



Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Montevideo, 25-27 October 2017

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In May 2014, the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) decided, by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), to establish the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission. The objectives of the Conference include: to promote the development of national policies on social development, to further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among offices and institutions, and to examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on poverty measurement, inequality and structural gaps in coordination with the work of the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

Every year since 2007, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has held the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In a joint declaration signed in October 2014, ECLAC and UNDP together convened the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of fostering synergies and encouraging the social authorities of the region to attend both events and adopt complementary mandates, while maintaining their institutional identities.

The first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Lima from 2 to 4 November 2015. By virtue of resolution 1(I) adopted by the Conference on that occasion, the countries requested ECLAC and UNDP to convene the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in conjunction with the eighth meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in the framework of the eighth meeting of the Ministerial Forum, the Presiding Officers welcomed the offer of Uruguay to host the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Presentation of the document: *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges.*
4. Review of the document: *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges.*
5. Social achievements attuned with sustainability.
6. Other matters.
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The annex to resolution 682(XXXV) of ECLAC provides for the election of a Chair and six members. It is suggested that the composition of this group of presiding officers should be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 25 October 2017, prior to the work of the Conference. The presiding officers will serve for a term of two years.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The delegations will have before them for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda (LC/CDS.2/1), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Presiding Officers and the host country of the Regional Conference. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such amendments as they deem appropriate under the ECLAC rules of procedure.

3. Presentation of the document: *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*

ECLAC will present the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*, prepared for the second session of the Conference.

This document is intended to contribute to regional dialogue on the link between the social and economic and productive spheres, taking into account the gaps, pillars and challenges that mark that relationship. This theme is crucial for responding to the region's structural challenges, such as inequality and low productivity, as well as the current conditions of slow economic growth, higher unemployment and a standstill in the poverty reduction process, in addition to new global challenges such as climate change, the technology revolution and international migration.

The document has four chapters. The first takes as a starting point the ECLAC perspective on equality as a strategic aim of development and analyses the following themes: (i) the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under the principles of integrated approach, the indivisibility of the economic, social and environmental components and the universality of coverage; (ii) the relationship between inclusive social development, progressive structural change and environmental sustainability as critical links; and (iii) the social inequality matrix and its implications for sustainable development and the objective of leaving no one behind.

The second chapter examines social policies with a rights-based, life cycle perspective, with particular emphasis on childhood, adolescence and youth, emphasizing recent social policy progress and challenges in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Chapter III discusses the twofold challenge of social and labour inclusion and addresses aspects such as the profound changes under way in the world of employment and the need to promote decent work and to move towards closing the gaps identified in the social inequality matrix. It examines the challenges involved in linking social inclusion and labour inclusion and advancing sustainably towards eradicating poverty and reducing social inequality in the region.

Lastly, chapter IV highlights key public policy challenges for social and economic inclusion in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and proposes recommendations in this regard: (i) expanding social and labour inclusion through capacity-building (including digital capabilities); (ii) strengthening institutions, especially in relation to the coordination of policies, statistical measurement and information, and financing; and (iii) enhancing political and fiscal feasibility by means of consensus-building, participation and compacts. Chapters II and IV both make reference to the challenges faced by Caribbean small island developing States.

Working document:

- *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges* (LC/CDS.2/3)

4. Review of the document: *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*

On the second and third days of the session, three consecutive discussion panels will address social development matters that have been identified as priorities in the document presented under agenda item 3. The comments made at each of these panels are expected to nourish the discussions in relation to the agreements of the Conference.

The first panel will address matters relating to social policies with a rights-based approach throughout the life cycle. It will look at recent progress and challenges in terms of building a life cycle perspective into social policy, with particular emphasis on the challenges relating to childhood, adolescence and youth and their needs in relation to protection and social inclusion policies.

The second panel will look at the twofold challenge of social and economic exclusion, considering the changes that are occurring in the employment sphere and the need to promote decent work and to move towards closing the gaps identified in the social inequality matrix. On the basis of those gaps and in light of the opportunities and challenges of the regional context, amid low rates of economic growth, higher unemployment (particularly among young people), climate change, the technology revolution and migration, the panel will analyse the challenges of coordinating social inclusion and economic inclusion (labour, productive and financial) and of advancing sustainably towards eradicating poverty and reducing social inequality in the region.

The third panel will discuss the way forward in developing public policies for social and economic inclusion. The idea of this panel is to exchange alternatives, experiences and recommendations for meeting the inclusion challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (institutional strengthening, financing, capacity-building, statistical measurement and information, and the generation of consensus, participation and compacts).

5. Social achievements attuned with sustainability

Under this agenda item, a panel discussion will be held on social advances in tune with sustainability. This will be preceded by a brief update on the *Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016* prepared by UNDP, which will serve as a background for the discussion. In this context, and taking as a reference the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the participating governments will build on the contents of the first three panels by sharing their experiences in relation to social and economic inclusion and, above all, the challenges encountered and innovative solutions found in terms of intersectoral and vertical coordination, use of physical space and environmental considerations.

6. Other matters

Any other issues raised by delegations may be discussed under this agenda item.

7. Consideration and adoption of agreements

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC.