



Concept note

SIDE EVENT

2024 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Building capacities for anticipatory governance and legislative foresight through a network of parliamentary committees of the future in Latin America and the Caribbean to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Office of the Baha'i International Community at United Nations Headquarters

15 July 2024, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. EST (Spanish-language event)

BACKGROUND

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has identified at least three development traps facing the region, including the trap of low institutional capacity and ineffective governance. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC has proposed a new vision for the countries of the region to address these development traps by transforming existing strategies and models for development. It is not enough to diagnose and identify what must be done to address countries' development challenges in all their magnitude; special attention must be paid to how it should be done. To that end, the Commission is working harder and more systematically to improve public policy governance and the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of institutions, and to address the issues of social dialogue, the political economy of reform and financing.

Against this background, ECLAC held the First Regional Conference of Parliamentary Committees of the Future, in Santiago on 20 and 21 June 2024, where it launched a high-level initiative to build capacities for legislative foresight and anticipatory governance through the establishment of a network of Latin American and Caribbean parliamentary committees of the future.

Participants identified challenges and opportunities for strengthening and consolidating such committees. They analysed the following strategic topics: the proposal of ECLAC to move towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable development model in Latin America and the Caribbean; the global and regional outlook of major geopolitical and geostrategic trends; the state of the art of parliamentary committees of the future, in the world and the region; new public policy responses to emerging challenges, such as climate change and artificial intelligence; and capacity-building for anticipatory governance and legislative foresight, including tools, mechanisms and approaches for strengthening legislative innovation and adaptation.



Foresight and strategic planning are indispensable national functions that should be carried out on a regular and permanent basis with the participation of the various political movements represented in parliaments. The purpose of legislative foresight is to anticipate the State's strategic options, adopt public policies with a long-term focus and effectively coordinate public agendas —at both the congressional and country levels— by increasing the capacity for permanent social dialogue. It requires building bridges, coordinating stakeholders, generating consensus and forging partnerships that can confront these major challenges.

Legislative and executive branches in Latin America urgently need to strengthen their capacity for future-oriented thinking. Most of the countries of the region, with the exception of Chile and Uruguay, have neither legislative nor executive institutions capable of taking a long-term approach to governance, although several countries have initiatives in various stages of development to establish committees of the future.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this event is to further discussions on capacity-building for legislative foresight and anticipatory governance through the establishment of a network of parliamentary committees of the future in Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, the event will highlight the experiences of Chile and Uruguay as regional foresight pioneers and encourage other countries to follow their example as they navigate uncertainty and imagine a brighter future, including enhanced governance and accelerated progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ahead of the Summit of the Future in September 2024, as well as a more productive, inclusive and sustainable path to 2030 and beyond.

PARTICIPANTS

This side event will be held in person and streamed live during the high-level political forum. Attendees will include high-level officials of the United Nations, government authorities, members of parliament, policymakers, experts, researchers and members of civil society. The participatory event will seek to produce inputs with a long-term parliamentary perspective for the Summit of the Future, to be held in 2024. This event will be hosted in Spanish and count with interpretation to English.



PROGRAMME

Moderator: Silvia Hernández, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC

- 11.00 a.m. **Opening remarks**
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- 11.05 a.m. **Rethinking, reimagining and transforming: the “whats” and the “hows” for moving towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable development model**
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- 11.20 a.m. **The experience of Chile**
Juan Antonio Coloma, Chair of the Committee on Future Challenges, Science, Technology and Innovation and former President of the Senate of Chile
- 11.35 a.m. **The experience of Uruguay**
Rodrigo Goñi, Chair of the Committee of the Future of the House of Representatives of Uruguay
- 11.50 a.m. **Results of the First Regional Conference of Parliamentary Future Commissions in June 2024 in Santiago de Chile and next steps**
Daniel Zovatto, external consultant with ECLAC
- 12.00 p.m. **The 2024 Summit of the Future: expected results and relevance for Parliaments**
Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- 12:05 p.m. **Comments**
José García Ruminot, President of the Senate, Chile
- 12:10 p.m. **Interactive discussion**
Representatives from Member States and the United Nations system, members of parliament and other stakeholders
- 12:25 p.m. **Closing remarks**
Paula Narváez Ojeda, President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations
- 12:30 p.m. **Close of the meeting**
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC