



THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF ECLAC
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 20 – 24 MARCH 2006

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.2293(SES.31/2)
7 March 2006

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

- I. Organization of the thirty-first session
- II. Provisional agenda
- III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

The thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 20 to 24 March 2006. By a resolution adopted at the thirtieth session (San Juan, Puerto Rico, 28 June-2 July 2004) and subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 2004/47, the member States accepted the offer extended by Uruguay to host the session. The meeting is being held in accordance with the ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2004-2006.¹

The session is the most important event of each biennium for ECLAC. It provides a forum for the consideration of issues of importance for the development of the countries of the region and an opportunity to review the activities of the Commission. In consultation with the host country, the theme selected for this session is “Shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity”.

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

In the present note, the secretariat has put forward some suggestions which, should the Governments of the member States decide to accept them, may facilitate the consideration of the various items on the provisional agenda and help make the best possible use of the time available. As is customary at meetings of the Commission, these suggestions concerning the organization of work could be considered together with the provisional agenda and the election of officers at the meeting of heads of delegation, scheduled to take place at the beginning of the thirty-first session. The secretariat will make working and reference documents on the various agenda items available to the attending delegations.²

The work of the thirty-first session will be conducted from Monday, 20 March to Friday, 24 March 2006, and will be divided into two stages: the technical stage on 20-21 March, and the ministerial stage on 22-24 March.

The ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will meet throughout the day on Monday, 20 March.

In addition to the meeting of heads of delegation and the opening of the working meetings, Tuesday, 21 March will be devoted to consideration of the report on the activities of the Commission during the period 2004-2005. The chairpersons of subsidiary bodies of ECLAC have been invited to present a brief report on their activities. The Committee on South-South Cooperation will also meet. In the afternoon, the Executive Secretary will present the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system for the 2008-2009 biennium for consideration and adoption by the delegates.

The official opening ceremony of the thirty-first session of the Commission will take place in the morning of Wednesday, 22 March. Following the ceremony, the Executive Secretary will present the document entitled *Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity*. The

¹ ECLAC resolution 603(XXX).

² See “Documents presented at the thirty-first session of the Commission” (LC/G.2299(SES.31/8)).

afternoon of Wednesday, 22 March and all of Thursday, 23 March will be set aside for a high-level seminar on that subject.

The secretariat suggests that, in addition to taking part in the high-level seminar, the Ministers and other heads of delegations in attendance may wish to devote the second part of Friday morning to a general debate and to consideration of the application submitted by the Government of Japan for admission as a member State of the Commission and the request made by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of the Commission.

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

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the thirty-first session
3. Report on the activities of the Commission since the thirtieth session
4. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2008-2009
5. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2006-2008
6. ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development
7. Consideration of the request of the Government of Japan for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
8. Consideration of the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Turks and Caicos as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
9. Committee on South-South Cooperation
10. Presentation and analysis of the document entitled *Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity*
11. Other matters
12. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-first session

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

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

It is suggested that the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the Committee on South-South cooperation should each have their own presiding officers, consisting of a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

It is further proposed that the selection of the presiding officers for the session should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 21 March 2006.

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

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda (LC/G.2291(SES.31/1)) for their consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. Representatives of member States may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.

It is suggested that the agenda should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on Tuesday, 21 March 2006.

3. Report on the activities of the Commission since the thirtieth session

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Commission from June 2004 to December 2005 (LC/G.2296(SES.31/5))

Reference documents:

- The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean perspective (LC/G.2331-P)
- Report of the twenty-third session of the Committee of the Whole (LC/L.2369(PLEN.23/5))
- Report of the twenty-first session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) (LC/CAR/L.86)
- Report of the twelfth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (LC/CAR/L.46)

- Report of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2290)
- Draft report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Report of the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2501)
- Report of the thirty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2280(MDM.37/4))
- Report of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2430(MDM.38/4))
- Public policies for the development of information societies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/W.19)
- The global context and the renewal of the United Nations (LC/G.2254)
- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004 (LC/G.2265-P)
- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005 (LC/G.2292-P)
- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004-2005 (LC/G.2279-P)
- Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004 (LC/C.2269-P)
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2004 (LC/G.2259-P)
- Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2004. Trends 2005 (LC/G.2283-P)

The secretariat will submit a report to the delegations summarizing the activities carried out under the programme of work of the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The report covers the two years which have elapsed since the Commission's preceding session, held in June-July 2004.

The report is divided into three sections. The first deals with the main elements that have a bearing on the Commission's institutional affairs, including the regional environment, the Millennium Development Goals and the impact of United Nations reforms on ECLAC, as well as the preparation of multidisciplinary studies, comprehensive follow-up to world conferences on economic and social issues, activities of subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and inter-agency activities.

