

**INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE  
COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

We, the Ministers and high representatives gathered at the first meeting of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Mexico City,

1. *Reaffirm* the commitment of our countries and of our region with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stressing that it is people-centred, universal and transformative, that its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,
2. *Reaffirm also* the commitment to leave no one behind and acknowledge that empowering those who are vulnerable is crucial to sustainable development,
3. *Recall* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, recognize the synergies of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, recommend further strengthening of multilateral cooperation at the regional and global levels for their effective implementation, and acknowledge the importance of the regional conferences and processes for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,
4. *Highlight* that with the first meeting of this new forum, the Latin American and Caribbean Countries have advanced in implementing the 2030 Agenda by engaging in a systematic process of follow-up and review at the regional level, building on existing mechanisms, which provides useful opportunities for regional cooperation and peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on agreed targets and identified challenges, as well as for convening regional contributions to the High-level Political Forum and the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, and in this regard recommend further engagement in coming years,
5. *Commend* the three countries of the region that presented voluntary national reviews at the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC in 2016, and the eleven countries preparing for doing the same in 2017, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these fourteen countries in their early steps to implement the 2030

Agenda, including by integrating it into their national development and sustainable development strategies<sup>1</sup>, recommend further volunteering, and look forward to appropriate allocation of time and feedback at the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC,

6. *Recognize* the importance to continue to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in situation of conflict and post conflict,
7. *Reiterate* the call on the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income and recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels, for effectively eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities within and among countries, and further recommend to continue building institutional capacities for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including for data collection and monitoring,
8. *Recommend* ECLAC, through the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, to advance the production of indicators that are relevant to the region in the framework proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen the particular national statistical capacities.
9. *Underscore* that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the protection and full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in this regard recommend further streamlining a gender approach into national sustainable development policies and strategies,
10. *Emphasize* the importance for countries of the region of official development assistance and climate financing, which is additional to the latter, particularly, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and bridge its structural gaps, as well as the importance of South-South cooperation and the potential for it between Latin American and Caribbean countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda,
11. *Recall* that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation, and reaffirm the importance of fully complying with international commitments made in this regard, including the mobilization of financial and non-financial resources and the promotion of the development, transfer, dissemination of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, and

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<sup>1</sup> In 2016: Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. In 2017: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

further recommend to increase regional cooperation, inter alia, on the development of endogenous science and technology,

12. *Recognize* the potential impacts of exponential technological change and automation in our countries and in this regard, recommends the Secretariat of ECLAC to issue a concept note on the matters, with concrete recommendations for the consideration of the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the Ministerial Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago de Chile in August 8 and 9, with a view to initiate a discussion on the matters, including by establishing a task group to further elaborate regional recommendations for ongoing UN processes related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the HLPF, ECOSOC and the General Assembly, as appropriate,
13. *Stress* the importance and transformative potential of entrepreneurship and the private sector, and incentivizing changes in financing as well as consumption and production patterns to support sustainable development, and recommend to develop policies and, where appropriate, strengthening regulatory frameworks to better align private sector incentives with public goals, including incentivizing the private sector to adopt sustainable practices and foster long-term quality investment,
14. *Recommend* redoubling efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation and reducing opportunities for tax avoidance to make sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, and further recall that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity,
15. *Acknowledge* the primary responsibility of Governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which takes into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respects national policies and priorities, welcome the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations System and the international organizations and programs with a presence in the region, and reiterate the need to ensure that their activities are carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities,
16. *Recall* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and in this regard recommend to ensure, as appropriate, an effective and significant participation of civil society organizations, academia and private sector at the upcoming meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, welcome their contributions to its first meeting, and recommend their continuous engagement in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region,

17. *Reaffirm* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,
18. *Take note* with appreciation of ECLAC annual report on regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its annex on financing, request the Secretariat to prepare an updated version, and recommend the Presidency of the 36th Session of ECLAC to submit it, along with the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair, as regional contributions to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum and ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, as well as to the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism, for their due consideration,
19. *Express* our appreciation to ECLAC for the support provided to the region in its efforts to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and urge the Commission to continue to support regional initiatives to leave no one behind,
20. *Value* the format and organization of the first forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as well as the modalities for the participation of multiple actors, and invite the Chair of the Thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, with the support of the Secretariat, to maintain a constant dialogue with all the member countries of the Forum and the relevant actors to follow-up the activities that result from the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and
21. *Express* our deepest appreciation to the Government of Mexico for organizing and hosting the first meeting of the Forum of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries.