



XXIX

Meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Council for Planning
of the Latin American and
Caribbean Institute for Economic
and Social Planning (ILPES)

Santiago, 19 January 2023

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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR PLANNING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)**

Santiago, 19 January 2023



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held their twenty-ninth meeting in Santiago on 19 January 2023 in hybrid format. The seventeenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 17 and 18 January 2023, prior to the meeting of the Presiding Officers.¹

Attendance²

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Panama (Chair), Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Paraguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

B. AGENDA

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) since the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.
3. Presentation of the programme of work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) for 2023.
4. Preparations for the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

¹ See the report of the seventeenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/48920>.

² See the full list of participants in Annex 2.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

5. At the opening session, statements were made by Raul García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Héctor Alexander, Minister of Economy and Finance of Panama, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). A video message was delivered by Nicolás Ardito Barletta, former President and former Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of Panama, and the first Chair of the Technical Committee of ILPES, which preceded the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning.

6. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC thanked Panama for chairing the meeting along with the Vice-Chairs and recalled that ILPES was celebrating six decades of uninterrupted work. That work was important in strengthening the multilateralism and cooperation so fundamental in the region for the advancement of the development agenda. Many countries were being graduated and excluded from the international cooperation system, but the region needed new and different forms of cooperation adapted to their current realities. Examples of successful efforts by ILPES included work with all the countries to deliver numerous technical assistance programmes, the many people it had trained, the Institute's large number of publications and visits to the website of the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Institute had established its ability to adopt a medium- and long-term outlook focused not only on assessment but on improving planning and public management. ILPES had a duty towards the countries of the region and needed the renewed commitment of planning authorities in order to continue delivering its services. There was a need to review contributions and consider a new financing strategy. He concluded by highlighting the region's extensive use of planning tools to align country objectives and development plans, use resources more wisely and implement the changes required by a given development model, adding that ILPES was unwaveringly committed to those efforts.

7. The Minister of Economy and Finance of Panama expressed his country's satisfaction in opening the meeting and said that commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of ILPES was highly important for the region and in particular for his country, the first to chair the Technical Committee of ILPES and once again the Chair of the Presiding Officers. Planning had always been a key focus at ECLAC and ILPES, which had helped to create numerous planning offices in the region and trained many planners. Planning had returned to the forefront for countries in the region, in a different form, based on a systemic, flexible, participatory and forward-looking approach. The current challenging context demanded robust public management and results-based planning that included the assessment of State initiatives and fostered cooperation and innovation among social entities and sectors to address crises and solve public problems. In the post-pandemic world, planning remained essential to the implementation of development models that generated growth and employment, boosted productive capacity and delivered benefits for all that accommodated planetary boundaries. He concluded by thanking ECLAC for its support in all those processes.

8. The former Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of Panama greeted the participants and said that he appreciated the opportunity to say a few words at the opening session of the meeting. He recalled his tenure as Chair, which involved planning and implementing public sector action in line with the national budget and earmarking resources as needed. The role of the public sector in a market economy was to guide private sector activity so that it complied with established public policies. Each minister of planning needed

to be aware of the prevailing situation and market conditions and take action that reflected the reality of each country. An open mind enabled the development of State policy that was well-received by the public and consistent with the international situation at the time.

Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) since the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning (agenda item 2)

9. Cielo Morales, Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), presented the report, which covered activity carried out from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022. ILPES activities were in line with ECLAC subprogramme 9 “Planning and public management for development”, which aimed to enhance planning and public management processes in the region for the advancement of equitable and sustainable development, and with the mandates issued at the meetings of the Regional Council for Planning. ILPES conducted activities on the basis of three working modalities: technical cooperation, training and applied research. Because of the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic during the reporting period, most of the activities undertaken in the three working modalities had been carried out remotely. During that period, ILPES had also continued to work using resources for the collective construction of knowledge, such as the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the PlanBarometer and the Planning Network for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to the communities of practice on the topics of the 2030 Agenda, open government, foresight and territorial development, among others.

