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**REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

New York, 19-20 March 2015

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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Place and date of the meeting

1. The thirtieth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 and 20 March 2015. The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and by the Government of Peru pursuant to resolution 687(XXXV), adopted by ECLAC.

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States and Uruguay.

3. Also attending the session were representatives of the following associate members of the Commission: Martinique and Sint Maarten.

4. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the session by staff members of the Regional Commissions New York Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

5. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations also attended the session: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

7. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were also represented.

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 2 for the full list of participants.

### **Chair**

8. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by the Officers elected at the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, as follows: Chair, Peru; Vice Chairs, El Salvador, Jamaica and Mexico; and Rapporteur, Ecuador.

### **B. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

9. At the opening session statements were made by Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the representative of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

10. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the delegations and explained that the meeting was, among other things, an opportunity to reflect on aspects related to the monitoring of progress on the sustainable development goals, and how the countries could integrate them into the programmes of their national planning mechanisms. He thanked the participants for their attendance and said that ECLAC, through its subsidiary bodies, provided the appropriate institutional framework to address the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

11. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole thanked ECLAC for organizing the meeting, highlighted the efforts of the countries in undertaking the activities set out in the agenda, and recalled the support that had been lent to Presiding Officers of the Committee of the Whole in the performance of its work. He referred to the substantive work carried out by ECLAC and noted that while Latin America and the Caribbean was not the world's poorest region, it was the most unequal. Lastly, he said that it was an opportune moment to hold the meeting, especially in the context of negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

### **C. AGENDA**

12. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work.
2. The post-2015 development agenda: synergies between the regional and global processes.
3. The role of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development and its linkages with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
4. An overview of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Report on the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 12 and 13 March 2015).

6. Consideration of the request submitted by the Kingdom of Norway for admission as a member State of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other matters.
8. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.

#### **D. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

##### The post-2015 development agenda: synergies between the regional and global processes (agenda item 2)

13. Under this agenda item, statements were given by Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Nikhil Seth, Director of the Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Jessica Faieta, Chair of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC), all of whom spoke about the national, regional and global processes to define the post-2015 development agenda.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC emphasized the importance of the post-2015 development agenda as a universal and inclusive agenda that included the three pillars of sustainable development. He described the institutional framework of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, explained their role in realizing the agenda, and reflected on the modalities of evaluation and follow-up of regional implementation, alluding to emerging global challenges such as rethinking current governance structures while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In his view, financing for development was important and would have to take into account the needs of developing countries, small island developing States (SIDS) and middle-income countries. Lastly, he reaffirmed the Commission's continued support for member States on the path to sustainability and in the process of negotiating the post-2015 development agenda.

15. The Director of the Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs referred to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and mentioned some of the major landmarks in shaping the agenda for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The post-2015 development agenda represented a radical shift in the United Nations' concept of development. In the 1960s and 1990s, development was based on the traditional approach of North-South concessions; the United Nations had subsequently tackled development issues at major summits and conferences and, later, through the approval of the Millennium Development Goals. However, the MDGs had not been sufficiently inclusive, a shortcoming that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) sought to remedy. In the outcome document "The future we want", it was agreed that development problems were interrelated and that poverty eradication would be impossible without the sustainable development pillar and without taking the three dimensions of development and the specific features of each country into consideration. Lastly, he mentioned the role of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as the body responsible for monitoring and promoting implementation of the sustainable development goals, as well as statistical and analytical follow-up. He explained that the Forum meets under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, and that although institutions were already in place, a change was needed in how they functioned and how they proposed agendas.

16. The Chair of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC) described the coordination processes of the United Nations system at the national level, country reports measuring progress towards the sustainable development goals and the coordination of the national, regional and global dimensions of that process. Both ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had published progress reports on achieving the MDGs from a regional perspective, considering the specific features of middle-income countries. She noted that the country teams had made a significant contribution in providing the countries with technical assistance for including the MDGs in policies and for measuring their implementation and it was hoped that they could fulfil a similar role when implementing the post-2015 development agenda. The region had great potential for South-South cooperation in various areas, such as policies on poverty reduction, disaster prevention and climate change, and while official development assistance was less plentiful, the region now had the capacity to generate its own financing-for-development resources. The question was how to boost that resource mobilization capacity.

