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**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Santiago, 24–26 April 2019



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019. The meeting was convened by the Government of Cuba, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), under the auspices of the Commission, by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by the member States at the thirty-sixth session.

Attendance¹

2. The following States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were represented at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Attending as observers were the following non-Forum-member States members of the Commission: Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Spain.

4. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the meeting by Advisers and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, resident coordinators and staff members from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Development Coordination Office (DCO), the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

5. The following United Nations bodies were also represented: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

6. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

¹ See annex 5 for the full list of participants.

7. Also attending were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), Organization of American States (OAS), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA).

8. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross also attended the meeting.

9. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of legislative powers of the region, cooperation bodies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia who figure in the list of participants.

Chair

10. The third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was chaired by Cuba, the country serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

11. The Forum adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation of the quadrennial progress report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Peer learning sessions.
 - Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean
 - Institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda
 - Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level
 - Statistical capacities, measurement and georeferencing
4. Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system.

6. Contribution of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and relevant intergovernmental meetings to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. Dialogues on the first four-year cycle of review of the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: critical links and means of implementation
9. Special session: towards the General Assembly 2019.
10. Other matters.
11. Conclusions and recommendations.

C. PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Carolina Valdivia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile; Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (who conveyed a written statement); Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council (by video message); and Gilda Menchú, youth representative.

13. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the participants and said that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a crucial space for dialogue between governments, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the region, civil society, academia and the private sector, enabling the fruitful exchange of experiences and good practices in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. Multilateralism, tangible examples of which existed in the region, was going through a challenging time; international cooperation had weakened, confidence in democracy had been eroded and the Organization's normative agenda, such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, was being called into question. Nonetheless, cooperation was the only path to advance towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Multilateralism was compatible with democracy at the national level when multilateral agreements prioritized the broad interests of the many over the narrow interests of the most powerful groups, protected the rights of minorities and the most vulnerable sectors of the population, and strengthened the deliberative capacities of governments and civil society, by fostering a debate that combined transparency, diversity of views and analytical capacity. The economic system needed to be capable of creating jobs and generating growth, underpinned by a system of governance that could provide the global and regional public goods necessary for growth.

14. She highlighted three issues that must be addressed: trade and financial imbalances that produced recessionary adjustments in the form of downturns in growth and employment in deficit-running economies; inequalities among and within countries, which meant that the world of work bore the brunt of

those adjustments following external shocks; and climate change and environmental degradation. Faced with those issues, production and consumption patterns must be fostered that were compatible with a path of economic growth that was low in greenhouse gas emissions. ECLAC proposed an environmental big push as a framework for investment incentives to change the development pattern, using, for example, the technology revolution to build endogenous capacities in countries. As ECLAC had posited at its most recent session, inequality was inefficient; a failure to invest in equal societies was a failure to invest in the future. The Executive Secretary said that countries of the region were finding it very difficult to advance the 2030 Agenda, given the limited fiscal space. Nevertheless, 29 of them had set up institutional coordination mechanisms to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, 34 voluntary national reviews had been submitted or were expected to be submitted. The *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,² to be presented by ECLAC, had been prepared by 13 funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the region, and charted three trends: SDGs that were on track to be achieved by 2030; indicators that had stagnated or changed direction; and SDGs that were not on track to be attained by 2030. Lastly, the Forum was a testament to the region's commitment to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

15. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile welcomed the participants and said that it was an honour for Chile to participate in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a space in which to discuss and share experiences in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Chile was committed to realizing the 2030 Agenda, which depended on the joint implementation efforts of various stakeholders. In Chile, the institutional framework had been adapted to foster a cross-cutting approach and there was an empowered civil society, a private sector that was very active and interested in the 2030 Agenda and an academic sector that carried out research based on national needs in order to implement the Agenda. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the region, and the resident coordinators, were helping to drive progress towards the SDGs. Chile attached great importance to bodies for regional and interregional reflection, such as the Forum, which were the sources of the approaches needed to implement the 2030 Agenda. Chile would present its second voluntary national review—which would analyse the progress made with a holistic approach—at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York, in July 2019.

16. At the international level Chile was guided by the 2030 Agenda for the benefit of its citizens, although it was not always easy to make the benefits visible. For example, Chile was a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO), a platform for cooperation with other countries on decent work. In 2019, Chile would host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, for which four priority areas had been identified: the digital society; integration 4.0; women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and inclusive growth; and sustainable growth. Chile would also host the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), which would also offer an opportunity to open spaces for long-term dialogue to address climate change. Lastly, in such a diverse region, there were national processes and international decisions that required country-specific time frames and structures. Diversity made it possible for the visions that converged in the Forum to complement each other and work towards building a fairer society for all.

17. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, welcomed the participants and said that the Forum's consolidation showed that the countries could work together in a

² LC/FDS.3/3.

spirit of dialogue, with respect for national sovereignty and self-determination, defending a multilateralism aligned with the comprehensive development proposed in the 2030 Agenda to overcome inequality, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and deaths from preventable diseases. The impact of climate change particularly affected the Caribbean countries, which had to devote already scarce resources to mitigation efforts. That situation, coupled with mounting global economic uncertainty, meant that multilateralism was increasingly necessary, as was an approach that placed citizens at the centre of development and took into account the region's particularities. All the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had success stories to share. In that regard, Cuba remained committed to fostering integration among the countries of the region and synergies among the region's mechanisms to promote South-South cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation. The application of unilateral measures, such as the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, a policy that had intensified in recent years, was damaging the country's economic and trade relations with the rest of the world. Despite that situation, which was the main obstacle to Cuba's economic development and, therefore, implementation of the 2030 Agenda, he reiterated his country's commitment to support the countries of the region in delivering on the SDGs.

18. In a written statement conveyed to the Forum, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations commended the work of ECLAC, which had helped to shape the conceptual vision behind the SDGs, in a region that had demonstrated in theory and in practice that alternative economic models were possible. She said that, despite progress, early data showed that the world was not on track to attain the SDGs by 2030 and was also losing the race against climate change. The discussions in the Forum would help to identify challenges and bottlenecks in that regard. The ambitious nature of the 2030 Agenda demanded more from all stakeholders and the persistent inequalities in the region made the task even more daunting, as they limited growth, marginalized individuals and eroded public trust in institutions. The United Nations was therefore undertaking bold reforms to become a better partner to governments and peoples as they delivered on the SDGs, by providing more integrated policy advice, scaling up actions and helping countries to leverage finance and partnerships. At the regional level, the Organization could help to better translate global action into local results, particularly in the face of challenges that knew no borders, such as climate change. The specific challenges of realizing sustainable development in a region of middle-income countries and small island developing States had raised three fundamental questions: how could the commitment to leave no one behind be upheld when multidimensional poverty and inequality remained high? How could the region ensure the full participation of women and indigenous peoples in the economic, social and political lives of their countries? And lastly, how could the financing for development needed to deliver on the SDGs be obtained? To maximize the impact of financing for development, private and public resources had to be combined and greater global cooperation fostered in order to eliminate illicit flows and tax evasion. South-South and triangular cooperation could also contribute to the exchange of know-how, technology and expertise. Lastly, the Deputy Secretary-General urged countries to work closely with the resident coordinators and country teams, who could offer tailored and effective support for national development strategies and plans.

19. In a video message, the President of the Economic and Social Council said that it was encouraging to see that governments in the region were putting the SDGs at the centre of their development plans and aligning their policies and institutions behind the Goals. Businesses were recognizing that the SDGs were creating investment opportunities and providing access to new technologies and new markets that were both profitable and sustainable. And civil society was at the forefront of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, despite that progress, a far greater effort was needed. As shown in the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, conflicts, humanitarian crises, inequality, climate challenge and environmental degradation were limiting progress toward achieving the SDGs. The Forum of the Countries

of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a key platform for reviewing SDG implementation progress in the region and fostering cooperation and effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes to advance sustainable development. The outcome of the meeting would be a valuable input for the forthcoming session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which would seek to focus countries' energies and strengthen their commitment to the 2030 Agenda by forging strong partnerships at all levels and scaling up good practices through peer learning. The Economic and Social Council would continue to support the regional forums, which were critical to fostering partnerships, defining common priorities and providing an important space for knowledge exchange among a wide range of regional stakeholders. She urged the countries to maintain momentum of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and to work together for the future we want for all people, the planet, prosperity and peace.

20. The youth representative highlighted young people's participation in initiatives to implement the 2030 Agenda and their efforts to further the gains that had enabled the most disadvantaged to exercise their rights. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a space for exchanging ideas and specific proposals in that regard, and each of the Forum's participants had a responsibility to do so. Talking about sustainable development meant talking about shifting challenges, and young people would continue the work that had been started, with the energy and momentum passed on by those who had paved the way for achieving the shared goal of development. Lastly, she highlighted the role and action of women, many of whom were migrants, which had furthered the exercise of rights in the region.

Presentation of the quadrennial progress report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 2)

21. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 700(XXXVI). Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Christian Salazar, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), offered comments on the presentation.

22. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, noting that the report had been prepared in conjunction with the regional offices of various United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, said that the world was not the same as it had been in 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted. Profound shifts had occurred in the international political economy, along with slow growth of the global economy and trade, growing protectionism, weakening of multilateralism, an increase in inequalities and erosion of confidence in democracy, the risk of a new financial crisis, geopolitical rivalry—especially in technology—and climate change. She remarked upon the paradox that cooperation, which was more crucial than ever for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, had become more difficult. Weak economic growth, falling relative productivity, external imbalances, dependence on raw materials, inequality throughout the region and increases in poverty and extreme poverty—following the progress achieved between 2002 and 2015—were challenges that the region must tackle in order to leave no one behind.

23. The report also discussed the inefficiency of inequality, gaps in education, child labour, the violence that undermined sustainable development, deforestation and changes in land use and their effects on climate change, and the challenge of advancing towards a more sustainable energy mix. The most worrying issue was the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The reduction in the fiscal space and high levels of public debt, particularly in the Caribbean, were a significant problem. Total revenue was stagnant, total expenditure was low and debt burdens prevented the allocation of a greater share of tax revenue to public

expenditure. Circumstances were difficult, but the region was committed, and an effort was needed to mobilize resources to support the 2030 Agenda; to that end several instruments were proposed to expand the fiscal space. In addition to reiterating the proposal for an environmental big push, the Executive Secretary stated that a new multilateralism was needed for the provision of global and regional public goods, increasing resilience, universalizing welfare States, affording priority to the interests of majorities over the narrow interests of powerful groups, and protecting the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.

24. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the report's analysis of the cost of non-cooperation, the relationship between productivity, inequality and governance, and the institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda. The region was still lagging behind significantly in specific areas and progress was needed on productivity, inclusion and resilience. This would require effective governance and the ability of governments to demonstrate results. The lessons learned included the need to have differentiated policies, since growth was very uneven, and to measure progress in terms of stocks, such as physical and human capital, and not just flows, such as consumption. The concentration of power in certain groups led to discontent, making it necessary to rebuild confidence in governments' capabilities. UNDP was addressing the challenges of productivity, inclusion and resilience from the perspectives of climate change, inequality and migration, focusing on opportunities in these areas through specific initiatives.

25. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) highlighted the value added of multilateralism in the region. Significant progress had been achieved with the support of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and ECLAC. Many of the challenges the region faced were interrelated and their causes and impacts transcended borders, requiring cooperation to address them. Broad reforms were needed in numerous areas, with more efficient public expenditure and new ways of working in government, in civil society and in business. The report drew attention to the need for a new generation of public policies with multisectoral approaches. To advance sustainable development, it was also important to strengthen the mechanisms that States were creating around the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations had a strong capacity to support States through joint analysis and proposals, particularly through resident coordinators and country teams, as well as through normative knowledge of international standards regarding the SDGs.

26. In the ensuing discussion, it was highlighted that the Forum offered an opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that the Agenda helped countries change the way they planned and formulated policies, as well as providing a valuable common language for dialogue with civil society, governments and other stakeholders. Despite significant progress in the region, pressing needs remained that had to be addressed in a coordinated manner. A new multilateralism was necessary for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, since many of the challenges were interrelated and could only be addressed by the region as a whole. The region needed to resolve development traps and prioritize strategically, cooperating to strengthen the capacity for dialogue between government, the private sector and civil society, to make the countries' agendas genuine agendas of State. The 2030 Agenda was focused on transformation, meaning that it required a new paradigm that was inclusive and long-term. The Forum recognized the usefulness of the information provided by ECLAC to review and evaluate the mechanisms available to the region and thus address the challenge of leaving no one behind.

Peer learning sessions (agenda item 3)

27. These sessions were divided into four thematic panels.

Panel 1: Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

28. Panel 1 was moderated by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the panellists were Gale T. C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia; Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development; Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago; and Troy Torrington, Director of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana.

29. Before passing the floor to the moderator, the Executive Secretary highlighted the fact that Guyana had been the first country to ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and spoke on the Commission's focus on putting the Caribbean first in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). Given the many difficulties the subregion faced, including vulnerability to hurricanes and natural disasters, she called on the countries of Latin America to provide political support to Caribbean nations in various areas, for example offshore banking and de-risking.

30. In her capacity as moderator, the Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean said that the panel discussions would serve to inform the Climate Summit, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the high-level dialogue on financing for development, and high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, to be held during the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2019, and offered an opportunity for early reflection on the critical messaging from the subregion to secure wider support from the international community for the SIDS development agenda. The very survival of highly vulnerable Caribbean States and their ability to achieve sustainable development depended on the success of strategies to empower people, guarantee inclusiveness, foster equality and build resilience. For those strategies to be effective, the people of the subregion—its greatest asset—had to be at the centre of innovation. She then introduced the panellists and invited them to share some of the specific difficulties in their countries and give accounts of actions and strategies implemented.

31. The Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia said that it was important not to lose sight of the primary purpose of governance: to serve the people. The main challenges facing the subregion included the need to reconcile old and new paradigms and the scarcity of financial resources and technical capacity, despite the concerted efforts of entities such as ECLAC to equip the subregion to implement development agendas and initiatives. Other challenges were aligning ideas and political intent with the unique particularities of the various jurisdictions, competition between beneficiaries of the region for United Nations resources and the need for greater collaboration in line with SDG 17. Civil society in the Caribbean was not as active as in Latin America, perhaps owing to the smaller size and the difficulty in separating organizations from political structures. The Government of Saint Lucia had taken important steps to incorporate the SDGs into the national agenda, giving priority to those that could transform the social and economic landscape. Although the government had done much to facilitate private sector participation, more effort was needed to integrate SDGs into the curriculum and bring them closer to the people, and Saint Lucia was eager to emulate best practices adopted in the region. It was also important to ensure that diplomatic endeavours translated into tangible gains that citizens could appreciate.

32. The Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, said that she welcomed insights and solutions to overcoming the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda and looked

forward to the suggestions that would inform the negotiations of the political declaration. High levels of inequality in the region undermined social cohesion and hampered sustainable development efforts. The effects of the 2008 financial crisis in the region were evident in slow employment growth, particularly prevalent among women and young people, and widespread poverty. Economic growth and redistribution policies that benefited the poor were therefore essential. Other challenges included rapid urbanization; inequality and gaps in access to services and infrastructure; and gender inequality. The path forward would require the decoupling of economic growth from unsustainable and environmentally harmful production and consumption patterns, which was the most pressing challenge for the Caribbean. Given the economic and physical threat of sea-level rise to Caribbean countries, it was critical to focus on resilience-building and circular economies, through the mobilization of internal and external resources, new methods of allocation of resources and investment, and profound reform of public finances. The Bahamas had localized the 2030 Agenda into national development planning.

33. The Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago said that the country's National Development Strategy was closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and served as the short-, medium- and long-term policy framework, with targeted interventions in five thematic areas: putting people first; delivering good governance and service excellence; improving productivity through quality infrastructure and transportation; globally competitive businesses; and placing the environment at the centre of social and economic development. Progress had been made in implementing SDGs related to education, labour and housing with a people-centred approach. Of note was an inclusive on-the-job training programme providing people aged 16–35 with knowledge and industry-specific experience to facilitate labour market insertion. The country was working to meet its obligations relating to climate change through ratification of major environmental instruments and a national climate change policy. However, it no longer qualified for certain categories of international development assistance despite being burdened by economic, trade and environmental factors and declining energy sector revenues. There was insufficient coordination between government and grass roots levels and the country lacked relevant and current data and a strong data collection and management system, which the imminent establishment of a national statistics institute aimed to remedy. Without a culture of performance management driven by evidence-based decision-making, it was difficult to determine if interventions were suitable or properly executed.

34. The Director of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana said that the Caribbean's greatest wealth and main asset was its human capital. The essential question faced by the region was how to enlarge successes while constraining challenges. Three points demonstrated what had worked and what had not. The first was ownership of the 2030 Agenda, which had to be localized and owned by the people. This had been the case in Guyana, where the adoption of the SDGs had coincided with the entry into office of an administration whose development strategy aligned with the Goals. The second point was the availability of financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the light of the difficulties faced by middle-income countries regarding insufficient aid and tax revenues, and a small private sector that was unable to provide the support required. The third point was the capacity for collecting and measuring data and ensuring that the relevant data were available and could be used effectively for decision-making. The Caribbean subregion faced a number of challenges beyond countries' control, such as climate change and migration, and others which they could address, such as aspects of government. It was also clear that the region had specific characteristics that had to be treated in context; therefore, the dedicated attention being given to the small island developing States was welcome.

35. In the comments that followed, a representative of civil society stated that greater cooperation between governments and technicians and ordinary citizens would enhance effectiveness and cost-efficiency, as the people of the community were valuable resources. The representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) said that the high youth unemployment and financial issues affecting the region

resulted in inequalities among communities and, in turn, increased crime and violence. The resulting rise in spending on defence and security had led to cutbacks on expenditures for social services and support systems. The subregional bloc benefited from economies of scale and sharing of technical expertise, successful examples of which included a recently approved human resource development strategy, the Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH) initiative, and a regional action plan on statistics. The speaker acknowledged the strong partnership between CARICOM and ECLAC on small island developing States and thanked the Commission for two excellent reports which would be useful for the region's engagement with the high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, to take place in September 2019: "Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action"³ and *The Caribbean Outlook*.⁴ CARICOM also looked forward to ECLAC continuing to play a strong role in the region's engagement on the SIDS agenda.

36. The moderator concluded the session by referring specifically to the difficulties posed by limited access to financial resources in favourable conditions and the challenges of migration for the governments of the subregion. She said that a gender-sensitive and results-based approach was positive and underscored the importance of planning based on information. Lastly, she highlighted the richness of the publication *The Caribbean Outlook*, which contained a detailed analysis of the economic, social, environmental and institutional aspects of the Caribbean countries and ECLAC recommendations relating to initiatives in those areas.

Panel 2: Institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda

37. Panel 2 was moderated by Isidoro Santana, Minister for Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, and the participants were Álvaro García, Director of the Office for Planning and Budget of Uruguay; Carlos Alberto Pereira, Minister-Executive Secretary of the Technical Planning Secretariat for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay; Lucas Gómez, Technical Director of the Directorate of Public Policy Monitoring and Evaluation in the National Planning Department of Colombia; Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina; Romanela Conte, Coordinator of Budget-Strategic Planning Linkaging of the National Budget Coordination Department of Argentina; Alejandra Candia, Undersecretary for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Michelle Muschett, Minister of Social Development and Technical Coordinator of the Social Cabinet of Panama; Gemma Santana, Director-General for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Office of the President of Mexico; and Enid Rocha, Deputy Director of the Social Studies and Policies Department of the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil.

38. The Minister for Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, in his capacity as moderator, said that the 2030 Agenda had compelled countries to rethink their planning systems and strengthen tax systems to finance attainment of the SDGs and create inter-agency coordination mechanisms with the participation of all sectors of society and government institutions. Adaptation of institutional frameworks to the imperative need to implement the 2030 Agenda presented significant challenges for a region that was not characterized by institutional strength or trust in institutions. Given the enormous inequalities existing in the region—not only social, gender or territorial, but also those relating to ethnicity or migratory status—there was a great risk of failing to fulfil the main purpose of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind. The fact that all countries had to navigate electoral processes and changes of

³ See [online] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20949Caribbean_SAMOA_Pathway_Midterm_report_18_Oct.2018_final_draft1.pdf.

⁴ LC/SES.37/14/Rev.1.

government must be borne in mind, since alternation of power was a fundamental part of democracy, without which the SDGs would not be achievable. The SDGs must therefore form part of a long-term strategic plan, as their implementation could not be dependent on the willingness of the incumbent government.

39. The Director of the Office for Planning and Budget of Uruguay said that at the time the 2030 Agenda was adopted, the development model pursued by the country was already in line with the SDGs and, consequently, there had been continuity in its implementation. The key aspect of this model was its cross-cutting approach: all lines of long-term planning also took into account social, environmental, localization, gender and cultural dimensions. The National Statistical Institute of Uruguay (INE) reported that measurement methodology existed for half of the SDG indicators and the country measured those regularly. Achievements in 2017 and 2018 included the development of a first national matrix of complementary and supplementary indicators; linkages between the SDGs and programmatic areas of the budget; the launch of a transparency portal with information on SDGs, planning and budget that had gained international recognition; a first approach to costing the implementation of SDGs; the incorporation of a human rights approach; and the impetus given to civil society and business sector participation in the process. Activities to localize SDGs for development at subnational level had also been carried out, with the involvement of all sectors of society.

40. The Minister-Executive Secretary of the Technical Planning Secretariat for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay said that because of the interaction of very diverse factors in the SDGs, it was essential to draw up a strategic plan that was inclusive and participatory. The use of territorial planning in all departments of the country had enabled the government to gain first-hand knowledge of the inequalities affecting communities and their needs in areas such as health and infrastructure. This was the only way to ensure that national development plans were aligned with the realities in-country and that public policies were adapted to the needs of the population. He concluded by stating that citizens' demand for quality in public spending had led the Paraguayan administration to adopt results-based planning, a public management model that sought to ensure transparency in allocation of budgetary resources and that public expenditure was aligned with countries' national development plans and programmatic areas of action.

41. The Technical Director of the Directorate of Public Policy Monitoring and Evaluation in the National Planning Department of Colombia emphasized that SDGs must be a policy of State capable of transcending government terms in office; a rationale that the institutional framework established in Colombia had tried to maintain. If no one was to be left behind, equity had to be at the heart of reflection on the country's future— which was why Colombia had invested 50% of its budget in closing gaps. In a highly polarized context, the 2030 Agenda depoliticized the discussion as it was easy for all stakeholders to agree, for example, on the need to reduce poverty. However, he noted that national development plans could no longer simply be aligned with the SDGs; the time had come to establish a real link between the two. It was also important not to revisit ground already gained, but to learn from the experience of those countries that had advanced to the next stage and were devising “second-generation” development plans. Major challenges included financing of the Agenda and localization of the SDGs.

42. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina said that the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and SDGs had been spearheaded by the Office of the President through the Council. As that process required integrated policies and actions that no agency could undertake alone, an inter-institutional approach had been adopted. Priority targets had been defined in six strategic areas —employment, education, science and technology, agricultural production, housing and social protection— and an interministerial commission formed, comprising six working groups that met monthly to adapt the targets to national priorities. Each agency was committed to adapting the goals under its purview and the non-hierarchical relationship between them made

coordination essential. Coordination was undertaken with a rights-based and cross-cutting approach that incorporated gender, disability and life cycle perspectives. The process had been consolidated into a framework for monitoring the SDGs through the tracking of indicators.

43. The Coordinator of Budget-Strategic Planning Linkaging of the National Budget Coordination Department of Argentina then reported on the work that had been done to connect budgetary areas with the targets of the 2030 Agenda. After initial work to incorporate 6 SDGs in the underlying methodology of budgeting and in budget monitoring, the remaining 11 SDGs had been addressed. To that end, the Department was working with 20 public bodies in a process in which the active participation of all stakeholders was an integral part. Budget tracking was fundamental, since it helped to understand matters concerning the sufficiency of the resources invested, appropriateness of their allocation and the need to explore new lines of financing. It was a continuous effort requiring multi-stakeholder collaboration and an ongoing analysis of how different agencies interacted with each other.

44. The Undersecretary for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that an appropriate institutional framework was vital for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, Chile had set up the National Council for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising representatives of several ministries, with a mandate to advise the President on implementation of the Agenda, coordinate with different sectors, and establish commissions and working groups. After an initial diagnosis, it had been necessary to adapt the institutional framework to a new stage focused on an implementation strategy. The multidimensional poverty approach adopted had led to a better understanding of the needs of the population than the income poverty approach. The speaker underscored her Office's interest in sharing its experience in evaluation and measurement methodologies with other countries.

45. The Minister of Social Development and Technical Coordinator of the Social Cabinet of Panama said that the country had been among the first to adopt a regulatory framework for implementation of 2030 Agenda, establishing the Inter-Agency and Civil Society Commission for the Support and Follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the main pillars of its national development plan, the National Strategic Plan with a State Vision "Panama 2030", had been defined through participatory processes. With regard to the link between the 2030 Agenda and planning and budgeting, she noted that the fiscal social responsibility law stipulated that the government's strategic plans must take into account the goals agreed by the Council of the National Alliance for Development. The composition of the Social Cabinet embodied the relationship between the different stakeholders: the participation of social groups, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Ministry of the Environment meant that the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda were represented. She concluded by highlighting unmet challenges, which included the strengthening of the national statistical system and the development of local capacities.

46. The Director-General for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Office of the President of Mexico remarked that one of her country's main challenges was to communicate the benefits of the SDGs across all levels of government. The Government had focused on training on the 2030 Agenda in the country's 32 federal entities and on working with all federal agencies to ensure that discussions would centre not only on the SDGs relating to their respective areas of competence, but also on those under the other two pillars. Democracy was achieved by generating a community around the 2030 Agenda and mainstreaming it at all levels of government and in all sectors of society. In reviewing the national development plan, efforts had been made to place cross-cutting issues of concern, such as children and women, at the centre of public policies. The next step would be to link the national development plan and the budget; Mexico was interested in learning from other countries' experiences in that regard.

47. The Deputy Director of the Social Studies and Policies Department of the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil spoke of the adaptation of global goals to the national context in order to incorporate SDGs into planning instruments and legislative frameworks. This process had helped Brazil to identify how aligned planning and budget structures were with the SDGs, which targets had already been achieved, and which national priorities were not well reflected in the SDGs. She said that, at times, targets were very generic and adapting them to the local context had made it possible to quantify them, make them more specific or scale them up. However, if localizing a certain target would limit its scope, it was left unchanged. New targets had also been set, such as one related to the conservation and biodiversity of inland water ecosystems. The process had created a sense of ownership of the SDGs in all sectors of society because the outcomes of a first stage of discussion among government institutions had been submitted for public consultation via a digital platform.

Panel 3: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level

48. Panel 3 was moderated by Elkin Velásquez, Regional Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the participants were Miguel Angel Moir, Secretary of Planning in the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala; Javier Abugattás, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) of Peru; Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Secretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of Argentina; Julio Saguir, State Secretary of Public Administration and Planning in the Government of the Province of Tucumán, Argentina; Rodrigo Alderete, Undersecretary for Planning of the Province of Tucumán, Argentina; Diana Alarcón González, Head of International Affairs of the Government of Mexico City; and Rocío Molina, President of the Bolivian Association of Municipalities (AMB) and representative of the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA).

49. In his capacity as moderator, the Regional Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) gave an overview of the theme of the panel —implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level— and stressed the importance of transferring the global agenda to the various territories of Latin America and the Caribbean.

50. The Secretary of Planning in the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala described the country's institutional structures that allowed decisions to be made at different planning levels, through technical and political cooperation, with a written commitment that shaped a unified vision of the country's development. With the support of ECLAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), a process had been started to integrate the international agenda into the national development agenda; in the next phase, the aim was to take the agenda to the subnational level. The implementation process involved multiple stakeholders, such as State bodies, national and municipal planning directorates, the private sector, civil society and international cooperation agencies.

51. The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) of Peru emphasized that development plans for the territory should be built around consensus and that it was necessary to start on the basis of people's daily lives in specific territories. At local level, authorities, officials and public representatives had to continuously improve their knowledge of the situation and listen to their communities to update development plans and policies at all levels. Global and national agendas had to be contextualized in territories, with a multi-level perspective.

52. The Secretary for Territorial Planning and Public Works Coordination of Argentina stated that transparent information was needed to apply subnational agendas and the SDGs had to be mainstreamed into provincial development plans and municipal planning, prioritizing projects according to the changes being pursued. As public resources alone were insufficient, partnerships with civil society and the private sector were needed.

53. The State Secretary of Public Administration and Planning in the Government of the Province of Tucumán, Argentina, stated that the SDGs were integrated into the territorial strategic plan in the province. Tucumán's statistical system linked a common data repository, which was open to citizens, to a data set from different ministerial areas, supporting the SDG indicators and their monitoring. ILPES had contributed to fine-tuning the implementation of the SDGs in the Province of Tucumán by setting goals, targets and indicators, and 450 of the province's public initiatives and policies had been linked to the SDGs.

54. The Undersecretary for Planning of the Province of Tucumán, Argentina, referred to awareness-raising with respect to SDG-related strategic planning, the work performed in inland metropolitan areas in coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and coordination of public policies to achieve more efficient planning; such public policy went beyond the scope of national governments.

55. The Head of International Affairs of the Government of Mexico City highlighted the important role of cities in implementing global agendas. The programme of the Government of Mexico City on innovation and rights, for example, was consistent with the global development agendas, not just the 2030 Agenda, and involved commitments to sustainability, equity and the rights-based approach. It was equally important to convey the substance of the local to the global discussion.

