
- Carolina Gunski, Subdirectora Nacional de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gkm@mrecic.gov.ar
- Juan Francisco Gutiérrez Tellería, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: gtj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Noelia Guzmán Bernales, Dirección Nacional de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: qgn@mrecic.gov.ar
- Juan Sebastián Hara, Enlace Diplomático con la Delegación del Perú para el trigésimo noveno período de sesiones de la CEPAL, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: hjs@mrecic.gov.ar
- Genta Hayashi, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: genta.hayashi@mofa.go.jp
- María Pía Iezzi, Directora de Relaciones Institucionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: iqp@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gabriel Ingiulla, Técnico Audiovisual, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ingiullag@gmail.com

- Ernesto Adolfo Irace, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ernestoirace@yahoo.com
- Alan Kohen, Camarógrafo, Barrell, Argentina, email: alanekohen@gmail.com
- Homero Mario Koncurat, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: hmk@mrecic.gov.ar
- Wanda Priscila Konnicke, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: wkonnicke@hotmail.com
- Luca Kuhn von Burgsdorff, Policy Advisor to Professor Mariana Mazzucato, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, United Kingdom, email: luca.burgsdorff@ucl.ac.uk
- Agustín Nicolás Kuperman, Secretario de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: kup@mrecic.gov.ar
- Brian Lazo, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: lbl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Giselle Guadalupe Lozano, Coordinadora de Logística XV CRM, Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad, Argentina, email: giselleglozano@gmail.com
- Eduardo Francisco Ramón Lucero, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: lfb@mrecic.gov.ar
- Jorge Lupano, Consultor, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), Argentina, email: jorge.lupano@un.org
- Yolanda Machado Rauber, Becaria Pasante, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: yir@mrecic.gov.ar
- Shinji Maeda, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: shinji.maeda@mofa.go.jp
- Haruna Maki, Japanese-English Interpreter, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, email: sho.komiyama@mofa.go.jp
- Nicolás Marchesoni, Coordinador de Operaciones y Tecnología, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: nnm@mrecic.gov.ar
- Fermín Marconi, Consultor/Pasante, oficina de la CEPAL en la Argentina, Argentina, email: ferminmarconig@gmail.com
- Marina Soledad Mateos, Tercera Secretaria-Diplomática, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: nmq@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gastón Ezequiel Moreira, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: wmg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Jessica Motok, Asesor, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, Argentina, email: jessica.motok@gmail.com
- Mariana María de Belén Motta, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: imy@mrecic.gov.ar
- Paulina Munita, Editor, Bloomberg, Argentina, email: pmunita2@bloomberg.net
- Marta Novick, Investigadora, Centro de Innovación de los Trabajadores (CITRA), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina, email: martanovick@gmail.com
- María José Olguín, Analista, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Argentina, email: maolguin@trabajo.gob.ar
- Franco Oliverio, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ofl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Luis Hernán Oliverio, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: heroliverio1971@gmail.com
- Ignacio Orrego, Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: orrego.nacho@gmail.com
- Mariano Agustín Ortiz French, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ort@mrecic.gov.ar

- Hiroki Ota, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: hiroki.ota@mofa.go.jp
- Miguel Ángel Oyola, Control de Accesos y Acreditaciones, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: maomiguel07@hotmail.com
- Blas Palermo, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: bpo@mrecic.gov.ar
- Andrea Parrilla, Agregada Agrícola, Embajada del Brasil en Buenos Aires, email: andrea.parrilla@agro.gov.br
- Marcela Pérez Anta, Subcoordinación de Control de Accesos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ipq@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gonzalo Pestaña Griñon, Funcionario, Dirección Nacional de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: zpj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Matías Piris, Director de Protocolo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: mtp@mrecic.gov.ar
- María Florencia Plana, Arquitecta, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: pwf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Matías Claudio Porras, Administración/Investigador, Poder Judicial de la Nación Argentina/Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: matiascporras@gmail.com
- Carla Quattrone, Profesional Técnico, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación de la Nación, Argentina, email: carlaquattrone@gmail.com
- Mariana Quiroz, Becaria, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: marianaquiroz.qm@gmail.com
- Fernanda Ramón Badía, Funcionaria, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: rbf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lucas Recio, Asesor, Dirección General de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones Asociadas, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: rxu@mrecic.gov.ar
- Graciela Reyes, Asistente Administrativo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ryg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gladys Helvecia Ríos, Ceremonial/Logística, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: yrg@cancilleria.gov.ar
- Jimena Rivero, Directora Nacional de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: jrb@mrecic.gov.ar
- Gabriela Rodríguez, Funcionaria de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: bzd@mrecic.gov.ar
- Flavia Edith Rodríguez, Administrativo, Registro Nacional de las Personas (RENAPER), Argentina, email: flavy_rodriguez@hotmail.com
- Marysol Rodríguez, Jefa, Departamento de Asuntos Regionales y Multilaterales, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Argentina, email: marodriguez@trabajo.gob.ar
- Gabriela Rojas, Jefa, Despacho de la Diputada Mónica Macha, Honorable Cámara de Diputados, Argentina, email: gabrielarojas.red@gmail.com
- Vanesa Andrea Romani, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: vnr@mrecic.gov.ar
- Pablo Ros, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: prr@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mónica Graciela Rossi, Funcionaria, Dirección Nacional de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: yrm@mrecic.gov.ar
- María Fernanda Ruano, Asesora, Secretaría de Cambio Climático, Desarrollo Sostenible e Innovación, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, Argentina, email: mfruano@ambiente.gob.ar

