

Translation by the secretariat

Mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Objective:

Contribute to ensuring the right to participation in a meaningful, democratic, systematic, broad, diverse and sustained manner, and the right to information of organized civil society regarding the implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region and related platforms within a framework of human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability criteria.

Specific objectives

- Facilitate and coordinate the liaison and meaningful and permanent participation of civil society with ECLAC and with member States in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as well as in the entire process of design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region and related platforms.
- Generate an instance of accountability between governments and civil society on the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- Develop effective strategies with diverse stakeholders and governments for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- Organize and coordinate civil society participation in order to ensure effective and formal dialogues with governments, United Nations agencies and commissions for regional follow-up to the sustainable development agenda, including effective and broad participation in the Forum of the Countries.
- Promote regional linkage between development agendas, recognizing that the Montevideo Consensus is the basis that will define the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Promote interrelations between the regional and global level in follow-up to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Cross-cutting principles:

- Human rights framework and its progressiveness
- Gender equality, non-discrimination and parity
- Socioenvironmental sustainability criteria
- The interdependence of the three dimensions of development (social, economic and environmental)
- Transparency and accountability
- Intergenerational and intercultural approach
- Regional agendas on human rights and development

Within this region, the Montevideo Consensus forms a cross-cutting principle, as an achievement by the region and a contribution to the world.

Description:

- Accede to all the negotiating documents from their generation, negotiation and adoption.

- Propose inputs to be considered formally part of the process.
- Meaningfully participate throughout the negotiation process.
- Participate in the design of working methodologies and official programmes.
- Address and engage in formal plenary sessions with a formal place at the table.
- Organize and participate in side events.
- Promote work processes that reflect the mobilization and policy needs identified in the region.

Members of the participation mechanism

Organizations, independent collectives, social movements and local, national and regional networks working for social, economic and environmental justice in any of the three dimensions of sustainable development. These should all be committed to advancing the agenda under the principles of progressiveness of human rights and interdependence of the three dimensions of development, and to the document on the principles of civil society participation adopted at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.¹

Coordination

It is proposed that the coordination shall be carried out by a representative and an alternate for each subregion, each group and each thematic cluster, and that these representatives will make up the Liaison Officers.

Subregions:

- Central America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Mexico
- The English-speaking and French-speaking Caribbean
- Andean region
- Southern Cone

Groups

- Children, adolescents and young people
- Women
- Older persons
- Persons of African descent
- Small-scale farmers and persons from rural and coastal areas

¹ International human rights framework,

- The cross-cutting perspective of gender equality,
- The intercultural and intergenerational perspective,
- Protection of the environment and ecosystems,
- Economic, social and environmental justice,
- The 2030 Agenda in its entirety,
- The Montevideo Consensus and its Operational guide,
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- And other human rights instruments (UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education),
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador”,
- Convention against Discrimination in Education.

- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with HIV and persons affected by HIV
- Defenders of human rights and territories
- LGBTI persons
- Migrants and persons displaced by disasters or conflicts
- Indigenous peoples
- Networks, groups, organizations and NGO platforms.
- Trade unions, domestic workers and sex workers

Thematic clusters:

- Social and solidarity-based economies
- Education, academia, science and technology
- Ecological and environmental justice

* It is suggested that each representation rotate (to be defined: every 2 or 3 years, in a lagged manner). It is also suggested that each group should prepare and submit its governance document based on the mechanism's cross-cutting principles, as well as on the civil society document adopted at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Given that they will facilitate and manage the voice of the groups, the Liaison Officers must ensure good governance, transparency and accountability in the rationale of self-organization, as well as plurality, articulation and balance among the three dimensions of development.

- **Liaison Officers**

The Liaison Officers will be responsible for ensuring that civil society in the region is present in all relevant regional forums for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, by means of communication with ECLAC, the member States and the Chair of the Forum.

They will maintain an ongoing and constant channel of information for decision-making and the conveyance of agreements adopted.

Liaison

The mechanism will be in constant contact with ECLAC, the member States and the Chair of the Forum to ensure the involvement and effective participation of the mechanism in intergovernmental negotiations and processes related to the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region.

It will facilitate the participation of CSOs in regional, subregional and global processes in order to present regional positions and perspectives on sustainable development, while ensuring that such participation is relevant to the incidence, organization and mobilization of civil society organizations with ECLAC.

Recommendations for the Transitional Commission of the Mechanism

- Transitional Commission for monitoring and implementation of the mechanism, which will, within the next 6 months, consolidate the basis for the mechanism's operation. For reasons of transparency, it is recommended that those forming part of this Commission do not apply for the coordination of any of the groups defined for the mechanism.

- Governance frameworks and terms of reference
- Define a process for the design of governance frameworks and terms of reference of the groups that will make up the mechanism, respecting the principle of self-organization of each.
- An annex is attached with inputs for the next Commission.