56. The President of the Bolivian Association of Municipalities (AMB) and representative of the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA) recalled that municipalities were key actors in implementing the SDGs because they could meet the needs of people, combat poverty and contribute, for example, to changing the energy matrix. A paradigm shift was needed, for States to take cities and municipalities into account in SDG implementation.

57. The moderator stressed that the global agendas could be linked up in the sphere of local development and that they were of great importance in the collective imaginary. The local level was also the right setting for progress from instrumentation to action. It was also important to break down data at the city and municipal levels and to foster subnational agendas in countries' multilateral policies.

58. Lastly, Mario Ferreiro, Mayor of Asunción, in his capacity as a member of the World Council of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), read a letter signed by networks of local governments asking that local and subnational governments be included in the Forum and that a working group be established to determine joint strategies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Panel 4: Statistical capacities, measurement and georeferencing

59. Panel 4 was moderated by Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile. The panellists were Martine Durand, Director of Statistics and Data Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Julio Santaella, President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico; Leesha Delatie-Budair, Deputy Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica; Mercedes González, Deputy Head of the National Office of

Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba; Roberto Castillo, Director-General of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador; and Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director-General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia.

60. The Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile introduced the panellists and proposed a series of ideas to guide the discussion: the institutional mechanisms that the respective countries had established to measure and follow up the SDGs and to prepare the voluntary national reviews; the link between the SDG follow-up mechanisms and the existing institutional structure for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the main statistical challenges related to the SDG indicators and the function of national statistical offices in producing data for their follow up; the role of non-traditional sources in the production of non-official statistics in the context of the data revolution and the mechanisms available to exploit them; and the role of geospatial information and georeferencing in monitoring the SDGs.

61. The Director of Statistics and Data Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said that the Organization had developed a comprehensive action plan on the SDGs and a methodology to help countries to measure the distance they had to travel to reach the SDG targets and set their own policy priorities. The potential transboundary effects of actions by OECD member countries were also being assessed. While indicators were essential to inform and monitor national, regional and global policies for achieving the SDGs, national statistical offices should not seek to produce all 232 SDG indicators at once, prioritizing instead those that were most important for the country's policies. Moreover, much of the data relevant to the SDG indicators could be available from other government sources, so it was important that national statistical offices had access to them, as well as data from non-traditional sources, the incorporation of which was promoted by the OECD strategy on specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) data. Lastly, it was important that countries share their experiences and lessons learned in statistical matters and, in that regard, the speaker commended the work of the High-level Group on the Modernization of Official Statistics.

62. The President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico said that follow up of the SDGs was fully integrated into his country's national statistical system, with a specialized technical committee, headed by the Office of the President, which coordinated the measuring and priority-setting efforts among the different ministries, and the follow-up mechanism, the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenges particular to Mexico included the need to close technical or methodological and operation gaps; the prioritization of SDGs in accordance with national public policy needs; and how to exploit and access existing information. Lastly, it was important to adopt a flexible and open approach in order to take full advantage of new data sources and geospatial information.

63. The Deputy Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica said that while the national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, was highly aligned with the SDG targets, data to monitor progress were not readily available. The 2030 Agenda called for evidence-based decision making, which in turn required the rapid production of a large volume of high-quality data, something that exceeded the capacity of most national statistical offices, particularly those in the Caribbean, given their limited financial and human resources. As a result, the offices had been forced to prioritize indicator development based on local realities, to work more efficiently and to explore new partnerships, methodologies and data sources, such as administrative data, spatial data or big data. The communication of official statistics to decision makers and the general public must also be improved; in that connection, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica had made its reports freely available on its website and it was expanding the use of open data. National statistical offices would require strategic leadership, openness to change and stronger partnerships to respond to the demands of the 2030 Agenda.

64. The Deputy Head of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba reiterated her country's commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. The National Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, comprising ministries, ONEI and other entities, had been set up in 2012 as a mechanism for the follow up of that process, and it had been updated in 2017 to monitor the SDG targets. The challenges faced by Cuba's national statistical system included strengthening statistical capacities to produce indicators; constantly updating indicators at the different tiers, especially second and third tier indicators; disaggregating information to the subnational level; developing platforms for data dissemination and exchange; and promoting coordination mechanisms to integrate statistical and geographic data. She also recalled the value of horizontal cooperation among the countries of the Forum with a view to leaving no one behind.

65. The Director-General of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador said that the statistical difficulties of the countries of the region would not be solved by producing more indicators or more disaggregated data, rather national statistical systems must be modernized to adapt to new forms of civil society participation, and must update their legal frameworks, many of which dated from the 1970s or 1980s. He argued that if information was key to attaining the SDGs, it was imperative to strengthen national statistical systems, and warned that if civil society participation was not facilitated then the Goals would perhaps not be achieved. He noted the benefits of different government authorities and agencies sharing their information with statistical offices, in the interests of the quality of the statistical information produced.

66. The Director-General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia said that implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Goals would require management of an information overload and thus prioritization. In that regard, he commended the work done by ECLAC in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. He also stressed the importance of adopting a clear and coordinated position regarding the prioritized indicators, both at the national and regional levels. A flexible and experimental approach must be adopted to the new data sources and other stakeholders, particularly civil society, must be included in a participatory manner, by establishing standards to uphold data robustness that would not constitute a barrier to entry. Geospatial information was important, not only as an input, but also as fundamental element in statistical production to monitor the SDGs and disseminate data. Lastly, all this required resources, so national statistical offices must have adequate budgets.

67. In the discussion that followed, representatives recalled that data were crucial and that strengthen statistical systems and their budgets must be strengthened. It was vital to draw upon the different sources of information, something that national statistical offices were the best placed to do. The representatives also reflected upon the benefits of using cutting-edge technology to carry out censuses and other processes. In that connection, they discussed the usefulness of smartphones and their potential to turn each home into a data centre, simplify processes and cut costs. In addition, they cited several examples of how geospatial and georeferencing were being used to ensure that no one was left behind and stressed the importance of fostering dialogue between the statistical and geospatial communities.

Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 4)

68. This session was moderated by Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC. The participants were Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Sergio Bergman, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean; Gabriel Ferrero, Director-General of Sustainable Development Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain;

Rita Hernández, Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Paul Garaycochea, Chief of the Development Cooperation Section in the Embassy of Germany in Peru; Andrés Delich, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); and Hedda Oftung, Political Advisor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Chile.

69. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC, in his capacity as moderator, stated that it was essential to have a space for international cooperation in order to move towards sustainable development. The aim was to bring about transformational changes in production and consumption patterns, requiring both cooperation and innovation. In these uncertain times, the international atmosphere had changed a great deal and multilateralism was being questioned. However, Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union maintained their strong ties, with a strategic partnership committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The objective of this session was to focus on dialogue that went beyond sharing of good practices: it was necessary to determine the kind of partnerships needed to achieve the SDGs. The dialogue would focus on the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda: access to financing, revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development, promotion of multilateralism, and the effort to combat climate change, which particularly affected Latin America and the Caribbean.

70. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda remarked that interregional cooperation between the European Union and Latin America was essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Caribbean small island developing States. Unfortunately, the subregion's ability to benefit fully from its economic partnership agreement (EPA) with the European Union and its arrangements with various Latin American countries was undermined by its debt burden. Other challenges included the subregion's increasing exposure to climate-related shocks, its relationship with the United Kingdom and the European Union post-Brexit, the issue of European Union blacklisting and the practice of de-risking and elimination of correspondent banking relations. The Minister called for partnership, cooperation and dialogue to frame the engagement of the Caribbean countries with the European Union in the resolution of these issues and encouraged the bloc to revisit its commitment to establishing a regional development fund accessible to all CARICOM States, which would optimize government assistance linked to the EPA as well as from other potential donors, while channelling resources to key areas.

71. The Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, underscored the need to move from good intentions to tangible actions, as well as to be ambitious in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. What was not measured could not be State policy: obligations had to be objective and traceable. With regard to climate change, the United Nations had an educational role to play. Sustainability required a cultural change towards a new circular economy, not a linear economy that merely produced and discarded. Furthermore, countries should be classified not only by GDP, but also by per capita emissions and level of social inclusion. Good intentions were not enough to implement the 2030 Agenda: investment and technological innovation were needed. The Minister referred to environmental justice and the Escazú Agreement, which enshrined public access to information, a human right that should be accompanied by proactive citizen participation. Measures to achieve with the 2030 Agenda should also originate from cities. Moreover, the principle of leaving no one behind should be maintained in the dialogue between countries.

72. The Director-General of Sustainable Development Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain spoke on three main issues: the strategic partnership between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, and how progress towards the 2030 Agenda had crystallized. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, which

both had Latin American and European hallmarks, were under pressure. The Director-General considered it essential to renew the strategic partnership between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, since the two regions shared challenges such as decarbonization, the environmental big push, decent work and the fight against gender-based violence. Financing frameworks were needed for implementation of the Agenda and partnerships had to be formed with host countries of investments, to place foreign direct investment within the frame of reference of sustainable development. These partnerships should be viewed as ongoing bottom-up processes. The SDGs had to be adapted to the local context, so that their impact would be reflected in urban and rural territories. The 2030 Agenda worked because it was transformative. In Spain, a parliamentary committee had been established to facilitate dialogue between government bodies, with a view to fulfilling the Agenda.

73. The Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica highlighted the country's efforts to meet the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with the principle of social, economic and environmental sustainability. A governance structure had been put in place to ensure their implementation, and the country's development targets had been aligned with that undertaking. In that regard, it was essential to have an active and participatory democracy and to ensure accountability and traceability of the activities performed. The unfortunately termed "graduation" of middle- and upper-middle-income countries had exclusionary effects on international cooperation; new metrics therefore had to be designed to address development challenges. Dialogue with the European Union should be redoubled, to leverage collaboration outcomes to drive all three dimensions of sustainable development, including issues such as human rights, migration, climate change, science and technology, support for SMEs and promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement represented a turning point for Costa Rica. Triangular cooperation, which was important in supporting the achievement of goals such as sustainable economic development, could take the form of technical support and strengthening of technological capacities in the region. Lastly, the speaker stated that priorities should be established for access to concessional financing for countries that were highly vulnerable to climate change.

74. The Chief of the Development Cooperation Section in the Embassy of Germany in Peru affirmed that the roles in relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean should not be viewed as those of donors and beneficiaries, but of countries interacting on an equal footing. A shift was required from providing support to mutual cooperation from which all parties learned and benefited. The 2030 Agenda was of fundamental importance to Germany, which had always maintained a firm commitment to ECLAC and had a great tradition of sustainability. Multilateralism was being challenged and that was alarming, because global problems could not be solved unilaterally. The speaker was in favour of forming new partnerships, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, which sought to improve the sustainability of the textile production chain. There were still major sustainable development challenges, so funding needed to be expanded and equal opportunities and inclusion had to be stepped up. It was important to consider the relationship between the SDGs and economic, ecological and social factors and to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

75. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) remarked that the Organization, which was turning 70, included member countries from Latin America and Europe and had experience in international cooperation. OEI had incorporated the 2030 Agenda targets into its work, aligning its programmes and budgets with the SDGs and particularly SDG 4, on the theme of education. The Organization's main areas of work were primary education, development of the skills needed for the twenty-first century and the governance of education systems, which needed improvement. Latin America and the Caribbean was a region with a deep commitment to the SDGs and, in that regard, cooperation with the European Union was extremely

important and that partnership should be strengthened. Much remained to be done: funding had to be improved and in-depth dialogue had to be established in order to meet the Goals. Good intentions were not enough; the different bodies had to be actively involved.

76. The Political Advisor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Chile said that the 2030 Agenda set down a road map for the future that had been agreed by all. She drew attention to SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, as the threats they faced affected everyone (climate change, pollution, plastic waste, loss of biodiversity and unsustainable use of marine resources) and in this regard referred to the establishment of High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, comprising 14 Heads of State, to build and optimize a such an economy. A comprehensive and science-based approach was needed to improve management of marine and ocean areas. The speaker noted that States had rights over the oceans, but also the obligation to protect them, and expressed the hope that ECLAC would be a strategic partner for the Panel. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing had a devastating effect—it deprived countries of some US\$ 23 billion a year and had links to organized crime and trafficking in persons—and had to be tackled. The Political Advisor stressed Norway's strong commitment to defending the oceans and its readiness to continue cooperating with the region to fulfil the 2030 Agenda.

The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system (agenda item 5)

77. The session was moderated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The panellists were Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG-LAC); Esteban Caballero, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Renata Dubini, Director of the Bureau for the Americas of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR); María Cristina Perceval, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and Leo Heileman, Regional Director and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

78. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in her capacity as moderator, welcomed the representatives of the United Nations system and the resident coordinators in the region and emphasized the importance of dialogue and coordination in response to the call by States Members of the United Nations for reform of the United Nations development system, which included the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the system in the region, as well as the regional commissions. At times, the regional dimension was not easily visible and ECLAC, through its convening capacity and its subsidiary bodies, offered the governments of the region more integrated results. Lastly, she urged the representatives of regional governments to voice their countries' needs in order to avoid duplication of effort and multiply efficiencies.

79. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG-LAC), said that the extensive experience and knowledge of the region which the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system possessed helped to ensure effective collaboration with governments of the region and national stakeholders, which could enhance national public goods and strengthen the link between global initiatives and agendas and national realities. Some challenges, such as climate change and migration, went beyond borders; there were also subregional issues, such as the particular needs of the countries of the Caribbean, Central America or the Southern Cone. Both required an integrated approach, to which the United Nations entities in the region could contribute.

80. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) spoke of the coordinated actions carried out by the Fund in the countries of the region and underscored the importance of aligning these with initiatives related to various SDGs to ensure consistency of efforts. The Fund offered its advisory capacity to the countries of the region, acting as a development partner to strengthen the coordination of public policies. For there to be a truly intersectoral approach that included civil society, efforts must not be limited to the development agenda, but be based on human rights, which were the foundation of the 2030 Agenda.

81. The Director of the Bureau for the Americas of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) highlighted the challenges posed by human mobility. There were an estimated 30 million migrants and internally displaced people in the region. The situation in constant flux added to their vulnerabilities given the disproportionate risks to which these people were exposed, and posed challenges for host communities with regard to inclusion and the provision of basic services and livelihoods. The answer was socioeconomic inclusion and protection of those affected, which would require integrated measures. It was vital to analyse the underlying causes of migration and displacement and provide regional and local responses that were coherent, integrated and rights-based. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG-LAC) and ECLAC possessed the mechanisms through which partnerships to provide such responses could be forged. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees offered a solid foundation for a coherent, effective solution by establishing a standard for the treatment of migrants and refugees based on shared responsibility. The Director also highlighted the close cooperation between UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in line with the Secretary-General's call to take the lead in meeting the needs of migrants in the region, with the participation of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Central American Integration System (SICA), civil society and religious organizations, academia and the private sector.

82. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that the various forms of violence in the region weakened public confidence in institutions, the social fabric and democracy. Resolving the precarious situations of certain populations and eradicating violence against women and children were matters of urgency. Prevention was not enough: it was time for peaceful but firm action to combat impunity, foster peace education and end hatred. A number of activities carried out by SICA, UNDP and UNICEF, in collaboration with the governments of the region, had helped to change violent situations, with successful efforts in the prevention of armed violence or the joint construction of protection mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence. Latin America and the Caribbean was the most violent region in the world and had very high levels of femicide, which was at odds with its level of economic and social development. She concluded by reiterating that only through cooperation could violence be eradicated, that local solutions were more effective and greater efficiency was achieved by working together.

83. The Regional Director and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that that the SDGs would not be achieved if the planet continued to be degraded with high levels of atmospheric and environmental pollution, the loss of endemic species, deforestation and irregular waste disposal. Although authorities in the region had implemented policy measures and legislation to reduce and control pollution and protect the environment, there was a need for a paradigm shift such as the environmental big push championed by ECLAC, in line with United Nations efforts to promote decarbonization, detoxification and the decoupling of economic growth from unsustainable production and consumption patterns. In a region characterized by diverse ecosystems and a heavy dependence on export commodities, nature-based solutions offered environmental and economic co-benefits. Furthermore, urgent action on climate change was necessary to achieve the Paris Agreement and

ensure the survival of the planet. More ambitious commitment to and broader participation in disaster reduction, mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as good governance were thus essential. Lastly, collaboration at regional and national levels ensured cohesive responses and impacts, as had been illustrated a number of successful examples from across Latin America and the Caribbean in various areas, including green development strategies, poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction.

84. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG-LAC), took the floor once again to remark that the region's low growth, inequality and economic vulnerability affected productivity, inclusion and resilience. The coordinated plans developed in the Caribbean, for example, with respect to the green economy and the blue economy, and partnerships between the private sector and civil society to finance initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda illustrated the benefits of coordination.

85. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that coordination between governments and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system required greater dialogue with resident coordinators, better knowledge of populations and territories, and improved intersectoral and inter-ministerial coordination within national governments. It was vital to leverage the comparative advantages of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and establish joint projects with member States in a strategic manner. Some representatives highlighted examples of the benefits of coordinating activities with funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the region, such as in the fight against non-communicable diseases and the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in the Caribbean. Other examples of coordination included collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP and UN-Women to define social protection floors, and the work of UNICEF on early marriage and child pregnancy or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on disaster risk reduction. Lastly, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) provided a mechanism to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and regional commissions played a key role in this regard.

86. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in her capacity as moderator, concluded by underlining that the countries were the drivers of implementation and it was vital to maintain dialogue between them and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations in the region, in a framework of shared ownership of the implementation process.

Contribution of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and relevant intergovernmental meetings to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

87. This session was moderated by Luis F. Yáñez, Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission of ECLAC. The participants were the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and relevant intergovernmental meetings of the Commission, who reported to the Forum on contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region.

88. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission of ECLAC, speaking in his capacity as moderator, said that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as the mechanism for regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, drew upon the contributions of the activities undertaken by the various subsidiary bodies and relevant intergovernmental meetings held in the framework of the Commission. He then introduced the representatives who would speak at the session and invited them to report on the activities carried out in fulfilment of their respective mandates.

89. Gale T. C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia, representing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), said that the Committee was uniquely positioned to promote an integrative approach to sustainable development and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean. Under its mandate from CDCC, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean had organized three major subregional technical meetings, conducted many in-country missions and completed several technical assistance activities to support member States in implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the alignment of the SDGs with the Samoa Pathway and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Workshops had been held on evidence-based policy planning for sustainable development and—with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ)—on enhancing institutional capacity for national development planning for the 2030 Agenda.

90. Marina Arismendi, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay, representing the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, remarked that the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was the main regional forum for addressing the challenges relating to the rights and autonomy of women, and the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Conference were a space for fruitful exchange on progress related to the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. Since these were areas in which current conditions in the region could lead to setbacks, the Conference proposed to afford importance to the topic of women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios, which would be examined in depth at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in November at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

91. In her report on the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Minister of Social Development of Uruguay affirmed that social development should be treated as an inclusive process, in which States must guarantee the full exercise of rights, from the perspective of universalism sensitive to difference. This meant removing barriers faced by certain populations with regard to access to rights and well-being. Inequalities on the basis of gender, ethnicity and race and stage of the life cycle were the axes that structured the social inequality matrix and should thus also shape the social protection matrix aspired to in the SDGs. In this regard, the Regional Conference on Social Development had formulated a first draft of the regional agenda for inclusive social development and would shortly embark on a consultation with civil society on the document. The regional agenda for inclusive social development was expected to be adopted at the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico in October 2019.

92. Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in representation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, indicated that this body had achieved the objectives set, since the analytical work and prioritization of the SDG indicators had been successfully completed—154 indicators had been prioritized: 120 from the global framework, 30 complementary indicators and 4 proxies—and the prioritization duly endorsed by the member countries at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference. The technical secretariat was now engaged in drafting the metadata needed for the complementary indicators. A diagnosis had also been performed of national capacities for producing the indicators, and mechanisms were being sought to strengthen these where necessary. Lastly, the Conference was reviewing the operating modalities of its working groups with a view to the preparation of specific outputs and contributions tailored to the statistical needs of the countries.

93. Javier Abugattás, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) of Peru, representing the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), referred to the work done by ILPES with governments to improve development plans and strategies in the region, and to the creation of tools—the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and Planbarometer—that were of great use for ascertaining and assessing progress made by countries in terms of integrating the 2030 Agenda into their planning systems. He noted that 21 countries already had long-term development plans that included the SDGs. Lastly, the Institute had been tasked with producing a document on territorial development to address the challenges posed by the linking of policies, plans and processes regarding implementation and follow-up at different territorial scales and levels of government, an issue that had been widely discussed within the Council.

94. Gloria Montenegro, Minister of Women’s Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, representing the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, remarked that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was the most significant intergovernmental agreement in this sphere. The Consensus complemented the 2030 Agenda on topics not sufficiently covered in the SDGs, such as ageing, international migration and indigenous and Afrodescendent populations. Accordingly, the indicators of the Consensus were instrumental for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. At the third session of the Conference, held in Lima in 2018, 25 countries had presented voluntary national reports on progress made in this area, which had served as a basis to produce the *First regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*.⁵ However, much remained to be done in areas such as territorial inequality, adolescent pregnancy, ageing, migration, gender-based violence and the lack of disaggregated data. Territory, for example, was one of the structuring factors of inequality: the indicators showed the rural population at a clear disadvantage in many spheres. It was thus necessary to take into account the differentiated needs of the different territories and communities.

95. Ileana Núñez, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, representing the Committee on South-South Cooperation, explained that the Committee was a forum in which to assess the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the actions that could be undertaken to address these through South-South and triangular cooperation, which contributed to regional, subregional and interregional integration and collective measures to foster sustainable development. Despite a lack of statistical capacities for evaluating the impact of this type of cooperation and of methodologies to measure and evaluate it and guide efforts, all the countries had successful experiences to share. Accordingly, the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean had been established to help the countries to address challenges in relation to statistics (for example, by preparing a common methodology for measuring the impact of cooperation) and planning (by sharing lessons learned on creating national decision-making mechanisms). The Network would hold its first working meeting in May 2019, at which an assessment of national institutional and statistical capacities would be presented. At its second meeting, to be held in October that year, the outcomes of the assessment would be presented and specific initiatives would be adopted.

96. Lady Didiana Velásquez, Head of the Advisory Office for Planning and Sectoral Studies of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia, representing the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, referred to three fundamental objectives of the Conference within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020). First, it urged countries to incorporate ICTs into learning processes from early childhood, in order to promote education and digital skills. Second, it sought to empower women in all aspects of digital development. And third, it promoted the use of ICTs in business, especially in micro, small and medium-sized

⁵ LC/CRPD.3/6.

enterprises, as well as in the work of financial institutions to empower those enterprises. Since the adoption of the eLAC2020 agenda in 2018, the Conference had been conducting activities relating to its 30 goals in six areas of action to extrapolate good practices, link entities, expand knowledge and encourage the creation of mechanisms to foster the digital agenda.

97. Norman Lizano Ortiz, Head of Multilateral Affairs in the Directorate-General for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, representing the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), said that the Agreement was a pioneering instrument, since it was the first binding treaty negotiated under the auspices of ECLAC and the first in the world to include provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters. The Agreement spoke directly to many of the SDGs, since both instruments sought to build equitable models, promoted democracy, called for action, and required the commitment of countries to reduce inequality and poverty, conserve ecosystems and promote peaceful societies and effective and transparent institutions. The speaker mentioned that a side event on the Agreement had been held, open to all States, at this third meeting of the Forum. Lastly, the Agreement now had 16 signatures and 1 ratification, but it must be ratified by 11 States to enter into force; accordingly, the countries were encouraged to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

98. Rita Hernández, Director of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, representing the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), said that, because Latin America and the Caribbean was a predominantly urban region, the work of MINURVI was particularly important. Cities were hubs of opportunity, growth and value generation, but they were also the scene of precarious conditions and inequality. In 2016, the States members of the United Nations had adopted the New Urban Agenda, recognizing the importance of urbanization in the effort to achieve sustainable development. Studies by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) indicated that prosperous territories tended to have an institutional and financial setting that facilitated synergies, so it was crucial to strengthen the synergies between the implementation frameworks of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, as well as between different levels of government and stakeholders.

99. José Antonio Dos Santos, Director General of Multilateral Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, representing the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, remarked that, since the Fourth Conference had adopted the Asunción Declaration, which urged governments to build the issue of ageing into their development policies, plans and programmes in a cross-cutting manner, the Conference had held three events: two expert meetings in October 2018 and March 2019 and a side event on older persons in the framework of the 2030 Agenda at this third meeting of the Forum. Those events had helped to strengthen the technical capacities of the countries and foster collaborative work, and had convened broad participation by older persons in developing proposals. Latin America and the Caribbean had been the first region to discuss the issues of older persons from a human rights perspective in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The outcomes of that work were being widely disseminated, to enable access for all stakeholders to the knowledge and experience of the leading institutions in this sphere.

Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 7)

100. The session was moderated by Andrea Sanhueza, representative of the public for the Escazú Agreement and Director of Public Space, and the other participants were Felipe Castro, Deputy Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS) at the Universidad

de los Andes, Colombia; Simone Tripepi, Director of Enel X South America; Nicky Black, Director for Social and Economic Development of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM); Jorge Bermúdez, Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile, in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS); and Irma Amaya, Chair of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN).

101. The representative of the public for the Escazú Agreement and Director of Public Space, speaking in her capacity as moderator, recalled the existing consensus regarding the need to work collectively on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs. She then introduced each of the panellists, who would speak of the contributions of various stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, drawing on their particular experience in academia, private companies in the energy and mining sectors, autonomous State agencies and the parliaments of the region.

102. The Deputy Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS) at the Universidad de los Andes of Colombia said that the SDGs had provided a common language for dialogue between the various stakeholders of society who, whatever their area of expertise, were involved in sustainable development. He also stated that there were contradictions between certain economic or social and environmental Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and that the academic sector was called upon to discuss and analyse those issues and propose solutions. As the effort to meet the SDGs was a race against time, the finest research being done in universities should be harnessed to develop solutions. That would require universities to adopt a new approach and contribute applied, relevant and timely research with a regional scope. He added that universities could also act as agents of change, by providing training, interdisciplinary knowledge and specific initiatives, such as environmental courses, which could actively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

103. The Director of Enel X South America mentioned the company's leadership in the generation of renewable energies conducive to the decarbonization of the economy, as well as its contribution to sustainable development through local programmes in education, access to clean energy, sustainable employment and growth, and reduction of carbon emissions. The company was clearly aligned with sustainable development principles, applying efficient and innovative solutions to offer people and industries opportunities to use energy more sustainably. Distributed generation, in particular, allowed end users to generate their own power, for example through photovoltaic solar energy, and feed unused surpluses into the system, thus achieving a twofold economic and environmental gain. The speaker also emphasized that, by engaging in the production and use of clean energies, companies in other sectors could make a clear statement of their commitment to sustainable production, which was good for their corporate image and could at the same time set an example for the community.

104. The Director for Social and Economic Development of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) said that the business case for private sector engagement with the global agenda was clear and that sustainability was increasingly being mainstreamed by investor and user pressure on companies to reduce their social and environmental impacts and ensure responsibility right through their supply chains. She remarked that partnerships were critical to strengthening the performance of the private sector in this regard, and referred to a set of performance expectations introduced by ICCM for its members, which expanded on existing commitments with explicit reference to labour rights, resettlement and local content, among others. In addition, in light of the Escazú Agreement, it included a specific commitment by Council members to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had recognized as a significant contribution by the private sector to sustainable development. In conclusion, delivering on sustainability must become a core capacity of the private sector, which must embed a partnership approach to embracing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

105. The Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile, in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS), said that some United Nations resolutions underlined the importance of such institutions in the audit of public policies and of States' international commitments. He also noted that in the region such entities had assumed the role of monitoring fulfilment of the SDGs as part of their strategic plan. OLACEFS had conducted an analysis of the readiness of the governments of the region to implement the 2030 Agenda and had identified weak planning and risk management in that area, poor integration of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and a need for better coordination, monitoring and transparency mechanisms and strategies for effective implementation. In closing, he reiterated that oversight should be seen not as a burden, but as an opportunity to develop public policies that represented long-run commitments, and affirmed that audit institutions could contribute significantly in that regard with a systemic and strategic approach.

106. The Chair of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) noted that the approach of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs had been incorporated into the prioritized strategic agenda of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in 2017. That decision was based on an understanding of the SDGs as guidelines for States, executed by governments. This required planning in line with the SDGs, results-based budgeting and statistics for monitoring and evaluation, with the necessary adjustments being made in due time. Accordingly, PARLACEN had also incorporated the SDG approach in its strategic planning and made it a required component of all parliamentary initiatives. Oversight of SICA bodies was also conducted in accordance with that mandate, reflecting the commitment of the entire integration system. She concluded by saying that while guidelines existed to that effect, there was no mechanism for follow-up and monitoring to assess progress on the SDGs. A proposal had therefore been made to consider the creation of a monitoring mechanism that would contribute systemically to that process.

107. In the statements that followed the presentations, the difficulty of auditing different indicators in countries was mentioned and attention was drawn to the need for greater collaboration between institutions as part of a learning process, while recognizing the progress that had been made, which was testimony to the incorporation of SDGs in public administration. It was also noted that commitment and dialogue were vital, not only for conflict resolution, but also for addressing the transitions that were required and the adaptation of the work of various entities for progressing towards the SDGs. Emphasis was placed on the need to work closely with communities to better guide efforts, and on the importance of collaboration with civil society, which would necessitate spaces for dialogue or specific mechanisms. Thus, the view was expressed that while a single space catering to all interests might not exist, collaboration was most effective when undertaken with specific goals or objectives and concrete initiatives. Speakers also mentioned the important contribution that the youth of the region could make and the role that indigenous peoples could play in their territories in the framework of peer-to-peer dialogue.

108. In this session, Rosario Galarza, a member of the Network of Persons with Disabilities, read out a statement in representation of civil society, which is attached to this report as annex 3.

Dialogues on the first four-year cycle of review of the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 8)

109. Under this agenda item, the member countries of the Forum analysed the four-year cycle of review of the Sustainable Development Goals, which had begun in 2017. The analysis consisted of a presentation on trends regarding fulfilment of the Goals and a round table addressing the cycles and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Briefing by Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Summit

110. In his briefing, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Summit referred to the organization and nature of the event, which convened Governments, authorities of subnational governments, civil society and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and would focus on specific actions not only for mitigating climate change, but also for adaptation and resilience-building. The approach would not be one of negotiation, but of dialogue, collaboration and experience-sharing, to pass from negotiation to action. The Secretary-General had expressed concern and urgency with respect to the most recent report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. A loss of leadership and lack of political will was evident at the global level; in this regard, the Summit must offer very specific solutions in order to multiply efforts and overcome challenges. Actions proposed at the Summit would be strenuously followed up in order to present information on its outcomes and on the start-up of the respective measures at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25) to be held in Santiago in December 2019.

Statement on trends in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC

111. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC gave a presentation on trends in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which focused on three key themes: aspiration to multilateralism for the 2030 Agenda; fragmentation vis-à-vis implementation; and risks for the 2030 Agenda. While many countries aspired to attain the SDGs, they faced a highly complex global context and a climate in which public confidence and the social contract was being eroded, as well as specific difficulties, such as tensions over trade and technology, the shift in the region's economic cycle, weak trade and economic performances, financial uncertainty, the disruptive impact of the technology revolution and climate change. The countries of the region had marked some progress at the national level, such as improvements to national inter-institutional and intersectoral architecture; the integration of the SDGs into development plans and budgets; the strengthening of statistical capabilities; the localization of the 2030 Agenda; and the creation of spaces for dialogue among governments, businesses, citizens and subregion entities. However, there was still a need for greater ownership of the Agenda among economic and social stakeholders, new growth motors, better distributive outcomes, comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, financing, closing of the technology gap and a shift in the conversation with civil society and the private sector. Achieving all that would require a cooperation strategy within the region on subjects that transcended national borders, agreement on new approaches to inequality, coordination of macroeconomic and fiscal policies, and building of democracy-enhancing multilateralism. There were notable changes that had helped to drive the 2030 Agenda, such as the activities of feminist movements to highlight diversity and non-discrimination, and youth movements that were leading action for education, equality, non-discrimination, the climate and environmental protection.

112. Turning to the risks to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Executive Secretary said that ECLAC had performed simulations covering 20 indicators for 15 SDGs. Five regional trends emerged with regard to progress towards the SDGs: targets that had already been achieved to different extents depending on the country (for example, infant mortality rates); targets on track to be achieved (Internet use); targets that were not on track to be achieved (enrolment in secondary education or access to drinking water); targets that were on track but on which progress had stagnated (prevalence of undernourishment); and targets that would be achievable only with high rates of growth or income distribution improvement (eradication of extreme poverty throughout the region). The Executive Secretary proposed a new form of multilateralism that would build trust in international cooperation and collective action to provide global and regional public

goods; increase resilience to financial, commercial and technological shocks; build universal welfare States; protect the interests of the many over those of the few; and strengthen deliberative capacities, transparency and informed discussion by all citizens.

Round table – Integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: critical links and means of implementation

113. The round table was moderated by Ambassador Juan Somavía, former Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and former Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, and the participants were Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Marina Arismendi, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay; David Barkin, Professor and Researcher in the Department of Economic Production at the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM) of Mexico; Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Camila Zepeda, Director-General for Global Issues of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; and Philipp Schönrock, Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI).

114. The former Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and former Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, in his capacity as moderator, said that the adoption of an integrated vision appeared to be a somewhat complex undertaking, given that all areas of our lives—from university degrees to the business world—were organized by sector. Nonetheless, integration was a central issue in all the themes addressed at the Forum, given that all areas could be approached from a sectoral perspective or, on the contrary, by generating integration. Knowledge had to be built on how to achieve integration with respect to the 2030 Agenda, which should be adopted as State policy, included in budgets and policies and integrated into the vision of the future. For that reason, he urged ECLAC to prioritize reflection on how to achieve that integrated vision in its work over the following year. Next, he invited the participants in the round table to share their experience on how integration was addressed in their respective areas of work.

115. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda said that successful implementation of the SDGs was a key foreign and international trade policy priority for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. A viable approach to implementing the SDGs was international trade, which was an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and helped to foster sustainable development. The speaker outlined eight proposals to forge an enabling multilateral trade environment: (i) strengthen the multilateral trading system to support inclusive growth, jobs and poverty reduction; (ii) continue reducing trade costs through full implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) trade facilitation agreements; (iii) rebuild supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure in developing countries, especially small island developing States; (iv) focus on export diversification and value addition; (v) enhance resilience of the services sector; (vi) ensure non-tariff measures did not become barriers to trade; (vii) make e-commerce a force for inclusion; and (viii) support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in international trade. In conclusion, he said that successful implementation of the SDGs would require meaningful dialogue, global partnerships and cooperation.

116. The Minister of Social Development of Uruguay said that multilateralism was essential to the country's policies and mentioned the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 as examples. Development must be social and inclusive by nature and coordinating policies for productive and social inclusion was crucial. The fight against inequality was ethical, political and economic, and all types of social setbacks had to be avoided, in light of the very high

cost of unequal development. In Uruguay, poverty measured by income and inequality had been reduced significantly, which would have been impossible without the knowledge shared by other countries through the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, and above all, the support of the academic sector. Those lifted from poverty had been able to enter the world of work or obtained access to programmes that provided assistance to older persons. The next step was the development of a national care system to extend coverage to the smallest municipality and provide services relating to job creation, training, social protection and care for children, disabled persons and older persons—to enable women to participate in the labour market in greater numbers—and the engagement of trade unions and businesses in early childhood care.

117. The Professor and Researcher in the Department of Economic Production at the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM) of Mexico underscored the need for capacity-building for grass-roots governance; in other words, for the collectively organized population to contribute to the decisions of the State with a view to developing effective government policies and institutions, and to manage its resources autonomously, thus facilitating inclusion of all social groups. He argued that two population groups, campesinos and indigenous peoples, could contribute in that regard, but their insight into the use of resources such as water and land had never been sufficiently recognized. Moreover, inclusion, more than consisting of the incorporation of people into formal labour markets, represented the possibility to build spaces where they could create their own opportunities and develop their own capacities. In addition, instead of talking about “different styles of development”, he said that the discussion should be shifted to “different lifestyles”. There was an enormous difference between the two concepts, which was akin to the difference between the prevalence of economic issues and the integration of social, environmental and economic issues into decision-making and policy shaping.

118. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) said that climate change was addressed by Goal 13 but affected all the goals because it was a threat multiplier and would destabilize the global economy if not addressed in a timely manner. By 2030, the loss of productivity caused by a hotter world could cost the global economy US\$ 2 trillion and result in job losses, poverty and conflict over resources. Climate change could also affect migration, potentially leading to the displacement of between 50 million and 200 million people by 2050, bringing about incredible suffering and hardship and deepening poverty. Hence, achieving the SDGs was almost impossible without first addressing climate change. However, the position of climate change as a threat multiplier also provided the single greatest opportunity to build a safer, healthier, more resilient and prosperous world for present and future generations. The current generation had not inherited the environment from previous generations but had borrowed it from future generations. There was thus a moral, ethical and institutional responsibility to address the issue by using climate change as a force for positive and systemic change. Multilateral and coordinated efforts were needed at all levels, and one example of this was the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24), at which a robust operational framework had been agreed upon to implement the Paris Agreement.

119. The Director-General for Global Issues of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said that more could be learned from mistakes than from successes; accordingly, she proposed to offer a critique of certain aspects of Mexico’s policy that could be improved. First, one of the great obstacles to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the lack of awareness and even reluctance among officials at different levels of government, who perceived it as an imposition. It was essential to persuade economic actors of the need to consider environmental and social issues and to convince the social sector not to neglect the environmental sphere. There was also an urgent need to improve consultation processes, participation mechanisms and representativeness, to include all stakeholders in the process. Coordination

and communication were also needed, to make efficient use of resources and avoid duplicating efforts. Lastly, she underscored the importance of eradicating corruption, which hampered the progress of the 2030 Agenda in societies, preventing countries from realizing their goals and achieving economic growth, social justice and protection of their natural resources.

120. The Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) explained that an analysis of the institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs in 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries (out of a total of 29) had shown that the environmental portfolio was not at the highest level of government in 5 of those countries, which endangered the balance between the different dimensions of sustainable development. Meanwhile, 8 of the countries analysed made no reference to the Paris Agreement or other environmental accords in their voluntary national reviews, despite the possible synergies with implementation of the 2030 Agenda. With a view to fostering a truly integrated approach, there was a need to build confidence and dialogue among the different stakeholders, develop capacity at all levels, include all three dimensions in voluntary national reviews, increase the presence of the environmental portfolio in governance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and improve environmental statistical data. It was also essential to defend the political consensus reached in 2015 and avoid the SDGs becoming merely a list of pending tasks, when they should be driving a transformative and holistic agenda of tangible outcomes.

121. In the ensuing discussion, some of the fundamental tools for implementation of the 2030 were mentioned, including informed social dialogue, which could change the behaviour of individuals and businesses, and localization, which had to factor in the diversity of the region and coordinate the economic, social and environmental aspects. Reference was made to the participation of civil society, with a call to include the voices of different organizations with a view to incorporating their proposals into concrete policies. Public policies should be intercultural and non-discriminatory and incorporate gender, environmental and life cycle approaches. Cooperation with multiple stakeholders and multiple levels of governance and the sharing of good practices relating to the SDGs were also essential. Census processes were cited as a key instrument in light of the commitment to leave no one behind. Other points included the importance of governance systems that enabled State institutions at all levels to organize themselves to face the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, of sustainable development plans at the national and local levels, and of strengthening capacities to measure progress through new tools such as the multidimensional poverty index.

Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 11)

122. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, the Forum adopted intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which are attached hereto as annex 1. In addition, a Summary of the Chair of the Forum is attached as annex 2.

Side events and meetings

123. A number of side events and meetings were held in the framework of the third meeting of the Forum. The programme of these events figures in annex 4.

Special session: towards the General Assembly 2019 (agenda item 9)

124. The special session was moderated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the participants were Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile; Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the 2019 Climate Summit; Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations (video message), María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly (video message), Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

125. The Minister of the Environment of Chile stressed the importance of SDG 13, on climate action. Chile would chair the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), which would require ambition and efforts to move from negotiations to action on the climate, which was what citizens were demanding, especially young people. The focus of Chile's approach to climate action focused on a number of areas: protection of the oceans; the circular economy; electromobility; clean and renewable energy; and generation of forests, in order to achieve gas emissions neutrality. It was essential to engage the scientific community and the private sector. It was also necessary to have a multi-stakeholder, institutional framework capable of transcending government terms, and transparent means of measuring progress.

126. The Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the 2019 Climate Summit agreed on the need for ambition and for a move from negotiation to action, as specifically requested by the Secretary-General, who had also called upon governments to put forward specific action plans, not only for 2020 but for the medium term. International cooperation was required on the issue of climate change and the Paris Agreement represented the regulatory framework for climate action, which had to be taken within the envisaged time frame. The Summit and COP 25 were opportunities for countries to voluntarily make more ambitious commitments and the United Nations system as a whole had to commit itself to the priority of moving from negotiation to action. The speaker welcomed the contributions made by ECLAC and other entities of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations and noted that participation by central governments was not enough on its own: civil society and the private sector had to be engaged as well. There was also a need for an immense transfer of funds from developed countries to developing countries to address these issues. Efforts to reduce emissions had to be balanced with those to adapt to climate change and those to mitigate its effects. Lastly, the Special Envoy called for transformative measures that could be implemented immediately.

127. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations provided a summary of the activities being undertaken for the Climate Summit, the high-level political forum, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, to be held in New York in September 2019. At the high-level political forum there would be a full analysis of the 2030 Agenda in the current international context and discussion of how to speed up its implementation over the following 10 years. The meeting would examine the Global Sustainable Development Report, prepared by a scientific team, that was to serve as a road map for deliberations by the Heads of State and Government. The Secretary-General's reform of the United Nations development system would also be discussed. An action-oriented document would then be adopted, based on the work of seven panels. Special attention would be paid to megatrends, to the particular situation of middle-income countries and to involvement of local governments in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since many countries would be participating in the meeting, it was advisable for them to present their positions in groups based on areas of interest.

128. The President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly said that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development confirmed the importance and relevance of multilateralism. Since the Forum's establishment, ECLAC had contributed to the development of the countries of the region and its policy recommendations for the well-being of the peoples of the region had made it possible to move towards more inclusive societies. The Forum played a crucial role in regional cooperation and in the implementation of global agendas. In particular, efforts had to be redoubled to close the structural gaps in financing, infrastructure, technology and investment faced by small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. Political will was required to mobilize financial resources, with redistributive fiscal policies and external financing sources. The Climate Summit to be held in New York in September 2019 and COP 25 to be held in Santiago in December that year both provided opportunities for leaders of the countries of the region to reaffirm their commitment to the Paris Agreement and to step up climate ambition and actions, contributing to pursuit of the SDGs. Firm steps had to be taken to make Latin America and the Caribbean fairer and more equitable, united and prosperous.

129. The Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, remarked that this meeting, which would be held in New York in September 2019, would be the first meeting at the level of Heads of State since the adoption of the 2020 Agenda. Negotiation on the political declaration had been highly participatory and the many voices heard—including from regional forums such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development—had indicated that the outcome must be robust, concise, action-oriented, ambitious, evidence-based and focused on major development issues. It must stress the indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda and be adopted by consensus. Above all, it must send a strong message that although multilateralism was under attack, world leaders remained committed to the Agenda and its acceleration. In closing, the co-facilitator called for the highest level of participation in order to keep momentum alive and inspire further action towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

130. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, highlighted the depth and openness with which all items had been addressed during the Forum through exchanges of experiences and ideas and the participation of various stakeholders. The Forum had fulfilled its purpose of in-depth discussion of the main issues relating to the 2030 Agenda, in keeping with the principle that no one should be left behind and providing a special space for the Caribbean. Governments in the region had reaffirmed their political commitment to deliver on the SDGs. The speaker highlighted the role of ECLAC and its commitment to the economic and social development of the countries of the region, as well as its continued work to promote South-South cooperation. It was necessary to keep increasing the number of countries submitting voluntary national reviews on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The high-level political forum in September would address key issues such as the need to strengthen means of implementation and to mobilize new, regular and predictable resources.

131. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in her capacity as moderator, said that Cuba had always pursued consolidation of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The third meeting of the Forum had been attended by 1,048 people, of whom 50.4% were women. There were participants from 25 of the 33 countries in the region and from 7 countries outside the region, as well as representatives of the various funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the resident coordinators of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The 54 side events held had generated a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences.

Closing session

132. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, expressed appreciation for the work done and extended an invitation to hold the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana, in April 2020.

133. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC expressed gratitude to all for the work done to hold the Forum. She also referred to the commitment to work towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, which she described as civilizing, indivisible and worthy of aspiration. She restated the need to change development patterns and lifestyles, and to broaden spaces for multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue. It was essential to localize the 2030 Agenda and anchor it at all levels, and thus achieve a sense of its ownership among the children, adolescents, campesinos and indigenous people of the region. She underscored the importance of the “Caribbean first” initiative, because the subregion was an essential part of ECLAC thinking. Lastly, as at other moments in history, the scale of the task should be no impediment to the effort, in the spirit of Jean Monnet’s adage that politics is not only the art of the possible, but the art of making possible tomorrow what may seem impossible today—an endeavour in whose accomplishment all were compelled to play a part.

Annex 1

**INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

We, the Ministers and high representatives gathered at the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019, which marks the end of the first four-year cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind, including its Goals and targets, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental—, and stress that it is people-centered, universal and transformative and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, reaching the furthest behind first and empowering those in vulnerable situations crucial to sustainable development,

2. *Reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda that supports and complements it, and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions to achieve its targets; recognize the synergies of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, the SAMOA Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Outcome document of the Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; recommend further strengthening of multilateral cooperation at the regional and global levels for the effective implementation of the aforementioned instruments; welcome the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations Development System at the regional level, aiming to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and reiterate the need that their activities be carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities,

3. *Also reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof,

4. *Take note* of the endorsement by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries¹ of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

5. *Reaffirm* inter alia the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law,

¹ Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

6. *Stress* the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by all developing countries, including countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in situation of conflict and post conflict,

7. *Reiterate* that national averages based on criteria such as Gross National Income (GNI) per capita are not aligned with the multidimensional scope of Sustainable Development and do not reflect all the particularities, development needs and challenges of developing countries; recall that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measures of progress in sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, taking advantage of the initiatives existing, as appropriate; recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic production and structural gaps at all levels,

8. *Reiterate* the call to address further the specific development needs of middle-income countries through, inter alia, an accurate response to their requirements, taking into account variables that go beyond per capita income criteria and eliminate, increasing difficulties and conditionalities faced to access financial and non-financial resources, as appropriate; recall that 73 per cent of the world's poor population is concentrated in these countries, where cooperation can have a multiplying effect on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals; and look forward to actively participating in the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly during its seventy-fourth session, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

9. *Also stress* the importance of addressing the particular and diverse needs and challenges faced by countries that are close to surpassing or have recently crossed the upper middle-income threshold but still have structural gaps and vulnerabilities,

10. *Welcome* efforts at all levels to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognize that after almost four years of implementation, our individual and collective efforts have yielded encouraging results in many areas. However, given the challenges for the region to achieve sustainable development, in particular poverty, inequalities, high global debt and reduced levels of international cooperation, we underscore the need to increase both implementation and awareness-raising with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, to secure our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership,

11. *Recognize* that inequality, or even a rise in inequalities, remains pervasive in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, and that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable, and recognize further that tackling inequality requires, inter alia, partnership between governments, the private sector, and civil society working together, in accordance with national plan and policies, in order to achieve the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development,

12. *Reaffirm* our strong commitment to end poverty and hunger everywhere, to further promote inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion, to combat inequalities within and among countries as well as to respect and promote all human rights for all, including the right to development, ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations,

13. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and *Note* with appreciation the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and underscore that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the protection and full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in this regard recommend further streamlining a gender approach into national sustainable development policies and strategies, and encourage the countries of the Forum to participate actively in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago from 4 to 8 November 2019,

14. *Recognize* that the region is highly vulnerable to climate change owing to its geography, climate, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard note with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels, which underscores the need to urgently increase ambition and action and acknowledging some states including all small island developing states have welcomed the report; take note with appreciation of the outcomes of COP 24, in particular the decisions adopted that will enable the full implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); stress in this regard the importance to strengthen the UNFCCC and to ensure that its allocation of resources allows the effective implementation of its mandate; emphasized in that sense, the need to reinforce our efforts to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and enhanced the access to international climate finance in order to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and with a special focus on increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable,

15. *Welcome* that the 25th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 13 December 2019, and the preparatory Conference of the Parties that will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, and express their interest in contributing to their success,

16. *Look forward* at the same time to the Climate Action Summit called by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York on 23 September 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

17. *Agree* that improving the environmental quality in our cities is one of the challenges we have ahead of us to achieve sustainable development, which will require efforts in a multitude of areas, such as air and water pollution, water scarcity, sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency including clean energy sources, sustainable waste management, and decreasing food loss and waste, and look forward to the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to take place in May 2019,

18. *Applaud* the “Caribbean first” initiative advanced by ECLAC during its 37th Session Period held in Havana in May 2018, and the peer learning sessions on challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, held in the framework of the second and third meetings of the Forum,

19. *Note* the adoption and the opening for signature, at United Nations Headquarters, of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, and take note of the signature of 16 countries and the ratification by one country of Latin America and the Caribbean to date as a contribution to sustainable development,

20. *Recognize* the impact of disasters on sustainable development, poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean; acknowledge the need to adopt a broader and more people-centered and inclusive preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and realign disaster financing to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk; commit to integrate disaster risk reduction into plans, policies and strategies at all levels, in line with national priorities, considering multidisciplinary and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms; and welcome the outcomes of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, hosted by the Government of Colombia in June 2018, and look forward to the Seventh Regional Platform to be hosted by the Government of Jamaica in 2020,

21. *Welcome* the continuous efforts of countries from our region to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda through its mainstreaming in public policies, institutional arrangements, and national and subnational follow-up and review; and encourage these countries to further deepen their national efforts in that endeavour and to engage in in-depth knowledge-sharing with peers and partners throughout the region; highlight in that regard the 29 national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the increase in the number of national and sub-national initiatives promoting the articulation between development priorities, plans, budgets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the efforts of raising awareness and training to disseminate the Agenda and its relationship with national development objectives; as well as by strengthen the involvement of local and other actors at the national level, as appropriate, in the achievement of sustainable development,

22. *Look forward* to the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the ECOSOC that will review in depth in its 2019 session SDGs 4,8,10,13,16 and Goal 17 reviewed annually, while emphasizing the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the goals and in this regard, reaffirm the commitment to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, adapt curricula to the demand from the production system for new skills and foster investments for educational provisions and access, bearing in mind the importance of guarantee a life free of poverty; reiterate the commitment for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work, promote equal pay for work of equal value, reduce gaps of participation and entry in the labor market, strive for universal access to social protection, reduce child labor, and act upon transformations by new technologies, considering that Latin American households obtain 80% of their total incomes from work, which is therefore the driving force for overcoming poverty and gaining access to social protection; recall the pledge to reduce inequality within and among countries; stress the strong commitment for effective climate action; and recommit to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, considering that although the States in Latin America coexist in peace and are not engaged in conflict, the region is still the most violent in the world, as well as to substantially reduce corruption in all its forms,

23. *Commend* the 19 countries of the region that have already presented voluntary national reviews at the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC, and the 5 countries preparing to do so in 2019, of which 3 are presenting a second review, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these 19 countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating it into their national strategies and adjusting institutional

arrangements recommend further volunteering and engaging in the upcoming high-level political forum, and look forward to the appropriate allocation of time both for presentations and for feedback from peer learning,

24. *Recognize* the need to enhance the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the SDG 17, as well as the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorate the global partnership for sustainable development,

25. *Acknowledge* the need to take concrete measures in order to mobilize sufficient resources in order to fully implement the 2030 Development Agenda and the SDG's,

26. *Note with concern* that, despite some improvement in the global and regional economy, this recovery has not been shared among all countries and recognize that economic growth have left some population groups and sectors behind; and that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to concessional finance, particularly for middle-income countries and, in this regard, emphasize the importance for countries of the region of Official Development Assistance, call upon the developed countries to fulfil their ODA targets, and reiterate the importance of increasing climate financing, which is additional to ODA; and further recognize the necessity of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including national efforts, international and regional cooperation that supports policies and programmes to increase investment in sustainable development; taking into account that every country has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity,

27. *Welcome* in that regard the 12th edition of the Latin American Economic Outlook, LEO, and invite ECLAC to continue examine and report on the impact of losing access to development assistance and concessional finance on development gains as countries transition through different income levels; and how the international system and national governments can ensure development gains are sustained as countries transition towards sustainable development,

28. *Commit* to continuing to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO),

29. *Emphasise* in addition that trade, with appropriate supporting policies, can inter alia contribute to promote inclusive economic growth, reduce inequalities within and among countries and contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

30. *Reaffirm* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

31. *Recommend* redoubling efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, including by *combating* tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation as well as reducing opportunities for tax avoidance to make sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, as well as that the value created is distributed in a way that reinforce economic and social equality and inclusion, to achieve sustainable development; and further recall that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity,

32. *Reaffirm* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors, and, recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, encourage alignment of private sector incentives with national public goals towards long-term investment according to national realities and capacities, including innovative financing instruments and approaches, to bridge the region's structural inequality gaps and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

33. *Recognize* that remittances are a form of private capital that cannot be equated to other international financial flows such as foreign direct investment, ODA, or other public sources of financing for development; and encourage concrete measures, as appropriate, to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent,

34. *Reaffirm* the importance for our region of accessing to and mobilizing financial and non-financial resources and capacity-building for the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and further recommend increasing international and regional cooperation, inter alia, for the development of endogenous science and technology,

35. *Stress* the critical importance to scale up capacity building, knowledge sharing and best practices for the shift towards sustainable development and poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions,

36. *Stress further* the critical role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and bear in mind that technological change includes new and powerful tools that can help to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; in this context invite the regional forum to resume in its 4th meeting, its discussions on the impact of key rapid technological changes, such as artificial intelligence, among others, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; look forward to the reports of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including their updated findings on the impact of key rapid technological changes on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets that will be presented in a session of the fourth multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, so that they can inform the discussions at the regional level; and look forward to the high-level thematic debate of the 74th period of sessions of the General Assembly to take stock of progress on the impact of rapid technological change in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in 2020, bearing in mind that the introduction of new technologies should never blind us to our pledge to leave no one behind,

37. *Reaffirm* the importance to protect and enhance traditional knowledge and cultural, social and environmental practices of indigenous peoples, and their contribution to global efforts and initiatives to ensure sustainable livelihoods, sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices, and food security in harmony with nature,

38. *Welcome* the outcome document of the Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, BAPA+40 and commit to its implementation; reiterate the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; reaffirm that South-South Cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation; acknowledge the need to enhance development effectiveness of South-South and Triangular Cooperation; welcome the

contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development; and stress the importance of triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise,

39. *Further* recognize that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

40. *Highlight* the commitment of the countries of the region to address statistical challenges and advancing in the generation of quality data for the SDGs, including through the the conformation of reliable information systems and administrative records, disaggregated by sex whenever possible, to allow a detailed analysis of the progress in the SDGs, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, ensuring that no one is left behind, and *acknowledge* the contribution made by ECLAC and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to the indicators of the region in the quadrennial report; recommend that such contribution continues on a regional framework of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account regional, national and subnational specificities, as appropriate, thereby complementing the official global indicator framework; and encourage the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data,

41. *Recognize* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, as well as for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing its Goals and targets, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities; and that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development,

42. *Recognize* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

43. *Commend* the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development, for providing useful opportunities for sharing of best practices among multiple stakeholders in the peer learning sessions on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities, challenges in the Caribbean, participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda, implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level, statistical capacities, and measurement and georeferencing, held during the three meetings of the Forum convened thus far, and recommend to continue including peer learning session in its meetings on other emerging issues of interest, upon request and as identified by the Forum,

44. *Welcome* the practice of convening the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Resident Coordinators during the meetings of the Forum, the latter upon previous consultations with their respective national public counterparts, as an opportunity to interact with the regional mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the member States of the Forum,

45. *Take note with appreciation* of the *Quadrennial progress report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,² prepared jointly by ECLAC and the regional offices of funds and programmes of the United Nations system [such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM)], which provides an evidence-based analysis of opportunities and challenges for our consideration at the end of the first four-year cycle and reports on some individual and collective actions carried out by our countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals,

46. *Also take note with appreciation* of the reports presented by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC —the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Council for Planning, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies and the Committee on South-South Cooperation— as well as of the reports of the Chairs of other relevant intergovernmental meetings —such as the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), and the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Ibero-American Summit— and acknowledge their contribution to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as another expression of the value of the regional dimension,

47. *Invite* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, to take place in Costa Rica in the first semester of 2020 and the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to take place in Mexico in the second half of 2019,

48. *Welcome* the ongoing process to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to better support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and agree with the need stated by the Secretary-General to revamp regional structures and look forward to considering the options for longer-term restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations presented by the Secretary-General, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach; strongly commend the work carried out by ECLAC and its continued effort to support country-led processes; commit to ensuring that ECLAC

² LC/FDS.3/3.

functions and mandate are fully recognized and maintained, particularly its crucial role in the regional dimension of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and urge the Commission to fully engage in the Secretary-General's initiative to revamp the regional assets in benefit of country-led processes and to increase, within its mandates, regional initiatives to leave no one behind,

49. *Reaffirm* 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 ability to act 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, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commission,

50. *Emphasize* the importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations Development system by: (i) strengthening regional and sub-regional 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,

51. *Commit* to actively participate at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, in order to benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the High Level Political Forum as well as from other processes under the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council related to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

52. *Welcome* the contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, and the participation, according to resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia in the third meeting of the Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind,

53. *Take note* of the work of civil society to strengthen their engagement, including through the Mechanism for the participation of civil society in the Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by civil society at the margins of the Second Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

54. *Welcome* projects such as the Network for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region that are establishing or seek to establish national mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and encourage its continuation, as appropriate,

55. *Recommend* that the Chair of the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC submit the quadrennial progress report, along with the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair, as regional contributions to the 2019 high-level political forum under the auspices of the ECOSOC and under the General Assembly, and to the High level Dialogue on Financing for Development as appropriate, along with the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for their due consideration, as well as to make it available for other relevant regional and international events and processes,

56. *Request ECLAC* to prepare an updated version of the progress report for the fourth meeting of the Forum and present it two month in advance, in order to ensure sufficient time and a proper consideration by Member States,

57. *Express* our deepest appreciation to the Republic of Cuba as the Chair of the thirty-seventh session, to Chile as the host country, and to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, for the arrangements and convening of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Annex 2

**SUMMARY OF THE CHAIR OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FORUM
OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT****INTRODUCTION**

At the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the member States adopted resolution 700(XXXVI), sponsored by Mexico, establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), its targets and means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, and convened under the auspices of the Commission.

