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**REPORT OF THE FIRST WORKING MEETING OF THE NETWORK
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND FOLLOW-UP
TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN***

Havana, 27 May 2019

* This document is a translation of an original that did not undergo formal editorial review.

Introduction

The meeting was convened pursuant to agreement 5 of the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, held in Santiago on 23 April 2019.

The Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean was established by virtue of resolution 730(XXXVII) of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, held in 2018, with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

1. First part of the meeting

Ileana Núñez Mordoche, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, welcomed the participants and referred to the working methodology and key role of the Network within the work of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Noel González, Director General of Planning and Policies for International Development Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) of Mexico, outlined the design and proposal of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG-LAC Network) and referred to the first phase of implementation of the Network during the chairship of Mexico.

Enrique Oviedo, Political Affairs Officer of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission of ECLAC, referred to the structure of the Network, which had been agreed upon at the planning workshop of the SDG-LAC Network core group, held in September 2018, and to the challenges for the Network in 2019–2020.

Lastly, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba and the representative of AMEXCID referred to the financial resources committed to the Network thus far.

Following the presentations, the floor was opened to participants (country representatives, agencies of the United Nations system and cooperation agencies), for comments and questions on the matters being addressed.

The representatives apprised the meeting of their institutional capacities and strengths for meeting the needs of the SDG-LAC Network.

Summary of discussions:

- The objective of the Network is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Network meets its objectives through work on three axes:

1. Strategy	2. Statistics	3. Cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination mechanisms for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs. – National strategies for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National frameworks and tools for monitoring the SDG indicators. – Methodologies, processes and standards for improving the collection, processing, disaggregation, dissemination and analysis of data and reliable, good-quality statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tools for aligning international development cooperation projects with the SDGs. – Technological tools on good practices in international cooperation for development, aligned with the SDGs.

- The Network was defined as a technical forum for countries needing or offering knowledge in the three pillars to come together for that purpose. All countries are understood to have know-how, technical capacities and practices to share, and all need to learn from their peers in order to achieve the SDGs.
- The Network is open to the 33 countries of the region and joining is voluntary.
- The Network should identify expected outcomes (in general and for each of the three pillars), with respective measurement indicators (no more than 1 or 2 per outcome), in order to conduct follow-up and evaluation.
- The Network will have a core group comprising representatives of the cooperation agencies, Cuba, Mexico and Uruguay, and ECLAC as technical secretariat. The core group may be expanded, as other countries or agencies mobilize resources through the Network.
- The SDG-LAC Network will have three working groups, one for each pillar: strategy, statistics and cooperation. The first meeting of each working group will take place separately, in October (date to be confirmed) in Mexico City. Thereafter, each working group will set its own agenda of remote and/or face-to-face meetings.
- The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC is expected to provide support for coordination and work on the statistics pillar.

2. Second part of the meeting

During the second part of the meeting, ECLAC presented two matters at the request of the Chair:

- (i) Analysis of national statistical capacities to produce the SDG indicators, by Daniel Taccari of the Statistics Division; and
- (ii) Analysis of the institutional capacities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by Enrique Oviedo of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission.

The presentations were alternated with questions and statements from participants.

After the presentations, the representatives discussed the capacities of the countries of the region and reflected on the composition of country groups in the three pillars of the Network, with a view to the second working meeting, to be held in Mexico in October 2019.

Summary of discussions:

- A correspondence may be drawn between the South-South cooperation needed and offered in Latin America and the Caribbean, on selected topics.
- The Statistics Division of ECLAC indicated the following examples:

Table 1
Example of statistical capacities

Topic	Countries requesting	Countries offering
Natural disasters	ATG, BOL, CHL, CRI, ECU, GTM, HND, MEX, PAN, PRY	CUB
Infant mortality	ATG, BOL, CRI, GTM, HND, PAN, PRY	ARG, COL, CUB, MEX, SLV, VCT
Security and justice	ATG, BOL, CHL, CRI, ECU, GTM, HND, PAN, PRY, SLV, VEN	ARG, COL, MEX
Tourism	ECU, GTM, HND, HTI, PAN, PRY	BRA, MEX

- A similar table may be drawn up for institutional capacities. Mention was made, for example, of the need for work and the existing supply of capacities in the areas of long-term planning, territorial implementation and resource management.

Table 2
Example institutional capacities

Topic	Countries requesting	Countries offering
Long-term planning		BRA, BOL, CRI, GRD, GUA, HTI, HND, JAM, PAN, PRY, PER, DOM, SLV, TTO
Territorialization		ARG, BRA, COL, MEX, PRY, BOL, CHL, CRI, CUB, ECU, ESP, GRD, GUA, HND, JAM, PAN, PER, DOM, SUR, TTO, URU, VEN
Budget		COL, MEX, URU

- Attention was drawn to the need to pool the efforts of the agencies, funds and programmes working on South-South cooperation in the region. It is hoped the greatest support will be afforded to the SDG-LAC Network.
- Lastly, the representatives discussed the need to take steps to increase resource mobilization for the Network.

Agreements

The delegations convened at the first working meeting of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana on 27 May 2019, agreed to:

1. *Hold* a meeting between the ECLAC secretariat, the Governments of Mexico and Cuba, and potential donors to the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean on 26 June 2019 in Havana, to identify and mobilize resources and establish a financial management mechanism for the funds available;

2. *Request* the ECLAC secretariat to prepare a draft road map for the work of the Network, including technical capacity-building workshops and specific actions for each of the three axes, and to submit it for adoption by the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC, for presentation thereafter at the second working meeting of the Network;

3. *Hold* the second working meeting of the Network in Mexico in October 2019;

4. *Request* the Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC to arrange to participate in the Meeting of National Coordinators and Cooperation Officers of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), to be held in Madrid in June 2019, with a view to reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean and creating synergies between this initiative and SEGIB;

5. *Report* on the work of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean and its actions across all three axes at meetings held in the context of the programme of work of ECLAC and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies addressing or related to the spheres of work of the Network.

List of participants

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