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**REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

San José, 7–9 March 2022



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in San José from 7 to 9 March 2022. The meeting was convened by the Government of Costa Rica, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), under the auspices of the Commission, by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by the member States at the thirty-sixth session.

Attendance¹

2. The following States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were represented at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

3. Attending as observers were the following non-Forum-member States members of the Commission: Canada, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and United States.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. The United Arab Emirates, a State Member of the United Nations but not a member of the Commission, also participated in a consultative capacity.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the meeting by the Deputy Secretary-General and representatives of the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), the Development Coordination Office (DCO), resident coordinators, resident coordinator offices and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

7. The following entities of the United Nations system were also represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Global Compact, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations

¹ See annex 4 for the full list of participants.

Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also participated in the meeting: Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), European Commission, EU-LAC International Foundation, Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Organization of American States (OAS).

9. Also in attendance were representatives of the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, who are included in the list of participants.

Chair

10. The fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was chaired by Costa Rica, the country serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

11. The Forum adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation of the document A decade of action for a change of era, fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. High-level dialogue on an innovative financing agenda for recovery.
4. Commemoration of International Women's Day.
5. Panel discussions.
 - From development in transition to development for action: towards renewed international development cooperation.
 - Statistical, quantitative and territorial monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Natural disasters and the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean.
 - Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for sustainable recovery: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Education and gender equality: human rights central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. Peer-learning session: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Presentation of the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Other matters.
9. Conclusions and recommendations.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. The opening session was moderated by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, the country serving as Chair of ECLAC, and addressed by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the ECLAC; Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Carlos Alvarado, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

13. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that in the prevailing context, the meeting of the Forum should represent a starting point to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He reviewed the milestones of the last two years of Costa Rica's chairship: ongoing listening and dialogue; rapprochement with associate members; special attention to the Caribbean subregion, to raise awareness of its priorities and specific characteristics; transformation of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean; and promotion of a recovery based on an agenda that called for the creation of innovative mechanisms to make the necessary financing more accessible for middle-income countries. He called for the meeting's discussions to be translated into tangible actions that would substantially improve people's quality of life.

14. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in her keynote speech, welcomed the fact that after some difficult years, a face-to-face meeting could take place once more, despite the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic and its health, social, environmental, economic and political repercussions, which continued to affect the world and particularly the region. She said that in the midst of global uncertainty, the Forum was again proving itself to be an indispensable meeting space to address the urgent need for effective multilateralism that supported regional integration and cooperation. The main motivation of ECLAC for the fifth meeting was to hear the lessons learned and challenges faced during the pandemic, as well as reflections on the recovery and on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, not only from authorities, but also from civil society and the private sector. The Executive Secretary thanked Costa Rica for its commitment and leadership as Chair of ECLAC, and extended greetings to Argentina, which would become Chair in September 2022, highlighting its vocation for integration. She also thanked the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations for attending the meeting, especially given the conflict situation in Eastern Europe and the difficulties the United Nations was facing.

15. A change of era was underway, in which structural problems combined with serious singular situations. Latin America and the Caribbean had been the region of the developing world hardest hit by the pandemic, and severe inequalities in the right to health, income concentration, territorial gaps and access to public goods had been magnified. In addition, the pandemic had deepened asymmetries between developed

and developing countries, affecting middle-income countries, which made up most of the region. Gaps had widened in access to vaccines and financial resources, as well as in capacities to implement economic recovery initiatives. Specifically, access to vaccines had reflected a marked trend toward nationalism; Latin America and the Caribbean has been affected by trade protectionism on medicines, equipment and vaccines, which had led it to consider a plan for self-sufficiency in health matters with a regional approach.² Ongoing events might cause the financial resources of the countries of Europe to be allocated to military security, at the expense of development. That increased the urgency with which the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals must be addressed.

16. In 2020, Latin America and the Caribbean had faced its worst economic recession in 120 years. The greatest impact had been in labour informality, especially among women and young people. There had been a 20-year reversal in women's labour force participation rate, and the excessive burden of caregiving and unpaid domestic work had increased. The shadow pandemic of femicide, feminicide and other forms of gender-based violence continued. In the area of education, the region recorded one of the longest interruptions of face-to-face classes, which had led to gaps in the development of cognitive skills, the loss of learning opportunities and a risk of increased school dropout rates, in addition to contributing to the excessive burden of caregiving tasks. It was becoming increasingly clear that there was a need to transition to a care society. Poverty—including extreme poverty—and inequality had also increased considerably during the period. In 2021, growth in the region had been insufficient to reverse the fall in 2020. In 2022, GDP growth was slowing, accompanied by lower fiscal resources, inflationary pressure, rising interest rates, and increased monetary and financial volatility and uncertainty. Latin America and the Caribbean had structural problems: low levels of investment, low productivity, high informality, inequality and poverty, all in a context of exclusion and prevalence of a culture of privilege. Regarding digital connectivity, one third of the region's inhabitants had limited or no access to digital technologies owing to their economic and social circumstances.

