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for Latin America and the Caribbean

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



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717(XXXVII) HAVANA RESOLUTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, together with operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Bearing in mind the document *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission,¹

Bearing in mind also the document *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,²

Bearing in mind further the document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission,³

Bearing in mind also the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development* and its summary, presented by the secretariat at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,⁴

Emphasizing that General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, offers an opportunity for all the countries in the region to progress towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and reducing inequality, as proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the documents presented at its past four sessions,

Bearing in mind that the guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields,⁵

Having reviewed the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and its summary, prepared by the secretariat, which complements the trilogy of equality,⁶

1. *Takes note of* the document *The Inefficiency of Inequality* and welcomes the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception;

¹ LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

² LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

³ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

⁴ LC/G.2660(SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661(SES.36/4).

⁵ LC/SES.37/8.

⁶ LC/SES.37/3-P; LC/SES.37/4.

2. *Recognizes* the relevance of the issues examined and supports the general tenor of the document's conclusions;

3. *Instructs* the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals in the countries, in close cooperation with their policymakers, with a view to building national economic and social development capacities;

4. *Calls upon* the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country's national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

718(XXXVII) ECLAC CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 419(PLN.14) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the system of the Commission, in which it decided that, at each of the Commission's regular sessions, the complete calendar of conferences and meetings planned up to the next regular session should be considered,

Taking into account resolution 489(PLN.19) on the Commission's intergovernmental structure and functions, in which it was recommended that the current institutional structure should be maintained,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 entitled "Pattern of conferences" and the provision concerning the principle of rotation of the venue for the sessions of the Commission as laid down in rule 2 of its rules of procedure and reiterated in its resolution 480(XXI),

Taking into account resolution 553(XXVI) on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission, in which it was recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the Commission's system should continue to serve as the basis for maintaining the simplicity, effectiveness and flexibility of its work,

Bearing in mind the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that establish and govern the periodicity of the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also resolution 676(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, in which it was decided, for economic and environmental reasons, to employ documents in electronic format for the future sessions and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Having examined the proposed calendar of the Commission's intergovernmental conferences for 2019-2020, as set forth in annex 7 of the relevant document,¹

Considering the objectives and priorities established in the subprogrammes of the work programme approved by the member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approves the calendar of conferences of the Commission as it appears in the annex to this resolution, along with the observations and suggestions included in the report of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission;

2. *Also reaffirms* the Commission's current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms as well as cost-effective, and recommends that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary with a view to an ongoing and sustained improvement in those services;

¹ See *Proposed calendar of conferences of ECLAC for the period 2019-2020. Note by the secretariat* (LC/SES.37/9).

3. *Further reaffirms* the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic, social and sustainable development fields;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary to ensure implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of this resolution.

**ECLAC CALENDAR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES
FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2020**

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2019	Twenty-second session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 580(XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council of Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC and ILPES regular budget
2019	Thirty-third session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC	United Nations Headquarters, New York ^b	Economic and Social Council Resolution 106(VI) (para 3); ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14) and 489(PLEN.19)	Regular budget
2019	Nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XXVI); 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile ^b	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2019	Third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Preparatory meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2019	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1 of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development	ECLAC regular budget
2019	Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 351(XVI) and 553(XXVI)	Regular budget of ILPES and ECLAC
2020	Twenty-third session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 310(XIV); 419(PLEN.14); 422(XIX), para. 204; 425(XIX), 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Central American Economic Cooperation Committee	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 9(IV) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget

Year	Title	Place and date	Legislative authority	Source of funding
2020	Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 610(XXX)	Extrabudgetary resources
2020	Fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, para. 88.2	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 682(XXXV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/32	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies	^{a b}	ECLAC resolution 672(XXXIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/35	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b	ECLAC resolution 700(XXX)	ECLAC headquarters in Santiago ^b
2020	Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)	^{a b}	ECLAC resolutions 358(XVI), 419(PLEN.14); 489(PLEN.19) and 553(XXVI)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	^{a b}	Agreement 1, Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 6 July 2012); Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (Montevideo, 12 to 15 August 2013)	ECLAC regular budget
2020	Nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	^{a b}	Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7	ECLAC regular budget

^a Place to be determined.

^b Date to be determined.

**719(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, at which the region adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development,

Recalling also that the fortieth anniversary of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was celebrated in 2017,

Recalling further resolution 558(XXVI), in which it adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001,

Recalling also that, in the Lima Consensus, adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries undertook to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action beyond the year 2001,¹

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits, which reaffirms that gender mainstreaming must form an integral part of the implementation of the decisions of recent United Nations summits and conferences,

Mindful of the agreements adopted by States that are parties to relevant human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women as well as of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews,

Recalling the countries' commitment to implement and monitor the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide, and recognizing its contribution to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard,

Highlighting that, at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, the countries adopted the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030,²

Bearing in mind that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, has held three meetings of the Presiding Officers: the fifty-fourth meeting in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016, the fifty-fifth meeting in Santiago, on 26 and 27 May 2017, and the fifty-sixth meeting in Havana, on 5 and 6 October 2017,

¹ See *Report of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2087(CRM.8/6)).

² See *Report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRM.13/6/Rev.1).

Having in mind the outcomes of and commitments adopted at those meetings, which are reflected in the respective reports,³

Taking into account the work carried out by the Commission and the other agencies which support the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the considerable progress achieved in disseminating and redesigning the Observatory,

Taking note of the initiatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to mainstreaming the gender perspective,

1. *Takes notes* of the report of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016, and the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the fifty-fourth meeting, fifty-fifth meeting and fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, on 25 October 2016, in Santiago on 25 and 26 May 2017, and in Havana on 5 and 6 October 2017, respectively;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms, and to take action to fulfil the Goal on the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the other 16 Goals, in order to achieve robust sustainable development;

4. *Recommends* the redoubling of efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals reflect the inequalities between men and women and can be used to design effective public policies for overcoming such inequalities;

5. *Commends* the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasizes the need to strengthen work in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers, machineries for the advancement of women as well as relevant civil society organizations;

6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in the work relating to gender statistics in the region, as well as in shedding light on gender affairs at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Commission, as well as in the work related with the organization and follow-up of the Regional Conferences and the support provided to the Governments;

7. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Calls for* active participation in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Chile in 2019;

³ See *Report of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.54/3), *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.55/4) and *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDM.56/3).

9. *Recommends* that the delegations participating in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean bear in mind and promote gender balance in their composition;

10. *Requests* that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference, on the understanding that the quality of democracy is contingent on citizen participation;

11. *Takes note* of the efforts made by Governments to create a regional fund in benefit of women's and feminist organizations and movements to support projects aimed at contributing to the achievement of equality, the autonomy of women and the realization of their rights throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Montevideo Strategy in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women.

**720(XXXVII) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 340(AC.66) of 25 January 1974, in which it directed that the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) should become a permanent institution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with its own identity and directly responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission,

Reiterating its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provide to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

Noting that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Regional Council for Planning held its sixteenth meeting in Lima, on 12 November 2017,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,¹

1. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held in Lima on 12 October 2017;

2. *Expresses* its conviction that the policies adopted by States should be geared towards long term aims and afford increasing attention to building visions for the future, centred on reducing inequalities, promoting the prosperity of their peoples, and furthering sustainable development;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of public management and planning for development as instruments to carry forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning for their contributions to the regular system of Government funding, which provides financing for a large share of the Institute's programme of work, and urges the other States to consider joining that the Regular System of Government Financing, in conformity with their respective normative frameworks, with a view to making regular, timely contributions;

5. *Reiterates* the recommendation that the Institute should strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and should step up the activities it conducts in that area in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of the Commission and other international institutions;

6. *Decides* to convene the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning in the Dominican Republic in the second half of 2018, and the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in the second half of 2019.

¹ See *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)* (LC/CRP.16/6).

