



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
San José
7–9 March **2022**

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

San José, 7–9 March 2022

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.¹ 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.² It involves States, the private sector and civil society, as well as subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks and other United Nations agencies. 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, the fourth meeting was held virtually in 2021 and this fifth meeting will be held in San José.

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, Costa Rica will chair the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

¹ See resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44728/700%28XXXVI%29resolution_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

² Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation of the document *A decade of action for a change of era. Fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
3. High-level dialogue on an innovative financing agenda for recovery.
4. Commemoration of International Women's Day.
5. Panel discussions.
 - From development in transition to development for action: towards renewed international development cooperation
 - Statistical, quantitative and territorial monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Natural disasters and the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean
 - Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for sustainable recovery: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Education and gender equality: human rights central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
6. Peer-learning session: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Presentation of the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Other matters.
9. Conclusions and recommendations.

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 document *A decade of action for a change of era. Fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Under this agenda item, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will present a document prepared by the secretariat, which analyses the economic, social and environmental costs of the failure to adopt the necessary measures to build forward better that connect short-term responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic crisis with the need to transform the development model.

In particular, there is a need for a redoubled commitment to the future as it will depend on the decisions made in the present. This commitment involves rebuilding spaces for dialogue and institutions for cooperation at three levels: national, regional and global, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document underscores that Latin America and the Caribbean must strengthen policies conducive to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and must therefore overcome new challenges arising from the short- and medium-term effects of the pandemic, in addition to the structural problems identified in the documents presented at previous meetings of the Forum.

The main challenge is political and institutional: closing performance and legitimacy gaps. The assessment and road map are clear; so are the costs of ignoring the signals sent by the economy, the environment and inequality. Recovering multilateralism and international cooperation, achieving convergence and institutional strengthening of regional integration projects, and reaching agreements on the objectives of productive transformation based on sustainability and equality in each country are convergent and complementary strategies for overcoming the crisis and correcting imbalances. To formulate and implement policies conducive to a new development model, States must strengthen their capacities, reinforce cooperation in the international and regional system, and be more transparent and accountable to their citizens.

Following the presentation, the floor will be opened for statements by ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, who will have the opportunity to discuss progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda in the region.

Working document:

- A decade of action for a change of era. Fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/FDS.5/3)

3. High-level dialogue on an innovative financing agenda for recovery

Under this agenda item, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, will deliver a presentation on the financing agenda for recovery following the coronavirus disease (COVID- 19) pandemic.

The economic and social effects of COVID-19 have widened structural gaps such as inequality, informality, low productivity and fragmented access to external financing. Until now, the multilateral response has not fully addressed the needs of developing countries to face this severe crisis. It is crucial to address countries' development needs beyond income-based classification and graduation criteria, to capture both their vulnerabilities and the multidimensional nature of sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This meeting is expected to provide an opportunity to examine the development financing agenda for middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to propose the necessary reforms for a sustainable and egalitarian building-forward process.

The floor will then be opened for comments and for statements on the contribution of regional and international development banks to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequently, there will be an interactive dialogue with ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the contributions of development banks to the innovative financing agenda for recovery and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Reference documents:

- An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, COVID-19 Special Report, No. 12
- How to finance sustainable development: recovery from the effects of COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, COVID-19 Special Report, No. 13
- Development banks' response to COVID-19 and their role in a sustainable recovery (LC/PLEN.36/DDR/1)

4. Commemoration of International Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day, on the morning of Tuesday, 8 March, a panel discussion will be held on how women and girls help to build a more sustainable future and on the challenges the region faces in moving towards greater gender equality, in line with this year's theme, "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

5. Panel discussions

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, three panel discussions have 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.

- Panel 1: From development in transition to development for action: towards renewed international development cooperation
- Panel 2: Statistical, quantitative and territorial monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Panel 3: Natural disasters and the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean
- Panel 4: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for sustainable recovery: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Panel 5: Education and gender equality as human rights central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. Peer-learning session: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic for the region, the countries have been unwavering in their commitment and efforts to implement the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda remains the road map for recovery from the pandemic and building forward better for all.

Under this agenda item, a dialogue will be held with the officials responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the eight countries of Latin America and Caribbean that will be presenting their voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname for the first time; El Salvador and Jamaica for the second time; Argentina for the third time; and Uruguay for the fourth time).

7. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean

The United Nations development system undertook a profound reform process in order to be better positioned and prepared to support countries in their efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented.

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 same resolution encourages the countries to submit these conclusions, recommendations and summary, as appropriate, to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contribution 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 contribution 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 fifth meeting. The Chair will circulate the zero draft to the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York. Following consultations, the Chair of the Forum will report at the fifth meeting of the Forum on the outcome of this intergovernmentally- agreed instrument.