The role of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development and its linkages with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (agenda item 3)

17. Under this agenda item, Antonio Patriota, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, stated that a regional forum on sustainable development should constitute an important regional platform for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The forum would offer opportunities to redesign forms of international cooperation and create a new architecture of regional participation, including broad participation by civil society. The Forum played an important role in the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. He also recalled that the recent Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 12 and 13 March 2015, had demonstrated extensive convergence between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and ECLAC, which reaffirmed the need for the inclusion of proposals by regional forums in the post-2015 development agenda. He referred to the support afforded to the proposal of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals by the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and pointed to the need for the indicators for measuring the sustainable development goals to integrate the regional perspective with national histories and realities. The preparation of those indicators would take some time, however, and would require a regional debate, as part of which ECLAC could assume responsibility for assessing the institutional and financial capacities of the region's countries, in all their diversity: developing countries, landlocked countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. In that sense, he said that the Commission's proposal of a structural gap approach, going beyond the measurement of GDP, was a step in the right direction. At the same time, it was important to maintain a comparative global perspective: for example, although Latin America and the Caribbean was still the world's most unequal region, it was also the region in which inequality had diminished most. The speaker emphasized that a globally applicable agenda would require proper coordination between the national, regional and global levels and observed that the Third International Conference on Financing for Development represented an opportunity to find long-term solutions for the budgetary pressure faced by the Caribbean countries. He concluded that the institutions of the United Nations system would need to be better prepared to rise to the challenge of implementing a universal programme and noted that several United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had been conceived on the basis of a North-South paradigm and lacked offices in developed countries.

18. The floor was then given to María Emma Mejía, the representative of Colombia, in her capacity as Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, who remarked on the work programme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and said that the General Assembly had established annual meetings of the Forum from 2016 in order to monitor the progress of sustainable development commitments, including means of implementation. The Economic and Social Council was strengthened by virtue of resolution 69/214 of the Assembly, which had stipulated that the meetings of the Forum would be held under the auspices of the Council. She added that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should take into account the intergovernmental negotiations towards the post-2015 development agenda, and that it was essential to determine how the Forum and the United Nations system would continue in respect of the agenda and how the Forum would organize its review process to include the contributions of major groups. She highlighted that General Assembly resolution 69/290 acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension and that regional sustainable development forums, convened annually, should submit inputs to the High-level Political Forum. Lastly, she mentioned Colombia, whose development plans already included the sustainable development goals.

19. In the discussion that followed, the countries agreed on the importance of the regional forum as a dynamic platform for ongoing dialogue with an action-oriented agenda. They underscored the need to avoid the duplication of efforts and to step up coordination with the High-level Political Forum, facilitating an information flow that would provide countries with the leeway to define sustainable development processes at the national level. Regional input was fundamental for the global dimension, and in that sense ECLAC could play a prominent intermediary role on both fronts. One representative from the Caribbean, describing the reality of the subregion, said that discussions on sustainable development must focus on promoting well-being, giving greater independence to the countries and resolving capacity-building problems, which sometimes even prevented attendance at international meetings owing to a lack of resources.

20. The representatives also expressed concern over issues of taxation and justice, broadening the tax base, illicit financial flows and tax evasion. One representative said that middle-income countries were subject to imbalances and inequalities and that they were sometimes party to debt reduction initiatives, which presented a problem for sustainable development. The representative also stressed the need to carry out monitoring at the regional rather than the global level. To this end, Latin America and the Caribbean already had many functioning mechanisms and institutions with responsibility for these issues.

21. In the afternoon session, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica referred to the perspective of Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) and thanked ECLAC for the efforts it had made, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to include the problems of Caribbean countries in the process of negotiating the post-2015 development agenda. He mentioned the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in Kingston in April 2014, and the third Caribbean Development Round Table, which had preceded it. These meetings, along with the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC, held in Lima in 2014, had served to identify the specific vulnerabilities of the Caribbean SIDS ahead of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in September 2014. The Minister said that the post-2015 development agenda should enable the resource mobilization needed to effectively implement the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and said that for the Caribbean SIDS, the main challenges were presented by the nature of their economies and the economic impact of natural disasters.

22. The Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, in his capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), reported on the coordination of the Forum's work programme with regional and subregional spaces in the context of

CELAC. He referred to the Political Declaration of Belén, approved at the third Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in January 2015 in Costa Rica, where it was agreed to seek consensus to establish and implement the agenda in order to identify and promote areas of collaboration and genuine partnership for development. As regards the post-2015 development agenda, he highlighted some of the specific challenges facing SIDS and middle-income countries, as well as the need to consider common but differentiated responsibilities as established under Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. He also stated that countries' measurement capabilities needed to be enhanced to ensure that the progress of the post-2015 development agenda was monitored in a voluntary and transparent manner, using quality data.

