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**Regional cooperation**

## **Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### **Addendum**

#### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### *Summary*

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, the forty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016, the seventy-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, and the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016. The full texts of the resolutions are available at [www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions](http://www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions).



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## **I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council**

### **A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

1. At its second meeting, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted resolution 322, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

#### **Draft resolution I Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its second meeting, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, of resolution 322 on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is annexed to the present resolution,

*Endorses* the strategy and plan of action proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **Annex**

##### **Resolution 322**

#### **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Referring* to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> which was adopted by world leaders at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 305 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and resolution 314 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014 on the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development,

*Commending* efforts made by the Arab States to achieve sustainable development and those of the Commission in that regard,

1. *Adopts* the strategy and plan of action<sup>2</sup> proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.regionalcommissions.org/ESCWAstrategy.pdf](http://www.regionalcommissions.org/ESCWAstrategy.pdf).

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to implement the strategy and plan of action and to submit periodic reports on the activities carried out to that end, in particular support for member States to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into their national development plans, support for statistical systems, regional follow-up processes, such as the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, monitoring progress made in the Arab region towards achievement of the Goals and the preparation of regional follow-up reports using official data;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to take all necessary measures, including the provision of human and financial resources and the creation of a technical unit attached to it, for that purpose;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to harmonize the strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 with the present resolution.

## **B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

2. At its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 72/6, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

### **Draft resolution II Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, of resolution 72/6 on committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which is annexed to the present resolution,

*Endorses* the actions requested by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in paragraph 7 of resolution 72/6.

#### **Annex**

#### **Resolution 72/6 Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 69/214 of 19 December 2014, in which the Assembly acknowledged, inter alia, the importance of the regional dimensions of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional

commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other stakeholders, as contained in Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

*Recalling further* resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”, in which the Commission recognized the need for it to continue to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 71/5 of 29 May 2015, in which it recognized a number of priorities and recommendations as the region’s contribution to the preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the contributions of the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing, which was held in Jakarta on 10 and 11 June 2014, and of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development, which was held in Jakarta on 29 and 30 April 2015,

*Noting* the diversity of Asia-Pacific countries in terms of geography, population, income and level of development, coupled with the complex, multisectoral and integrated dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for strengthening capacities in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and regional cooperation,

*Noting also* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources,

*Having considered* the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Calls upon* member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session,<sup>3</sup> and decides to implement the recommendations contained therein, while recognizing in this regard the importance of finalizing the form, function and modalities of the Forum, as well as of developing the regional road map;

3. *Recognizes* the role of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in providing advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, as appropriate, on the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017;

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/72/16.

4. *Invites* members and associate members of the Commission to identify priority areas of cooperation on and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, with particular emphasis on the practical means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Encourages* all members and associate members to actively engage in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and to continue to work on the development of the regional road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

6. *Notes* the regional discussions on financing for development in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular those that took place at the first High-level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 30 and 31 March 2016;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) To support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and to address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as contained in its report;

(c) To strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and to enhance data and statistical capacities;

(d) To continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity, including through support for mainstreaming financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, as well as through support for their efforts in developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing their regional cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, to collaborate with the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, through all appropriate mechanisms, including through active participation in Commission sessions, enhanced cooperation on projects and policies and the sharing of good practices through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

9. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, as convener of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, to strengthen and promote communication, cooperation and collaboration among the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by member States, in particular least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

### **C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

3. At its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

#### **Draft resolution III Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, of resolution 700 (XXXVI), entitled “Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development”,

*Endorses* the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as set out in resolution 700 (XXXVI) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

#### **Annex**

#### **Resolution 700 (XXXVI) Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

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

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

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

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

**Annex to resolution 700 (XXXVI)**

**Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

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

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

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

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which, inter alia, committed Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged 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 of 27 July 2012, in which States committed to strengthening the Economic and Social Council as a principal

body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, in which the Assembly, inter alia, acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

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

*Recognizing* that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development, and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

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

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

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

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the Statistical Commission and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, also taking into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate; all indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, they should be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner;

(d) Following up and reviewing the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>3</sup> at the regional level;

(e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024<sup>4</sup> at the regional level;

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

(g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as that of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate;

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<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

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

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission, will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission and will be aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue annually, four weeks in advance of the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a progress report, which will be considered a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council, as appropriate, will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and national-level reviews, as appropriate, and will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum;

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

10. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to submit, through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations and a summary produced by the Chair of the Forum, as appropriate:

(a) To the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) To the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) To the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. *Highlights* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the

Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

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

#### **Draft resolution IV**

### **Venue of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Bearing in mind* paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

*Considering* the invitation of the Government of Cuba to host the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,

1. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of this invitation;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-seventh session in Cuba in the first half of 2018.