10. During the reporting period, technical assistance had been provided to 10 countries in the region to strengthen competencies and capabilities in planning for development and public management with a regional and gender perspective. In the area of training, 13 international distance-learning courses open to all had been held, along with 15 distance-learning courses requested by countries and restricted to a limited number of participants, and 10 webinars and seminars. A total of 4,328 people had taken part in the training activities, thus consolidating the distance-learning services provided and doubling the number of participants compared to the previous year. In the area of applied research, two planning notes and six documents had been published which contributed to the review and systematization of regional experiences on various topics, including public programme assessment and monitoring, open government, digital governance and data openness, and institutional resilience for a transformative recovery. To mark its sixtieth anniversary, ILPES, with support from the Hernán Santa Cruz Library of ECLAC, had prepared a new research guide that chronicled six decades of the Institute’s contributions to development planning in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

11. Despite economic and other restrictions imposed by the pandemic, ILPES had been able to carry out its programme of work successfully and advance in the achievement of the mandates issued at the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning. The financial complexities faced by ILPES, already noted at previous meetings, had been particularly affected in the previous two years by the COVID-19 crisis. Contributions from ECLAC and donors had been essential to increase the capacity to respond to the countries in terms of technical cooperation and training, given the unpredictability of voluntary contributions by member States. That trend needed to be reversed in order to maintain the team and its ability to respond to country requests. In conclusion, she noted that with only seven years left to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ILPES continued to support countries in strengthening institutions and team capacities in planning and public management, which played a cross-cutting role in the achievement of every Goal.

12. José Andrés Reyes, Chief of the Division for Social Evaluation of Investments of the Undersecretariat for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile, in his capacity as President of the Network of National Public Investment Systems (SNIP Network), for which ILPES, together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), served as technical secretariat, congratulated ILPES on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary. He said that the Network had become a meeting point and forum for discussion since its creation in 2010 for issues related to public investment and its importance in achieving sustainable development, the necessary development of institutional frameworks and capacity-building. Delegations at the meeting were encouraged to continue efforts to ensure that the goal of public investment was sustainable development as well as economic growth. Public investment should be an instrument in achieving the objectives set out in national planning schemes. Efforts required more synergy and guidelines for the prioritization of investments.

13. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Paraguay thanked ILPES for its support in updating the country's National Development Plan and in the territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Plan. He also highlighted the Institute's support in the creation of Paraguay's Fifth Open Government Action Plan for 2022–2024 through a jointly organized webinar, and the importance of the SNIP Network as a forum for the exchange of knowledge among the different public investment systems of the countries.

14. The representative of Honduras highlighted the recent creation of the country's Secretariat for Strategic Planning and expressed the willingness of Honduras to update its contributions to ILPES in order to support the Institute's work.

15. The representative of Saint Lucia congratulated ILPES on its 60 years of work and thanked Panama for its leadership of the meeting. She highlighted the support provided by ECLAC to her country in different areas and echoed the appeal for the publication of a similar work focused on Caribbean countries that had been made by the representative of Jamaica at the presentation of the book *Patrones de desarrollo económico en los seis países de Centroamérica (1950–2018)*, organized by the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico as a side event during the seventeenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean. She concluded by expressing her country's interest in continuing to receive assistance to make further progress in digital transformation.

16. The representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated the Chief of ILPES for the numerous activities carried out despite the pandemic and underscored the Institute's resilience in adapting and moving forward on the various issues. His country's Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development had nearly completed the review of an agreement with ILPES to work towards incorporating cross-cutting approaches in public policy and strengthening its monitoring and evaluation system, among other issues.

17. The representative of Jamaica also congratulated ILPES on its sixtieth anniversary and said that his country had benefited from the collaboration and capacity-building of the Institute and its communities of practice. He underscored the value of the Regional Council for Planning and its meetings, which allowed the exchange of knowledge and practices, and the work carried out by the Institute in the area of foresight, and he called for the exchange of knowledge on that subject to continue. The Planning Institute of Jamaica was committed to supporting the work of ILPES. He concluded by hailing the "Caribbean first" initiative of ECLAC and encouraged the translation into English of more ILPES publications to enable their use in the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean.

18. The representative of Guatemala congratulated ILPES on its 60 years of work, thanked the Institute for the ongoing technical assistance received by her country, and highlighted recent support received for the review and validation of assessment methodologies and institutional performance indicators.

Presentation of the programme of work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) for 2023 (agenda item 3)

19. In her presentation of the programme of work, Cielo Morales, Chief of ILPES, noted that the objective for 2023 was to enhance planning and public management processes in the region for the advancement of equitable and sustainable development, with emphasis on strengthening national planning systems and their governance, on reinforcing the capacities of officials in foresight, planning and public management at all levels of government, and on policy coherence and transparent and collaborative public management for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, ILPES would continue to develop its three working modalities and strengthen its work with other ECLAC divisions, the national offices of the United Nations system, collective learning platforms and networks for sharing experiences and best practices.