The second section covers the programmes executed by ECLAC during the 2004-2005 biennium and reviews the actual results of substantive and operational activities, measured in terms of outputs. A descriptive summary is then provided of the general direction and major aspects of the work conducted under the 12 substantive subprogrammes for which the secretariat is responsible. Information is also

furnished about the cooperation activities undertaken in 2004-2005 by technical assistance missions and projects funded with extrabudgetary resources.

The third section provides an overview of the main information and communications activities carried out by the Documents and Publications Division, the Library, the Information Services Unit and the Internet Development and Coordination Unit of ECLAC.

4. Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2008-2009

Working document:

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2008-2009 (LC/G.2297(SES.31/6))

Reference document:

- Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2006-2007 (LC/G.2238(SES.30/6))

The secretariat will submit the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), for the 2008-2009 biennium. The programmatic frame of reference for this document is usually the proposed strategic framework and the priorities considered by the relevant subsidiary organs of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York. On this occasion, however, there has been a delay in the strategic planning timetable of the United Nations, which is therefore not synchronized with the current session of ECLAC. This situation has obliged the secretariat to bring forward its own strategic planning exercise in order to provide a basis for the biennial programming to be considered at this session. Consequently, the exercise was conducted on the assumption that the Organization's current general orientations will be maintained. Nonetheless, should there be changes that require it, the Commission will be consulted in a timely manner through the ECLAC Committee of the Whole.

The draft programme is divided into 12 subprogrammes. The first three relate to the activities of ECLAC in the field of economic development (subprogrammes 1-3), and the next three to social development activities (subprogrammes 4-6). The following subprogrammes concern training and the planning of public administration (subprogramme 7); sustainable development, human settlements, and natural resources and infrastructure (subprogrammes 8 and 9) and statistics and projections (subprogramme 10). The last two have a subregional focus and relate to activities in Mexico and Central America and in the Caribbean (subprogrammes 11 and 12).

5. Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2006-2008

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

During its thirtieth session, the Commission considered a document entitled “Proposed ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2004-2006. Note by the secretariat.”³ Following the consideration of that item, the Commission adopted resolution 603(XXX), by which it decided that the Commission would retain its existing intergovernmental structure and pattern of meetings and approved the calendar of conferences for the aforementioned period.

In compliance with this resolution, the secretariat has prepared a table showing the meetings scheduled for the period 2006-2008 (annexed to document LC/G.2298(SES.31/7)) in accordance with the mandates approved by Governments at the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

6. ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development

Working documents:

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2301(SES.31/9))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2302(SES.31/10))
- International migration, human rights and development. Synthesis and conclusions (LC/G.2303(SES.31/11))

Reference documents:

- Report of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and resolution 604(XXX) (DDR/1)
- Report of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: Towards a Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (LC/L.2079)
- Cuatro temas centrales en torno a migración internacional, derechos humanos y desarrollo (LC/L.2490)
- Report on the Expert Group Meeting on Migration, Human Rights and Development in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/L.57)
- Lógica y paradoja: libre comercio, migración limitada. Memorias del Taller sobre migración internacional y procesos de integración y cooperación regional, Seminarios y conferencias series, No. 45 (LC/L.2272-P)
- Mujeres migrantes de América Latina y el Caribe: derechos humanos, mitos y duras realidades, Población y desarrollo series, No. 61 (LC/L.2426-P)

The Chairperson of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will report on the progress made in implementing the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development and the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994). The Chairperson will also report on relevant

³ LC/G.2248(SES.30/7).

activities conducted between June 2004 and March 2006, with particular attention to the terms of ECLAC resolution 604(XXX), adopted in 2004.

Pursuant to that resolution, the subject of “International migration, human rights and development” is to be considered on this occasion. At the request of member States, the secretariat has therefore prepared a working document on that subject for submission to the delegations for their consideration.

This document provides guidelines for Governments facing the major challenges and opportunities posed by migration in terms of development, with a cross-cutting perspective on the human rights of migrants and their families. The first section of the study examines the current context of migratory flows, with particular attention to the forces of globalization, the emergence of transnationalism and the ways in which these phenomena affect the countries of the region. This section also reviews initiatives in the area of migratory governance. The study goes on to describe trends and patterns in migration, drawing attention to a number of stylized facts and specific issues relating to countries of destination and subregions of origin. Problems and opportunities involved in cross-border migration in Latin America and the Caribbean are explored within the context of the following three areas: remittances, migration and gender, and skilled migration. Each is a source of both concerns and opportunities in relation to the development process. The second section looks at the links between migration and human rights. Vulnerability issues and migrants’ need for protection are discussed, with emphasis on the active part countries can play in that regard at the national level and especially in numerous international forums and within the Organization of American States. Attention is also devoted to the role that can be played by civil society organizations. The final section presents proposals for a migration agenda focusing on the protection of migrants’ human rights which takes into account the specificities of the region. The study also underlines need to promote and strengthen multilateral cooperation as a legitimate way of ensuring that cross-border migration contributes to the development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

By means of ECLAC resolution 604(XXX) of 2004, the Commission welcomed the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2003, and approved the recommendation that the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development should take charge of monitoring the Strategy’s implementation in the region, which also involves the review and appraisal of the application in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

At the meeting of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to be held during the session, the secretariat will present modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing as agreed at the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development. It will then be the task of the member States of ECLAC to determine the mechanisms and activities to be used in conducting the first review and appraisal of the Plan of Action in the region.