The second meeting of the Forum was held in Santiago, from 18 to 20 April 2018, chaired by Mexico, and convened under the auspices of the Commission. The meeting of the Forum was open to member States of the Forum and observers, the United Nations system, regional and subregional bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society.

The third meeting of the Forum was held in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019, chaired by Cuba, and convened under the auspices of the Commission. The meeting was open to member States of the Forum and observers, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society.

The purpose of the meetings of the Forum is to share experiences and best practices among the Latin American and Caribbean countries regarding actions taken to achieve the SDGs in the region.

1. Opening session

At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Carolina Valdivia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile; Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum; Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, who conveyed a written statement; Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (by video message); and Gilda Menchú, youth representative. The speakers agreed that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is a space for discussion between governments, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, civil society, academia and the private sector, that enables the exchange of experiences and good practices for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. Attendance at the Forum included senior representatives of the United Nations system and stakeholders from civil

society, academia and the private sector in more than 50 side events. It was stressed that multilateralism, which has tangible form in the region, is going through complex times. The normative agenda of the Organization has been called into question, but cooperation is the path to making progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Multilateralism is compatible with enhancing democracy at the national level when multilateral agreements give priority to the interests of the many over the interests of the most powerful groups, protect the rights of minorities and the most vulnerable sectors, and strengthen the deliberative capacities of governments, the private sector and civil society, stimulating a debate combining transparency, diversity of views and analytical capacity, among others. The countries are facing trade and financial imbalances, adjustments in response to external shocks and the consequences of a high-carbon production system. The Forum offers an opportunity to discuss the difficulties in making progress towards fulfilment of the SDGs. The region is diverse, and its national and international processes have their own timing and dynamics. Diversity is the basis for complementing the visions that converge in the Forum, whose work contributes to a fairer society for all. The Forum has become well established and shows that countries can work coherently in an environment of dialogue, with respect for national sovereignty and self-determination, upholding multilateralism aligned with comprehensive development, as proposed in the 2030 Agenda, to overcome inequality, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and deaths from preventable diseases. The impact of climate change particularly affects the Caribbean countries, which must devote scarce resources to mitigating its effects. This situation, coupled with mounting global economic uncertainty, makes multilateralism increasingly necessary, together with an approach that places citizens at the centre of development and takes into account the particular features of the region. The application of unilateral measures, such as the economic, trade and financial blockade on Cuba, a policy that has intensified in recent years, harms the country's relations with the rest of the world. Nevertheless, Cuba has reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to support the countries of the region.

During this session, the speakers acknowledged the work of ECLAC and its leadership in the region, which has helped give birth to the conceptual vision behind the Sustainable Development Goals. Latin America and the Caribbean had demonstrated by theory and practice that alternative economic models are possible. The world is currently losing the race against climate change, and impediments remain to the achievement of the SDGs in general. Inequality in the region limits economic growth, marginalizes individuals and erodes public trust in institutions. The United Nations is reforming to become a better partner for governments and peoples in delivering on the SDGs. Working as one cohesive Organization will enable the United Nations to provide sharper and more integrated policy advice to governments; take action to a greater scale; and better help countries leverage finance and partnerships, which in turn will help better connect global action to results in-country and achieve the SDGs. The region is helping to put three fundamental questions on the global agenda: how to uphold the commitment to leave no one behind amid still-high levels of multidimensional poverty and inequality; how to ensure that women and indigenous populations may participate fully in the economic, social and political lives of their countries; and how to make progress on financing for development. To achieve the SDGs, private and public resources must be combined and synergized; and heightened global cooperation to eliminate illicit flows and tax evasion in order to better mobilize external financing. South-South and triangular cooperation also contribute to the exchange of know-how, technology and expertise. Countries are encouraged to work closely with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in order to receive tailored and effective support for national development strategies and plans. The SDGs are central to the development plans of the region's governments and the private sector acknowledges that the SDGs are profitable and sustainable for businesses. Meanwhile, civil society participation ensures that actions to achieve the SDGs improve people's lives. The high-level political forum convened under the auspices of ECOSOC strengthens commitment to the 2030 Agenda by forging strong partnerships at all levels, as well as scaling up good practices through peer learning and fostering cooperation and effective linkages with the regions. The contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean will be much anticipated at the next meeting of the high-level political forum. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable

Development is a key platform for reviewing SDG implementation progress in the region and ECOSOC will continue to support regional efforts. Attention was drawn to the participation of young people and their commitment to continuing the progress currently being made regarding the exercise of rights by the most disadvantaged. The Forum is a space for exchanging ideas and finding concrete solutions in this regard. Lastly, the action of the women, many of them migrants, has facilitated progress towards achieving the SDGs in the region.

2. Presentation of the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*¹

The *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is the outcome of the work of United Nations agencies together with ECLAC. The world today is not the same as in 2015: profound changes have occurred at the international level, the economy and trade are growing very slowly, protectionism is on the rise, multilateralism has weakened, and inequalities are growing. Risks are looming of a new financial crisis, geopolitical rivalry—in relation to technology more than trade—and climate change. ECLAC has assessed the cost of not cooperating, which is already evident in recessionary stagnation and in the way the highest income percentiles have accumulated the greatest wealth. With regard to the environment, failure to halt global warming will lead to a temperature increase of 4° C in the next generations: the question is how to keep the increase below 2°C in this generation. Concerning the challenge of leaving no one behind, some indicators have been selected to measure progress. First, the region's growth has been lacklustre: from 5.5% before the 1980s it has fallen to averages of 1.3%; stronger growth will be needed to achieve the SDG targets. Secondly, the region's relative productivity has declined and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises have only weak capacities for participating in the economy. The region is being held back by its production specialization and disequilibria and, in the case of South America, by dependence on raw materials. Inequality permeates the entire region, despite the efforts of some countries to reduce it. Strides were made in poverty reduction between 2002 and 2015, but that progress has since stalled and both poverty and extreme poverty are on the rise again, with large disparities between territories and population groups, such as children, women and indigenous populations. Engaging more women in the labour market would help to reduce poverty. All agencies are seeking to disaggregate data to understand gaps by population group, gender wage gaps and the effects of automation on work. The report also discusses the inefficiency of inequality, large gaps in education, child and adolescent labour, violence as a cross-cutting issue that undermines sustainable development in many parts of the region, deforestation and changes in land use and their effects on climate change, as well as the challenge of advancing towards a more sustainable energy mix.

The greatest concern surrounds the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The region has made great efforts in this regard: 29 countries have put in place mechanisms to address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and many have submitted voluntary national reviews (some of them twice) or are preparing to do so in 2019 and 2020. Several countries have integrated the SDGs into their national development plans and budgets. The 2030 Agenda is also becoming integrated into the private sector. The reduction in the fiscal space and high levels of public debt, particularly in the Caribbean, represent a major constraint. An analysis conducted of public expenditure to see how public resources are being invested shows that total income is at a standstill and total expenditure is low. The debt burden compels countries to allocate a large part of tax revenue to debt servicing, instead of financing public expenditure. Hence the ECLAC proposal on debt relief for the Caribbean, involving devoting these resources to a resilience fund. The culture of privilege and illicit financial flows generates large losses. Solutions must be found for

¹ LC/FDS.3/3.

resource mobilization: among the proposals in this regard are four instruments to expand the fiscal space: reducing tax evasion and illicit capital flows; taxing the digital economy and adopting environmental and health taxes; rethinking tax expenditure on incentives; and strengthening taxes on income and real estate. It is also important to reduce harmful tax competition between countries in the region and foster intraregional trade. The context is a difficult one, but the region shows great commitment. In response to the main challenge of mobilizing resources for the 2030 Agenda, ECLAC proposed six pillars of action: an inter-institutional and intersectoral architecture at the highest level; the integration of SDGs into plans and budgets; strengthening of statistical capacities; financing, technology, trade and accountability as means of implementation; the strengthening of regional architecture through the various observatories; and forums for dialogue between governments, businesses and citizens with regional United Nations entities and development banks. In its first few years, the 2030 Agenda was tackled in a more fragmented manner, but it is now time for a more comprehensive approach. The proposal is an environmental big push, with a new form of production and consumption in the private sector and society. Implementing the 2030 Agenda requires a new multilateralism for the provision of local and regional public goods to enhance resilience and to universalize welfare States and the rights of minorities.

The comments from the floor stressed the importance afforded in the report to the cost of non-cooperation, the links drawn between productivity, inequality and governance, and the institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda. Great strides have been made in the region, but there are heavy lags by comparison with advanced countries. It is necessary to dismantle the myth that being middle-income countries makes the countries of the region middle-class societies, since most of the region remains highly vulnerable and people can easily slip into poverty. The three-lane highway of productivity, inclusiveness and resilience cannot be built without effective governance and without the capacity of governments to demonstrate results. Growth is very uneven and differentiated policies are needed; it is also very volatile and is generally measured in flows, such as consumption, neglecting stocks, such as physical and human capital. The concentration of power in certain groups leads to dissatisfaction, making it necessary to rebuild the confidence in governments' ability to produce results. The 2030 Agenda proposes the same rights regardless of ideology. The proposal was to treat the 2030 Agenda as a tool for generating opportunities for productivity, inclusiveness and resilience from the perspectives of climate change, inequality or migration. Work has been done on mapping the challenges in light of the proposed "five Ps": people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. Meanwhile, work on partnerships has been reflected in the support for countries provided by United Nations agencies and resident coordinators, to deliver more effectively on those challenges and pursue them jointly.

Many of the challenges are interrelated and their causes and impacts transcend borders, requiring cooperation as well as broad reforms in multiple areas, more efficient use of government spending, and new ways of working between the State, civil society and business. The quadrennial report highlighted the need for a new generation of public policies with multisectoral approaches. Strengthening the mechanisms that States are creating around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also an important condition for furthering sustainable development. The United Nations, with its joint capacity for analysis and proposals, could be of great assistance to States in this regard. The system is improving and fine-tuning its capacity for working as one, within the framework of the reform spearheaded by the Secretary-General. Resident Coordinators and country teams, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), form part of this capacity to work around common goals in a coordinated manner. The system embeds a great deal of normative knowledge of international standards in relation to the different SDGs and also draws upon the experience and convening power and analytical and statistical capacities of ECLAC.

The statements made by the countries drew attention to the points raised about digitization and the digital revolution, and the importance of the circular economy as a paradigm shift with respect to the linear economy model. The 2030 Agenda enables planning beyond political cycles and is changing modes of

planning and policymaking. It also provides a very valuable dialectic for relations with civil society, governments and other stakeholders, at a time of increasing polarization. The new multilateralism is a prerequisite for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Just as the 2030 Agenda requires systemic change, it also implies a rearrangement of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, which are essential to capacity-building. The challenge for the countries is also a challenge for the system, as an indispensable partner. The discussions in relation to raw materials are important inasmuch the countries of the region, as exporters of commodities to developed economies, have no say in setting their prices or the prices of the resulting processed goods. Along with operational prioritization of the indicators, a strategic prioritization is required to shape a welfare approach in relation to Agenda 2030. The region needs to resolve development traps and prioritize strategically, cooperating to strengthen the capacity for dialogue between government, the private sector and civil society, to make the country's agendas into genuine agendas of State. The challenges call for coordinated common strategies and a systemic approach, for which the 2030 Agenda provides an excellent opportunity. The Agenda provides guidance through targets and indicators, but action must necessarily be based on local knowledge. This effort must be supported by all agencies and cannot be achieved by a single country. The level of the discussion is very different from three years ago, with new language becoming established and acquiring meaning. This represents a major challenge for the various United Nations agencies, as well as the countries, and everyone must act to catalyse the process. Initiatives are under way in relation to decent work, formalization of employment, poverty reduction, stimulus for innovation and greater coverage of social protection, all of which make contributions to core areas of the SDGs. This is a historic stage in renewing the social contract at the global level, representing a great opportunity for progress towards peace and development, at which institutional strengthening is essential as a basis for governance. Entities that do not work directly on the implementation of the SDGs nevertheless pursue aims and action that are consistent with with SDGs and contribute to them. These include humanitarian organizations that make contributions in areas that are less visible and to which less priority has been afforded.

3. Peer learning sessions

The peer learning sessions addressed the following topics: (i) challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean; (ii) institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda; (iii) implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level; and (iv) statistical capacities, measurement and georeferencing.

With regard to the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, the countries drew attention to education, capacity development and a people-centred process to promote equality and inclusion. The very survival of Caribbean countries depends on the success of resilience-building strategies. The main challenges facing the Caribbean subregion include harmonizing new and old paradigms, access to financial resources and technical capacity (an area in which ECLAC and other United Nations entities have made valuable contributions), the need to adapt ideas to the specific characteristics and needs of each country, and competition for United Nations resources. In some Caribbean countries, civil society is not as active as in Latin America. Information on the SDGs must be built into curricula and the tangible benefits of the Goals for society and households must be seen. Although inequality exists throughout the subregion, it varies among countries. High levels of unemployment, particularly among young people, hamper efforts to enhance social cohesion, and the effects of the 2008 financial crisis are still prevalent in some countries of the subregion. Rapid urbanization is putting pressure on planning; cities are plagued by inequality and gaps in access to service and infrastructure, which leads to rising violence. It is essential to reduce gender inequality and policies must focus on empowering women, especially rural women. It is also necessary to encourage production and consumption patterns that

do not deplete resources and contribute to climate change, to which the subregion is vulnerable and which is its most pressing challenge. High-income status countries no longer qualify for certain categories of development financing, although they are burdened by limited product diversification and declining energy-sector income. The lack of data and a sound data collection and management system is another challenge that makes it difficult to measure the performance of the initiatives adopted. Building on the region's successes while constraining challenges is key. It is easier to implement an agenda when there is ownership, financing and relevant data. The importance of empowering local communities and including them in decision-making cannot be overstated. It is hoped that the strong partnership between ECLAC and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in support of small island developing States will continue.

In the session on institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda, it was noted that the 2030 Agenda had compelled countries to rethink their planning systems and strengthen tax systems to finance attainment of the SDGs. All countries have to deal with electoral processes and changes of government, since alternation of power is a fundamental part of democracy, without which the SDGs would not be achievable. The SDGs must therefore form part of a long-term strategic plan, as their implementation cannot be dependent on changes in government. An important aspect of planning for the 2030 Agenda is the need to work with subnational levels of government and territory to gain first-hand knowledge of the shortcomings of the different communities and the inequalities they face. This is the only way to ensure that national development plans are aligned with the realities in-country and that public policies are adapted to the needs of the population. The budgetary aspect is essential for adequate resource allocation and, in this regard, countries have made efforts to align the programmatic areas of budgets with each of the SDGs and their targets. Certain countries have adopted results-based planning, a public management model that seeks to ensure transparency in allocation of budgetary resources and that public expenditure is aligned with countries' national development plans. Furthermore, budget monitoring is fundamental, since it helps to understand such issues as sufficiency of the resources invested, appropriateness of their allocation and the need to explore new lines of financing. Adaptation of institutional frameworks to the imperative need to implement the 2030 Agenda presents significant challenges for a region that is not characterized by institutional strength or trust in institutions. Given the enormous inequalities that exist in the region—not only social, gender or territorial, but also those relating to ethnicity or migratory status—there is a great risk of failing to fulfil the main purpose of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind. To address this problem, since very diverse factors interact within the areas of each SDG, it is essential to work with an inclusive and participatory vision, to communicate the benefits of the 2030 Agenda at all levels and to have the commitment of all actors in society. For this reason, most countries have created inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, making all sectors of society and government institutions participants in the process.

With regard to subnational implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and taking into account the diversity of territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, it was stressed that the territorial aspect is crucial for “anchoring” the international agenda to national and subnational development agendas, a process to which ECLAC had contributed significantly, especially through the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). Obtaining and analysing disaggregated data at the city and municipal levels is essential for concerted territorial development planning, as is transparency, prioritization of projects based on SDG indicators and mobilization of resources. For this purpose, sustainable partnerships with the private sector are required, given the lack of public resources. Cities play an important role in implementing global agendas, not just the 2030 Agenda, and government programmes should treat cities through the lens of a commitment to sustainability and a rights-based approach. It is also necessary to position the subject of cities in global deliberation spaces and in countries' multilateral foreign policy. Meetings such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development are essential to include local and regional spaces in the global debate. A paradigm shift is needed in States' views on these issues, while finding creative ways for municipalities' voices to be heard.

Communities have the best insight into their own realities; local and subnational governments and communities are called upon to express citizens' needs and dreams in policymaking, taking into account realities that shift over time and based on criteria that transcend national terms of government and even the time frame of the 2030 Agenda.

In the session on statistical capacities, measurement and georeferencing and in the discussion that followed, attention was drawn to the institutional mechanisms that countries have put in place to measure and monitor the SDGs and to prepare voluntary national reviews. In each case, the link between the SDG monitoring mechanisms and institutional architecture for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was examined. The panellists said that priorities must be established among the indicators according to the needs of each country's specific policies; national statistical offices must be able to collect data from other official sources in order to optimize their work; and collaboration must be fostered among the countries of the region, including the exchange of lessons learned, to achieve greater efficiency. They identified the main statistical challenges in relation to the SDG indicators, which included coordination among the various actors engaged in the follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals; technical or methodological gaps for the measurement of those indicators; the need for greater disaggregation of data; the specific challenges facing small island developing States owing to their size; and the necessary modernization of national statistical systems and updating of legal frameworks. They highlighted the efforts of national statistical offices to produce data for monitoring the SDGs, as well as the important contribution of statistics in general to the implementation of the Goals. As information is key to achieving the SDGs, national statistical systems must be strengthened and require sufficient budgetary resources. In the context of the data revolution, the panellists reflected on the role of non-traditional data sources in the production of official statistics and the mechanisms that could better leverage the wealth of available information. They said that a flexible and experimental approach must be adopted to those new sources and that other actors, in particular civil society, must be involved in the production of statistics, while establishing data rigour standards that do not constitute a barrier to entry. Geospatial information and georeferencing are not merely an input, but vital inputs for producing statistics for monitoring the SDGs and for data dissemination; in this regard, producers of these data are key partners. Participants also commended the role of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as a regional space that promoted institutional learning through a strategic exchange among countries.

4. Latin American and Caribbean and European interregional dialogue on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The discussion themes in this session included, in particular, the need for international cooperation to advance in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to change production and consumption patterns. Against the backdrop of uncertainty and transformation in the international environment, Latin America and the Caribbean maintains solid ties and a strategic partnership with Europe in favour of the 2030 Agenda, the road map agreed for the future. Emphasis was placed on promoting multilateralism and access to financing and to technical capacity. Climate change remains an issue of vital importance, especially for vulnerable regions such as Central America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean subregion continues to grapple with challenges and has not recovered fully from the 2008 financial crisis. Its growth has been hampered by debt and natural disasters such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Although CARICOM countries are adopting the necessary measures to comply with international banking regulations, the placing of some countries on blacklists and the policy of de-risking continue to have adverse impacts on the region's offshore financial sector. Sustainability requires a cultural change towards a new circular economy, no longer a linear economy that produces and discards. Countries should be classified not only on the basis of GDP, but also of per capita emissions and level of social inclusion. Investment and technological innovation are needed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The discussions referred

to environmental justice and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which provides for public access to information, a human right. The strategic partnership between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean must be renewed, as they face the same challenges, such as the consequences of environmental problems, decent work, the fight against gender-based violence and the preservation of democracy. Sustainable development must serve as a reference framework for foreign direct investment and SDGs should be localized to have an effective impact on territories, both urban and rural. In the relationship between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, which are key drivers of the 2030 Agenda, there should be no separation into roles of donors and beneficiaries, but rather all countries should interact as equals, within the framework of mutual cooperation which provides a learning experience for all. The importance of triangular cooperation was underscored, as it allows the achievement of goals such as sustainable economic development. Education and governance of education systems are also areas in need of improvement. It is essential to protect the oceans and marine resources —because the threats they face affect us all— and create a sustainable ocean economy through an integrated approach. Moreover, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing must also be tackled, as it robs countries of vast resources.

5. The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: contributions of the United Nations system

The ongoing process of reform of the United Nations requires close dialogue between member States, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, resident coordinators, country teams, governments, academia, the private sector and civil society stakeholders. While the regional dimension of the United Nations, in particular in the development pillar, is not always visible, its value is evident in platforms such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, whose convening capacity facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue. The path to reform calls for a new way of working, offering more integrated and efficient responses to governments based on the needs they themselves express. That will make it possible to translate global initiatives to the national level and enrich national public goods. An integrated approach facilitates the regional and subregional analysis of issues that transcend borders —such as human mobility— or that are not bound by them, such as climate change. Working thematically around the “five Ps” —people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership— requires an intersectoral approach within countries and coordination with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the region. With regard to people, a major issue is human mobility, which exposes migrants to disproportionate risks and host communities to new challenges, and a response based on social and economic inclusion requires a comprehensive approach. Successful examples of coordination between governments and the United Nations system in the area of migration abound in the region, as evidenced by the work done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean and ECLAC. The various forms of violence in the region erode citizen trust in institutions and support for democracy. Moving populations from situations of fragility and eradicating violence against women and children is a matter of urgency. Prevention is not enough: it is time for peaceful but firm action to combat impunity, foster peace education and end hatred. A number of activities carried out by SICA, UNDP and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the governments of the region, have helped to change violent situations, with successful efforts in the prevention of armed violence or the joint construction of protection mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence. Achievement of the SDGs will be impossible, however, if the planet continues to be degraded. A paradigm shift such as the environmental big push championed by ECLAC is necessary, as is urgent action to meet the targets of the

Paris Agreement. In a region characterized by diverse ecosystems and a heavy dependence on export commodities, nature-based solutions offer environmental and economic co-benefits.

The region's low growth, inequality and economic vulnerability affect productivity, inclusion and resilience. The plans developed in the Caribbean with respect to the green economy and the blue economy, and partnerships between the private sector and civil society to finance initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda illustrate the benefits of coordination. Coordination between governments and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations involves greater dialogue with resident coordinators, better knowledge of populations and territories, and improved intersectoral and inter-ministerial coordination within national governments. It is vital to leverage the comparative advantages of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and establish joint projects with member States. Country representatives highlighted some of the benefits of inter-agency coordination in the region, including collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP and UN-Women to define social protection floors, and the work of UNICEF on early marriage and child pregnancy or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on disaster risk reduction. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) provides a mechanism to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and regional commissions play a leading role. However, countries are the focal points for implementation and it is vital to maintain dialogue between them and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations in the region, in a framework of shared ownership of the implementation process: we are more effective when we work together.

6. Contribution of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and relevant intergovernmental meetings to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In this session, representatives of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and intergovernmental meetings relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development referred to the activities carried out in fulfilment of their respective mandates.

The representative of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) said that CDCC was uniquely positioned to promote an integrative approach to sustainable development and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean, and drew attention to the activities carried out by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, including three major subregional technical meetings, as well as numerous missions and technical assistance activities in member countries.

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional forum for addressing the challenges relating to the rights and autonomy of women, and the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Conference is a space for fruitful exchange on progress related to the Montevideo Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. Since these are areas in which current conditions in the region could lead to setbacks, the Conference proposes women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios as the theme for its next session.

The representative of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC indicated that this body had achieved the objectives set, since the analytical work and prioritization of the SDG indicators had been successfully completed, and the prioritization duly endorsed by the member countries at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference. A diagnosis had also been performed of national capacities for producing the indicators, and mechanisms were being sought to strengthen these where necessary. Lastly, the Conference was engaged in reviewing the operating modalities of the working groups of the Conference in order to prepare specific outputs and contributions tailored to the statistical needs of the countries.

The representative of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) referred to the work done by ILPES with governments to improve development plans and strategies in the region, and to the creation of tools —the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development and Planbarometer— that were of great use for ascertaining and assessing progress made by countries in terms of integrating the 2030 Agenda into their planning systems. The Institute had also been tasked with producing a document on territorial development to address the challenges posed by the linking of policies, plans and processes regarding implementation and follow-up at different territorial scales and levels of government.

Regarding the work of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Montevideo Consensus, the most significant intergovernmental agreement in this sphere, complemented the 2030 Agenda on topics not sufficiently covered in the SDGs, such as ageing, international migration and indigenous and Afrodescendent populations. Accordingly, the indicators of the Consensus were instrumental for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. At the last session of the Conference, 25 countries presented voluntary national reports on progress made in this area, which served as a basis to produce the *First regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*.² However, much remained to be done in areas such as territorial inequality, adolescent pregnancy, ageing, migration, gender-based violence and the lack of disaggregated data.

The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean considers social development to be an inclusive process, in which States must guarantee the full exercise of rights, from the perspective of universalism that is sensitive to difference. This means removing barriers faced by certain populations with regard to access to rights and well-being. Inequalities on the basis of gender, ethnicity and race and stage of the life cycle are the axes that structure the social inequality matrix and should thus also shape the social protection matrix aspired to in the SDGs. In this regard, the Conference has formulated a first draft of the regional agenda for inclusive social development and will shortly embark on a consultation with civil society on the document.

The Committee on South-South cooperation is a forum in which to assess the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the actions that can be undertaken to address these through South-South and triangular cooperation, which contribute to regional, subregional and interregional integration and collective measures to foster sustainable development. Despite a lack of statistical capacities for evaluating the impact of this type of cooperation and of methodologies to measure and evaluate it and guide efforts, all the countries have successful experiences to share. Accordingly, a Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean has been established and will hold its first working meeting in May 2019, at which an assessment of national institutional and statistical capacities will be presented.

In the area of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean has three fundamental objectives, within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020). First, it urges countries to incorporate ICTs into learning processes from early childhood, in order to promote education and digital skills. Second, it seeks to empower women in all aspects of digital development. And third, it promotes the use of ICTs in business, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as in the work of financial institutions to empower those enterprises. Since the adoption of eLAC2020 in 2018, the Conference has been conducting activities relating to its 30 goals in six areas of action to extrapolate good practices, link entities, expand knowledge and encourage the creation of mechanisms to foster the digital agenda.

² LC/CRPD.3/6.

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) is a pioneering instrument, since it is the first binding treaty negotiated under the auspices of ECLAC and the first in the world to include provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters. The Agreement speaks directly to many of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, since both instruments seek to build equitable models, promote democracy, call for action, and require the commitment of countries to reduce inequality and poverty, conserve ecosystems and promote peaceful societies. The Agreement must be ratified by 11 States to enter into force; accordingly, the countries were encouraged to sign and ratify it as soon as possible. At this third meeting of the Forum, a side event had been conducted on the Agreement, in which all the member States participated.

Given that Latin America and the Caribbean is a predominantly urban region, the work of the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) is particularly important. Cities are hubs of opportunity, growth and value generation, but they are also the scene of precarious conditions and inequality. In 2016, the States members of the United Nations adopted the New Urban Agenda, recognizing the importance of urbanization in the effort to achieve sustainable development. It is crucial to strengthen the synergies between the implementation frameworks of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, as well as between different levels of government and stakeholders.

Since the fourth meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Asunción Declaration, which urges governments to build the issue of ageing into their development policies, plans and programmes in a cross-cutting manner, the Conference has held three events in fulfilment of its mandate: two expert meetings in October 2018 and March 2019 and a side event on older persons in the framework of the 2030 Agenda at this third meeting of the Forum. These events helped to strengthen the technical capacities of the countries and foster collaborative work, and convened broad participation by older persons in developing proposals. Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region to discuss the issues of older persons from a human rights perspective in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The outcomes of this work are being widely disseminated, to enable access for all actors to the knowledge and experience of the leading institutions in this sphere.

7. Dialogues on multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

There was consensus on the need to work collectively on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs. From the academic point of view, it was noted that the 2030 Agenda acts as a facilitator of multi-stakeholder dialogue. One of the contributions of the academic sector is made through the analysis and proposal of solutions to issues such as potential contradiction between certain economic or social goals and environmental goals. Universities can help develop new approaches and provide relevant and timely applied research that is connected to the region. They can also contribute by acting as agents of social change through training, interdisciplinary knowledge and provision of environmental courses. Power generation companies contribute through the development of renewable energies that advance decarbonization and efficient and innovative solutions that enable people and industries to use energy more sustainably. In particular, distributed generation allows end users to add to power generation, for example using photovoltaic sources, and feed unused surpluses into the system, thus achieving a twofold economic and environmental gain. The production and use of clean energies also give companies in other sectors access to a sustainable production seal that testifies to their commitment to sustainability. In the mining

sector, the business case for commitment to the environmental agenda is increasingly clear, with user pressure playing an important part. As a result, convergence is occurring between the demands of consumers and companies' actions, which has the effect of mainstreaming sustainability. Collaborative work with civil society, governments and other firms is essential, for example, to address the proper use of water for different purposes. A set of performance expectations has been designed together with NGOs and academic entities, as a set of commitments by the mining industry that will bring accountability and transparency, maintain legitimacy and demonstrate to users that work is proceeding responsibly. For their part, supreme audit institutions (comptrollers and audit courts) in the region have assumed the role of monitoring fulfilment of the SDGs as part of their strategic plan. An analysis of the readiness of the governments of the region to implement the 2030 Agenda identified weak planning and risk management in this area, poor integration of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and a need for better coordination, monitoring and transparency mechanisms and strategies for effective implementation. Audit institutions can contribute to achieving a long-term perspective; thus, oversight should be seen not as a burden, but as offering an opportunity to develop public policies that represent long-run commitments. Parliamentary work at the regional level has taken on board the need to incorporate the SDG approach into strategic planning. PARLACEN adopted a decision that all parliamentary initiatives must incorporate the SDG approach as a requirement for discussion of the respective project. Oversight is also conducted of certain regional bodies with regard to the SDG approach but, while there are guidelines to that effect, there is no mechanism for follow-up and monitoring to assess progress on the SDGs. There is interest, therefore, in considering the creation of a monitoring mechanism to contribute systemically to this process.