721(XXXVII) STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by which it approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

Bearing in mind also that the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its ninth meeting in Aguascalientes (Mexico), from 14 to 16 November 2017,¹

Taking into account also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its fifteenth meeting from 14 to 16 June 2016 and its sixteenth meeting from 4 to 6 April 2017; as well as the Joint Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas' Member Countries and Members of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM-Americas) on 5 April 2017,

Taking into account further that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,²

Recognizing the major challenges facing official statistics in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the growing demand for statistical data and indicators in areas such as the environment, economic and social development, the labour market, gender affairs, information and communications technologies, public safety and justice, and South-South cooperation, as well as the challenges involved in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of information and assessing their appropriateness and relevance for measuring the multiplicity of Goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the increasing importance of reliable, good-quality, timely, disaggregated public statistics and the growing need to provide these for the sake of transparency, accountability of the public authorities and the evidence-based evaluation of public policy outcomes, which are key elements for sustainable development and for enhancing democracy in the region,

¹ See *Report of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.9/7).

² See *Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4235), and *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.16/5).

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 71/313 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/7, adopting the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators that was agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017, as a voluntary and country led instrument that includes the initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission at its fifty-first session, to be held in 2020, and its fifty-sixth session, to be held in 2025, and will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels, which will be developed by Member States,

Recalling that in the conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the Governments attending the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the countries recommended that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, make progress with producing indicators of relevance to the region in the framework proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals and support the strengthening of national statistical capacities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017, and of the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of its Executive Committee, held in Santiago from 14 to 16 June 2016 and from 4 to 6 April 2017, respectively;

2. *Also takes note* of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018-2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;³

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates regional and international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems of the countries of the region;

4. *Expresses* its support for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the appropriate intergovernmental body to create the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, to foster the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

³ LC/CEA.9/8.

**722(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 30 June 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development,¹ as well as other relevant internationally agreed instruments, constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national, regional, and international levels,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,² represents an opportunity for the countries of the region to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions, as well as eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling also that by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2014, the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind that, by virtue of resolution 2014/32, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in resolution 682(XXXV) of the Commission,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held its second session in Montevideo, from 25 to 27 October 2017,

Considering that, on that occasion, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective report,³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017;

2. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal and inclusive action plan based on the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental— whose goals and targets are indivisible, and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the platforms in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimension of sustainable development;

¹ See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6 to 12 March 1995)* (A/CONF.166/9).

² See General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

³ See *Report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CDS.2/4/Rev.1).

3. *Takes note* of the undertaking to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that address the region's structural inequalities and the new challenges arising from technological change and the necessary transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, with a focus based on rights, gender equality and the life cycle and an approach of universalism that is sensitive to differences, within the general framework of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries, including small island developing States, upon request, in their efforts to develop new methodologies and instruments for measuring multidimensional poverty, deprivations and vulnerability, as well as strengthening existing ones;

5. *Urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the challenges related to the sustainability of the financing needed to close gaps in access to comprehensive social protection systems and universal social services;

6. *Notes* that the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Panama in 2018, jointly with the tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is convened by the United Nations Development Programme.

**723(XXXVII) REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation; and resolution 65/234 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, whereby it was decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as an instrument for realizing the human rights of all, reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind,

Recalling the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and their contribution to following up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the third meeting, from 4 to 6 October 2016 in Santiago, and the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 7 to 9 November 2017 in Santiago,¹

Considering that the Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development² was welcomed at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015,

Considering also all relevant regional developments on population and development matters in particular the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, where was adopted the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”,

1. *Takes note* of the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers at their third meeting, held in Santiago from 4 to 6 October 2016, and at their special meeting, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017, which are reflected in the respective meeting reports;

2. *Renews* the countries’ commitment to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including by taking into account its Operational guide as a voluntary technical tool for assisting countries, and recognizes the contribution of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

¹ See *Report of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4295) and *Report of the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDP-E/4).

² LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

3. *Welcomes* the offer of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held from 7 to 10 August 2018, with a view to monitoring the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and calls for active participation in the session;

4. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular Mexico in its capacity as Chair, and its willingness to remain in this position until the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* the countries to make every effort to send inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, including insofar as possible, representatives from ministries and national institutions engaged with the population and development agenda, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and academia involved in the process of implementing the Montevideo Consensus;

6. *Takes note* of the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, adopted at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017³;

7. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, and invites all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation;

8. *Recognizes* the contribution of the United Nations Population Fund for its support for the activities of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the other funds, programmes and specialized agencies to make their contributions, as appropriate, to the activities to be carried out by the Conference;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and another relevant United Nations agencies, within the framework of their mandates, to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, upon request and in accordance with their national priorities, in following up the Intergovernmental Conference on International Migration, which will take place in Morocco in December 2018, and looks forward to its possible outcomes.

³ See *Report of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CRE.4/4)*.

724(XXXVII) CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,¹

Considering the key role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to science, technology and innovation, and of policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, especially as regards the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and as regards international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment,

Recalling resolution 672(XXXIV) adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/242 on the Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 22 December 2017,

Bearing in mind that since the preceding session of the Commission, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its second session in San José, on 12 and 13 September 2016,

Having in mind the agreements adopted at that meeting, which are reflected in the respective report,²

Reaffirming that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing discussions in the first meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on the impact of artificial intelligence on accelerated technological change in sustainable development and upcoming discussions on this topic;

3. *Looks forward* to the rapid operationalization of the United Nations online platform as a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes.

¹ See chap. I of *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1).

² See *Report of the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4276).

**725(XXXVII) REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which establishes the following: “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”,

Recalling also the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and signed by 24 Governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, 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 Commission as technical secretariat,

Recalling further paragraph 60 of the Declaration of Santiago adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the first Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Santiago on 27 and 28 January 2013,

Recalling resolutions 686(XXXV) and 706(XXXVI) “Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, adopted, respectively, at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission, which emphasized the importance of sustainable management of natural resources and mechanisms for informed, broad and inclusive participation,

Bearing in mind that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, six meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean have taken place: the fourth in Santo Domingo from 9 to 12 August 2016, the fifth in Santiago from 21 to 25 November 2016, the sixth in Brasilia from 20 to 24 March 2017, the seventh in Buenos Aires from 31 July to 4 August 2017, the eighth in Santiago from 27 November to 1 December 2017, and the ninth in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

Having been apprised of the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,

1. *Takes* note of the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica, which constitutes an important step forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, invites all governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to consider becoming a member of the Agreement, which will be open to signature from 27 September 2018, and request the secretariat to update member States on further developments in that regard.

¹ A/CONF.216/13.

**726(XXXVII) ADMISSION OF FRENCH GUIANA AS AN ASSOCIATE 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,

Recalling that paragraphs 3(a) and 4 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean state that, “Any territory, or part or group thereof, may on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission,”

Recognizing that French Guiana enjoys strong economic, cultural and social ties with the rest of the region and that it is committed to strengthening these links wherever possible,

Aware that associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean will contribute strongly towards achieving this goal,

Welcoming the request made by France that French Guiana be granted associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Decides* that French Guiana shall be granted associate membership in the Commission.

727(XXXVII) CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling its resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recognizing the important role of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a forum in which the Governments of the subregion exchange information and share experiences with a view to addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges to achieving sustainable development,

Bearing in mind that the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its eighteenth meeting in Port of Spain on 19 May 2017, and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee held its twenty-seventh session in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on 27 April 2018, and that, on those occasions, they adopted conclusions and resolutions, which appear in their respective reports,¹

Recalling that the Caribbean Development Roundtable, which brings together high-level experts and policymakers to consider key issues relating to development in the subregion, was first established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in March 2010,²

Recognizing the Caribbean Development Roundtable as a valuable forum for fostering strategic thinking and stimulating the consideration of policy options to address critical Caribbean development challenges, and as a mechanism for forging partnerships between Latin America and the Caribbean through dialogue and engagement,

Highlighting the positive contribution made by the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable to the consideration of key issues on the sustainable development agenda of Caribbean small island developing States, including the challenges posed by a high debt burden,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-seventh session;

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the Caribbean Development Roundtable on a biennial basis and calls on development partners to work in collaboration with the members of the Commission in support of these meetings;

3. *Reaffirms* the key role of the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in coordinating development support for the subregion, in collaboration with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and through direct engagement with Caribbean development partners, including the Caribbean Community and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;

4. *Welcomes* the role that the Commission, particularly through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, is mandated to play in incorporating the needs of the small island developing States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-seventh session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its eighteenth meeting and the conclusions reached at the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

¹ See the resolutions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (LC/CAR/2017/5)*.