- Thiago Sábato Martins, Analista, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Argentina, email: tsabato@trabajo.gob.ar
- Guillermina Saldaña, Secretaria de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: swg@mrecic.gov.ar
- Quillén Sánchez, Asesora Técnica, Agregaduría Agrícola, Embajada del Brasil en Buenos Aires, email: quillen.souza@apoio.agro.gov.br
- Débora Santero, Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: swd@mrecic.gov.ar
- Carla Inés Secondini De Luca, Profesional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ycs@mrecic.gov.ar
- Silvina Seguí, Asistente Administrativo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: silvinasegui@yahoo.com.ar
- Fabricio Sordoni, Diplomático, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fsk@mrecic.gov.ar
- Danny Andrea Soto, Asistente en Educación, Ministerio de Salud de la Nación, Argentina, email: danandra78@gmail.com
- Matías Sotomayor, Director General de Relaciones Internacionales y Coordinador de la Agenda 2030, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, Argentina, email: msotomayor@politicassociales.gob.ar
- Silvana Specogna, Vicepresidente Segundo, Instituto Interamericano de Estadística (IASI), Argentina, email: silvana_specogna@yahoo.com.ar
- Leonardo Stanley, Investigador Asociado, Centro de Estudio de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES), Argentina, email: lstanley@cedes.org
- Gustavo Svarzman, Investigador, Instituto Interdisciplinario de Economía Política (IIEP), Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina, email: gsvarzman@yahoo.com
- Tsuyoshi Tadano, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: tsuyoshi.tadano@mofa.go.jp
- Ko Takahashi, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Japón en Argentina, email: ko.takahashi-2@mofa.go.jp
- María del Pilar Ángela Teves Libarona, Funcionario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: tvl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Niels Abildgaard Thomsen, Security Officer, High Representative/Vice President Cabinet, email: niels-abildgaard.thomsen@ec.europa.eu
- Alejandro Torres Lepori, Subdirector de Asuntos Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: aledtl@gmail.com
- María Eugenia Torriglia, Equipo de Trabajo, Ministerio de Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad, Argentina, email: etorriglia@gmail.com
- Aki Tsujikawa, Asesora, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: aki.tsujikawa@bn.mofa.go.jp
- Lucia Tumini, Consultora, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), Argentina, email: lutumini@gmail.com
- Bárbara Turner, Becaria Pasante, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: tuq@mrecic.gov.ar
- Cristina Utada, Asesora, Embajada del Japón en la Argentina, email: cristina.utada@bn.mofa.go.jp
- José Valiente, Secretario de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: vjx@cancilleria.gob.ar
- Leandro Vazquez, Asesor, Unidad Gabinete de Ministro, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: vkl@mrecic.gov.ar
- Agustina Velo, Responsable de Cooperación Internacional, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales (CNCPS), Argentina, email: avelo@politicassociales.gob.ar