20. The Chief of ILPES added that 10 technical cooperation services had already been requested for 2023 by different countries. Eighteen international courses would be offered, most virtually, on the basis of preferences noted in a survey conducted in 2022. In terms of applied research, the topics prioritized for 2023 were foresight, strategic and territorial planning, public management and cross-cutting approaches (citizen participation, gender mainstreaming, risk management, open government and digital government). Regarding opportunities and challenges for 2023, the Institute needed to further develop the capacities necessary to build resilient institutions in response to crises and uncertainty and continue to reinforce the capacity-building process in planning and public management, increasing its scope to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. Challenges included the shift back to in-person technical assistance while continuing to offer virtual training activities, considering the possibility of conducting hybrid activities to meet the needs of countries, and devising a financing strategy to continue the work of ILPES.

Preparations for the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (agenda item 4)

21. The Chief of ILPES presented the proposed content of the position document for the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES, to be held in the last quarter of 2023. The document would be titled “Foresight and Territory: building scenarios of possible futures for territorial governance”, and would examine planning and foresight by exploring different types of foresight exercises conducted in the region together with their characteristics and approaches, and identify favourable conditions for and obstacles to the institutionalization of foresight in State structures. It would also examine how territorial specificities could be incorporated into foresight scenarios to reflect ethnic, cultural and productive diversity in territories, coordinating a systemic view of the territory, multiple stakeholders and differing territorial realities.

22. The delegations present welcomed the proposed content of the position document for the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES.

23. The secretariat said that the Dominican Republic had offered to host the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES. The delegations present welcomed that proposal.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 5)

24. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES, at their twenty-ninth meeting, adopted the agreements contained in annex 1 of this report.

Closing session

25. At the closing session, statements were made by Cielo Morales, Chief of ILPES, and Héctor Alexander, Minister of Economy and Finance of Panama, in his capacity as Chair of ILPES.

26. The Chief of ILPES thanked the delegations for their commitment to the work of ILPES during its six decades of existence. Planning was a useful and necessary instrument that provided a space in which to shape the development of the countries of the region. As indicated by the Chair of the Regional Council for Planning, it was essential to focus on obtaining a better grasp of the current context and adjust public policy accordingly to reflect the expectations of citizens. At the seventeenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, held prior to the meeting of the Presiding Officers, the region's planning authorities had highlighted achievements and challenges in adapting public services to new realities. In that context, there was a need for renewed foresight capacities, openness to citizen participation, innovation in institutional frameworks, processes and practices, open information, more participatory decision-making and the capacity to factor in the diversity and potential of territories in order to provide more balanced support for countries' development. Lastly, she gave a brief review of the initiatives on which ILPES and the countries were working and invited countries which had not taken part in the previous five years to join their efforts.

27. The Minister of Economy and Finance of Panama, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Council for Planning, expressed his appreciation to ILPES for organizing the meeting and stressed the fundamental role of planning authorities in highlighting the importance of planning in nation-building. Countries needed clear intentions in order to make the right decisions, implement appropriate measures and use resources wisely. The best way to manage the budget as an instrument for growth and development in countries was through strategic planning and ILPES contributed to those efforts. It was also important to align short- and long-term action. Strategic solutions were needed to get countries back on track in the post-pandemic recovery.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their twenty-ninth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning agreed to:

1. *Take note of the Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), 2021–2022,*³ which includes the Institute's technical assistance, applied research and training activities;

2. *Also take note of the Report on the status of the Regular System of Government Financing for the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES);*⁴

3. *Recognize* the work done to convert face-to-face training courses to distance learning, through which 13 international courses open to all were delivered in the period under consideration and 15 courses delivered on demand to countries, as well as the remote technical assistance on planning and public management provided to 10 countries of the region;

4. *Also recognize* the consolidation of and progress achieved by the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in updating information on the institutional framework for national planning systems and in the collection, systematization and analysis of planning instruments in the specific areas of sustainable mobility in cities and territories;

5. *Take note* of the proposed theme of foresight and territory for the position document that will be presented at the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning in 2023, and request the Institute to continue progressing with the preparation of that document, taking into consideration the ideas and issues discussed at the present meeting;

6. *Request* the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to continue calling on the countries to keep their voluntary contributions up-to-date to facilitate the resource flow with a view to supporting delivery of an efficient and effective service;

7. *Request* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning and the eighteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean in October 2023 at a place and on a date to be decided.

³ LC/MDCRP.29/3.

⁴ LC/MDCRP.29/4.

Annex 2

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¹ Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión. The information contained in this list is as supplied by the participants themselves, in the register provided for the meeting.

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