² See resolution 73(XXIII), adopted by the Committee at its twenty-third session, held in St. George's on 15 and 17 March 2010 (LC/CAR/L.257).

728(XXXVII) PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2020

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Commission and the mandates issued by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations concerning the preparation and consideration of the programmes of work of all the bodies of the system,

Bearing in mind also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”¹ and General Assembly resolutions 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 69/313 “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)” as well as the Paris Agreement,²

Recalling paragraphs 80 and 81 of resolution 70/1 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which welcome the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encourage the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard,

Considering the Reports of the Secretary-General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all”³ and “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet”,⁴

Taking into account the *Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017*,⁵

Taking into account also that the thirty-seventh session of the Commission is the occasion for the relevant intergovernmental review of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020,⁶

Having reviewed the outcomes and activities of the previous biennium and the work priorities for the Commission as set out in the presentation on the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, which includes the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and which updates and reinforces the priorities endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session,

Having reviewed also all aspects of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, which further strengthens programming, results-based management and evaluation,

Bearing in mind that the basic guidelines and overarching orientation for the formulation of the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020 incorporate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and the means of implementation of that Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the

¹ See General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

³ A/72/492.

⁴ A/72/684–E/2018/7.

⁵ LC/SES.37/7.

⁶ LC/SES.37/8.

outcomes and results of major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 “The future we want”, by virtue of which the countries agreed to contribute to providing coordinated and integrated follow-up to the outcomes and results of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental spheres,

Acknowledging the secretariat’s efforts to update and align the content and modalities of the programme of work with the new requirements emerging from the aforementioned agendas, action plans and instruments,

1. *Adopts* the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020, in its entirety, which, together with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held in the plenary session and the guidance provided by the resolutions adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, shall become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities, and for the production of the publications identified therein;

2. *Emphasizes and welcomes* the fact that the draft programme of work and priorities of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2020 reflects the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities of the programme of work to the new requirements arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, as well as from internationally agreed action plans and instruments;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the recent decline in the budgetary resources allocated to the Commission to carry out the activities set forth in the programme of work;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the *Report on the activities of the Commission from January 2016 to December 2017* and underlines the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by the Commission in the different areas of work, commending especially its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Commission to the benefit of the region’s development, and recommends pursuing those efforts;

7. *Decides* that the Committee of the Whole is the appropriate body to review and adopt the annual programme of work of the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the years falling between years in which sessions of the Commission are held;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission, also with a view to strengthening and broadening the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress made in implementing this resolution at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

**729(XXXVII) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Taking into account the potential of information and communication technologies for furthering the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reaffirming the commitments of the World Summit on the Information Society and the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, which reaffirms the need to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and requests that a high-level meeting be held in 2025,

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 68 of that resolution, in which the regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to continue their work in implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and to contribute reviews thereof, including through regional reviews,

Recognizing that the digital economy forms a crucial component of progressive structural change aimed at increasing the relative share of knowledge-intensive production activities in the economy, enhancing competitiveness and making progress towards social inclusion and the reduction of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing the urgent need for capacity-building to create, share and utilize digital technologies to benefit from the new digital revolution and accelerate the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries,

Emphasizing the need to create conditions in which to boost the digital economy, by addressing barriers that hinder the deployment and diffusion of digital technologies and promoting the exchange of goods and services online,

Mindful that the development of a regional digital market could generate opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth, while stimulating investment, productivity and competitiveness,

Aware of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for promoting regional cooperation on policies relating to the information society and information and communications technologies,

1. *Takes note* of the Cartagena de Indias Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;¹

¹ See the draft report of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CMSI.6/PINF).

2. *Urges* regional and international bodies and agencies working in the area of policies on information and communications technologies to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), fostering coordination and integration of efforts;

3. *Calls upon* all member States to participate in the Preparatory Meeting for the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Ecuador in 2019, and the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Brazil in 2020;

4. *Thanks* the Governments of Ecuador and Brazil for their offer to give continuity to the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) process and to host the forthcoming ministerial meetings on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019 and 2020, respectively;

5. *Commends* the joint efforts made by member States to strengthen regional collaboration on the information society with a view to identifying the advances achieved by Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of universal access to information and communications technologies, as well as of infrastructure, including broadband connection, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and affirms the need to promote public policies for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially with regard to the advisability and feasibility of advancing an agenda for the development of a regional digital market in close cooperation with stakeholders.

