

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

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

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

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

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

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

Annex

RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

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

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

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

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

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which, inter alia, urge the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288, in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

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

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

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

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

Taking note with appreciation of the Note by the secretariat of the Commission,¹ prepared in fulfilment of resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

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

¹ LC/L.4123.

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

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

- (a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:
 - (i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,
 - (iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning,
 - (iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies,
 - (vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation,
 - (viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, and
 - (x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee,
- (b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- (c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission, and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

- (d) Relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate,
- (e) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its 2025 Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger;

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

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

- (a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level,
- (b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment, and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature,
- (c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, taking also into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate. All indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner,

- (d) Following-up and reviewing the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) at the regional level,
- (e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 at the regional level,
- (f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and other modalities of cooperation in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation,
- (g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews,
- (h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,
- (i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned,
- (j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,
- (k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- (l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development,
- (m) Favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability,
- (n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks,
- (o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, as well as of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate,
- (p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission. It will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission, and aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, of the latter's Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, and of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue an annual progress report, four weeks in advance of the respective meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report will be considered a regional contribution for the High-level Political

Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of Economic and Social Council and its forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate, and will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and on national-level reviews, as appropriate, and it will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

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

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

- To the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- To the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- To the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism;

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

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