23. In the discussion that followed, the delegations agreed that it was important to focus on the well-being of individuals and especially the most vulnerable. The representative of Japan announced an initiative on disaster reduction and resilience, which would be launched this year in Tokyo.

24. The representatives underscored the need for the regional perspective to be properly reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, and expressed support for regional indicators. Channels should be exploited so that national follow-up could be included at the global level, while the regional Forum could be a space for exchange in relation to challenges and opportunities for collaboration; a role in which ECLAC had a wealth of experience.

25. Statements were also heard from the representatives of seven major groups, who referred to the role that region could assume at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, as a progressive group advocating implementation. Accountability was an important aspect of the post-2015 development agenda, as was the commitment of member States to inclusive participation, which required the presence of civil society in national delegations and strategic political spaces. Implementing the agenda would require more than official development assistance (ODA), and the regulation of corporations and financial markets was paramount. Human rights should be a reality for all, and the commitment to leave no one behind should be renewed.

26. The representatives stated that citizen participation was crucial to the success of the agenda; everyone should have access to decision-making and even children could hold governments accountable. On gender equality, ECLAC played a leading role through mainstreaming and a comprehensive approach, although the lack of monitoring of gender gaps was unhealthy and created an insecure and unequal environment for women; in the Caribbean the prevalence of gender violence was a concern. It was necessary to include the links between gender and climate change in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, to support poverty reduction efforts, and to include the scientific community, the private sector and civil society in decision-making.

27. On the issue of disability, it was mentioned that the vast majority of persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean were living in poverty. The region had taken great strides in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but further work was needed to prepare disaggregated indicators and to allocate government budgets to include education, public health and access to jobs for persons with disabilities.

28. The representatives stated that youth, as part of civil society, made an essential contribution to environmental sustainability and economic growth in the region. Youth needed to be included in any management strategy for implementation on these two fronts and young people needed to be prepared to participate in these processes, meaning that mechanisms would be required to help countries to engage with young people.

An overview of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

29. The Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission explained the role of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, which were helping to build an integrated vision of development, with sectoral authorities.

30. Under this agenda item, the country representatives that chaired the subsidiary organs of ECLAC, the main intergovernmental meetings and recent international conferences set out the main challenges for the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda in the region.

31. The representative of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, reported on the work carried out in relation to the post-2015 development agenda, and highlighted that among the main achievements of the Conference were the legal and institutional changes in favour of gender equality, which aimed to prevent violence against women, facilitate political participation and narrow labour gaps. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in public policies had delivered significant progress towards full equality; however, the gender perspective still needed to be included in national budgets, since few of the region's countries had legislated to that end; the increased presence of women in decision-making spheres was essential for further progress in this area.

32. The Minister for Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology of Saint Lucia summed up the linkages between the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Actions (SAMOA) Pathway and the post-2015 development agenda. He stated that the measurement of GDP alone was not enough, and needed to be supplemented by other data. In that regard, he called attention to the work on data collection being done by ECLAC in the Caribbean region. The Caribbean subregion had specific characteristics, as illustrated in climate change negotiations in which the international community committed to keeping the global temperature increase below 2° C, while the Caribbean SIDS considered that that the maximum increase should be 1.5° C, owing to the catastrophic effects of climate change on the Caribbean. The Minister expressed his desire that the post-2015 development agenda should heed the particular features of the subregion, and called for resource mobilization to overcome the limitations of Caribbean countries and meet their technical assistance requirements.

33. The Vice Minister for Environment of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20) laid out the region's priorities in climate change negotiations and its relationship with the sustainable development goals. He stated that the main achievement of COP 20 was reaching consensus on elements of the global agreement that was expected to be signed at COP 21 in Paris in 2015. He also noted the repeated recognition of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

34. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, presented a report on the progress achieved in negotiations for a regional instrument on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. While the countries of the region were at different stages, it was necessary to pursue common challenges and to promote dialogue, cooperation and technical assistance with a view to strengthening environmental governance. In November 2014, during the fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10, the parties adopted the Santiago Decision and endorsed the San José Content for the Regional Instrument, so that the latter could be considered in negotiations on the regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters. An agreement had been reached to commence these negotiations, while a negotiating committee had been created that was working to prepare a preliminary document.

35. The Director of the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, referred to the statistical challenges presented by the post-2015 development agenda and called for regional agencies, such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, to keep the countries informed about progress in the construction of indicators for the post-2015 agenda. The sustainable development goals presented a challenge, both in terms of the design of indicators and their timely creation. There was a need for better coordination among the institutions responsible for generating information, and allocating financial resources to that end. Meanwhile, mechanisms were required for transferring information between institutions, and between the public and private sectors, so as to properly monitor the progress of the post-2015 development agenda.