7. Consideration of the request of the Government of Japan for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Working document:

- Request of the Government of Japan for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2307(SES.31/15))

Under this agenda item, the Commission will consider the request of the Government of Japan for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

8. Consideration of the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Turks and Caicos as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Working document:

- Request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Turks and Caicos as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2308(SES.31/16))

Under this agenda item, the Commission will consider the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for admission of the Turks and Caicos as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

9. Committee on South-South Cooperation

Working documents:

- Provisional agenda (LC/G.2304(SES.31/12))
- Annotated provisional agenda (LC/G.2305(SES.31/13))
- Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2004-2005. Note by the secretariat (LC/G.2306(SES.31/14))

The ECLAC secretariat will present, for consideration by the delegations, the document “Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the biennium 2004-2005. Note by the secretariat” (LC/G.2306(SES.31/14)). Section I of the document provides an overall view of international cooperation for development in recent years, analyses the general characteristics of cooperation within the United Nations and ECLAC and describes the impact on these activities of the United Nations reform process.

Section II of the document reviews the cooperation activities of ECLAC during the 2004-2005 biennium, with particular reference to South-South cooperation. It outlines the characteristics of ECLAC technical cooperation projects and expenditures in that area during the biennium, listing the projects by subject area. It also includes a description of a number of key projects which have contributed to the implementation of South-South cooperation in the region.

Section III describes the technical assistance missions, listed by subject area and geographical location, conducted by ECLAC in the past biennium. The document also includes an appendix that outlines the legal framework governing the activities of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC and those of the United Nations system.

10. Presentation and analysis of the document entitled *Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity*

Working documents:

- Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity (LC/G.2294(SES.31/3))
- Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity: Summary (LC/G.2295(SES.31/4))

Reference documents:

- The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean perspective (LC/G.2331-P)
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2005. Briefing paper
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2004 (LC/G.2259-P)
- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004-2005 (LC/G.2279-P)
- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005 (LC/G.2292-P)
- Productive Development in Open Economies (LC/G.2234(SES.30/3))
- Los sistemas de pensiones en América Latina: un análisis de género, Cuadernos de la CEPAL series, No. 90 (LC/G.2262-P)
- A Decade of Social Development in Latin America, 1990-1999, Libros de la CEPAL series No. 77 (LC/G.2212-P)

The secretariat has prepared a document entitled *Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity*, which examines ways of achieving greater solidarity in social protection systems for all at a time when the relative decrease in formal employment and the loss of job security oblige the region to rethink the social protection systems designed in the 1980s and 1990s. In order to achieve greater solidarity, certain social benefits will have to be guaranteed, as well as, in the final analysis, the right of all to social protection. At the same time, the region will need to seek out both contributory and non-contributory solidarity-based funding mechanisms for its highly diverse societies. The document analyses the design of health and pension systems, particularly in relation to the possibility of extending coverage and improving financial solvency by combining contributory and non-contributory funding with public- and private-sector service delivery. In the effort to combat poverty, there is a clear need to develop social assistance programmes which, in addition to providing a safety net for the most vulnerable segments of the population, can bring about improvements in human capital and thereby break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. In its concluding section, the document sets forth the need for social covenants that are adapted to the conditions in each country and based on political agreements that solve the problems of access and quality by incorporating various forms of solidarity into the relevant funding schemes.

This study follows the line of thought that ECLAC has pursued since the early 1990s, which is that, in addition to seeking positive synergies between economic growth and social equity in the context of productive modernization, for which the Commission has always striven, the development of the Latin American and Caribbean economies requires changes in production structures together with an intensive process of human capital formation. The proposals put forward in this document are based on the premise that public policy should be guided by the principle of entitlement to rights and that bridges must be built between rights and the policies that make them enforceable via improved access, better financing and greater solidarity.

This document will be presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC on the morning of 22 March, following the opening ceremony of the ministerial stage of the session.

In order to permit an in-depth consideration of the central theme of the session, “Shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity”, the secretariat has organized a high-level seminar in which ministers, delegates of the member States, prominent scholars and distinguished experts will participate.

This seminar, which will be held on 22 and 23 March, will be divided into four panel discussions on the following subjects: (i) rights and social protection; (ii) funding and provision of health services; (iii) pension system reforms; and (iv) social programmes, human capital and inclusiveness.

Following the panellists’ presentations, a general discussion will be held. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the representatives of member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be given to other participants.

11. Other matters

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

12. Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its thirty-first session