## **II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council**

### **A. Economic Commission for Africa**

4. The ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016 on the theme “Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals”. The Conference adopted a ministerial statement and approved a number of resolutions relating to the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full texts of the ministerial statement and the resolutions are available at [www.uneca.org/cfm2016](http://www.uneca.org/cfm2016).

#### **Summary of the ministerial statement**

5. The Ministers, cognizant that, with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the continent now had the frameworks for a qualitative transition towards a new transformative and people-centred development trajectory that combined economic, social, environmental and other developmental considerations,

acknowledged that the agendas offered a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity.

6. The Ministers underscored the importance for Africa of adopting a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and agreed upon the need for a single monitoring and evaluation framework and a common reporting architecture that would produce a single periodic performance report. They also recommended that a unified reporting platform that is consistent with the equivalence of goals and targets established through the goal, indicator mapping and costing exercise that has been undertaken should be put in place.

7. The Ministers welcomed continuing efforts to develop a core set of continental indicators to track progress on both agendas and urged all relevant stakeholders to speed up the operationalization of the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Statistics in Tunisia and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in Côte d'Ivoire. They also encouraged the development of a common platform for follow-up to, and review of progress on, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, such as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

8. The Ministers recognized that the implementation of both agendas would require substantial amounts of financial and non-financial resources from all sources. Cognizant of the unpredictability of official development assistance, they underscored the role of domestic resources as the main source of financing for the two agendas, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

9. Mindful that climate change undermines Africa's ability to attain its development goals, the Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and called upon all relevant stakeholders to assist member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to ensure alignment of their national development plans with the Agreement.

10. The Ministers recognized the key role of regional integration in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and called upon the United Nations to continue its support for Africa's transformative agenda by aligning itself with, and supporting the priorities of, the African Union, in particular Africa's aspirations for a continental free trade agreement, regional integration and trade, industrialization and the related goals of Agenda 2063.

11. The Ministers underscored the benefits of migration for economic and human development in Africa and stressed the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants, regardless of their origin and status.

12. The Ministers also acknowledged that promoting peace and security and combating terrorism are critical for Africa to achieve the development desired, and invited member States to join together to ensure that peace and security are upheld in Africa and across the world.

**Joint resolution of the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa**

**Resolution 937 (XLIX)**

**Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks, actions plans and programmes**

13. The Conference of Ministers called upon the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to create awareness among member States about the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to foster the incorporation of both agendas into national strategic frameworks.

14. The Conference requested the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to work together to establish composite indicators to facilitate the strategic monitoring of both agendas and to develop an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that would inform a single annual progress report.

15. The Conference requested the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to call upon the Secretary-General to establish expeditiously a global partnership for sustainable development data under United Nations intergovernmental processes, consistent with principle-based partnerships and as provided for in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (A/69/700).

**Resolutions of the Economic Commission for Africa**

**Resolution 938 (XLIX)**

**Integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development**

16. The Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to use the integrated results framework as the basis for producing an annual report on progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, which would be supported with information on the status of the data system on the continent.

17. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other partners, to take all necessary steps, in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to designate the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development as the platform for the review of progress on and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, to align the consultations of the Africa Regional Forum with the annual reporting cycle of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to enlarge the mandate of the Africa Regional Forum to include a review of progress, challenges and gaps in meeting the commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. The Conference of Ministers called upon member States to formulate strategies to enhance domestic resource mobilization, as called for by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including by stepping up efforts to combat illicit financial flows and to strengthen tax administration and by adopting policies to generate additional resources and to combat corruption in all its forms.

**Resolution 939 (XLIX)**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

19. The Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to convene on an annual basis the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, urged the Forum to foster the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and decided that the Forum would build on existing platforms and promote coordination, coherence, learning and the sharing of best practices with the United Nations development system and with other regional and subregional forums and organizations.

20. The Conference of Ministers decided that reviews of the implementation of all regional outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should be sequenced and synchronized with the work of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to ensure that such reviews contribute to the assessment of the regional implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

21. The Conference of Ministers encouraged member States to participate in the meetings of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in Cairo from 18 to 20 May 2016, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016.