Report on the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 12 and 13 March 2015) (agenda item 5)

36. The representative of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, summarized the outcomes of the Consultation held recently at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago, and noted that while important issues for all of the region's countries had been identified, this did not amount to a negotiated regional position. Relevant matters included the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the particular features of SIDS, mainstreaming the gender perspective, South-South and triangular cooperation and the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms. He also referred to the need to measure development beyond GDP and highlighted the ongoing work of ECLAC on multidimensional poverty measurement.

37. The Deputy Executive Secretary recalled the 10 points that had been identified in the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and said that a historical view was needed to understand that the various processes coming together in 2015 (Monterrey and Doha, Rio+20, the post-2015 development agenda and climate change) had points of synergy and that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be applied across the board—not only to climate change but to all financing for development themes. Domestic resource mobilization required international cooperation on fiscal and tax matters, as this was the key to tackling the problems of evasion and illicit financial flows.

38. He argued that government debt was not only sovereign, and in that sense referred to the debt of the Caribbean SIDS, which was multilateral, and said that it might be possible to explore cancelling their debt through a mechanism similar to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. He then mentioned South-South and triangular cooperation and said that rules should be established to pursue new forms of strategic partnership between middle-income countries and donor countries. Alluding to the role of development banks, he said that the region had a sophisticated financial architecture, but that institutions could be strengthened.

39. The Deputy Executive Secretary also discussed the governance of the international monetary system and the need to achieve greater consistency between multilateral governance and the participation, voice and vote of the emerging economies, and to afford greater importance to special drawing rights. With regard to trade, it was necessary to correct asymmetries and to open up markets in general and to higher-value-added products in particular. The region had already gained considerable experience in forging partnerships with the private sector and in transparency and accountability. Lastly, he said that the gender approach and gender mainstreaming were essential, as was civil society participation, in intergovernmental process.

40. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC stressed that the region had made considerable efforts in domestic resource mobilization, and that the main issue facing the region was tax evasion and avoidance within countries, as well as capital outflows. On average, illicit flows were double the volume of remittances and 14 times the official development assistance received by Latin America and the Caribbean. It was therefore essential to stop tax evasion and avoidance at both the national and international levels by regulating transfer pricing and remittances. Some thought would have to go into how to improve tax collection capacity in respect of the resources generated both inside and outside the region, which could be achieved using the current tax structure. He spoke of the role of development banks and noted that only 33% of households in Latin America and the Caribbean had access to financial instruments. National, regional and global compacts were needed that would include the debate on financing-for-development architecture. It was necessary to strengthen the governance of global financial architecture, as a global public good, and orient it towards productive financing. This would require architectural changes in order to reflect and update the role of emerging economies, whose share of the world economy had been growing, but whose participation in economic governance had remained unchanged.

41. In the discussion that followed, the representatives asked that the summary of the meeting be sent to the co-facilitators of the financing for development process. They agreed that emphasis should be placed on fiscal and tax issues and mentioned that the sovereign debt of the Caribbean countries was a regional priority. A follow-up mechanism on commitments, especially unfulfilled commitments of official development assistance, and a regional consensus on public-private partnerships were also required, since the private sector was vital to the growth of countries, meaning that policies were needed to ensure the sustainability of private-sector investment.

42. The representatives stated that peace, security and development were hugely significant topics that should be discussed in global bodies such as the General Assembly rather than at the Security Council, and that there was a need to promote inclusive development in order to build equitable, peaceful and inclusive societies. The countries wanted to include all themes of interest in the financing for development process, but in reality they had to prioritize those that might help them achieve sustainable development. It was essential to make better use of assistance; to diversify less and to allocate resources more efficiently in order to contribute to the success of development.

43. The representatives considered that the post-2015 development agenda should be an ambitious, inclusive, open and transparent intergovernmental process. South-South cooperation, on the basis of complementarity and solidarity in the region, was important, although some means of implementation, such as financing for development, technology transfer and capacity-building, had not yet been realized.

44. Clarity was needed on the extent to which the post-2015 development agenda should concentrate on implementation and, in relation to the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, how to strengthen the monitoring mechanism. The Conference would be an opportunity to discuss economic and financial systems and to find solutions to the problems of the global economic system. The Conference outcome should not be a one-size-fits-all solution for financing for development, but should recognize potential options that each country would be able to apply, in accordance with their particular characteristics.

