Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Havana, 28–31 March 2020

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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), Mexico Resolution, which established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as the 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 of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Economic and Social Council subsequently endorsed the establishment of the Forum in its resolution 2016/12.

The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is State-led and open to participation by all Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is convened under the auspices of ECLAC and guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. It involves States, the private sector and civil society, as well as subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks, other United Nations agencies and regional integration blocs. The Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion of shared targets.

The objective of the Forum is to provide those responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region with a space conducive to peer learning through interactive sessions in which participants are able to identify, through the discussion of common experiences and goals, good practices that would allow member countries to make recommendations and present them at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of regional contributions to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City in 2017, the second meeting was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago in 2018, the third meeting was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago in 2019, and the fourth meeting will be held in Havana.

Chair

As provided in resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, the Forum is convened annually by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC and meets under the auspices of the Commission. On this occasion, Cuba will chair the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

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1 See resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC in annex 1.
2 Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly.
B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Presentation of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Gateway), as a contribution of the United Nations system.

3. Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

4. Presentation of the document for the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

5. Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.
   • The 2030 Agenda in a complex global context
   • Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region
   • Future scenarios for the 2030 Agenda
   • Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the territorial level in Latin America and the Caribbean


8. Other matters.


C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda for adoption or amendment.

2. Presentation of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Gateway), as a contribution of the United Nations system

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals developed by ECLAC, together with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system present in the region, in line with the efforts of the Secretary-General to reposition the United Nations development system to better support countries in the implementation of the

3 LC/FDS.4/1.
2030 Agenda and, in particular, with the recommendation regarding the restructuring of United Nations regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda contained in the report of the Secretary-General.4

3. Challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

In keeping the ECLAC “Caribbean first” strategy and with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda—which recognizes that each country has different realities, capacities and levels of development and must address its own specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and underscores the special issues facing the most vulnerable countries—this session has been organized to address the specific problems of the Caribbean countries, such as vulnerability to climate change, natural disasters and high debt levels, and the situation of the least developed countries and small island developing States.

4. Presentation of the document for the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present the document prepared for the meeting, which includes simulation exercises on the prospects for achieving the SDGs in the region and a brief analysis of the reasons underpinning the trends identified. The issues to be addressed include: (a) the new dynamics of the global political economy, in which countries are increasingly adopting unilateral protectionist policies, thereby weakening the multilateral system; (b) the response to the political tensions generated by inequality in less growth-friendly international conditions than prevailed during the commodity boom; (c) the need to explore complementarities between combating inequality and environmental stewardship, while absorbing technical progress and promoting genuine competitiveness. Combining the commitments on nationally determined contributions (NDC) on environmental issues with commitments on social inclusion and a rights agenda is the main challenge facing the Latin American and Caribbean economies in the coming years. These are the commitments that must shape national policy agendas, as well as the agenda of international negotiations on the basis of multilateral cooperation.

Working document:

− 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: projections and scenarios (LC/FDS.4/3).

5. Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

Pursuant to the wish expressed by the countries that the Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, this session has been organized to allow the member countries of the Forum and other stakeholders to report on and share their experiences and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The discussion themes will be:

- The 2030 Agenda in a complex global context
- Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region
- Future scenarios for the 2030 Agenda
- Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the territorial level in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

As a region, Latin America and the Caribbean is clearly advancing in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Almost five years after the international adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the countries of the region are in a phase of development, upgrading and consolidation of their institutional mechanisms for coordination, national planning instruments for implementing the 2030 Agenda and multi-stakeholder agreements and partnerships for sustainable development. However, the 2030 Agenda is a global commitment that has been assumed by all regions. The aim of this session will be to share experiences and best practices in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe.

7. **Round table: Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**

In view of the urgent need to accelerate action by all stakeholders and at all levels to achieve the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda, this round table will convene representatives of the governments of member countries of the Forum, civil society, the private sector and international agencies, in order to identify regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets on the basis of an integrated approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. **Other matters**

Under this agenda item, delegations may raise any other matters they deem appropriate.

9. **Conclusions and recommendations**

Resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC states that the outcome of the Forum will consist of intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations and a summary prepared by its Chair. The resolution also encourages countries to present those conclusions, recommendations and summary, as appropriate, to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and to the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism.

The Chair, with the support of the secretariat, will consult, as necessary, with the member countries of the Forum regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the fourth meeting.
Annex 1

700 (XXXVI) MEXICO RESOLUTIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORUM
OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its sixteenth
extraordinary session held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a
regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the
Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Recalling also resolution 696(PLEN.31) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first
session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion
of the regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America
and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Having examined the draft report of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

1. Decides to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on
Sustainable Development in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of
the Whole, as set forth in the annex to this resolution.
Annex


The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) of its Committee of the Whole, through which, inter alia, a regional consultation process was launched with the aim of establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions—economic, social and environmental—in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 69/313, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, which, inter alia, commits Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which, inter alia, urges the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288, in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,
Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a regional forum to follow up and review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for, inter alia, strengthening coherence and coordination, promoting cooperation and providing policy guidance, fostering national capacity-building, hosting voluntary State-led national reviews, identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets, fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation, encouraging participation of all relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for partnerships, favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability, and promoting the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies,

Recognizing 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; and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

Emphasizing the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the financing for development processes, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes promoting the impact of international development cooperation,

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and recognizing the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the Note by the secretariat of the Commission, prepared in fulfilment of resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole,

1. Decides to establish 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;

2. Decides also that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and that it should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations, in order to guide an inclusive regional process drawing on national-level reviews and contributing to follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, including at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and at the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate;

1 LC/L.4123.
3. **Reaffirms** that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. **Decides** that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and that within existing resources it will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system, and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings, as appropriate, while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner, and in these regards further decides that:

(a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:

(i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,
(ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,
(iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning,
(iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,
(v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
(vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies,
(vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation,
(viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
(ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, and
(x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee,

(b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

(c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission, and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
(d) Relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate,

(e) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its 2025 Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger;

5. **Stresses** that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, in order to address the universal character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. **Highlights** that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and that it will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level,

(b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment, and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature,

(c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, taking also into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate. All indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner,
(d) Following-up and reviewing the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) at the regional level,

(e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 at the regional level,

(f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and other modalities of cooperation in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation,

(g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews,

(h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

(i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned,

(j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

(k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

(l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development,

(m) Favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability,

(n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks,

(o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, as well as of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate,

(p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. Decides that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission. It will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission, and aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, of the latter’s Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, and of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;
8. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to issue an annual progress report, four weeks in advance of the respective meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report will be considered a regional contribution for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of Economic and Social Council and its forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate, and will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and on national-level reviews, as appropriate, and it will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

9. Also requests the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a quadrennial progress report, to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

10. Encourages the Latin American and Caribbean countries to submit, through the Forum, its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, and a summary produced by its Chair, as appropriate:

− To the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

− To the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

− To the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. Highlights the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

12. Encourages the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to volunteer for national reviews, and the Forum to further develop modalities for hosting them in accordance with the related principles and guidelines provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.