**Resolution 940 (XLIX)**  
**International migration in Africa**

22. The Conference of Ministers requested the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the production of migration-related data and to undertake studies using the latest available data to determine the nature and patterns of international migration streams in Africa and assess the impact of migration and the long-term implications of remittance flows for development.

23. The Conference of Ministers also requested the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish a high-level panel on international migration in Africa and called upon them to provide the necessary technical backstopping to the high-level panel and to report on the progress made to the Conference of Ministers at its next joint meeting. They requested all development partners to support member States, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa in the implementation of those actions.

24. The Conference of Ministers called upon the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a continental strategy to address the issue of irregular migration, in collaboration with the international community and in the framework of shared responsibilities.

**Resolution 941 (XLIX)**  
**Organization of an annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society**

25. The Conference of Ministers welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the

overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>1</sup> which included a commitment to the vision of the Summit to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

26. The Conference of Ministers noted that the overall review of the World Summit on the Information Society has strengthened the role of the regional commissions and that the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit included a call for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the work of United Nations agencies, according to their mandates and competencies, and an invitation for the regional commissions to continue their work in the implementation of the action lines of the Summit and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews.

27. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to take all necessary steps to organize on an annual basis an African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in support of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

#### **Resolution 942 (XLIX)**

##### **African Institute for Economic Development and Planning**

28. The Conference of Ministers recommended that the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning further consider the revised statute of the Institute, based on the approved amendments. They also recommended that the Bureau of the 2016 Conference of Ministers conduct consultations with member States to secure nominations for and appoint members of the Governing Council, as early as is feasible, and preferably before 30 April 2016.

29. The Conference of Ministers called upon Economic Commission for Africa partners to support the capacity development activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and called upon the Economic Commission for Africa to further strengthen its support for the Institute.

#### **Resolution 943 (XLIX)**

##### **Proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019**

30. The Conference of Ministers endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019.

31. The Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake an independent, comprehensive and thorough review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission, on the basis of the priorities of Africa, and to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/125.

32. The Conference of Ministers decided to postpone the holding of the meetings of the intergovernmental committees of experts for 2017 pending the finalization of the independent review.

## **B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

33. At its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of resolutions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full texts of the resolutions are available at [www.unescap.org/commission/documents](http://www.unescap.org/commission/documents).

### **Resolution 72/1**

#### **Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture**

34. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture and called upon its members and associate members to provide enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of the Centre.

### **Resolution 72/2**

#### **Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

35. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and called upon its members and associate members to continue to provide necessary resources to support the work of the Centre.

### **Resolution 72/3**

#### **Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

36. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and called upon its members and associate members to continue to provide voluntary resources to support the work of the Centre and to consider enhancing such support to enable the Centre to play a more effective role in assisting the member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through capacity-building activities for technology transfer and facilitation.

### **Resolution 72/4**

#### **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific**

37. The Commission adopted the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and invited all members of the Commission to become parties to the Agreement. It also invited international organizations to continue to collaborate with members of the Commission to facilitate cross-border paperless trade in the region.

38. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist member States in the process of becoming parties to the Agreement, collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and international and subregional organizations in implementing the Agreement, continue and further strengthen secretariat support for capacity-building activities relating to trade facilitation and paperless trade and discharge effectively the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement.

**Resolution 72/5**

**Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

39. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the efforts of its members on the development of international transport connectivity, promote effective coordination with relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations to exchange best practices and knowledge relating to transport and transport infrastructure development, collaborate with relevant regional initiatives aimed at developing transport connectivity and cooperate with all relevant international and regional financial institutions and international organizations to further mobilize financial and technical support for the wider development of transport connectivity and corridors in the region.

**Resolution 72/7**

**Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific**

40. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority focus on the work of the Commission relating to sand and dust storms, promote regional and interregional networking on sand and dust storms and work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in the process of preparing the global assessment on sand and dust storms.

**Resolution 72/8**

**Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region**

41. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to encourage and collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the capacity-building of member States regarding climate change and climate resilience through policy dialogues and the sharing of experiences and information.

**Resolution 72/9**

**Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

42. The Commission encouraged member States to promote collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Asia-Pacific region, including by strengthening regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, enhancing the capacity of member States for the protection of coastal areas, the marine environment and resources and economic development in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner, promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and collaboration on data collection and the development of environmental baselines to ensure a strong foundation for informed decision-making and policy development on oceans and seas and promoting public-private and civil society partnerships to increase economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources.

43. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, to undertake an assessment of the capacity development needs of the countries in the region for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

**Resolution 72/10**

**Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines**

44. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to continued support for member States and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines, ensure enhanced efforts and linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Summit in the work of the secretariat within its existing mandate, collaborate with international and regional organizations to continue to hold regional preparatory consultations, including through public-private partnerships and meetings of experts, hold a regional review of the implementation of the Summit action lines as part of the session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and ensure linkage to the global forums on the Summit in collaboration with relevant international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplications and coordinate United Nations agencies and partners in the regional review and follow-up towards harmonized approaches to and synergies in the implementation of the Summit.

**Resolution 72/11**

**Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals**

45. The Commission decided that the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific would continue to function towards the successful conclusion of its work and requested the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Committee on Statistics to continue to provide guidance and oversight to the work of the Expert Group.

46. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority to the support for the work of the Expert Group.

**Resolution 72/12**

**Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

47. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy. The Commission also reaffirmed its own role within the region as one of the most suitable forums in the United Nations system to encourage dialogue and cooperation among member States on science, technology and innovation policies.

48. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to raise awareness among member States on the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place at various forums, facilitating cooperation and joint action, and encourage member

States to promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships to harness science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The Commission recognized the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development.

### **C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

49. At its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a number of resolutions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full text of the resolutions can be accessed at <http://www.regionalcommissions.org/ECLACres2016.pdf>.

#### **Resolution 697 (XXXVI) Horizons 2030**

50. The Commission welcomed the integrated approach to development that had marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception, as reflected in the document entitled “Horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development”,<sup>2</sup> recognized the relevance of the issues examined and supported the general tenor of the document’s conclusions. The Commission called upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region.

#### **Resolution 698 (XXXVI) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean calendar of conferences for the period 2017-2018**

51. The Commission reaffirmed the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approved the calendar of conferences of the Commission for the period 2017-2018, also reaffirmed that the Commission’s current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient and cost-effective and recommended that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary. It further reaffirmed 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 United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and sustainable development fields.

#### **Resolution 699 (XXXVI) Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**

52. The Commission reaffirmed the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstreaming a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and to taking action

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<sup>2</sup> LC/G.2660 (SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661 (SES.36/4).

to fulfil Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the other 16 Goals.

53. The Commission commended the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasized the need to strengthen work in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers and machineries for the advancement of women.

54. The Commission recognized its role, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in shedding light on gender affairs and its work on gender statistics.

55. The Commission called for active participation in the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Uruguay in October 2016, and requested that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society.

#### **Resolution 701 (XXXVI)**

##### **Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning**

56. The Commission noted with satisfaction the strategic priorities for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning and acknowledged the importance of public management and planning for development as means to carry forward the 2030 Agenda in the region.

57. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the support provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the activities of the Institute and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support its work with human and financial resources so that it may conduct its activities effectively.

58. The Commission requested the Institute to develop a training and technical assistance programme in order to strengthen planning competencies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, maintain, update and improve the digital repository of national development plans and prepare a proposal on the creation of a planning observatory.

59. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Chief of the Institute to engage in a process of consultation and dialogue with national planning authorities with a view to identifying national, subregional and regional priorities in the area of development planning.

#### **Resolution 702 (XXXVI)**

##### **Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

60. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems.

61. The Commission recognized the importance of the regional space as a timely and necessary platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and highlighted that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region. The Commission requested the secretariat, as

technical secretariat of the Conference, to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda.

62. The Commission urged the international community and the General Assembly to strengthen the strategic role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as secretariat of the Conference by providing additional resources with a view to creating regional and national capacities through institution-building, training and exchange of experiences and incorporating a geospatial perspective into the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at the inclusion in the activities of the Conference of the analysis of new thematic areas and methodologies that enabled better tracking of economic, social and environmental matters.

**Resolution 703 (XXXVI)**

**Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

63. The Commission recognized that the 2030 Agenda is a universal and inclusive action plan and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is the most suitable forum in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development.