45. The representatives expressed the concern that negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda should reflect the specific nature of the challenges facing middle-income countries, such as technology transfer, capacity-building, trade, market liberalization, remittances and debt. New indicators should be employed to determine which countries were classed as middle income, and to identify their challenges. While official development assistance could be important, it was not a critical factor, and it was often a

case of measuring development in order to provide loans under favourable conditions, and using per capita GDP as an indicator prevented middle-income countries from accessing those loans.

46. One representative mentioned the meeting on food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean and said that the countries should share their technologies and experiences to safeguard food security and to care for the planet. The region's environmental diversity needed to be secured and therefore development should be aligned with the sustainability of natural resources. Triangular cooperation could play a key role in protecting the environment and ensuring its resilience, especially in the Caribbean SIDS.

Consideration of the request submitted by the Kingdom of Norway for admission as a member State of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

47. After reading the note sent by the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, in which it requested admission as a State member of the Commission,<sup>2</sup> the Chair presented a draft resolution in which the Committee of the Whole recommended that the request be approved. Subsequently, the delegations of various countries made statements in which they expressed their explicit support for the request.

48. The resolution was adopted by acclamation (see resolution 692(PLEN.30) in annex 1).

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 8)

The adopted resolutions are presented in annex 1.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/L.3971/Rev.1.

## Annex 1

**RESOLUTIONS****692(PLEN.30) ADMISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY AS A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Bearing in mind* that the Commission was set up by virtue of Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948, which states that membership of the Commission shall be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom,

*Bearing in mind also* that the Commission was set up on the basis of the participation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, plus those which have had special relations of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature with the region,

*Recalling* that, in this spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted Spain in 1979, Portugal in 1984, Italy in 1990, Germany in 2005, Japan in 2006 and the Republic of Korea in 2007,

*Considering* that the Government of the Kingdom of Norway has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary, its desire that this country be admitted to membership of the Commission,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking into account* the contributions that Norwegian cooperation agencies are making to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the request of the Kingdom of Norway for admission as a member of the Commission;
2. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council that it approve the admission of the Kingdom of Norway as a member of the Commission and to this effect authorizes the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) of the terms of reference of the Commission by the insertion of the word “Norway” after the words “the Netherlands”.

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<sup>1</sup> See Note by the secretariat (LC/L.3971/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, March 2015.

**693(PLEN.30) APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE RIO DECLARATION  
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>1</sup> endorsed by 10 governments from Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, declared their willingness to work towards a regional instrument promoting the full application of those rights and requested the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the technical secretariat,

*Recalling also* resolution 686(XXXV), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, held in 2014, in which the Commission took note of the agreements adopted at the meetings of the focal points, which are reflected in the respective reports:<sup>2</sup> the road map for the creation of an instrument on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Lima Vision for a regional instrument on access rights relating to the environment, and the priority lines of action for capacity-building and cooperation,

*Considering* that the fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was held in November 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the Santiago Decision contained in the report of the fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.216.13.

<sup>2</sup> See Report of the first meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3565), Report of the second meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3677) and Report of the third meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3780).

<sup>3</sup> LC/L.3970.

**694(PLEN.30)**

*The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Having examined* the draft resolution entitled “Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development”, contained in the annex to this resolution,

1. *Decides* to convene an extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole, to be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in order to consider further the draft resolution on the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to include with the letter convening the extraordinary session any information that might facilitate the consideration of this draft resolution;
3. *Decides* to continue holding informal consultations with representatives of the member States of the Commission at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

## Annex

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

**(Draft resolution sponsored by Peru, in its capacity as Chair  
of the Committee of the Whole)**

*The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Taking note* of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the ability of regional frameworks to complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,<sup>1</sup> and emphasizes that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which urge 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 organ in

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 97.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, para. 100.

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,<sup>3</sup>

*Referring* to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 69/214, which acknowledge the importance of the regional dimension and invite the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through regional annual meetings, with the involvement of other regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,<sup>4</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that the follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as achieving a balanced integration of the different dimensions of sustainable development, are essential tasks for the countries of the region,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;
2. *Also decides* that, at its first meeting to be held in 2016, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will define its functions with respect to monitoring progress on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and will establish its working modalities and methods for the delivery of its functions in line with the outcome of the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development agenda;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of this resolution to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session.

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<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 9, and General Assembly resolution 66/288, para. 83.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 67/290, para. 13; General Assembly resolution 69/214, para. 9.

Annex 2

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