- Francisco Vergara Neumann, Funcionario de Ceremonial, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: hfv@mrecic.gov.ar
- Adrián Vernis, Administrativo, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: aav@mrecic.gov.ar
- Franco Vilella, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: vix@cancilleria.gob.ar
- Roberto Ezequiel Villalba, Soporte Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: ezv@mrecic.gov.ar
- Federico Agustín Villalpando, Enlace de Delegaciones, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: fvn@mrecic.gov.ar
- Erika Andrea Villano, Fotógrafa, Unión Europea, Argentina, email: eavillano@gmail.com
- Jimena Villar, Asistente Técnico, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: jime-gv@hotmail.com
- Juan Eduardo Villella De Luca, Seguridad, Ministerio Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: juaneduardovillella@gmail.com
- Hernan Vizzolini, Analista Técnico, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina, email: hvizzolini@gmail.com
- Jesper Wildenschild, Security Officer, High Representative/Vice President Cabinet, email: jesper.wildenschild@ec.europa.eu
- Franco Ramiro Zalazar, Seguridad, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: zalazarfranco329@gmail.com
- Ignacio Zavaleta, Coordinador, Legisladores x el Ambiente, Argentina, email: izavaleta@legisladoresxambiente.org
- Lorena Felisa Micaela Ferraro Medina, Secretaria, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Argentina, email: sabatersol55@gmail.com
- Daiana Giordana Larramendia, Asesora, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: lkd@mrecic.gov.ar
- María Cecilia Nicolini, Secretaria de Cambio Climático, Desarrollo Sostenible e Innovación, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, email: sccssei@ambiente.gob.ar
- Gimena Hernández, Ministra Consejera, Embajada del Uruguay en la Argentina, email: gimena.hernandez@mrree.gub.uy
- Kenia Isabel Godoy Banegas, Primer Secretario y Cónsul, Embajada de Honduras en la Argentina, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional, email: emb.sc.hondurasar@gmail.co
- Pía Poroli, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina, email: epp@mrecic.gov.ar
- Mónica Carci, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: mcf@mrecic.gov.ar
- Francisco de Antueno, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: daj@mrecic.gov.ar
- Eduardo Almirantearena, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: eza@mrecic.gov.ar
- Estela Bursese, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: bua@mrecic.gov.ar
- Lucila Provenzano, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: lpv@mrecic.gov.ar
- Victoria Gobbi, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: gvt@mrecic.gov.ar

- Matías Ninkov, Secretario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, email: kv@mrecic.gov.ar
- Anazul Centeno, Argentina
- Siomara Vitto, Argentina

N. Secretaría/Secretariat

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Secretario Ejecutivo/Executive Secretary, email: secretarioexecutivo@cepal.org
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto para Administración y Análisis de Programas/Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis, email: raul.garciabuchaca@cepal.org
- Luis Fidel Yáñez, Secretario de la Comisión/Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Daniel Titelman, Director, División de Desarrollo Económico/Chief, Economic Development Division, email: daniel.titelman@cepal.org
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: joseluis.samaniego@cepal.org
- Cielo Morales, Directora, Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES)/Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), email: cielo.morales@cepal.org
- Jeannette Sánchez, Directora, División de Recursos Naturales/Chief, Natural Resources Division, email: jeannette.sanchez@cepal.org
- Simone Cecchini, Director, Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE)-División de Población/Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division, email: simone.cecchini@cepal.org
- Ana Güzmez, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs, email: ana.guezmez@cepal.org
- Rolando Ocampo, Director, División de Estadísticas/Chief, Statistics Division, email: rolando.ocampo@cepal.org
- Sally Shaw, Directora, División de Documentos y Publicaciones/Chief, Documents and Publications Division, email: sally.shaw@cepal.org
- Mariana Irisarri, Jefa, Unidad de Español, División de Documentos y Publicaciones/Chief, Spanish Unit, Documents and Publications Division, email: mariana.irisarri@cepal.org
- Mario Castillo, Oficial a Cargo, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/Officer in Charge, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, email: mario.castillo@cepal.org
- Keiji Inoue, Oficial a Cargo, División de Comercio Internacional e Integración/Officer in Charge, International Trade and Integration Division, email: keiji.inoue@cepal.org
- Romain Zivy, Coordinador, Oficina de la Secretaría Ejecutiva/Chief, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: romain.zivy@cepal.org
- Gerardo Mendoza, Jefe, Unidad de Gerencia de Proyectos, División de Planificación de Programas y Operaciones/Chief, Project Management Unit, Programme Planning and Operations Division, email: gerardo.mendoza@cepal.org
- Sandra Manuelito, Jefa, Unidad de Planificación y Evaluación de Programas/Chief, Programme Planning and Evaluation Unit, email: sandra.manuelito@cepal.org

- Guido Camú, Jefe, Unidad de Información Pública/Chief, Public Information Unit, email: guido.camu@cepal.org
- Jimena Arias, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: jimena.arias@cepal.org
- Enrique Oviedo, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: enrique.oviedo@cepal.org
- Karen Haase, Asistente Superior de Gestión de Documentos, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Senior Documents Management Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: karen.haase@cepal.org
- Luis Flores, Asistente de Investigación, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Research Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.flores@cepal.org

Sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Directora/Chief, email: diane.quarless@eclac.org

Sede subregional de la CEPAL en México/ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

- Hugo Beteta, Director/Chief, email: hugo.beteta@cepal.org
- Jorge Mario Martínez, Jefe, Unidad de Comercio Internacional e Industria/Chief, International Trade and Industrial Unit, email: jorgemario.martinez@un.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Bogotá/ECLAC office in Bogotá

- Olga Lucia Acosta, Oficial a Cargo/Officer in Charge, email: olgalucia.acosta@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en la Argentina/ECLAC office in Argentina

- Martín Abeles, Director/Chief, email: martin.abeles@cepal.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Montevideo/ECLAC office in Montevideo

- Gabriel Porcile, Director/Chief, email: gabriel.porcile@cepal.org