64. The Commission requested its secretariat to focus its research and technical assistance agenda on the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty, vulnerability, social protection, food and nutritional security, social policies and their relationship with the labour market, fiscal policy and social policy institutions. It urged the secretariat to strengthen its cooperation and technical assistance efforts with the various government agencies in the region that are involved in the design and implementation of social development policies, with a view to improved social policy coordination and effectiveness and instructed the secretariat to support the countries of the region in strengthening their systems of social policy evaluation.

65. The Commission requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries in their efforts to develop new methodologies and instruments for measuring multidimensional poverty, deprivations and vulnerability.

**Resolution 704 (XXXVI)**

**Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2018-2019**

66. The Commission adopted its programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in its entirety, which will become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities and the production of the publications identified therein.

67. The Commission requested 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 and expressed its concern at the recent decline in the budgetary resources allocated to the Commission to carry out the activities set forth in its programme of work.

68. The Commission noted with interest paragraphs 80 and 81 of General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the Assembly welcomed the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up

and review of the 2030 Agenda and encouraged the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in that regard.

69. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report on the activities of the Commission in 2014 and 2015, commended its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region and welcomed 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.

**Resolution 705 (XXXVI)**

**Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**

70. The Commission reaffirmed its key role 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 Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. It welcomed the role that the Commission is mandated to play in incorporating the needs of the small island developing States in the 2030 Agenda and urged the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

**Resolution 706 (XXXVI)**

**Application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

71. The Commission reiterated the commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to advancing towards achieving the full application of the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, with a view to fostering the participation of society in the promotion of sustainable development and underscored the importance for the countries of the region of ensuring the sustainable management of their natural resources.

72. The Commission commended its secretariat on the progress made in the process under way in Latin America and the Caribbean towards the possible adoption of a regional agreement for the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, invited the countries of the region to participate actively in future 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 and requested the technical secretariat of the process to promote regional cooperation in that regard.

**Resolution 707 (XXXVI)**

**Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

73. The Commission took note of the agreements adopted at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the presiding officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the resolutions adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference.

74. The Committee encouraged countries to step up efforts to promote awareness of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and apply effective, concrete measures to implement the Consensus and welcomed the operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus.

75. The Commission called upon countries to step up efforts to implement and follow-up on the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged countries to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

**Resolution 708 (XXXVI)**

**Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean**

76. The Commission took note of the Mexico City Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged 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.

77. The Commission recognized the importance of information and communications technologies to sustainable development and recommended that these technologies be given due consideration in the preparation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

78. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference, 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.

**Resolution 709 (XXXVI)**

**Committee on South-South Cooperation**

79. The Commission called upon the secretariat to sustain efforts for the design of methodologies to measure South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean through a system of satellite accounts and for the follow-up and evaluation of South-South cooperation programmes and projects.

80. The Commission adopted the action lines of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018, namely, to share experiences on implementing the 2030 Agenda, promote multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation and share experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics.

81. The Commission requested the Committee on South-South Cooperation 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.

**Resolution 710 (XXXVI)****Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

82. The Commission recognized the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, especially with regard to the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and with regard to international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment.

83. The Commission took note of the report on the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomed the offer by the Government of Costa Rica to host the second session of the Conference, in September 2016.

**Resolution 711 (XXXVI)****Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024**

84. The Commission invited member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 into their national and sectoral development strategies and regional development plans.

85. The Commission urged 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.

86. The Commission requested the secretariat to promote the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the region and provide follow-up through the preparation of analytical studies, contributions to regional and global reports and the convening of regional meetings on landlocked developing countries. It called upon the secretariat to provide technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas relating to the Vienna Programme of Action.

**Resolution 712 (XXXVI)****Regional integration of statistical and geospatial information**

87. The Commission recommended that a forum for dialogue be established between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas in order to coordinate efforts and define a joint agenda for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, through cooperation between these two entities.

88. The Commission recognized that the immediate overarching goal of the regional agenda on geostatistical integration is its use in the measurement, monitoring and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in conducting and analysing the 2020 round of censuses.

**Resolution 713 (XXXVI)**

**Regional follow-up to the outcomes of Conferences of Financing for Development**

89. The Commission took note of the report the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and acknowledged the work of the secretariat of the Commission undertaken in the region to promote research, analyses, initiatives, responses and tools that might serve to mobilize domestic and international resources.

90. The Commission requested the secretariat, within existing resources, to continue to promote follow-up to the outcomes of international conferences on financing for development, in particular the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including by means of technical seminars and regional consultations, and to present the results thereof to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

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