

Comunicados de prensa

Meeting in New York:



Committee of the Whole Backs Work of ECLAC Executive Secretary in Support of Countries Facing Crisis

Delegates of 40 member and two associate States of ECLAC met today.

(10 February 2009) Delegates to the *Twenty-fifth Session of the Committee of the Whole* requested ECLAC's active collaboration to support countries in forging a common regional position for presentation at the conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, convened by the president of the UN General Assembly.

This was one of the resolutions of the Committee of the Whole approved today in New York by delegates from the 40 members and two associate members of ECLAC.

Delegates to the meeting highlighted ECLAC's swift and timely reaction in providing governments with relevant information on the crisis and suggesting public policies to address it.

ECLAC Executive Secretary **Alicia Bárcena** received warm congratulations from permanent ambassadors, who noted that this was the first time she spoke before the Committee of the Whole.

During the meeting, country representatives analyzed the prospects of the economic crisis and the priority tasks the Commission should undertake in support of member States.

Bárcena presented a study on the public policies countries in the region have announced to address the effects of the world economic crisis, titled *"The reactions of Latin American and Caribbean governments to the international crisis"*.

"ECLAC should play a key role in times when we need to seek solutions to the restrictions of international credit and when it is already evident that poverty and social inequality are on the rise in the region," stated **Juan Temístocles Montás**, Secretary of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic and President of the Committee of the Whole.

Bárcena expressed gratitude for the support of member governments and reasserted ECLAC's historic commitment to the creation of a body of thought that, from and for the region, may contribute to Latin American and Caribbean nations' efforts to make their voice heard in light of two urgent challenges: the construction of a new international financial architecture and addressing the effects of climate change.

Member countries also requested ECLAC to support the organization of a regional preparatory meeting to exchange views concerning a framework for a post-2012 climate change agreement. They also stressed the importance for countries in the region, especially under present circumstances, that the Commission's work programme be fully implemented.

Further information on the *Twenty-fifth Session of the Committee of the Whole* is available at the link.

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