8. Briefing by Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Summit

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Summit referred to the organization of that event, which would focus not only on efforts to mitigate climate change, but also on adaptation and resilience-building. The events would not revolve around negotiation, but dialogue, collaboration and discussion, in order to focus attention on the issues at hand and move from agreement to action.

9. Statement on trends in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC gave a presentation on SDG implementation trends in the region, which focused on three key topics: multilateralism; fragmentation in the face of implementation; and possible risks to implementation. On the one hand, countries had agreed to end poverty and hunger, universalize rights and protect the ecological integrity of land and the oceans, and they aspired to a system of global governance to create global public goods and multilateral cooperation to address asymmetries. On the other hand, however, the current context was characterized by fragmentation, trade and technological tensions, a trade and economic slowdown, greater financial uncertainty, the disruptive impacts of the technological revolution, climate change and global inequality, in a climate where public confidence and the social contract was being eroded. While significant progress had been made, such as improvements in national inter-institutional and intersectoral architecture, the integration of the SDGs into national development plans and national budgets and the recognition and strengthening of statistical capacities, concerns persist about preserving the integrated nature of the Agenda, financing its implementation and technological gaps, among other things, as well as the need to change the conversation with civil society and the private sector. The greatest risk is that indifference will give way to paralysis; efforts must be pursued despite the difficulty in achieving some Goals. A cooperation strategy should therefore be adopted within the region, macroeconomic policies should be coordinated and a new generation of public policies should be designed

collectively. A new form of multilateralism was also needed to boost confidence in international cooperation and collective action; build resilience to financial, trade and technological shocks; universalize the welfare State; protect the interests of the majority and not the few; promote transparency and informed debate; and strengthen the deliberative capacity of all citizens.

10. Round table – Integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: critical links and means of implementation

All areas of our lives —from university degrees to the business world— are organized by sector. Consequently, adoption of an integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda appears a somewhat complex undertaking. Nonetheless, knowledge must be garnered on how to achieve integration, with a view to incorporating it into our visions for the future. At this round table, experts from different fields shared their experience on how integration is addressed in their respective areas of work. Climate change, for example, affects fulfilment not only of SDG 13, but of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, since it has the capacity to worsen all the problems afflicting humanity: it can destabilize the global economy, increasing poverty; generate conflicts related to migration and shortages of resources; and affect the health of millions of people, among many other consequences. However, in many countries, the environment portfolio is not at the highest level of the institutional mechanisms for national implementation of the SDGs and some do not even refer to the Paris Agreement or other environmental accords in their voluntary national reviews. Actions to address climate change can be used to drive positive systemic change. Such actions must be multilateral and coordinated and must be implemented at all levels; inclusive multilateralism is the only way to curb climate change and achieve the SDGs. International trade was identified by several countries as another key element for implementation of the SDGs, given that it is a fundamental to growth, increasing income and reducing poverty. Therefore, if international trade is accompanied by inclusive policies that ensure opportunities for large sectors of the population, it will contribute to sustainable development. The exclusion of territories from trade and financing for whatever reason impairs their capacity for growth; this is particularly serious in the case of small island developing States. One of the major obstacles to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in addition to financing problems, is a lack of awareness of the Agenda itself. In some countries, there is even reluctance among officials at different levels of government, who perceive the 2030 Agenda as an imposition. It is essential to persuade economic actors of the need to think about environmental and social issues and to convince the social sector not to neglect the environmental sphere. There is also an urgent need to improve consultation processes, participation mechanisms and representativeness, to include all stakeholders in the process. Coordination and communication are also needed, to make efficient use of resources and avoid duplicating efforts, and it is essential to eradicate corruption in the region's societies.

Another issue of particular importance is capacity-building for grass-roots governance; in other words, for the collectively organized population to contribute to the decisions of the State with a view to developing effective government policies and institutions, and for the population to manage its resources autonomously, thus facilitating inclusion of all social groups. Campesinos and indigenous peoples can contribute in this regard, but their insight into resource use has not been sufficiently recognized. In addition, instead of talking about “different styles of development”, the discussion should be shifted to “different lifestyles”. The difference between the two concepts is akin to the difference between the prevalence of economic issues and the integration of social, environmental and economic issues into decision-making and policy shaping. In the discussion, informed social dialogue was mentioned as a fundamental tool for implementation of 2030 Agenda, to change the behaviour of individuals and businesses, in addition to localization of the Agenda. The development traps faced by middle-income countries can be transformed into strategic shortcuts to advance the Agenda, while the circular economy can contribute to a change in

productive development patterns. It is important to build, as a region, a common purpose around the 2030 Agenda. For Caribbean countries, climate change issues are crucial, as natural disasters can devastate their economies and affect the subregion as a whole. It is essential that these countries do not face restrictions on international financing.

Also essential is the transformation of information into knowledge, because knowledge creates the awareness required to drive the necessary cultural and paradigm shift. Awareness leads to commitment and commitment leads to action. As regards integration of the economic, social and environmental aspects, localization in the region must take its diversity into account and have a method for structuring and building in the different components. In response to unawareness of the Agenda, or indifference to it, new SDG narratives must be created that make sense to people and show what the Agenda will mean in communities' lives. An integrated vision of the Agenda entails an integrated vision of people and knowledge of who is being left behind; census processes are a key instrument in this regard. Public policies should be intercultural and non-discriminatory and incorporate approaches such as gender. Multilateral cooperation is essential, with a focus not only on multiple stakeholders, but also on multiple levels of governance. Between the national and local levels, subnational coordination mechanisms should not be overlooked, as they should also have a view on the SDGs and benefit from sharing of good practices. Work is a critical link for the advancement of economies and of households' circumstances, and in this area diversity must be considered alongside efforts to universalize policies. One of the most unjustifiable inequalities is gender inequality, since the wage gap is no longer explained by productive characteristics but rather by cultural factors. Differences exist both in the market and in households, as shown by surveys of men's and women's time use, underscoring the importance of a cultural shift. As regards resource use, priority should be given to indicators of spending efficiency and quality; in this respect, integration between sectors could be an important indicator, with a view to its promotion. The importance that governments in the region have attached to financial, political, social and cultural investment in early childhood development and education was highlighted, as was the importance of governance systems that allow State institutions at all levels to organize themselves to face the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, of sustainable development plans at the national and local levels, and of strengthening capacities to measure progress through new tools such as the multidimensional poverty index. Lastly, the importance of meaningful dialogue and global partnerships was reaffirmed. Regarding participation of civil society, the voices and proposals of organizations with extensive experience in their respective fields, such as pensioners' groups, feminist groups and young people's groups, must be brought into the discussion. A cultural shift is required, not only in society, but also in institutions and in all stakeholders. An integrated vision and clear rules are needed, in an enabling environment that includes the different stakeholders in development.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were adopted.

12. Special session: towards the General Assembly 2019

At the special session statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile; Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the 2019 Climate Summit; Ruben Armando Escalante Hasbún, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations (video message); María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly (video

message); Gweneth Sheila Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and Rodrigo Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC opened the session by highlighting the valuable input that would be provided in the presentations to be made.

The Minister of the Environment of Chile underscored the importance of SDG 13 and, in this regard, remarked that Chile was to serve as Chair of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) at a particularly critical time, given the potentially irreversible effects of climate change worldwide. The participation of more stakeholders—such as scientists and members of the private sector—in discussions would facilitate more ambitious action. Chile's proposal for climate action focuses on four areas: the oceans, the circular economy, e-mobility and clean and renewable energy. There is a need for a multi-stakeholder, climate-focused institutional framework capable of transcending government terms, and for means of recording progress. COP25 would have a Latin American and Caribbean seal and would reflect the will to combine efforts in pursuit of sustainable development.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Climate Action Summit 2019 agreed on the need for ambition and for a shift from negotiation to action, a deliberate request of the Secretary-General, who had also asked governments to propose concrete action plans. The Paris Agreement was the regulatory framework for climate action and full advantage should be taken of the time frame it outlined. The United Nations system had to commit to the priority of moving from negotiation to action and meet countries' needs. In light of insufficient central government resources, civil society involvement and private financing were crucial. Specific reference was made to the need for balanced climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, which required international cooperation. The speaker recognized in particular the contribution of ECLAC to progress in achieving all those goals.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations conveyed a video message in which he summarized the activities being undertaken in preparation for the Climate Action Summit to be held in New York in 2019 and the various meetings that would be held on that occasion. Among the themes to be addressed, he highlighted the megatrends relating to climate issues, specific problems that affected the most vulnerable countries, the internationalization of the 2030 Agenda at different governmental and territorial levels, and the actions needed to advance towards the achievement of the Goals by 2030.

The President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly highlighted the role played by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in multilateralism. Regional commissions should play a stronger role in the implementation of global agendas as they were fundamental to cooperation among the countries. The gaps facing small island developing States and landlocked developing countries had to be closed, and political will was needed to mobilize financial resources. Building a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable region required a combination of tax redistribution policies and external financing. COP25 and the Climate Action Summit 2019 were opportunities for strengthening the mechanisms adopted in the Paris Agreement and the ambition to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Firm steps were needed to change the reality of the Latin American and Caribbean region and make it fairer and more equitable, united and prosperous. In conclusion, the outcomes of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development would be crucial to progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, remarked that, although the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was mainly a country-driven process, it needed the active participation and commitment of all stakeholders and multilateral cooperation. The SDG Summit to be held in New York under the theme “Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, would be the first meeting at the level of Heads of State since the adoption of the Agenda. On that occasion, world leaders were to meet to provide guidance, identify challenges and mobilize action to accelerate implementation. The Summit must send a strong message that although multilateralism is under attack, world leaders are still committed to the 2030 Agenda; this is the purpose of the political declaration, which has been negotiated in a highly participatory manner, with many voices heard, including from regional forums such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The declaration must be robust, concise, action-oriented, ambitious and evidence-based, focused on major development issues; it must send a strong message of commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its acceleration, stress the indivisibility of the SDGs and be adopted by consensus. A call was made for the highest level of participation in order to keep momentum alive and inspire further action towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum, remarked upon the profound and frank discussion of issues during the Forum. The side events that expanded the scope of the Forum allowed other voices to be heard. The exchange of experiences and ideas and the participation of various stakeholders helped to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum had fulfilled the purpose of discussing the principles of the Agenda in its various aspects and the region’s governments had reaffirmed their commitment to its implementation. The Chair highlighted the work done by ECLAC to achieve the 2030 Agenda and foster integration, in particular its focus on the Caribbean. It was vital for more countries to submit voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum, which would address fundamental issues such as the need to strengthen the means of implementation and mobilize new, regular and predictable resources, as well as to advocate for the implementation of the Agenda at all levels. He concluded by inviting representatives to participate in the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in Havana in April 2020.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC expressed thanks for the numerous attendance of the various stakeholders at the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Attendees included representatives of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and Resident Coordinators in the countries of the region, as well as country representatives from the region and beyond responsible for implementing the SDGs. The 54 side events held had generated a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences. She also underscored the commitment to work towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, an indivisible purpose. She reiterated the need to change development patterns and lifestyles, and to widen spaces for participation, which would enhance knowledge of the territories and thus make the SDGs accessible to all, including children, adolescents and indigenous peoples. She highlighted in particular the importance of the “Caribbean first” initiative, remarking that the subregion was a key contributor to the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a civilizing agenda of which the region had taken ownership; the scale of the undertaking must not be a deterrent to its full implementation.

Annex 3

DECLARATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Declaración de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil de América Latina y el Caribe

DOS MONÓLOGOS NO HACEN UN DIÁLOGO

Nosotras y “nosotros los pueblos”¹, representados en organizaciones, asociaciones, federaciones, coaliciones, colectivos, pueblos indígenas, movimientos sociales, redes y sindicatos, reunidos en este Foro, organizados como Mecanismo de participación de la Sociedad Civil en 20 grupos conformando una Mesa de vinculación elegida por sus integrantes, reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la Agenda 2030 en América Latina y el Caribe, construida entre múltiples actores para lograr los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible – ODS, bajo la consigna de “**no dejar a nadie atrás**”. Los aportes de la sociedad civil a la Agenda, son innegables y han sido reconocidos en diferentes ámbitos. Sin embargo, esta es la tercera vez que llegamos a este Foro y nos encontramos con un documento acordado sólo por los gobiernos, sin espacios reales para la participación efectiva de la sociedad civil. **¿Dónde está el diálogo? Dos monólogos no hacen un diálogo.**

Lamentablemente, en la mayor parte de los países de nuestra región, los criterios, aportes y recomendaciones de la sociedad civil, incluyendo especialmente a los países no hispanoparlantes del Caribe, no son tomados en cuenta: no existen mecanismos que garanticen la participación de la sociedad civil, no es posible hablar con los gobiernos porque continúan hablando entre pares. Basado en esto sentimos que nos dejaron atrás, especialmente nuestros hermanos y hermanas del Caribe no hispanoparlantes que están subrepresentados y cuya baja presencia en este Foro es un reflejo de vuestro pobre compromiso. ¿Y qué somos nosotros? La sociedad civil, ¿sus impares? Sin estos impares no se va a lograr el desarrollo sostenible. Las organizaciones de sociedad civil somos legítimos actores del desarrollo sostenible, reconocidos mundialmente.²

Demandamos a los gobiernos de nuestra región ratificar e implementar los Tratados y Convenciones Internacionales sobre Derechos Humanos³.

Reiteramos la denuncia sobre los ataques constantes a la democracia y al multilateralismo en nuestra región. Estamos viviendo profundos retrocesos a partir de la ofensiva conservadora, fundamentalista, privatizadora y neoliberal, que amenaza la paz y el desarrollo sostenible y el reconocimiento de todos los derechos humanos. Vemos a diario la persecución, la criminalización de la protesta, el despojo de tierras y territorios y riesgo de exterminio de pueblos indígenas y el asesinato de líderes y actores sociales, especialmente defensores y defensoras de los derechos humanos, atacados por defender la paz, sus territorios, la justicia social, ambiental, económica y de género, que se expresan en los altos índices de violencia y

¹ Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Preámbulo.

² A/RES/70/1 (2015)

³ Incluyendo los derechos civiles y políticos, económicos sociales y culturales, medioambientales y de los pueblos indígenas, así como los derechos sexuales y los derechos reproductivos.



violaciones de derechos, en todas las áreas afectando a determinadas poblaciones y sus múltiples identidades.⁴

La democracia participativa, inclusiva, transparente y con acceso a la información, es la base para el logro de la Agenda 2030 en nuestros países, en nuestra región y, debería serlo en este foro. Aquí en la CEPAL tenemos la oportunidad de que América Latina y el Caribe le muestre al mundo que podemos hacer mejor las cosas, asegurando la articulación entre gobiernos y sociedad civil. La democracia es diálogo y respeto a las diferencias.

Exigimos voluntad política a nuestros gobiernos para encarar los enormes retos y desafíos que existen en América Latina y el Caribe, para enfrentar la pobreza y las desigualdades, sin dejar a nadie atrás. No hay tiempo que perder. **¡El 2030 es ahora!**

Santiago de Chile, 25 de abril de 2019.

⁴ Mujeres, niñas, niños, adolescentes, jóvenes, personas mayores, lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, intersex, pueblos indígenas, afrodescendientes, campesinos, personas con discapacidad, personas que viven con VIH/sida, tuberculosis, personas privadas de libertad, en situación de calle, migrantes, refugiados, dirigentes y activistas sindicales, estudiantiles, trabajadores, trabajadores rurales, pescadores artesanales, trabajadoras sexuales, trabajadoras del hogar, periodistas, entre otras.

DECLARATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹

Two monologues do not make a dialogue

We, the people, represented in organizations, associations, federations, coalitions, collectives, indigenous peoples, social movements, networks and unions, gathered in this Forum, organized as a Civil Society Participation Mechanism in 20 groups forming a Committee of Engagement chosen by its members, we reiterate our commitment to the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, built among multiple actors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the slogan of “leave no one behind”. The contributions of civil society to the Agenda are undeniable and have been recognized in different areas. However, this is the third time we have arrived at this Forum and we have found a document agreed only by the governments, without real spaces for the effective participation of civil society. Where is the dialogue? Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

Unfortunately, in most of the countries of our region, the criteria, contributions and recommendations from civil society, including especially the non-Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean, are not taken into account: there are no mechanisms that guarantee the participation of society civil, it is not possible to talk to governments because they continue to talk among peer. Based on this we feel left behind, especially our brothers and sisters from the Caribbean who are conspicuously under-represented and whose numbers present this week are a poor reflection of your commitment. And what are we? Civil society, are at odds? Without these odds, sustainable development will not be achieved. Civil society organizations are legitimate actors of sustainable development, recognized worldwide.

We demand that the governments of our region ratify and implement the International Treaties and Conventions on Human Rights.

We reiterate the denunciation of the constant attacks to democracy and multilateralism in our region. We are experiencing deep setbacks from the conservative, fundamentalist, privatizing and neoliberal offensive that threatens peace and sustainable development and the recognition of all human rights. We see daily the persecution, the criminalization of protest, the dispossession of lands and territories and the risk of extermination of indigenous peoples and the assassination of leaders and social actors, especially human rights defenders, attacked for defending peace, their territories, social, environmental, economic and gender justice, which are expressed in the high rates of violence and violations of rights, in all areas affecting certain populations and their multiple identities.

Participatory democracy, that is also inclusive, transparent and with access to information, is the basis for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in our countries, in our region and, it should also be in this Forum. Here at ECLAC we have the opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean to show the world that we can do things better, ensuring the articulation between governments and civil society. Democracy is dialogue and respect for differences.

We demand political will from our governments to face the enormous challenges that exist in Latin America and the Caribbean, to face poverty and inequalities, without leaving anyone behind. There is no time to lose. 2030 is now!

Santiago, Chile, April 25, 2019.

¹ Unofficial translation provided by civil society of the statement read out in the meeting room.

Annex 4

SIDE EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
24 – 26 April **2019**

SIDE EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Updated 4 April 2019

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Raúl Prebisch Conference Room	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.		9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meeting of Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the resident coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean			
	1–2:30 p.m.					
	2:30–7 p.m.	Foro Empresarial para los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe (United Nations Global Compact and ECLAC) (2.30 – 6 p.m.)	3 – 5 p.m. Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Latin America and the Caribbean			
	7–8 p.m.		6:30 – 7.15 p.m. Briefing for heads of delegation and representatives of member countries of the Forum			

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Celso Furtado Conference Room	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Pensadores Fundacionales del Desarrollo Sostenible (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC) (9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)	Latin America and the Caribbean civil society consultation prior to the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development			
	1 – 2.30 p.m.	Personas mayores en el marco de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina (National Council for Older Persons (CONAPAM) of Costa Rica)		Acuerdo de Escazú: Herramienta para empoderar a las personas y asegurar la inclusión y la igualdad (The Access Initiative (TAI), Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR) of Peru, Government of Costa Rica and Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC)	Voz y rol de la sociedad civil en la Agenda 2030 (United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG LAC) co-led by UN-Women, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Food Programme (WFP))	Construyendo el camino hacia 2030: el papel de las Naciones Unidas (United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) Secretariat)
	2.30 – 7 p.m.					
	7 – 8.30 p.m.			Iniciativa Conjunta del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para reducir la violencia crónica en los países del norte de Centroamérica (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador) (Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA))	El Parlamento Centroamericano frente al desafío de los Objetivos de la Agenda 2030 (Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) and ECLAC)	

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Z-407	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2.30 p.m.	Las voces de los jóvenes sobre la Agenda 2030 (Fundación América Solidaria Internacional and The Millennials Movement)		Information meeting: Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies (Statistics Division of ECLAC and ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean)	Indicadores de desastres para robustecer políticas públicas: situación actual e importancia creciente en América Latina y el Caribe (Statistics Division of ECLAC and the respective working group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC)	
	2.30 –7 p.m.					
	7 –8.30 p.m.			El camino desde la CEPAL hasta las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York: asegurando las voces regionales de la sociedad civil en el Foro de Alto Nivel de Políticas Públicas (organizing partner for Latin America and the Caribbean of the NGO Major Group and others)		

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Fernando Fajnzylber Auditorium	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Información geoespacial como soporte a la Agenda 2030, perspectivas de actores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales (Statistics Division of ECLAC and GeoCensos Foundation) 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	El rol del gobierno abierto en la planificación para el desarrollo y el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030: mirada desde los diferentes actores (Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and Open Government Partnership) (9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)			
	1 – 2.30 p.m.		Pobreza, desigualdad y territorios rurales en América Latina y el Caribe: hacia estrategias integradas de desarrollo territorial (ILPES and FAO)	Participación de las IFI en la implementación de la iniciativa global Human Capital Project en la región, con foco en primeros años, educación y salud (UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and international financial institutions)	Regional Consultation on Integrating Volunteering as a powerful means to achieve SDGs in the LAC Region (United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and ECLAC)	Mejorar la rendición de cuentas e involucrar a las instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos en la Agenda 2030 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO) and GIZ)
	2.30 – 7 p.m.	Información geoespacial como soporte a la Agenda 2030, perspectivas de actores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales (Statistics Division of ECLAC and GeoCensos Foundation) (2.30 – 6 p.m.)	El litio y su potencial de aporte a la transición energética y la electromovilidad (Natural Resources Division and Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)) (2.30 – 6 p.m.)		¿Cómo vincular políticas climáticas y transición ecológica con justicia social? Miradas cruzadas desde las experiencias francoalemanas y latinoamericanas (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC and German and French cooperation agencies)	

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Executive Meeting Room	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2:30 p.m.		Estrategias empresariales para la protección de datos y la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible (Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC, International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR))	El papel de las universidades de América Latina en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS))	"Políticas públicas locales inclusivas" Award of CIPDH <i>Construir Igualdad</i> prize, 2018 edition. (Centro Internacional para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPDH) and UNESCO)	Más allá del ODS 3: el rol de los estudiantes de medicina de las Américas en el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA))
	2:30 – 7 p.m.					
Hernán Santa Cruz Library	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2:30 p.m.			Análisis de los exámenes voluntarios nacionales desde una perspectiva independiente (World Vision, Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) and Latin-American and Caribbean Movement for Children (MMI-LAC))	Big data y privacidad (Hernán Santa Cruz Library)	
	2:30 – 7 p.m.					

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2:30 p.m.		El <i>big push</i> para la sostenibilidad: aprendizaje entre pares a partir de los casos del Brasil, el Uruguay y Chile (ECLAC office in Brasilia and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Brasil)	Rol de las entidades fiscalizadoras superiores en la implementación de los ODS (Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS), Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic of Peru, Court of Auditors of Brazil and GIZ)	Poner fin al trabajo infantil: innovando en la acción interagencial para alcanzar la meta 8.7 en América Latina y el Caribe (Social Development Division of ECLAC, ILO, FAO, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour Regional Initiative)	
	2:30 –7 p.m.	Consulta de ONGs feministas (Committee of NGOs on the Condition of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean (CoNGO CSW LAC) and Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)) (3:30 –7 p.m.)				
	7 –8:30 p.m.	¿Está América Latina maximizando las sinergias entre educación y empleo decente? (Southern Voice)		El Valor del Agua en la Agenda 2030: Realidad y Desafíos (UNESCO International Hydrological Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO Regional Office for Science for Latin America and the Caribbean))	Juntos hacia una agenda transformadora: creando la base para capitalizar los roles diferenciados de los actores de desarrollo (Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala and GIZ)	

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Room 1 – Sector ILPES	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2:30 p.m.		La voz del estudiante: ¿qué dicen los estudiantes sobre cómo avanzar hacia una educación de calidad (ODS4)? (Teach for all, Enseña Chile, Enseñá por Argentina and Enseña Ecuador)	Revolución tecnológica: desafíos y oportunidades para la industria, el empleo, la igualdad de género y el desarrollo social en América Latina y el Caribe (Division of Production, Productivity and Management, Social Development Division, Economic Development Division and Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC)	Ciudadanía digital y habilidades para el siglo XXI (Social Development Division of ECLAC, UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Latin American Network of Global Kids Online)	Focus on Follow-up: How do Countries Respond to Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations from the VNR Process? (Partners for Review and GIZ)
	2:30 –7 p.m.					
	7 –8:30 p.m.			Presupuesto orientado a resultados como instrumento para el cumplimiento de las metas de los ODS (National Planning Department (DNP) of Colombia and National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) of Ecuador)		

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Room 2 – Sector ILPES	9 a.m. –1 p.m.					
	1 –2.30 p.m.		Videncia hacia las mujeres en políticas: herramientas para su prevención y abordaje (UN-Women, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and ECLAC)	Primera reunión del Grupo Consultivo de Expertos para el proyecto OECD-CEPAL-UE sobre métricas para el bienestar y los ODS (European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and ECLAC)	Los procesos consultivos regionales, la gobernanza migratoria y la contribución de las personas migrantes al desarrollo sostenible (Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)- Population Division of ECLAC, IOM, UNHCR, Pro Tempore Chair of the South American Conference on Migration, Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, ILO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF)	Más allá de los promedios regionales: ¿a quiénes estamos dejando afuera, a quiénes estamos dejamos atrás? Situación de las metas educativas en América Latina y el Caribe con foco en equidad e inclusión (UNESCO and UNICEF)
	2.30 –7 p.m.		Ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (3 – 6 p.m.)			
	7 –8.30 p.m.			Presentación de cuadernillo CISS: Serie Políticas de Bienestar. Personas Trabajadoras del Hogar (Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS))		

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Medina Room	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.		Third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (8.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.)		Taller regional sobre avances y desafíos en la implementación del Acuerdo de Escazú en América Latina y el Caribe: hacia una pronta entrada en vigor (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC) (8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)	
	1 – 2.30 p.m.			VNR Lab (Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECLAC)	Gobernando la geoingeniería para gestionar el cambio climático en la región (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC and Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance Initiative (C2G2))	Avances en la implementación del Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030 en las Américas y el Caribe (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Governments of Colombia, Peru and Paraguay, and Statistics Division of ECLAC)
	2.30 – 7 p.m.			Avance en la implementación de las NDC en América Latina (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, Eurodima, GIZ and Avina Foundation) (4 – 5.30 p.m.)	Taller regional sobre avances y desafíos en la implementación del Acuerdo de Escazú en América Latina y el Caribe: hacia una pronta entrada en vigor (Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC) (2.30 – 5 p.m.)	

Room	Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
FAO Auditorium	9– 10.30 a.m.		Sistemas alimentarios y desigualdades: soluciones para América Latina y el Caribe de cara a los ODS (FAO)			
	11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.		Un llamado a la transformación: agricultura sostenible y resiliente para lograr los ODS (FAO)			
	1– 2.30 p.m.					
	2.30– 7 p.m.	Retos y oportunidades del desarrollo y la gobernanza territorial en la perspectiva de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (FAO) (2.30 - 4 p.m.)				
ILO Auditorium	11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.					
	1– 2.30 p.m.					
	2.30– 7 p.m.	Por un futuro más prometedor: contribuciones del Informe de la Comisión Mundial sobre el Futuro del Trabajo a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible (International Labour Organization (ILO)) (3.30 – 5.30 p.m.)				