730(XXXVII) COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/31 of 27 July 2012, which reaffirms the importance of staying fully engaged in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,

Bearing in mind that the resolution reiterates the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to ensure the continuity and momentum of that process, and reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders,

Highlighting the contents of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held from 1 to 3 December 2009, in which the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as the regional commissions, were requested to assist developing countries in establishing or strengthening existing South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence and enhancing closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern,

Recalling paragraph 44 of the document *Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme*,¹ prepared by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which states that the proliferation of South-South cooperation programmes and activities across the United Nations system points to the need to move from fragmented and ad hoc reporting to more systematic, standard and comprehensive reporting mechanisms and to the need for improved quality of data and analysis, in particular in the planning, programming, reporting and follow-up of South-South cooperation activities,

Considering General Assembly resolution 68/230, which invites the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, and technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level,

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 based primarily on national official data sources,

Recalling 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

¹ SSC/17/2.

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,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 71/318, entitled “Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation”, resolution 72/237 entitled “South-South cooperation” and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “State of South-South cooperation”,²

Bearing in mind also that since the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation have held three meetings: the fifth meeting in Santo Domingo, on 11 January 2017; the sixth meeting in Mexico City, on 25 April 2017; and the seventh meeting in Santiago, on 17 April 2018,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the respective meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation;³

2. *Also takes note* of the *Report on the technical cooperation activities carried out by the ECLAC system during the 2016-2017 biennium*;⁴

3. *Further takes note* of the *Report on the South-South cooperation activities carried out since the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC. Note by the secretariat*;⁵

4. *Reiterates* paragraph 4 of resolution 709(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and requests the secretariat of the Commission to continue supporting, within the framework of its existing mandates, the Governments of the region in the design of methodologies to follow up on South-South cooperation;

5. *Recognize* that the United Nations system is the multilateral forum par excellence in which to contribute to the redefinition of the way that development is measured, taking into account the national priorities of each country, and emphasize the multidimensional approach to development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the discussion on the criteria used to guide the various modalities of international cooperation, with a view to leaving no one behind;

6. *Invites* the countries to participate, with the support of the secretariat, in the calculation of structural gaps, as a valuable tool for helping to measure and visualize development levels in each country beyond per capita income;

7. *Welcomes* the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the Governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

² A/72/297.

³ *Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.5/2)*; *Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.6/3)*; and draft report of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (LC/MDSS.7/PINF).

⁴ LC/SES.37/11.

⁵ LC/SES.37/10.

8. *Invites* the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to consider convening a regional interactive dialogue on the priorities of the region, at United Nations Headquarters in New York on a date to be agreed, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which will be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019;

9. *Requests* the Committee on South-South Cooperation, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of this resolution at the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held in the framework of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

**731(XXXVII) SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 by virtue of which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established,

Reaffirming its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 106(VI) retain their full validity,

Recalling its resolution 553(XXVI), in which it affirmed that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission is especially well qualified to undertake the tasks entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106(VI), in the framework of a restructured United Nations, and that, therefore, ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 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, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized 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 committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner,

Bearing in mind the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the agreements and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Considering the broad interest shown by countries in the work of the Commission, which has been reflected in to the admission of new member States such as Germany (2005), Japan (2006), Norway (2015), the Republic of Korea (2007) and Turkey (2017), as well as the following associate members: Bermuda (2012), the Cayman Islands (2008), Curaçao (2012), Guadalupe (2012), Martinique (2012), Sint Maarten (2014) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (2006),

Recognizing that the Commission has aligned its draft programme of work and priorities of the ECLAC system for 2020, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Having been informed by the Chair of the thirty-sixth session on the conduct and outcome of the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City in 2017 and in Santiago in 2018, respectively, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), which established the Forum 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,

Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's report *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet*, which proposes significant changes to improve the coordinating role of the United Nations development system,¹

1. *Reaffirms* the important contributions to the region made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission —the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean— in the areas of gender equality, cooperation and development, planning, statistics, population, science and technology, South-South cooperation and social development, among others;

2. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the documents prepared by the secretariat *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* and its summary,² presented by the secretariat at the thirty-third session of the Commission, *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* and its summary,³ presented at the thirty-fourth session, *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* and its summary,⁴ presented at the thirty-fifth session, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*, presented at the thirty-sixth session, and *The Inefficiency of Inequality*, presented at the thirty-seventh session, as well as the first and second editions of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,⁵ submitted at the first and second meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as a contribution to the framework of regional analysis that identifies the gaps and challenges in relation to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its ability to act as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States;

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

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the regional space in successfully repositioning the United Nations Development system by: (i) strengthening regional and subregional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits; (ii) the need to address gaps and overlaps bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for the regional approach and that it is necessary to consider the specificities of each region and the strengths of its regional mechanisms; (iii) the need to preserve the existing functions already

¹ A/72/684–E/2018/7.

² LC/G.2432(SES.33/3) and LC/G.2433(SES.33/4).

³ LC/G.2524(SES.34/3) and LC/G.2525(SES.34/4).

⁴ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3) and LC/G.2587(SES.35/4).

⁵ LC/L.4268(FDS.1/3)/Rev.1 and LC/FDS.2/3.

performed by the United Nations development system at the regional level, including current interactions between the regional economic commissions and member States; and (iv) the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commissions;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing process to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to provide better support to Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, agree with the Secretary-General that the regional structures need to be revamped and look forward to examining the options for longer-term restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations to be presented by the Secretary-General, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach; commend the work carried out by ECLAC in its 70 years of existence and its continued efforts to support country-led processes; commit to ensure that the functions and mandate of ECLAC are fully recognized and maintained, particularly its crucial role in the regional dimension of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and urge the Commission to fully engage in the Secretary-General's initiative to revamp the regional assets in the interest of country-led processes and increase, within its mandate, regional initiatives so that no one is left behind;

7. *Recall* the fundamental characteristics of the activities for development of the entities of United Nations development system, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 1 February 2017, inter alia, their neutrality and their ability to respond to the development needs of countries in a flexible manner.

732(XXXVII) REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2014-2024

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,¹ adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner,

Recalling that, in its resolution 69/232, the General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner,

Recalling also its resolution 711(XXXVI) on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC,

Bearing in mind the forthcoming review of progress towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review to be held no later than December 2019, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/232,

Bearing in mind also that the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation, are fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies at the national and regional level, as well as its invitation to regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation; and again encourages the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to support the regional review by landlocked and transit countries in Latin America in the framework of the midterm comprehensive review, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and relevant regional actors, through the preparation of analytical studies, and the organization of the regional meeting not later than before December 2019;

3. *Calls upon* the secretariat to continue providing technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, logistical integration and logistics cost studies.

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/137.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

**733(XXXVII) FORUM FOR EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA
COOPERATION TRUST FUND**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that the Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) aims to promote cooperation, better understanding, and political and economic dialogue between East Asia and Latin America¹ in order to achieve more effective, cooperative, and fruitful relations in all areas,

Recalling that in the Busan Declaration of 31 August 2017, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of FEALAC reinforced their determination to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation, deeper economic integration and to accelerate economic recovery through, inter alia, the establishment as a funding mechanism to support FEALAC-wide projects that promote inter-regional cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of a multi-donor trust fund (“FEALAC Trust Fund”),

Taking note that several members States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund and several other member States have pledged to also make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to support other FEALAC-wide projects,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of a FEALAC multi-donor Trust Fund as a financing for development instrument that combines South-South and Triangular Cooperation for mutual benefit and for the common goal of development;

2. *Acknowledges* the voluntary contributions made so far and encourages other member States of FEALAC, who are also members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to make additional voluntary contributions to the Fund so as to make it possible for ECLAC and ESCAP to carry out further initiatives aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to carry out with ESCAP interregional projects financed by the trust fund aimed at enhancing biregional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and contributing to the development of both regions in the areas agreed by the Trust Fund Steering Committee.

¹ The Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) is an association of 36 countries from East Asia and Latin America that came together for the first time to form an official and regular dialogue channel between the two regions. (East Asia: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).