Annex 5

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros del Foro de los Países de América Latina
y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible**
**States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America
and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDARepresentante/Representative:

- Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration, email: epchet@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Joy-Marie King, Director of International Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration, email: Joy-Marie.King@ab.gov.ag
- Janil Gore-Francis, Chief Plant Protection Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Protection Unit, Department of Agriculture, email: janil.gore-francis@ab.gov.ag
- Andrea Agatha Jacobs, Ministry of Legal Affairs, email: aayjacobsesq@gmail.com

ARGENTINARepresentante/Representative:

- Sergio Bergman, Secretario de Gobierno de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, email: ebravo@ambiente.gob.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Gabriela Vanesa Agosto, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, email: gabriela.agosto@politicassociales.gob.ar
- Silvana Bovone, Dirección de Asuntos Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: sbo@mrecic.gob.ar
- Romina Iglesia, Consejera, Embajada de la República Argentina en Chile, email: iir@mrecic.gob.ar
- Luis Dipietro, Director Nacional de Relaciones Internacionales y Comunicación Institucional, Coordinador del Proyecto ODS, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, email: ldipietro@politicassociales.gob.ar
- Susana Rubinstein, Directora Nacional de Políticas para Adultos Mayores, Secretaría Nacional de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia, Ministerio de Salud y Desarrollo Social, email: srubinstein@senaf.gob.ar
- Patricia Holzman, Jefa de Gabinete, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, email: pholzman@ambiente.gob.ar
- Romanela Cristina Conte, Coordinadora de Vinculación entre el Presupuesto y la Planificación Estratégica, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros, email: conter@jefatura.gob.ar

BAHAMASRepresentante/Representative:

- Donyelle Ward, Assistant Secretary, Economic, Trade and Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: donyelleward@bahamas.gov.bs

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, email: scarey@bahamasny.com
- Aneesah Abdullah, Project Officer and SDG Focal Point, Office of the Prime Minister, email: aneesahabdullah@bahamas.gov.bs
- Daniela Pratt, Project Officer, email: daniellapratt@bahamas.gov.bs
- Ketra Todd, Project Officer and SDG Focal Point, email: ketratodd@bahamos.gov.bs

BELICE/BELIZERepresentante/Representative:

- Víctor Alegría, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development, email: alegriavi@gobmail.gov.bz

BRASIL/BRAZILRepresentante/Representative:

- Carlos Duarte, Embajador del Brasil en Chile, email: carlos.duarte@itamaraty.gov.br

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Welington Coimbra, Secretario Especial de Desarrollo Social, Ministerio de la Ciudadanía, email: lelo.coimbra@cidadania.gov.br
- Giovana Dias da Costa, Directora, Secretaría de Gobierno de la Presidencia, email: giovana.costa@presidencia.gov.br
- Enid Rocha, Directora, Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas Aplicadas (IPEA), email: enid.rocha@ipea.gov.br
- Nicola Speranza, Director, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: nicola.speranza@itamaraty.gov.br
- Rosely de Siqueira Monteiro, Asistente, Agencia Brasileña de Cooperación (ABC), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: roselyemonteiro@gmail.com
- Maitê Gauto, Líder de Políticas Públicas, Gestora de Evaluación de Políticas Públicas, Fundación Abrinq, email: maite.guato@fadc.org.br
- Jailson Bittencourt, Profesor, Universidad Federal de Bahia, Academia Brasileña de Ciencias, email: jailsondeandrade@fieb.org.br
- Isabel Soares da Costa, Jefa, Sector de Integración, Política Regional y Asuntos Multilaterales, Embajada del Brasil en Santiago, email: isabel.costa@itamaraty.gov.br; embajadabrch@gmail.com
- Arlindo Chinaglia, Parlamentario, Parlamento del MERCOSUR (PARLASUR), email: dep.arlindochinaglia@gmail.com; dep.arlindochinaglia@camara.leg.br

CHILERepresentante/Representative:

- Carolina Valdivia, Ministra Subrogante de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cvaldiviat@minrel.gob.cl

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carolina Schmidt, Ministra del Medio Ambiente, email: cschmidt@mma.gob.cl
- Alejandra Candia, Subsecretaria de Evaluación Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: alejandra.candia@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Lorena Recabarren, Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, email: lrecabarren@minjusticia.cl
- Ricardo Bosnic, Director (S), Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: rbosnic@minrel.gob.cl
- Mercedes Meneses, Jefa, Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Oceánicos (DIMA), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mmeneses@minrel.gob.cl
- Javier Foxon, Analista, Departamento de Naciones Unidas, Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: jfoxon@minrel.gob.cl
- María Alejandra Farías, Departamento de Naciones Unidas, Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mfariasm@minrel.gob.cl
- Iris Salinas, Analista, Departamento de Naciones Unidas, Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: isalinas@minrel.gob.cl
- Marco Navarro, Analista Temático, Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mnavarroa@minrel.gob.cl
- Ana Lobo, Departamento de Agencias Especializadas, Dirección de Política Multilateral (DIMULTI), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: alobo@minrel.gob.cl
- Florencia Delgado, Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Oceánicos (DIMA), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: fdelgado@minrel.gob.cl
- Ana María Portales, Jefa, Departamento de Política y Planificación, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: aportales@agci.gob.cl
- Gloria Yáñez, Departamento de Política y Planificación, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: gyanez@agci.gob.cl
- Eugenio Pössel Miranda, Responsable de Cooperación Multiactor, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: eposssel@gmail.com
- Luis Larrain Stieb, Asesor, Dirección Ejecutiva, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: llarrain@agci.gob.cl
- Raimundo Monge, Jefe, División de Coordinación Interministerial, Ministerio Secretaría General de la Presidencia, email: rmonge@minsempres.gob.cl
- Gonzalo Guerrero, Secretario Ejecutivo, Comisión Asesora Presidencial para la Integridad Pública y Transparencia, Ministerio Secretaría General de la Presidencia, email: gguerrero@minsempres.gob.cl
- José Juan Bruner, Asesor de Subsecretaría, Ministerio de Economía, Fomento y Turismo, email: jbruner@economia.cl
- Martín García, Jefe, División de Cooperación Público-Privada, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: martin.garcia@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Hugo Cabrera, Encargado, Departamento de Desarrollo Inclusivo, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: hcabrera@desarrollosocial.cl

- Cristián Madrid, Profesional de Apoyo, División de Cooperación Público-Privada, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: cmadridl@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Ransel Espinoza, Profesional de Desarrollo, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: responiza@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- María Paz Infante, Jefa de Comunicaciones, Subsecretaría de Evaluación Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: minfante@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- José Luis Balmaceda, Asesor, Gabinete Ministerial, Jefe, Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: jbalmaceda@desarrollosocial.cl
- Ulises Rojas Pávez, Analista, Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: urojas@desarrollosocial.cl
- Hernán Acuña, Analista, Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: hacuna@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Macarena Alvarado, Jefa, División de Observatorio Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: malvaradom@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director Nacional, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: guillermo.pattillo@ine.cl
- Olga Barquero, Jefa, Departamento de Relaciones Interinstitucionales e Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: olga.barquero@ine.cl
- Raúl Ponce Corona, Jefe, Departamento de Geografía, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), email: raul.ponce@ine.cl
- Silvana Andrea Molina, Analista, Departamento de Geografía, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: silvana.molina@ine.cl
- Rodrigo Julián Pizarro, Analista, Departamento de Geografía, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: rodrigo.pizarro@ine.cl
- Patricia Casanova, Analista Ambiental, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), email: patricia.casanova@ine.cl
- Mirko Salfate, Director Nacional, Instituto Nacional de la Juventud (INJUV), email: mirkosalfate@injuv.gob.cl
- Luis López, Encargado de Relaciones Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de la Juventud (INJUV), email: llopez@injuv.gob.cl
- Carla Guazzini, Jefa, Departamento de Cooperación Horizontal, Programa Sur-Sur, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cguazzini@agci.gob.cl,
- Alejandro Montero Cid, Analista, Departamento de Cambio Climático y Desarrollo Sostenible, Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Oceánicos (DIMA), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: amontero@minrel.gob.cl
- Julius Durán, Analista, División de Observatorio Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: email: jdurán@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- Alejandro González, Analista, División de Observatorio Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, email: agonzalezc@desarrollosocial.gob.cl
- María Carolina Urmeneta Labarca, Jefa, Oficina de Cambio Climático, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, email: curmeneta@mma.gob.cl
- Sandra Briceño, Departamento de Economía Ambiental, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, email: sbriceno@mma.gob.cl
- Antonia Biggs, Departamento de Economía Ambiental, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, email: abiggs@mma.gob.cl

- Enrique O'Farrill-Julien, Jefe, Departamento de Cooperación Bilateral y Multilateral, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: eofarrill@agci.gob.cl
- Luciano Parodi, Jefe, Departamento de Agencias Especializadas, Dirección de Política Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: lparodi@minrel.gob.cl

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

- Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director General, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE), email: juandaniel.oviedo@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Lucas Sebastián Gómez García, Director de Seguimiento y Evaluación de Políticas Públicas, Secretario Técnico, Comisión ODS, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP), email: lugomez@dnpp.gov.co
- Adriana Elvira Lemos Pérez, Consejera, Embajada de Colombia en Chile, email: adriana.lemos@cancilleria.gov.co
- Lina Paola Martínez, Coordinadora, Grupo de Cooperación Internacional, email: lina.martinez@gestiondelriesgo.gov.co
- Adriana Castro González, Coordinadora, Grupo ODS, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP), email: adcastro@dnpp.gov.co
- Lady Velásquez Henao, Directora, Oficina Asesora de Planeación y Estudios Sectoriales, Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, email: lvelasquezh@mintic.gov.co

COSTA RICA

Representante/Representative:

- Sussi Jiménez Núñez, Encargada de Negocios a.i., Embajada de Costa Rica en Chile, email: embajada@costarica.cl; sjimenez@rree.go.cr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Denis Angulo Alguera, Viceministro de Salud, email: denis.angulo@misalud.go.cr
- Rita Hernández Bolaños, Embajadora, Directora de Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: dcooperacion@rree.go.cr
- Norman Lizano Ortiz, Embajador, Jefe, Departamento de Política Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, email: nlizano@rree.go.cr
- Teresita Aguilar Mirambell, Presidenta, Junta Rectora, Consejo Nacional de la Persona Adulta Mayor (CONAPAM), email: taguilar@conapam.go.cr
- Emiliana Rivera Meza, Directora Ejecutiva, Consejo Nacional de la Persona Adulta Mayor (CONAPAM), email: erivera@conapam.go.cr
- Daniel Zavala Porras, Ministro Consejero, Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas, email: dzavala@rree.go.cr
- Jorge Polimeni, Asesor Presidencial en Asuntos Ambientales, email: jorge.polimeni@presidencia.go.cr

CUBARepresentante/Representative:

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

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Jorge Néstor Lamadrid Mascaró, Embajador de Cuba en Chile, email: embajador@embacuba.cl
- Ileana Núñez, Viceministra de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera, email: ileana.nunez@mincex.gob.cu
- Mercedes Hilda González Guillarte, Vicejefa Primera, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI), email: mercedesgonzalez@onei.gob.cu
- Víctor Pablo Cosca, Jefe, Departamento de Difusión Nacional, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información, email (ONEI): cosca@onei.gob.cu
- Susset Rosales Vázquez, Directora, Dirección Global, Ministerio de Economía y Planificación, email: susset@mep.gob.cu
- Ileidis Lazara Valiente Díaz, Jefa, Grupo de Asuntos Económicos, Dirección de Asuntos Multilaterales y Derecho Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: ileidis@minrex.gob.cu
- Carlos Luis Jorge Méndez, Asesor, Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, email: carlos.jorge@mincex.gob.cu
- Solangel Santana Viaña, Especialista, Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, email: solangel.santana@mincex.gob.cu
- Sergio Espinosa, Consejero Comercial, Embajada de Cuba en Chile, email: segmision@embacuba.cl

ECUADORRepresentante/Representative:

- Juan Carlos Proaño Cordero, Secretario Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, email: jcproano@senplades.gob.ec

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Roberto Castillo, Director Ejecutivo, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), email: roberto_castillo@inec.gob.ec
- José Eduardo Proaño, Ministro, Embajada del Ecuador en Chile, email: jep.rree2@gmail.com
- Cristina Granda, Consejera, Embajada del Ecuador en Chile, email: cgranda@cancilleria.gob.ec; eecuchile@mmrree.gob.ec
- Daniel Almeida, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Ecuador en Chile, email: almeida83@gmail.com
- Daysi Elizabeth Guayasamín Llumiyinga, Directora de Información Seguimiento y Evaluación, Ministerio del Ambiente, email: daysi.guayasamin@ambiente.gob.ec

EL SALVADORRepresentante/Representative:

- Víctor Manuel Valle Monterrosa, Embajador de El Salvador en Chile, email: vmvalle@rree.gob.sv

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carla Arias, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de El Salvador en Chile, email: carla.ariasoroz@gmail.com
- Liliana Baños Muller, Especialista en Asuntos Multilaterales, Dirección General de Política Exterior, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: lilianabanosmuller@gmail.com
- Walter Mira Ramírez, Técnico, Unidad de Cooperación y Alianzas Institucionales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: wjmira@rree.gob.sv

GUATEMALA

Representante/Representative:

- Miguel Ángel Moir, Secretario, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia (SEGEPLAN), email: miguel.moir@segeplan.gob.gt

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Nineth Escobar Cabrera, Viceministra Administrativa Financiera, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: nescobar@mides.gob.gt
- Flor de María Chajón Aguilar, Segunda Vicepresidenta, Junta Directiva del Congreso, email: regina.miranda24@gmail.com
- Juan Adriel Orozco, Diputado, Congreso de la República, email: haarmano@gmail.com
- Jorge Escoto, Vicepresidente, Red Guatemala del Pacto Global, email: jescoto@cempro.com
- Jesús Andrés Zarate, Coordinador de Incidencia Institucional, Centro para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social Empresarial en Guatemala (CENTRARSE), email: jzarate@centrarse.org
- Kendra Avilés, Directora Ejecutiva, IncideJoven, email: coodinacion@incidejoven.org
- Luz Keila Gramajo, Asesora, Despacho Superior, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia (SEGEPLAN), email: jl.keyla@gmail.com
- Claudia María Galán Villagrán, Directora, Unidad Económica, Comité Coordinador de Asociaciones Agrícolas, Comerciales, Industriales y Financieras (CACIF), email: cgalan@cacif.org.gt
- Juan Carlos Orellana, Embajador de Guatemala en Chile, email: jorellana@minex.gob.gt
- Ana María Cal Sánchez, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de Guatemala en Chile, email: embchile@minex.gob.gt; acal@minex.gob.gt

GUYANA

Representante/Representative:

- Troy Torrington, Director, Multilateral and Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: kgoodridge@minfor.gov.gy; torrington@minfor.gov.gy

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Michael B. Joseph, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, email: mjoseph@finance.gov.gy
- Edon Daniels, Sustainable Development Coordinator, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency, email: edond2005@gmail.com
- Abigail Welch, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, email: awelch@minfor.gov.gy

HONDURAS

Representante/Representative:

- Efraín Corea Yánez, Director Presidencial de Planificación, Presupuesto por Resultados e Inversión Pública, Secretaría de Coordinación General de Gobierno, email: ecorea@scgg.gob.hn

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Antonia Navarro, Embajadora de Honduras en Chile, email: embahon@embajadadehonduras.cl
- Luis Fernando López, Director Presidencial de Monitoreo y Evaluación, Secretaría de Coordinación General de Gobierno, email: lflopez@scgg.gob.hn
- Iris Amador Corrales, Consejera, Embajada de Honduras en Chile, email: iris.amador@embajadadehonduras.cl

JAMAICA

Representante/Representative:

- Leesha Delatie-Budair, Deputy Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, email: ldelatie-budair@statinja.gov.jm

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Zavia Mayne, State Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, email: zavia.mayne@mlss.gov.jm
- Sasha Deer-Gordon, Director, Child Labour Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, email: sasha.gordon@mlss.gov.jm

MÉXICO/MEXICO

Representante/Representative:

- Katya Puga Cornejo, Subsecretaria de Planeación y Política Ambiental, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, email: katya.puga@semanat.gob.mx

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Gemma Santana, Directora General de la Agenda 2030, Oficina de la Presidencia de la República, email: gemma.santana@presidencia.gob.mx; agenda2030@presidencia.gob.mx
- Camila Zepeda Lizama, Directora General para Temas Globales, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, email: czepeda@sre.gob.mx
- Julio A. Santaella Castell, Presidente, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), email: julio.santaella@inegi.org.mx
- Humberto Adán Peña Fuentes, Coordinador de Asesores, Secretaría de Bienestar, email: adan.pena@bienestar.gob.mx
- Elsa Julita Veites, Directora General, Instituto Nacional de las Personas Adultas Mayores (INAPAM), email: e.veites@inapam.gob.mx
- Diana Alarcón, Coordinadora General de Asesores y Asuntos Internacionales, email: diana.alarcon@cdmx.gob.mx
- Mónica Jasis, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES), email: mjasis@gmail.com
- Armando Arriazola Peto Rueda, Encargado de Negocios a.i, Embajada de México en Chile, email: arriazola@emexico.cl
- Pedro Eliud Cisneros, Director General Adjunto de Vinculación, Dirección General de Vinculación con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, email: pcisneros@sre.gob.mx
- Ximena Gómez, Encargada de Cooperación Internacional y Asuntos Culturales, Embajada de México en Chile, email: xgomez@emexico.cl
- Enrique Romero Leal, Encargado de Asuntos Políticos y Multilaterales, Embajada de México en Chile, email: eromero@emexico.cl
- Alma Cecilia Guerrero Zapata, Coordinadora de Políticas Públicas, Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar (MEXFAM), email: aguerrero@mexfam.org.mx
- Oriana López, Directora Ejecutiva, Balance, email: oriana@balancemx.org
- Giselle Quezada, Team Leader, Alianza Juvenil por la Sostenibilidad (AJUVES), email: quezada.g17@gmail.com
- Liliana Caballero Gómez, Oficial de Incidencia Política, Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes, email: liliana@eligered.org
- Gloria Angélica Careaga Pérez, Coordinadora General, Fundación Arcoíris por el Respeto a la Diversidad Sexual, email: careaga@unam.mx
- Laura Becerra Pozos, Directora, DECA, Equipo Pueblo, AC, email: laurabecerraep@gmail.com

NICARAGUA

Representante/Representative:

- Leonardo Ovidio Reyes Ramírez, Presidente del Banco Central, email: orr@bcn.gob.ni

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Luisa Robleto Aguilar, Embajadora de Nicaragua en Chile, email: embajadoranic@gmail.com
- Leydi Patricia Pol Ubau, Ministra Consejera, Embajada de Nicaragua en Chile, email: embanic5@gmail.com

PANAMÁ/PANAMA

Representante/Representative:

- Michelle Muschett, Ministra de Desarrollo Social, email: mmuschett@mides.gob.pa

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Gustavo Valderrama, Viceministro de Economía, Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, email: gvalderrama@mef.gob.pa
- Marcela Paredes de Vásquez, Embajadora de Panamá en Chile, email: mparedes@mire.gob.pa
- Yamil Sánchez Peña, Viceministro de Ambiente, Ministerio de Ambiente, email: ydsanchez@miambiente.gob.pa
- Euribiades Cano, Director de Presupuesto de la Nación, email: ecano@mef.gob.pa
- Noris Vasquez, Jefa, Departamento para el Desarrollo del Plan Estratégico Nacional, Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, email: nvasquez@mef.gob.pa
- Valery González, Subdirectora, Dirección de Programación de Inversiones, Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, email: vagonzalez@met.gob.pa
- Andrea Pérez-Guardia, Coordinadora de Planes y Programas, Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, email: avperez@mef.gob.pa
- Carmen de Gracia Rodríguez, Tercera Secretaria, Embajada de Panamá en Chile, email: cdegracia@mire.gob.pa
- Candy Rubio, Agregada Cultural, Embajada de Panamá en Chile, email: crubio@mire.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Mario Alberto Varela, Ministro de Desarrollo Social, email: mvarela@mds.gov.py

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Cayo Roberto Cáceres Silva, Viceministro de Políticas Sociales, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, email: ccaceres@mds.gov.py
- Jorge Raúl Díaz Acosta, Encargado de Negocios a.i., Embajada del Paraguay en Chile
- José Antonio Dos Santos Bedoya, Embajador, Director General de Política Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: jdosantos@mre.gov.py
- Estefanía Eugenia Laterza, Directora, Dirección de Organismos Internacionales, Coordinadora Nacional, Comisión ODS Paraguay 2030, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: elaterza@mre.gov.py
- María Ruth Vera Durañona, Jefa, Departamento para los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mrvera@mre.gov.py

- Carlos Pereira Olmedo, Ministro, Secretaría Técnica de Planificación de Desarrollo Económico y Social (STP), email: cpereira@stp.gov.py
- Jorge Raúl Díaz Acosta, Primer Secretario, Embajada del Paraguay en Chile, email: jdiaz@mre.gov.py
- Mario Ferreiro, Intendente, Municipalidad de Asunción, email: ferreiro.mario@gmail.com

PERÚ/PERU

Representante/Representative:

- Gloria Montenegro, Ministra de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables, email: gmontenegro@mimp.gob.pe

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Javier Abugattás, Presidente, Consejo Directivo, Centro Nacional de Planeamiento Estratégico (CEPLAN), email: jabugattas@ceplan.gob.pe
- Marco Vinicio Balarezo, Director General para Asuntos Globales y Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mbalarezo@ree.gob.pe
- Franco Velit Sandoval, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Perú en Chile, email: fvelit@embajadadelperu.cl
- Juan Pablo Vegas, Ministro Consejero, Jefe, Departamento Político, Embajada del Perú en Chile, email: jvegas@embajadadelperu.cl

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Isidoro Santana, Ministro de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, email: isantana@economia.gob.do

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Inocencio García, Viceministro de Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, email: igarcia@economia.gob.do
- Rubén Silie Valdez, Embajador de la República Dominicana en Chile, email: embadomchile@mirex.gob.do
- Hosmermy Suriel Jiménez, Encargada, Departamento de Cooperación Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MIREX), email: hsurieljimenez@gmail.com
- Mariely Rodríguez, Especialista Sectorial y Asistente, Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, email: marodriguez@economia.gob.do
- Perla Soto, Analista Sectorial II, Dirección General de Desarrollo Económico y Social, Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, email: psoto@economia.gob.do
- Addys Then, Directora Ejecutiva, Alianza ONGs, email: athen@alianzaong.org.do
- Alexandra Izquierdo, Directora Nacional, Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONE), email: cecilia.belliard@one.gob.do
- Juan Antonio Arias Tejeda, Director de Coordinación del Sistema Estadístico Nacional (SEN), Oficina Nacional de Estadística (ONE), email: juan.arias@one.gob.do
- Rosa María Suárez, Directora Técnica, Gabinete de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, Vicepresidencia de la República Dominicana, email: rm_suarez@hotmail.com

SANTA LUCÍA/SAINT LUCIA

Representante/Representative:

- Gale Rigobert, Minister, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, email: eduminister@education.gov.lc

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Teshia Jn. Baptiste, Coordinator, Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA), Department of Sustainable Development, email: teshia.jnbaptiste@gov.lc

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO/TRINIDAD AND TOBAGORepresentante/Representative:

- Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development, email: crrobinsonregis@gmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Camille Spencer, Programme Coordinator, Ministry of Planning and Development, email: camille.spencer@planning.gov.tt

URUGUAYRepresentante/Representative:

- Marina Arismendi, Ministra de Desarrollo Social, email: marismendi@mides.gub.uy

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Álvaro García, Director, Oficina de Planeamiento y Presupuesto (OPP), email: direccion@opp.gub.uy
- Alberto Fajardo, Embajador del Uruguay en Chile, email: uruchile@mrree.gub.uy
- Yamandú Orsi, Intendente, Gobierno de Canelones, email: intendente@imcanelones.gub.uy
- Pedro Schinca Echevarría, Director de Asuntos Internacionales y Cooperación, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (MIDES), email: pschinca@mides.gub.uy
- Valentina Perrotta, Directora de División, Instituto Nacional de las Personas Mayores (INMAYORES), Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (MIDES), email: vperrotta@mides.gub.uy
- Gustavo González, Alcalde de Atlántida, Gobierno de Canelones, email: gustavo.gonzalez@imcanelones.gub.uy
- Igor Santander, Director de Cooperación Internacional, Gobierno de Canelones, email: igor.santander@imcanelones.gub.uy
- Julieta Falero, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada del Uruguay en Chile, email: julieta.falero@mrree.gub.uy
- Lucía Van Velthoven, Asistente Técnico, Área Advocacy, Iniciativas Sanitarias, email: lucivanvelthoven@gmail.com
- Cristina Prego Tramuja, Representante, Asociación Nacional de ONG Orientadas al Desarrollo (ANONG), email: cristinaprego@ongelpaso.org.uy
- María de la Luz Garrido, Coordinadora de Campañas, Cotidiano Mujer, email: lgarrido@cotidianomujer.org.uy
- Mercedes Corominas, Consejera, Embajada del Uruguay en Chile, email: cgsantiadodechile@mrree.gub.uy

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

- Pedro Antonio Albarrán Depablos, Coordinador Jefe de Asuntos Multilaterales, Despacho del Viceministro para Asuntos Multilaterales, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, email: pedroalba20@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Arévalo Enrique Méndez Romero, Embajador, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Chile, email: arevalo.mendez@mppre.gob.ve
- Emilio Rafael Arcia Gil, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Chile, email: emilio.arcia849@mppre.gob.ve
- Luz Alejandra Infante de Rondón, Primer Secretario, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Chile, email: luz.infante885@mppre.gob.ve

**B. Estados miembros de la Comisión que no son miembros del Foro
y que participan en calidad de observadores**
**Non-Forum-member States members of the Commission
participating as observers**

ALEMANIA/GERMANY

Representante/Representative:

- Paul Garaycochea, Jefe, Sección de Cooperación al Desarrollo, Embajada de Alemania en el Perú, email: paulgaraycochea@hotmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Inga Heuser, Consejera, Encargada de Asuntos Económicos, Científico-Tecnológicos y de Cooperación, Embajada de Alemania en Chile, email: wi-1@santi.diplo.de

CANADÁ/CANADA

Representante/Representative:

- Patricia Peña, Embajadora del Canadá en Chile, email: stago@international.gc.ca

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Meredith Henley, Segunda Secretaria, Embajada del Canadá en Chile, email: meredith.Henley@international.gc.ca

ESPAÑA/SPAIN

Representante/Representative:

- Enrique Ojeda Vila, Embajador de España en Chile, email: emb.santiagodechile@maec.es; enrique.ojeda@maec.es

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Orsorio, Director General de Políticas de Desarrollo, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, email: gabriel.ferrero@maec.es
- Gonzalo Vega Molina, Primer Secretario, Embajada de España en Chile, email: gonzalo.vega@maec.es

FRANCIA/FRANCE

Representante/Representative:

- Roland Dubertrand, Embajador de Francia en Chile, email: roland.dubertrand@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Mathilde Duchemin, Encargada de Cooperación, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: mathilde.duchemin@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Mathieu Perrot, Primer Consejero, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: mathieu.perrot@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Françoise Meteyer-Zeldine, Consejera de Desarrollo Sostenible, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: francoise.meteyer@dgtresor.gouv.fr

- Laetitia Quilichini, Agregada de Cooperación Regional, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: laetitia.quilichini@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Océane Mascart, Analista Desarrollo Sostenible, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: oceane.mascart@dgtresor.gouv.fr
- Marc Legouy, Consejero Económico, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: marc.legouy@dgtresor.gouv.fr

JAPÓN/JAPAN

Representante/Representative:

- Shinichiro Imamura, Segundo Secretario, Departamento de Economía y Cooperación Técnica, Embajada del Japón en Chile, email: shinichiro.imamura@mofa.go.jp

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Masahide Yamamoto, Asesor, Departamento de Economía y Cooperación Técnica, Embajada del Japón en Chile, email: masahide.yamamoto@sg.mofa.go.jp

NORUEGA/NORWAY

Representante/Representative:

- Hedda Oftung, Asesora, Embajada de Noruega en Chile, email: hedda.oftung@mfa.nu

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Thea Rivas, Pasante, Embajada de Noruega en Chile, email: thea.michelle.torp.rivas@mfa.nu

PORTUGAL

Representante/Representative:

- António Leão Rocha, Embajador de Portugal en Chile, email: antonio.rocha@mne.pt

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Domingos Alvim, Ministro Consejero, Embajada del Portugal en Chile, email: domingos.alvim@mme.pt

REPÚBLICA DE COREA/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Representante/Representative:

- David Yang, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de la República de Corea en Chile, email: hiyang16@mofa.go.kr

C. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas United Nations Secretariat

Asesor Especial del Secretario General sobre la Reforma/Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Reform

- Jens Wandel, email: jens.wandel@un.org

Enviada Especial del Secretario General sobre la Discapacidad y la Accesibilidad/Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility

- María Soledad Cisternas, email: soledad.cisternas@gmail.com

Enviado Especial del Secretario General para la Cumbre sobre Clima 2019/Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Climate Summit 2019

- Luis Alfonso de Alba, email: luisalfonso.dealba@un.org

Coordinadores Residentes/Resident Coordinators

- Mauricio Ramírez Villegas, Coordinador Residente, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: mauricio.ramirez@one.un.org
- Niky Fabiancic, Coordinador Residente, Brasil, email: niky.fabiancic@one.un.org
- Silvia Rucks, Coordinadora Residente, Chile, email: silvia.rucks@one.un.org
- Alice Harding Shackelford, Coordinadora Residente, Costa Rica, email: alice.harding.shackelford@one.un.org
- Consuelo Vidal, Coordinadora Residente, Cuba, email: consuelo.vidal@one.un.org
- Arnaud Peral, Coordinador Residente, Ecuador, email: arnaud.peral@one.un.org
- Rebeca Arias Flores, Coordinadora Residente, Guatemala, email: rebeca.arias@one.un.org
- Mikiko Tanaka, Coordinadora Residente, Guyana, email: mikiko.tanaka@one.un.org
- Igor Garafulic, Coordinador Residente, Honduras, email: igor.garafulic@one.un.org
- Bruno Pouezat, Coordinador Residente, Jamaica, email: bruno.pouezat@one.un.org
- Antonio Molpeceres, Coordinador Residente, México, email: antonio.molpeceres@one.un.org
- Harold Robinson, Coordinador Residente, Panamá, email: harold.robinson@one.un.org
- Mireia Villar Forner, Coordinadora Residente, Uruguay, email: mireia.villar.forner@one.un.org
- Marina Walter, Coordinador Residente, Trinidad y Tabago, email: marina.walter@one.un.org
- Peter Grohmann, Coordinador Residente, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: peter.grohmann@un.org

Departamento de Asuntos Políticos y de Consolidación de la Paz (DAPCP)/Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

- Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, email: jenca@un.org
- Carolina Vizcaino, Political Affairs Officer, email: vizcaino@un.org

Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios (OCAH)/ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- Rein Andre Paulsen, Jefe, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: paulsenr@un.org

Oficina de Coordinación del Desarrollo/Development Coordination Office

- Christian Salazar, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: christian.salazar@one.un.org
- Antonio Cisneros, Oficial LAC, Estados Unidos, email: cisneros@un.org

Oficina de las Comisiones Regionales en Nueva York (OCRNY)/Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO)

- Amr Nour, Director, email: nour@un.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNDRR)/United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

- Jennifer Guralnick, Programme Management Officer, Panamá, email: guralnick@un.org

Oficina del Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Birgit Gerstenberg, Representante, Oficina Regional para América del Sur, email: bgerstenberg@ohchr.org
- Carmen Domínguez, Asistente Especial de la Alta Comisionada para los Derechos Humanos, email: cdominguez@ohchr.org

Oficina Ejecutiva del Secretario General (OESG)/Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

- Jean Philippe Bernardini, Sustainable Development Officer, email: bernardini@un.org

Oficinas de los Coordinadores Residentes/Offices of the Resident Coordinators

- Alejandro Mañón, Oficial de Coordinación, Chile, email: alejandro.manon@one.un.org
- Yaima Doimeadiós, Experta en Programación Conjunta, Oficina del Coordinador Residente en Cuba, email: yaima.doimeadios@one.un.org
- Francisco García, Jefe, Oficina de Coordinación, Oficina del Coordinador Residente en México, email: francisco.garcia@one.un.org
- Jessica Braver, Oficial de Coordinación, Oficina del Coordinador Residente en la Argentina, email: jessica.braver@one.un.org

Secretaría de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación en los Países Afectados por Sequía Grave o Desertificación, en Particular en África (CLD)/Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

- José Miguel Torrico, Coordinador para América Latina y el Caribe, Chile, email: jmtorrico@unccd.int

Secretaría de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC)/Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, email: osarmad@unfccc.int

**D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

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)

- María Noel Vaeza, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: mn.vaeza@unwomen.org
- Bibiana Aído, Representante en el Ecuador, email: bibiana.aido.almagro@unwomen.org
- Elisabeth Díaz, Especialista en Planificación Estratégica y Coordinación, Panamá, email: elisabeth.diaz@unwomen.org
- María Inés Salamanca, Representante en Chile, email: maria.salamanca@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- María Cristina Perceval, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: mperceval@unicef.org
- Paolo Mefalopulos, Representante, Chile, email: rguzman@unicef.org; pmfalopulos@unicef.org
- Sayo Aoki, Representante Adjunta, Chile, email: saoki@unicef.org
- Bastiaan van 't Hoff, Regional Chief of Programme and Planning, Panamá, email: bvanthoff@unicef.org
- Pablo Gimenez, WASH Specialist, México, email: pgimenez@unicef.org
- Manuel Moreno González, Regional Communication Specialist, Panamá, email: mmgonzalez@unicef.org
- María Eleta, Executive Associate to the Regional Director, Panamá, email: meleta@unicef.org
- Claudio Santibáñez, Asesor Sénior de Alianzas con el Sector Público, Chile, email: csantibanez@unicef.org
- Sebastián Carrasco, Oficial de Monitoreo y Evaluación, Chile, email: scarrasco@unicef.org
- Mi Ri Seo, Oficial de Educación, Panamá, email: mseokoh@unicef.org

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

- Esteban Caballero, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: caballero@unfpa.org; ulloa@unfpa.org
- Pablo Salazar, Asesor Regional en Población y Desarrollo, Panamá, email: salazarcanelos@unfpa.org
- Alison Drayton, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Jamaica, email: drayton@unfpa.org
- Mariela Cortes, Oficial de Enlace, Chile, email: cortes@unfpa.org

Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones (UNITAR)/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

- Diana Chávez, Miembro de la Junta Directiva, Colombia, email: dchavez@centroregionalpmal.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Servicios para Proyectos (UNOPS)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

- Fabrizio Feliciani, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: fabriziof@unops.org; elizabethhcp@unops.org

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

- Renata Elisabetta Dubini, Director, Bureau for the Americas, Suiza, email: dubini@unhcr.org
- Giovanni Bassu, Regional Representative, Panama, Central America and Cuba, email: bassu@unhcr.org
- Juan Carlos Murillo, Regional Representative, Regional Office, Argentina, email: murillo@unhcr.org
- Delfina Lawson, Jefa, Oficina Nacional en Chile, email: lawson@unhcr.org
- Alejandra Faivovich, Asistente Superior de Reasentamiento, email: faivovic@unhcr.org
- Francisca Gómez Lechaptois, Oficial Asistente de Reasentamiento, email: gomezlec@unhcr.org
- Luciana Marchen, Oficial Regional de Soluciones Duraderas, Argentina, email: marchen@unhcr.org

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

- César Núñez, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: nunezc@unaids.org
- Edgar Carrasco, Consultor Internacional, Panamá, email: carrascoe1950@gmail.com

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

- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Estados Unidos, email: luis.lopez-calva@undp.org
- Thierry Lemaesquier, Representante a.i, Chile, email: thierry.lemaesquier@undp.org
- María Guallar Yebenes, Regional Coordination Advisor, Estados Unidos, email: maria.guallar@one.un.org
- Sang Yeob Kim, Oficial de Programa, Ecuador, email: sangyeob.kim@undp.org
- Claudia Bresanovich, Special Assistant to the Regional Director, Estados Unidos, email: claudia.bresanovich@undp.org
- Linda Maguire, Representante Residente, Panamá, email: linda.maguire@undp.org
- Vanessa Zanella, Project Manager, Brasilia, email: vanessa.zanella@undp.org
- Norma García, Especialista y Punto Focal para la Agenda 2030, Honduras, email: norma.garcia@one.un.org
- Samuel Shin, Regional Coordination Specialist, Panamá, email: samuel.shin@one.un.org
- Victoria Nassar, Asociada Ejecutiva, El Salvador, email: victoria.nassar@undp.org
- Rodrigo Herrera, Jefe de Programa de Reducción de la Pobreza y Desarrollo Inclusivo, Chile, email: rodrigo.herrera@undp.org
- Francisco Sánchez Lay, Asesor en Anticorrupción y Sistemas de Integridad, Chile, email: francisco.sanchez@undp.org
- María del Valle Barrera, Consultora, Chile, email: mvallebarrera@gmail.com
- Gonzalo Pizarro, Asesor Regional para los ODS, Chile, email: gonzalo.pizarro@undp.org
- Jorge Bottai, Coordinador de Proyecto, Alianzas Público-Privadas para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres y el Desarrollo Sostenible, Chile, email: jorge.bottai@undp.org

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

- Leo Heileman, Director y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: heileman@unlorg
- Andrea Brusco, Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator, Panamá, email: andrea.brusco@un.org
- Carolina Yazmín López, Representante en Chile, email: carolina.lopez@un.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

- Elkin Velasquez, Director Regional, Brasil, email: elkin.velasquez@onuhabitat.org
- Roi Chiti, Advisor for Regional Partnerships, email: roi.chiti@un.org

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

- Hugo Fariás, Oficial de Enlace, Chile, email: hugo.farias@wfp.org

Voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas (VNU)/United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

- Hilda Paparoni, Regional Manager, Panamá, email: hilda.paparoni@unv.org
- María José Benítez Chávez, Communications Officer, Panamá, email: maria-jose.benitez@unv.org
- Piera Zuccherin, Programme Analyst, Panamá, email: piera.zuccherin@unv.org
- Emma Natalie Morley, Chief, Volunteer Advisory Services Section, Alemania, email: emma.morley@unv.org

E. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

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

- Fabio Bertranou, Director, Oficina para el Cono Sur, Chile, email: directorsantiago@ilo.org
- Marcela Cabezas, Especialista Regional en Estadísticas de Trabajo Decente, Oficina para el Cono Sur, Chile, email: cabezasn@ilo.org
- María Olave, Senior Programme Officer, Colombia, email: olave@ilo.org
- Patricia Bustos, Oficial de Comunicación y Gestión de la Información, Oficina para el Cono Sur, Chile, email: bustos@ilo.org
- Juan Felipe Hunt, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Perú, email: hunt@ilo.org
- Raisa Voyvodich, Asistente de Comunicación, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Perú, email: voyvodich@iloguest.org
- Hugo Rolando Ñopo Aguilar, Economista Regional, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Perú, email: nopo@ilo.org
- Laura Abramo Díaz, Brasilia, email: diazl@ilo.org
- Montserrat López, Consultora, email: lopezm@iloguess.org
- Arlette Martínez, Consultora, email: martineza@iloguess.org

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

- Julio Berdegú, Subdirector General, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: julio.berdegue@fao.org
- Luiz Carlos Beduschi Filho, Oficial de Políticas, Chile, email: luiz.beduschi@fao.org
- Dulclair Sternadt, Regional Partnership Officer, Chile, email: dulclair.sternadt@fao.org
- Sara Granados, Consultora Regional en Sistemas Alimentarios, Chile, email: sara.granados@fao.org
- Marcela Curiquen, Consultora, Santiago, email: marcela.curiquen@gmail.com
- Mauricio Mireles, Policy Officer, Chile, email: mauricio.mireles@fao.org
- Katalina Moyano, Consultora, Chile, email: katalina.moyano@fao.org
- Maya Takagi, Regional Strategic Programmes Leader, Chile, email: maya.takagi@fao.org
- Sergio Hinojosa Ramos, Climate Change Specialist, Chile, email: sergio.hinojosaramos@fao.org
- Anabella Kaminker, Strategy and Planning Officer, Chile, email: anabella.kaminker@fao.org
- Romain Houlmann, Officer in Agroecology, Chile, email: romain.houlmann@fao.org
- Barbara Jarschel, Consultora en Sistemas Productivos Sostenibles y ODS, Chile, email: barbara.jarschel@fao.org
- Alessandro Lovatelli, Oficial Regional de Pesca y Acuicultura, Chile, email: alessandro.lovatelli@fao.org
- Beatriz Reutter, Asesora de Apoyo Estratégico a la Dirección Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: beatriz.reuttersusaeta@fao.org
- Byron Jara, Consultor, Chile, email: byron.jara@fao.org
- André Saramago, Consultor en Desarrollo Rural y Migración, Chile, email: andresaramago@gmail.com
- Paola Bolívar Castillo, Consultora, Private Sector Partnership, Chile, email: paola.bolivar@fao.org
- Valeria Pasarin, Consultora Legal, Chile, email: valeria.pasarinlinares@fao.org
- Mehdi Drissi, Oficial Principal de Programas, Chile, email: mehdi.drissi@fao.org

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

- Lidia Brito, Directora, Representante, Oficina de la UNESCO en Montevideo, email: l.brito@unesco.org
- María Claudia Uribe, Directora, Oficina de la UNESCO en Santiago, email: c.uribe@unesco.org
- Juan Perusia, Asesor Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Chile, email: jc.perusia@unesco.org
- Nicolás del Valle Orellana, Assistant Programme Specialist, Chile, email: n.del-valle@unesco.org
- Romina Kasman, Especialista de Programas, email: r.kasman@unesco.org

**Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/
World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**

- Mario Ernesto Cruz Peñate, Representante a.i., Chile, email: cruzmari@paho.org
- Adrienne Cox, Jefe, Unidad de Análisis de Salud, Métricas y Evidencia, email: coxadr@paho.org

**Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural
Development (IFAD)**

- Torben Nilsson, Senior Global Engagement Specialist, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations (GEM) Division, External Relations and Governance (ERG) Department, Italia, email: t.nilsson@ifad.org
- Juan Diego Ruiz Cumplido, Jefe, Oficina Subregional para Mesoamérica y el Caribe, Panamá, email: j.ruizcumplido@ifad.org

**Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for
Migration (IOM)**

- Alejandro Guidi, Asesor Regional Principal para las Américas, Oficina del Director General, Suiza, email: jcordoba@iom.int
- Marcelo Pisani, Director Regional para Centroamérica, Norteamérica y del Caribe, email: mpisani@iom.int
- Diego Beltrand, Director Regional para América del Sur, Argentina, email: crados@iom.int
- Agueda Marín Hernández, Especialista Regional Sénior, Argentina, email: amarin@iom.int
- Félix Martínez, Encargado, Oficina de la OIM en Talca, email: fmartinez@iom.int
- Luis Serrano, Coordinador, Secretaría Técnica de la Conferencia Regional sobre Migración, email: lserran@iom.int

**F. Otros organismos internacionales
Other international bodies**

Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja

- Guela Sekhniachvili, Asesor Diplomático para las Américas, Suiza, email: gsekhniachvili@icrc.org
- Simone Casabianca-Aeschlimann, Jefa, Delegación Regional para Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y Uruguay, Brasil, email: bra_brasilia@icrc.org
- Gabriel Pablo Valladares, Asesor Jurídico, Delegación Regional para Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y Uruguay, Argentina, email: mraggi@icrc.org

**G. Organizaciones intergubernamentales
Intergovernmental organizations**

Banco Europeo de Inversiones (BEI)/ European Investment Bank (EIB)

- Adina Relicovshi, Deputy Adviser, Environment, Climate and Social Office, Luxemburgo, email: relicovs@eib.org

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

- Fernando Montenegro, Jefe de Operaciones, Chile, email: fernandomn@iadb.org
- Sebastián Miller, Economista Sénior, Chile, email: smiller@iadb.org

CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina/CAF-Development Bank of Latin America

- Julián Suárez, Vicepresidente de Desarrollo Sostenible, Uruguay, email: jsuarez@caf.com
- Bibiam Diaz, Ejecutivo Principal, Panamá, email: bdiaz@caf.com
- René Gómez García Palao, Director de Sostenibilidad, Inclusión y Cambio Climático, email: rgomez@caf.com

Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)/International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

- Carolina Navarrete Frías, Directora para América Latina y el Caribe, Colombia, email: c.navarrete@cgiar.org

Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD)/Latin American Centre for Development Administration

- Francisco Javier Velázquez, Secretario General, España, email: francisco.velazquez@clad.org

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

- Amirkha Singh, Programme Manager, Sustainable Development, email: amirkha.singh@caricom.org

Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social (CISS)/Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS)

- Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, Secretario General, México, email: secretaria.general@ciss.net
- Leyla Guadalupe Acedo Ung, Jefa de Gabinete, México, email: leyla.acedo.ciss@gmail.com
- Mónica Elizabeth Nuño, Secretaria Técnica, México, email: monica.nuno@ciss.net
- Andrés Morett Popoca, Encargado de Vinculación, México, email: andres.morett@ciss.net
- Hugo Antonio Garciamarín Hernández, México, email: garciamarin7@gmail.com

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)/Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)

- Ángel Flisfish, Director, Chile, email: angel.flisfish@flacsochile.org
- Rodrigo Márquez, Profesor Investigador, email: rodrigo.marquez@flacsochile.org

Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (FILAC)/Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mónica González Céspedes, Experta, Costa Rica, email: mgonces@gmail.com

Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)/Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

- Nahuel Oddone, Jefe de Promoción e Intercambio de Políticas Sociales, Paraguay, email: noddone@ismercosur.org

Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Martine Durand, Directora, Dirección de Estadísticas y Datos, email: julie.marinho@oecd.org; martine.durand@oecd.org
- José René Orozco Saravia, Economista, email: joserene.orozco@oecd.org
- Katherine Scrivens, Analista, email: katescrivens@gmail.com

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

- Andrés Delich, Secretario General Adjunto, España, email: andres.delich@oei.es
- Mónica Gomariz Moreno, Directora, Oficina Nacional, Chile, email: mgomariz@oei.cl

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

- Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Estados Unidos, email: jrudder@oas.org
- Jesús Giacoman, Director, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), Estados Unidos, email: jgiacoman@oas.org

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

- César de las Casas, Director Administrativo, Brasil, email: secretaria.permanente@otca.org.br;
cesar.delascasas@otca.org.br

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

- Javier Paulinich, Secretario Permanente, República Bolivariana de Venezuela,
email: jpaulinich@gmail.com

**H. Panelistas
Panellists**

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
- Carolina Valdivia, Ministra Subrogante de Relaciones Exteriores, Chile
- Rodrigo Malmierca, Ministro del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, Cuba, Presidente del Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)
- Christian Salazar, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Coordinación del Desarrollo
- Diane Quarless, Directora de la sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe
- Gale T. C. Rigobert, Ministra de Educación, Innovación, Relaciones de Género y Desarrollo Sostenible, Santa Lucía
- Sheila Gweneth Carey, Representante Permanente de las Bahamas ante las Naciones Unidas, cofacilitadora de la declaración política del Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Camille Robinson-Regis, Ministra de Planificación y Desarrollo, Trinidad y Tabago
- Troy Torrington, Director, Departamento de Asuntos Mundiales y Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Guyana
- Isidoro Santana, Ministro de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, República Dominicana
- Álvaro García, Director de la Oficina de Planeamiento y Presupuesto (OPP), Uruguay
- Carlos Alberto Pereira, Ministro Secretario Ejecutivo, Secretaría Técnica de Planificación del Desarrollo Económico y Social, Paraguay

- Lucas Gómez, Director Técnico, Dirección de Seguimiento y Evaluación de Políticas Públicas, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP), Colombia
- Gabriela Agosto, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales, Argentina
- Romanela Conte, Coordinadora de Vinculación entre el Presupuesto y la Planificación Estratégica, Dirección Nacional de Coordinación del Presupuesto Nacional, Argentina
- Alejandra Candia, Subsecretaria de Evaluación Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, Chile
- Michelle Muschett, Ministra de Desarrollo Social y Coordinadora Técnica del Gabinete Social, Panamá
- Gemma Santana, Directora General de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, Oficina de la Presidencia, México
- Enid Rocha, Directora Adjunta de Estudios y Políticas Sociales, Instituto de Investigación Económica Aplicada (IPEA), Brasil
- Elkin Velásquez, Director Regional, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)
- Miguel Angel Moir, Secretario, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia (SEGEPLAN), Guatemala
- Javier Abugattás, Presidente, Consejo Directivo del Centro Nacional de Planeamiento Estratégico (CEPLAN), Perú
- Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Secretario de Planificación Territorial y Coordinación de Obra Pública, Argentina
- Julio Saguir, Secretario de Estado de Gestión Pública y Planeamiento de la Provincia de Tucumán, Argentina
- Rodrigo Alderete, Subsecretario de Planeamiento de la Provincia de Tucumán, Argentina
- Diana Alarcón González, Responsable de Asuntos Internacionales, Gobierno de la Ciudad de México
- Rocío Molina, Presidenta de la Asociación de Municipalidades de Bolivia (AMB), representante de la Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA)
- Mario Ferreiro, Intendente, Municipalidad de Asunción, Paraguay
- Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director del Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), Chile
- Martine Durand, Directora de la Dirección de Estadísticas y Datos, Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)
- Julio Santaella, Presidente, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), México
- Leesha Delatie-Budair, Directora General Adjunta, Instituto de Estadística, Jamaica
- Mercedes González, Vicejefa, Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI), Cuba
- Roberto Castillo, Director Ejecutivo, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), Ecuador
- Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director General, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE), Colombia
- Raúl García-Buchaca, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto para Administración y Análisis de Programas, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
- Paul Chet Greene, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional e Inmigración, Antigua y Barbuda
- Sergio Bergman, Secretario de Gobierno de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, Argentina, Presidente del Foro de Ministros del Medio Ambiente de América Latina y el Caribe
- Gabriel Ferrero, Director General de Políticas de Desarrollo Sostenible, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, España
- Rita Hernández, Directora de Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Costa Rica
- Paul Garaycochea, Jefe, Sección de Cooperación al Desarrollo, Embajada de Alemania en el Perú

- Andrés Delich, Secretario General Adjunto, Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (OEI)
- Hedda Oftung, Consejera Política, Real Embajada de Noruega en Chile
- Esteban Caballero, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)
- Renata Dubini, Directora Regional para las Américas, Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)
- María Cristina Perceval, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)
- Leo Heileman, Director y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)
- Luis F. Yáñez, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
- Marina Arismendi, Ministra de Desarrollo Social, Uruguay
- Gloria Montenegro, Ministra de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables, Perú
- Ileana Núñez, Viceministra de Comercio Exterior e Inversión Extranjera, Cuba
- Lady Didiana Velásquez, Jefa, Oficina Asesora de Planeación y Estudios Sectoriales, Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, Colombia
- Norman Lizano Ortiz, Jefe de Política Multilateral, Dirección General de Política Exterior, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Costa Rica
- José Antonio Dos Santos, Director General de Política Multilateral, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Paraguay
- Andrea Sanhueza, Representante del Público para el Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe (Acuerdo de Escazú), Directora, Espacio Público
- Felipe Castro, Subdirector, Centro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para América Latina y el Caribe (CODS), Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
- Simone Tripepi, Director, Enel X South America
- Nicky Black, Directora de Desarrollo Social y Económico, Consejo Internacional de Minería y Metales (ICMM)
- Jorge Bermúdez, Contralor General de la República de Chile, Secretario Ejecutivo de la Organización Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Entidades Fiscalizadoras Superiores (OLACEFS)
- Irma Amaya, Presidenta, Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN)
- Juan Somavía, ex Director General de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) y ex Representante Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas
- David Barkin, Profesor e Investigador, Departamento de Producción Económica, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM), México
- Ovais Sarmad, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto, Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC)
- Camila Zepeda, Directora General para Temas Globales, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, México
- Philipp Schönrock, Director, Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- Carolina Schmidt, Ministra del Medio Ambiente de Chile
- Luis Alfonso de Alba, Enviado Especial del Secretario General para la Cumbre sobre el Clima 2019

I. Representantes del Poder Legislativo Representatives of the legislative branch

- Felipe Harboe Bascuñán, Senador, Chile, email: fharboe@senado.cl
- Jairo Joaquín Flores Divas, Diputado, Guatemala, email: jajofd@gmail.com
- Ariel García, Legislador Provincial, Argentina, email: arieltgarcia73@yahoo.com.ar
- Mariano Gonzalez, Presidente, Comisión Tercera “De Seguridad Regional, Desarrollo Sustentable, Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentaria”, Parlamento Andino, email: carias@parlamentoandino.org; mariano@qnet.com.pe
- Ramón Emilio Gori Taveras, Diputado, Vicepresidente, Junta Directiva por la República Dominicana, Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN), email: aarevalo@parlacen.int; phemiliogoris@gmail.com
- Andrea Juliana Lara, Secretaria Legislativa, Honorable Cámara de Senadores de la Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina, email: alara@mendoza.gov.ar
- Francis Sidney, Vicepresidente, Junta Directiva por Nicaragua, Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN), email: protocolo@parlacen.int
- Arlindo Chinaglia, Parlamentario, Parlamento del MERCOSUR (PARLASUR), Brasil, email: dep.arlindochinaglia@gmail.com; dep.arlindochinaglia@camara.leg.br
- Daniel Caggiani, Presidente Parlamentario, Parlamento del MERCOSUR (PARLASUR), Uruguay
- Flor de María Chajón Aguilar, Diputada, Congreso de la República de Guatemala, email: regina.miranda24@gmail.com
- Alejandro Bravo, Secretario de Asuntos Parlamentarios, Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN), Nicaragua, email: ofprotocolo@parlacen.int
- Víctor Guillermo Hernández, Unidad de Enlace, Honorable Cámara de Senadores de la Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina, email: guillehernan@gmail.com
- Irma Amaya, Presidenta, Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN), El Salvador, email: iamaya2da@yahoo.es

J. Agencias de cooperación Cooperation agencies

- Anna-María Heisig, Adviser, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Alemania, email: anna.maria.heisig@giz.de
- Nora Daniela Sieverding, Asesora de Proyectos, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Chile, email: nora.sieverding@giz.de
- Marie Alexandra Kurth, Directora de Proyectos, Agenda 2030, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Guatemala, email: marie-alexandrakurth@giz.de
- Juergen Klenk, Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Chile, email: juergen.klenk@giz.de
- Michael Roesch, Asesor Principal, Proyecto MinSus, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Chile, email: michael.roesch@giz.de
- Paola Vasconi, Asesora, Euroclima+, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Chile, email: paola.vasconi@giz.de

**K. Organizaciones no gubernamentales/
Non governmental organizations**

350.org Brasil / 350.org América Latina

- Rubens Harry Born, Coordinador Sustituto de América Latina y el Brasil, Brasil, email: rubens.born@350.org

Agriculture Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI)

- Errington Thompson, President, Bahamas, email: ejt65@hotmail.com

Alianza Global para la Eficacia del Desarrollo

- María del Carmen González, Cochair, Argentina, email: maritagonzalez@cgtrainternacional.com.ar

Alianza Juvenil por la Sostenibilidad A.C.

- Giselle Quezada Martínez, Team Leader, México, email: quezada.g17@gmail.com

Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes

- Javier Pineda Olcay, Coordinador, Comisión Seguimiento Agenda 2030, Chile, email: pinedaolcay@gmail.com

Alianza ONG

- Addys Claribel Then Marte, Executive Director, República Dominicana, email: athen@alianzaong.org.do

Alianza por la Soberanía Alimentaria Vía Campesina

- Rodolfo Gonzalez Greco, Coordinador Político, Argentina, email: rodolfoggreco@gmail.com

América Solidaria

- Carlos Figueroa, Especialista en Incidencia y Comunicaciones, Chile, email: cfigueroa@americasolidaria.org
- Constanza Camila Riquelme Riquelme, Voluntaria, Chile, email: criquelme@americasolidaria.org
- Magdalena Manríquez, Coordinadora, Programa Concausa, Chile, email: mmanriquez@americasolidaria.org

Article 19 Brasil

- Joara Marchezini, Coordinadora de Acceso a la Información, Brasil, email: joara@article19.org

Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

- Carmen Alicia Gomez Araujo, Coordinadora de Comunicaciones, Colombia, email: aliciagomez@ambienteysociedad.org.co

Asociación Chilena de Organismos No Gubernamentales ACCIÓN

- Nicolás Sautejeau, Coordinador de Proyectos, Chile, email: nicolas.sautejeau@accionag.cl

Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos (ACDH)

- María José Lubertino, Presidenta, Argentina, email: mariajoselubertinob@gmail.com

Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (ACNU)

- Fermín Quiñones Sánchez, Presidente, Cuba, email: ferminqs@acnu.org.cu

Asociación de Mujeres Progresistas de Chiquimula

- Gloria Díaz Felipe de Maldonado, Presidenta, Representante de la sociedad civil ante el Consejo Departamental de Desarrollo, Guatemala, email: gloriadiazmaldo.gt@gmail.com

Asociación de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil de Latinoamérica y el Caribe

- Carlos Miranda Rodríguez, Secretario General, Chile, email: carlos.miranda@fudeso.cl

Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios Emprendedores de Palma de Oro

- Mario Alberto Díaz Flores, Representante Legal, Colombia, email: magdalena.elizalde@fao.org

Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense

- Fabián Trejos Cascante, Gerente General, Costa Rica, email: ftrejos@ageco.org
- Hannia Rodríguez Arias, Secretaria, Junta Directiva, Costa Rica, email: hanniaara@yahoo.com

Asociación Latinoamericana de Gerontología Comunitaria

- Mónica Roqué, Presidenta, Argentina, email: roquemoni@gmail.com

Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (ANAMURI)

- Francisca Rodríguez, Presidenta Nacional, Chile, email: franciscarh@gmail.com

Asociación Pro Ayuda al Adulto Mayor de Upala

- Rafael Anselmo Villalobos Briceno, Presidente de Junta Directiva, Costa Rica, email: adultomayorupala@hotmail.com

Association of Development Agencies (ADA)/ CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

- Amsale Maryam, Chairperson, Jamaica, email: amsalemaryam@yahoo.com

Baha'i International Community

- Caroline Moosavi, Representative, Chile, email: carojazzm@gmail.com
- Daniel Perell, Representative to the United Nations, email: bic-nyc@bic.org
- Lilian Barrientos, Representative, Chile, email: barrientos.lilian@gmail.com

Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud A.C.

- María Sandra Corina Martínez Sánchez, Oficial de Incidencia, México, email: corina@balancemx.org

Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación

- Laura Giannecchini, Coordinadora de Desarrollo Institucional, Brasil, email: laura@campanaderechoeducacion.org

Caritas

- Raphael Costa, Miembro de la Comisión Nacional de Juventud, Brasil, email: raphaelrbc@id.uff.br

Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs

- Kai Uwe Schmidt, Senior Program Director, Alemania, email: kschmidt@c2g2.net
- Natalia Rubiano, Outreach Officer, Ecuador, email: nrubiano@c2g2.net

Cascos Blancos Argentina

- Verónica Cristina Figueroa, Voluntaria, Argentina, email: proteccion.figue@gmail.com

Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT)

- Ariovaldo de Camargo, Secretario de Relações Internacionais, Brasil, email: ariovaldo@cut.org.br

Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)

- Tamara Muñoz Valenzuela, Vicepresidencia, Chile, email: tamara.munoz@cutchile.cl

Centro Alexander von Humboldt

- José Alejandro Alemán Treminio, Oficial de Cambio Climático, Nicaragua, email: milenio@humboldt.org.ni

Centro de Acción y Defensa por los Derechos Humanos (CADEF)

- Carlos Guerra García, Presidente, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: carlosguerragarcia44@gmail.com

Centro de la Mujer Peruana “Flora Tristán”

- Cecilia Olea Mauleón, Presidenta del Directorio, Perú, email: cecilia@flora.org.pe

Centro de Pensamiento para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CEPEI)

- Fredy Yahirs Rodríguez Galvis, Coordinador, Área de Datos, Colombia, email: f.rodriguez@cepei.org

Centro Ecológico Churque Lo Barnechea

- Jaime Vogel Von Appen, Presidente, Chile, email: jvogel@manquehue.net

Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios sobre el Desarrollo (CIEDUR)

- Andrea Detjen, Investigadora, Uruguay, email: andreadetjen@gmail.com

Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género, Corporación Humanas

- Victoria Hurtado Pinochet, Subdirectora, Chile, email: vhurtado@humanas.cl

Círculo de Periodistas

- Juan López Baldomá, Director, Chile, email: desarrollo.redsolidaria@gmail.com

Ciudadanos Colaborando para el Desarrollo de México A.C.

- Edgar Jair Ramírez Bruno, Director General, México, email: edgarbruno32@gmail.com
- Miriam Harmonía González Macías, Coordinadora de Proyectos Sociales, México, email: miriamglez@live.com.mx

Climate-A

- Eduardo Felipe Lizana Sánchez, Consultor, Chile, email: flizana@climate-a.cl

Coalición Mundial por los Bosques

- Isis Álvarez, Consejera en Género, Coordinadora de Campaña en Ganadería, Colombia, email: isis.alvarez@globalforestcoalition.org

Colectivo VientoSur / Mujeres en Marcha Chile

- Johanna Molina Acevedo, Profesional, Chile, email: jobymolina@gmail.com

Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM)

- María Edit Oviedo, Asociada, Argentina, email: oviedomaria05@gmail.com

Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network

- Kurba-Marie Questelles, Regional Training and Development Coordinator-Caribbean and the Americas, Trinidad y Tabago, email: kurbamarie@gmail.com

Comunidad Farellones - Centro Ecológico Churque

- Olivier Calvez, Miembro del Directorio, Francia, email: baldoceram@gmail.com

Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del MERCOSUR (COPROFAM)

- Alberto Ercilio Broch, Secretario General, Brasil, email: alberto@contag.org.br
- Calixto Zárate Franco, Directivo, Paraguay, email: calixtozarate@hotmail.com
- Carlos Alberto Achetoni, Directivo, Argentina, email: carlosachetoni@yahoo.com.ar
- Elga Betty Angulo Gutiérrez, Secretaria de Políticas para Pueblos Indígenas y Originarios, Perú, email: elga2207@gmail.com
- Fernando Ariel Lopéz Rodríguez, Secretario de Gestión y Finanzas, Uruguay, email: felopezcnfr@yahoo.com
- Florinda Silva Colman, Secretaria de Políticas para Mujeres Rurales, Paraguay, email: faugusto9215@hotmail.com
- Luiz Vicente Facco, Asesor, Brasil, email: facco@contag.org.br
- Orlando Antonio Contrera Hernández, Secretario de Organización, Chile, email: orlandocontrerash@gmail.com

Confederación Sindical de las Américas

- Daniel Angelim, Asesor, Brasil, email: daniel.angelim@csa-csi.org
- Gilberto Luis Martínez Guevara, Asesor, Colombia, email: danielangelim@yahoo.com.br

Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Américas (CSA)

- Andrés Larisgoitia, Director, Secretaría de Relaciones Internacionales, CTA-T, Argentina, email: andreslarisgoitia@cta.org.ar
- María Magdalena Mármol Ramos, Afiliada, El Salvador, email: magdalena_marmol@hotmail.com

Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

- Beatriz Villena, Directora Ejecutiva, Chile, email: directora@fundacionmadrejosefa.cl

Consejo de Defensa del Medio Ambiente de Maipú

- Fernando Eugenio Barraza Barraza, Secretario, Chile, email: fernandobarrazab@gmail.com

Consejo Internacional de Educación de Adultos (CIEA)

- Violeta Acuña Collado, Miembro, Chile, email: violetachile@gmail.com

Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios (IITC)

- Jorge Stanley Icaza, Coordinador para la Soberanía Alimentaria de los Pueblos Indígenas, Panamá, email: manigueueigdinapi@yahoo.es

Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Económicas de Buenos Aires

- Hernán Gil Forleo, Secretario, Comisión de Estudios Económicos, Argentina, email: hernan@cicloeconomico.com

Cooperativas de las Américas

- Diana Royero, Policy Officer, Costa Rica, email: diana.royero@aciamericas.coop

Coordinadora de la Mujer

- Mónica Alejandra Novillo Gonzales, Directora Ejecutiva, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: monica.novillo@coordinadoradelamujer.org.bo

Coordinadora por los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia (CDIA)

- Aníbal Cabrera Echeverría, Director Ejecutivo, Paraguay, email: abcabreche@gmail.com

Corporación Humanas

- Julia Lorena Fries Monleón, Directora, Chile, email: lfries@humanas.cl

Corporación Interamericana Progreso

- Fermín Lancamil Petit Breuilh, Presidente Ejecutivo, Chile, email: nino.petit@gmail.com

Corporación Norte Grande

- Maria Sujkowska, Encargada de Proyectos, Chile, email: msujkowska@cng.cl

Cultura Ambiental

- José Campot, Presidente, Uruguay, email: jeckalfa@gmail.com

Cultura Ecológica

- Tomás Severino Ortega, Director, México, email: teverino@culturaecologica.org.mx

Defensores do Planeta

- Alvaro Couto Lopes, Movilizador de la Red de Niños y Adolescentes Sostenibles, Brasil, email: alvarocoutolopes85@gmail.com
- Glaucio Henrique Evangelista de Freitas, Coordinación de Medios Sociales, Brasil, email: contato@defensoresdoplaneta.org.br
- Mauro Pereira, Director Ejecutivo, Brasil, email: mauropereira@defensoresdoplaneta.org.br

Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)

- Aída Gamboa, Specialist Research, Perú, email: agamboa@dar.org.pe

Derechos Digitales

- Patricio Velasco Fuentes, Investigador, Chile, email: patricio@derechosdigitales.org

EDUCADYS/Fundación Marista por la Solidaridad Internacional

- Ana Laura Rubio Martinez, Vocera de la Pastoral Juvenil Marista, México, email: pjm@maristas.edu.mx

Efecto Fractal A.C.

- Martín Iván Tinoco Resendiz, Director General, México, email: martin_ivan13@hotmail.com
- Paloma Marisol Carreño Acuña, Coordinadora de Programa, México, email: plan2030.michoacan@gmail.com

Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales A.C.

- Melanie Montoya Montes, Incidencia Política, México, email: melanie@eligered.org

Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA)

- Eva Gamboa, Focal, Alianza Soberanía Alimentaria de los Pueblos de América Latina y el Caribe, Argentina, email: evachaco@gmail.com

Enseña Chile

- Aldo Gherzi Catalán, Estudiante, Panel Enseña Chile, Chile, email: aldogherzi7a@gmail.com

Equilibrio Sustentable

- Bárbara Pereira Pantoja, Directora, Chile, email: equilibriosustentable@gmail.com

FOCO-INPADE

- Hernán Medina, Coordinador del Observatorio de Empresas Transnacionales, Argentina, email: hernanrolando@gmail.com

Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)

- Agustina Carpio, Coordinadora, Área DESC, Argentina, email: acarpio@inpade.org.ar

Foro Mundial de Pescadores y Trabajadores de la Pesca (WFF)

- Cairo Roberto Laguna, Copresidente Mundial, Nicaragua, email: cairolaguna@gmail.com

Fórum Social Mundial de la Salud y de la Seguridad Social

- Armando de Negri Filho, Coordinador del Comité Ejecutivo, Brasil, email: armandodenegri@yahoo.com

Forus

- Joyce Soares, Coordinator of Capacity Development and Membership, Brasil, email: joyce@forus-international.org

Fundación "Agenda 2030"

- Miguel Santibañez, Director, Chile, email: miguelxq0@gmail.com

Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)

- Andrés Nápoli, Director Ejecutivo, Argentina, email: anapoli@farn.org.ar
- Felipe Pizarro Venegas, Asesor, Chile, email: pizarrovenegasfelipe@gmail.com
- María Pía Marchegiani, Directora de Política Ambiental, Argentina, email: pmarchegiani@farn.org.ar

Fundación Chile Positivo

- Iancu Cordescu, Director Ejecutivo, Chile, email: iancu.cordescu@chilepositivo.org

Fundación Crea Equidad

- Natalia Flores González, Encargada de Incidencia, Chile, email: nataliafloresg@gmail.com

Fundación Cultural Baur

- Martín Olavarrieta Maldonado, Presidente, México, email: fcbaur@carolbaur.edu.mx

Fundación Datos Protegidos

- Jessica Matus, Directora Ejecutiva, Chile, email: jessica@datosprotegidos.org

Fundación Efecto Mariposa

- Daniela Henríquez, Presidenta, Chile, email: daniela.henriquezf@gmail.com

Fundación ERES

- Glenda Durán, Directora, Chile, email: fundacionerescl@gmail.com

Fundación Hogar de Cristo

- Mónica Contreras Jacob, Encargada, Área de Incidencia en Políticas Públicas, Chile, email: mcontrerasj@hogardecristo.cl

Fundación Margen de Apoyo y Promoción de la Mujer

- Carolina Dominik Álvarez, Directora, Chile, email: carolina.dominik@gmail.com
- Eliana Dentone Verardi, Directora, Chile, email: elianadentonemargen@gmail.com
- Herminda González Inostroza, Secretaria Organizacional, RedTraSex, Chile, email: hermindagonzalez4@gmail.com
- Nancy Gutiérrez Medel, Presidenta, Chile, email: funmargen@hotmail.com

Fundación Marista por la Solidaridad Internacional

- Georg Alexander Raczynski Schrapers, Representante, Chile, email: graczynski@maristas.cl

Fundación Mujer & Mujer

- Jessica Agila, Coordinadora de Incidencia Política, Ecuador, email: mujerymujerec@gmail.com

Fundación Oportunidad Mayor

- Consuelo Moreno Rodríguez, Directora de Incidencia, Chile, email: cmoreno@omayor.cl

Fundación para el Desarrollo Social (FUDESO)

- Imel Cubillos Pérez, Director de Finanzas, Chile, email: imel.cubillos@fudeso.cl
- Keyla Marilet Alarcón Huertas, Coordinadora de Alianzas Corporativas, Perú, email: keyla.alarcon@fudeso.cl
- Vicente Rodríguez Aranda, Encargado de Alianzas y Comunicaciones, Chile, email: vicente.rodriguez780@gmail.com

Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)

- Mabel Bianco, Presidenta, Argentina, email: feim@feim.org.ar

Fundación para la Superación de la Pobreza

- Renee Fresard, Directora, Cooperación Internacional, Chile, email: renee.fresard@superacionpobreza.cl
- Rocío Cañas, Oficial, Cooperación Internacional, Chile, email: rocio.canas@superacionpobreza.cl

Fundación Plurales

- Daniela Savid, Directora de Proyectos, Argentina, email: danisavid@gmail.com

Fundación Prisma

- Ileana Gómez Galo, Investigadora Principal, El Salvador, email: i.gomez@prisma.org.sv

Fundación Pro Bono/Red Pro Bono de las Américas

- Constanza Alvial Reculé, Coordinadora de Vinculación con el Medio, Coordinadora General, Chile, email: calvial@probono.cl

Fundación Rakiduum Kai

- Romy Andrea Rosales Aliaga, Coordinadora de Proyecto, Chile, email: romyrosales28@gmail.com

Fundación Sara Philippi Izquierdo

- Carmen Croxatto, Asesora en Temas de Mujer, Chile, email: fundacionsaraphilippiizquierdo@gmail.com

Fundación Terram

- Flavia Liberona, Directora Ejecutiva, Chile, email: fliberona@terram.cl
- Hernán Ramírez Rueda, Investigador Asociado, Chile, email: ruedaramirezhernan@gmail.com
- Telye Yurisch, Economista, Chile, email: tyurisch@terram.cl

Fundación Tribu

- María Alejandra Larraín Marshall, Presidenta, Chile, email: alejandra@tribu.org

Furban-Ciudad en Movimiento

- Andrés Borthagaray, Presidente, Argentina, email: aborthagaray@gmail.com

FUSA AC

- María Alicia Gutiérrez, Coordinadora, Área de Advocacy e Incidencia Política, Argentina, email: mariagut27@yahoo.com.ar

GEF SGP

- Ruth Spencer, National Coordinator, Antigua y Barbuda, email: ruthspencer5@gmail.com

GeoCensos Foundation

- Javier Carranza, Director, Argentina, email: javier.carranza@geocensos.com

GESTOS – Soropositividade, Comunicação e Gênero

- Alessandra Nilo, Coordinadora General, Brasil, email: alessandra.nilo@gestos.org
- Jair Brandão de Moura Filho, Assessor de Projetos, Brasil, email: jair.brandao@gestospe.org.br

Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

- Eugenia López Uribe, Representante para América Latina y el Caribe, México, email: elpezuribe@gmail.com

Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster Reduction

- María Verónica Bastias, Coordinadora para América Latina y el Caribe, Chile, email: mave.bastias@gndr.org

Grantsy

- Marisol Martínez Montemayor, Directora, México, email: marisol.mtz.m@gmail.com

Healthy Caribbean Coalition

- Christine Chin, Member, Board of Directors, Bahamas, email: drchinchea@yahoo.com

Hemisferio Sustentable

- Nicolás Ignacio Arriagada Méndez, CEO, cofundador, Chile, email: chile.niam@gmail.com

Hogar de Cristo

- José Yuraszeck, Capellán General, Chile, email: jyuraszeck@hogardecristo.cl
- Silvana Lorenzini, Jefa de Evaluación, Chile, email: slorenzini@hogardecristo.cl

Ibarra & Asociados

- Liliana Andrea Mancera Silva, Abogada, Colombia, email: mancera.andrea@hotmail.com

Inclusion International

- Elena Dal Bo, Miembro del Consejo, Representante de las Américas, Argentina, email: elenadalbocastanion@gmail.com

Infancia y Cultura

- Paz Figueroa, Presidenta, Chile, email: fic.pfo@gmail.com

Iniciativa de Acceso

- Andrea Sanhueza, Chile, email: andreasanhuezae@gmail.com

Iniciativas Sanitarias

- Lucia Van Velthoven, Asistencia en Área de Advocacy, Uruguay, email: lucivanvelthoven@gmail.com

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Generalate)

- Clementina Rivas Ojeda, Delegada, Argentina, email: crivasojeda@yahoo.com.ar
- Eliana Dias Correia Lima, Pedagoga, Brasil, email: anailelima@yahoo.com.br
- Viviana Herrera Sarmiento, Comunicadora Social, Perú, email: vivianaherrera2002@gmail.com

Instituto de Desarrollo Sostenible y Relaciones Internacionales (IDDRI)

- Elisabeth Hege, Research Fellow, Alemania, email: elisabeth.hege@sciencespo.fr

Instituto Global Attitude

- Erleyvaldo Bispo dos Santos, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: erley.bispo@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Felipe Matsuda Toledo, Programme Coordinator, Brasil, email: felipe@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Gabriella Prado, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: gabriella.prado@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Helena Couto Porto, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: helena.porto@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Livia Brioschi, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: livia.brioschi@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Maysa Cristina Magalhães Santos, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: maysa.santos@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Natalia Cecilia Carvalho Ribeiro, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: natalia.ribeiro@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Natasha Briguet, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: natasha.briguet@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Rodrigo Zara Faria, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: rodrigo.faria@diplomaciacivil.org.br
- Thiago Leite Cruz, Fellow Researcher, Brasil, email: thiago.cruz@diplomaciacivil.org.br

Internacional de Servicios Públicos (ISP)

- Ángela Rifo, Representante, Chile, email: angelarifo@yahoo.com

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

- Catalina González Rojas, National Public Health Officer, Chile, email: csgonzalez@miuandes.cl
- Gabriela Cipriano Flores, Regional Director for the Americas, Perú, email: rdamericas@ifmsa.org
- Kiomi Noemi Perdomo Morales, National Public Health Officer, Honduras, email: chomiperdomo@gmail.com
- Pablo Prieto Aguirre, Presidente Local, Universidad de Chile, Chile, email: pabloprieto@ug.uchile.cl
- Rodrigo Sánchez Iturregui, Capacity Building Regional Assistant for the Americas, Perú, email: rsancheziturregui@gmail.com

International Planned Parenthood Federation – Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)

- Ricardo Baruch, Oficial Regional de Advocacy, México, email: rbaruch@ippfwhr.org

ISFEM

- Beatriz Ismini Anastassiou, Presidenta, Chile, email: contactoisfem.pfo@gmail.com

Jóvenes Voceras y Voceros en Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos

- Katherine Alejandra Samayoa González, Coordinadora, El Salvador, email: kasg77@hotmail.com

Juventud del Pacífico

- Diego Ronaldo Pérez Cabrera, Director, Chile, email: perez.cabrera.diego@gmail.com

Latin America and the Caribbean Engagement Mechanism (LACEMOS)

- Pedro Cunha, Facilitador Regional de los Grupos Principales, ONU-Medio Ambiente, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Brasil, email: pedrocunha.eco@gmail.com

MAELA/Alianza por la Soberanía Alimentaria de América Latina y el Caribe

- Alicia Alem, Consejo Político Continental de MAELA, Argentina, email: aliciafpc@gmail.com

MMI-LAC/ChildFund

- María López Portillo, Regional Advocacy Specialist, México, email: mflopez@childfund.org

Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina y el Caribe (MAELA)

- Marcela Meza, Coordinadora Nacional, Chile, email: kumeymapu@gmail.com

Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático

- Osver Jaime Polo Carrasco, Miembro, Perú, email: opc2015@gmail.com

Movimiento del Cambio Positivo (MOCAPO)

- Jorge Booz Cisneros Andrade, Secretario General Adjunto, México, email: boozo510@gmail.com
- Miguel Ángel Trinidad Rodríguez, Presidente, México, email: mocapo.mx@gmail.com

Mutual de Seguridad CChC

- Katty Ahumada, Librarian Chief, Chile, email: kahumada@mutual.cl

NIC.br/Cetic.br

- Fabio Senne, Coordinador de Encuestas TIC, Brasil, email: fsenne@nic.br

Observatorio Ciudadano

- Lorena Arce, Coordinadora, Programa Biodiversidad y Alternativas al Desarrollo, Chile, email: larde73@gmail.com
- Paulina Acevedo Menanteau, Coordinadora, Programa Ciudadanía e Interculturalidad, Chile, email: pacevedo@observatorio.cl

Observatorio Legislativo Cristiano (OLC)

- Marcela Aranda Arellano, Directora General, Chile, email: observatorio.leg.cristiano@gmail.com

Observatorio Regional de la Sociedad Civil

- Carlos Andrade, Investigador Proyecto, Ecuador, email: c.andrade.915@gmail.com

OIKOS Red Ambiental

- Gabriel Agustín Sánchez Mendoza, Abogado, Argentina, email: agustinsanchezmendoza@gmail.com
- María Fernanda Solanes, Asesora Legal, Argentina, email: mfsolanes@gmail.com

ONG FIMA

- Ezio Costa, Director Ejecutivo, Chile, email: costa@fima.cl
- Patricia Araya, Asistente de Proyectos, Chile, email: araya@fima.cl

ONG Innovacien

- David Leal, Director Ejecutivo, Chile, email: david@innovacien.org

OnG Progressio Desarrollo Sostenible

- Claudio Trovato, Presidente, Italia, email: claudio.trovato@ongprogressio.org

PIT-CNT

- Viviana Rumbo Aparicio, Departamento de Internacionales, Uruguay, email: vivianarumbo@gmail.com

Prodigio Consultores

- Felipe Vera, Director de Proyectos e Innovación, Chile, email: felipevera@gmail.com

Programa Diálogo Regional Rural (PDRR)

- Juan Diego Marin Salazar, Coordinador, Costa Rica, email: jmarinsalazar63@gmail.com

Programa Vive Tus Parques

- Alonso García, Coordinador de Voluntarios, Chile, email: alonso.garcia@usach.cl
- Fernanda Carreño León, Voluntaria, Chile, email: fernanda.carreno@usach.cl

Proyecto Reinserción

- Matías Bustamante Alarcón, Coordinador General, Chile, email: mbustamante@proreinsersion.cl
- Rodrigo Villegas Herrera, Encargado de Incidencia, Chile, email: rvillegas.herrera@gmail.com

Pueblo Arhuaco

- Norey Maku Quigua Izquierdo, Delegado Nacional, Colombia, email: noreyq@gmail.com

Reacción Climática

- Carmen Capriles, Coordinadora General, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: carmengato@gmail.com
- Hugo Daniel Flores Ribera, Coordinador de Comunicación, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: riverskurty@gmail.com

Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)

- Maria Clara Viana da Silva, Executive Coordinator, Brasil, email: mviana@resurj.org

Red CORV

- Lucio Díaz Dumenez, Coordinador Regional, Chile, email: luciodiaz@yahoo.com

Red de Jóvenes para la Incidencia Política (INICIDEJOVEN)

- Juan Enrique Hernández Chanchavac, Área de Formación, Guatemala, email: quiqueher17@gmail.com

Red de Liderazgos para América Latina y el Caribe

- Fernando Javier Nunez Medina, Procurador Común, Ecuador, email: info.redliderazgo@gmail.com

Red de Organizaciones Voluntarios de Chile

- Marcela Guillibrand, Dirección Ejecutiva, Chile, email: mguillibrand@chilevoluntario.cl

Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC)

- María Inés Re, Coordinadora Regional, Programa RHRN, Argentina, email: rhrn@reddesalud.org
- Marlen Riaño Vivas, Coordinadora de Comunicaciones, Colombia, email: comunicaciones@reddesalud.org
- Sandra Castañeda Martínez, Coordinadora General, Ecuador, email: scastaneda@reddesalud.org

Red Interquorum Cajamarca

- Jhoanna Mercedes Torres Banda, Coordinadora, Proyecto Jóvenes 2019, Perú, email: jtorresb1415@gmail.com

Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales de Personas con Discapacidad y sus Familias (RIADIS)

- Rosario Galarza, Oficial de Derechos Humanos, Perú, email: rosario.galarza@riadis.org
- Elisa Hinojosa Yampi, Asistente Personal, Perú, email: elisahinojosa07@gmail.com

Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (RedLAC)

- Valeria Vásquez Vazquez, Coordinadora, México, email: valeria@eligered.org

Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (REPEM LAC)

- Patricia Jaramillo, Socia, Colombia, email: pasteja@gmail.com

Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (REPEM LAC)/ Observatorio de Género y Equidad

- Teresa Valdés Echenique, Coordinadora, Chile, email: teresa.valdese@gmail.com

Red Regional por la Educación Inclusiva (RREI Latinoamérica)

- María Celeste Fernandez, Integrante de la Coordinación de la Red, Argentina, email: cfernandez@acij.org.ar

Rede Brasileira de População e Desenvolvimento (REBRAPD)

- Richarlls Martins, Coordinador, Brasil, email: richarlls@hotmail.com
- Thiago Galvão, Professor, Brasil, email: gehre.unb@gmail.com

Rotary International

- José Miguel Oportus Mateluna, ex Coordinador Regional de la Fundación Rotaria, Chile, email: srs@saintrose.cl
- Sergio Eduardo Avendaño Montalva, Representante Rotary ante CEPAL, Chile, email: frisam@gmail.com

Saint Lucia National Trust

- Karetta Crooks Charles, Communications and Advocacy Officer, Santa Lucía, email: advocacy@slunatrust.org

Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ) y Asociación Americana de Juristas (AAJ)

- Guillermo Robledo, Adherente, Argentina, email: robledoguille@yahoo.com.ar

SUMMA

- Felipe Prado, Coordinador de Redes de Investigación e Innovación, Chile, email: felipe.prado@summaedu.org

Teach For All

- Jocelyn Noya Quintana, Global Director, Marketing and Positioning Support, Estados Unidos, email: jocelyn.noyaquintana@teachforall.org

TECHO Internacional

- Luis Bonilla Ortiz-Arrieta, Director de Relaciones Institucionales, Chile, email: luis.bonilla@techo.org

The Millennials Movement

- Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito, Directora Ejecutiva, Perú, email: r.garavito@themillennialsmovement.org

Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social (UNITAS)

- Alejandro Arze Alegría, Investigador, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: investigacion@redunitas.org

United Nations Foundation

- Alyson Neel, Policy and Advocacy Strategist, Estados Unidos, email: aneel@unfoundation.org
- Kavita Desai, Advisor on Sustainable Development and Global Policy, Estados Unidos, email: kdesai@unfoundation.org

Vicaría de Pastoral Social Caritas

- Gabriela del Carmen Hume Díaz, Encargada de Programas Comunitarios, Chile, email: ghume@iglesiadesantiago.cl

Voces para la Cultura y el Desarrollo México

- Nguyen Enrique Glockner Corte, Director General, México, email: elglock@outlook.es

Wiñay Warmi/Nuevo Perú

- Cate Giona de la Cruz Rojas, Integrante, Perú, email: keitcruz@hotmail.com

World Vision

- Juan Pablo Venegas Gormaz, Gerente de Advocacy, Chile, email: juan_venegas@wvi.org
- Patricia del Pilar Horna Castro, Asesora Regional Advocacy para América Latina y el Caribe, Perú, email: patricia_horna@wvi.org

Young Peruvian Leaders (YPL)

- Lilibeth Vargas Obregón, Directora de Gestión de Talento, Sede Apurímac, Perú, email: lilibethvargasobregon@gmail.com
- Mercedes Torres Cabrera, SDG 10 Manager, Perú, email: mercedes5973@gmail.com
- Vanessa Vargas Obregón, Directora Regional, Sede Apurímac, Perú, email: vvargasobregon@gmail.com
- Yessica Briones Quiroz, Directora de Relaciones Nacionales e Internacionales, Perú, email: yessicabriones73@gmail.com

**L. Secretaría
Secretariat**

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

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva/Executive Secretary, email: alicia.barcena@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, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión/Officer in Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Andrea Márquez, Directora, División de Administración/Director, Division of Management, email: andrea.marquez@cepal.org
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: joseluis.samaniego@cepal.org
- Daniel Titelman, Director, División de Desarrollo Económico/Chief, Economic Development Division, email: daniel.titelman@cepal.org
- Paulo Saad, Oficial a Cargo, Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE)-División de Población de la CEPAL/Officer in Charge, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, email: paulo.saad@cepal.org
- Ricardo Pérez, Director, División de Publicaciones y Servicios Web/Chief, Publications and Web Services Division, email: ricardo.perez@cepal.org
- Jeannette Sánchez, Directora, División de Recursos Naturales/Officer in Charge, Natural Resources Division, email: jeannette.sanchez@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
- Romain Zivy, Coordinador, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Chief of Office, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: romain.zivy@cepal.org
- Carlos de Miguel, Jefe, Unidad de Políticas para el Desarrollo Sostenible, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: carlos.demiguel@cepal.org
- Mario Castillo, Oficial Superior de Asuntos Económicos, División de Asuntos de Género/Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, email: mario.castillo@un.org
- Xavier Mancero, Oficial a Cargo, División de Estadísticas, Jefe, Unidad de Estadísticas Sociales, División de Estadísticas/Officer in Charge, Statistics Division, Chief, Social Statistics Unit, Statistics Division, email: xavier.mancero@cepal.org
- Jimena Arias Feijoó, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión/Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: jimena.arias@cepal.org
- Rodrigo Martínez, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Desarrollo Social/Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, email: rodrigo.martinez@cepal.org
- Guido Camú, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Political Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: guido.camu@cepal.org
- Guillermo Acuña, Asesor Legal y Jefe de Protocolo, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Legal Adviser, Chief of Protocol, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: guillermo.acuna@cepal.org

- Gabriel Porcile, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/
Economic Affairs Officer, Division of Production, Productivity and Management,
email: jose.porcile@cepal.org
- Enrique Oviedo, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión/Political Affairs
Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: enrique.oviedo@cepal.org
- Daniel Taccari, Estadístico, División de Estadísticas/Statistician, Statistics Division,
email: daniel.taccari@cepal.org
- María Ortiz, Oficial de Programas, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/ Programme Officer, Office
of the Executive Secretary, email: maria.ortiz@cepal.org
- Vianka Aliaga, Asistente de Investigación, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Research Assistant,
Office of the Executive Secretary, email: vianka.aliaga@cepal.org
- Vera Kiss, Oficial Asociada de Asuntos Económicos, Oficina de la Secretaria Ejecutiva/Associate
Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, email: vera.kiss@cepal.org
- Karen Haase, Asistente de Gestión de Documentos, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión,
Senior Document Management Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Commission,
email: karen.haase@cepal.org
- Luis Flores Mimica, Asistente de Investigación, Oficina del Secretario de la Comisión/Research
Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.flores@cepal.org

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

- Hugo Beteta, Director/Chief, email: hugo.beteta@cepal.org
- Pablo Yanes, Coordinador de Investigación/Research Coordinator, email: pablo.yanes@cepal.org
- Miguel del Castillo, Jefe, Unidad de Desarrollo Social/ Chief, Social Development Unit,
email: miguel.decastillo@cepal.org
- Sandra Huenchuan, Asistente Superior de Investigación/Senior Research Assistant,
email: sandra.huenchuan@cepal.org

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

- Diane Quarless, Directora/Chief, email: diane.quarless@cepal.org
- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Estadístico/Statistician, email: abdullahi.abdulkadri@eclac.org
- Lydia Rosa Geny, Oficial Asociado de Asuntos Sociales/Associate Social Affairs Officer,
email: lydia.rosageny@eclac.org

Oficina de la CEPAL en Brasilia/ECLAC Office in Brasilia

- Camila Gramkow, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, email: camila.gramkow@cepal.org