17. For all those reasons, transformative recovery actions were urgently needed, concentrating on strategic sectors that could drive cross-cutting progress; sectors that promoted innovation, strengthened public and private investment, created jobs, reduced environmental footprints and transformed development models, such as digital inclusion, the care economy and the transition to renewable energy. There was also a pressing need to strengthen the health manufacturing industry, with a pragmatic approach to regional integration. In that regard, the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) had approved the *Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lines of action and proposals* prepared by ECLAC, which was a road map to strengthen the production and distribution of medicines, and especially vaccines, and gave ECLAC and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) the mandate to pursue actions for its implementation. The Executive Secretary also warned of the need to be cautious with regard to fiscal and monetary adjustments to avoid growth recession, and stressed the importance for countries to have greater access to international liquidity to supplement their domestic resources. Innovative financing instruments were needed, and it was essential to include middle-income countries in initiatives involving debt relief and access to liquidity on concessional terms, hence the importance of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) proposed by Costa Rica and the debt-for-climate adaptation swap for Caribbean countries.

18. Lastly, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC stated that political commitment was key to moving towards a new type of multilateralism that would enable reshaping of international economic and social power relations, and give greater priority to development issues rather than focusing entirely and

² Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lines of action and proposals (LC/TS.2021/115), Santiago, 2021.

excessively on market liberalization. A united voice of Latin America and the Caribbean was more relevant than ever, to insist on the importance of effective multilateralism and cooperation on various fronts to successfully provide global public goods such as climate security, universal health and peace. In the unique times at hand, Latin America and the Caribbean needed to redouble commitment to its shared calling of closeness, integration and kinship and pursue a change in the pattern of development. The region was facing great challenges, but it also had many opportunities to achieve the desired development with a focus on equality, social justice, sustainability, democracy and peace.

19. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations thanked the President of Costa Rica for his leadership, the Vice-President of Costa Rica for focusing work on Afrodescendants and Alicia Bárcena, for her years of service and leadership within the United Nations. She said that the global economy was still reeling from the havoc wrought by COVID-19 and had been further destabilized by the Ukraine conflict and the resulting wider geopolitical dynamics, which could threaten the prospects for recovery. The region was the hardest hit by COVID-19 and had many structural challenges, especially in the Caribbean, which was tragically vulnerable to crises. Achieving the SDGs would not be easy, and getting back on track required policy changes aligned with the 2030 Agenda, strong institutions and governance for inclusive and sustainable growth. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the inclusion of trade in the discussion could help the process. The Secretary General's initiative, Our Common Agenda, drove actions, and the Forum should be an occasion to chart an ambitious path towards development. Five priorities could inform discussions: (i) building resilience to the pandemic and preparedness for future (stronger health systems, investment in primary health care, vaccine production); (ii) scaling up and speeding up investments in the protection of people and ecosystems on the frontlines of the climate crisis, especially in the Caribbean, with cooperation with middle-income countries to redistribute liquidity, reform of the global debt architecture and support for innovative debt repayment instruments (the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was the only institution applying a multidimensional vulnerability index); (iii) supercharging just transitions in digital connectivity (the digital transition must become a driver of inclusion), energy (a just transition to renewable energy was a must) and food systems (the region could chart a way forward in building sustainable and resilient food systems); (iv) rebounding from learning losses of the pandemic to reinvent future of education; and (v) accelerating gender equality and economic transformation.

20. She recalled that the Secretary-General had presented five transformative recommendations to advance gender equality: repealing gender-discriminatory laws; promoting gender parity in all spheres and at all levels of decision-making; facilitating women's economic inclusion; ensuring greater inclusion of younger women; and following through on an emergency response to prevent and end gender-based violence. Young men needed to be included in efforts to change how society lived together. Robust and decent job creation must be matched by universal social protection. In the meeting of Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean it was hoped that an ambitious workplan would be considered to support countries across the region and agree on concrete deliverables. The situation in Haiti had not been forgotten and international engagement as well as national efforts towards reconstruction were encouraging. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean had given birth to the SDGs, and its leadership was now needed to build a future of peace, dignity and prosperity.

21. The President of Costa Rica said a face-to-face meeting with numerous representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean and friends and partners of the region was a great opportunity, and encouraged participants to reflect on their strategic contribution to the Forum. At times of war, uncertainty and despair, such as the crossroads where humanity found itself, the courageous and bold route to ensure people's well-being was the path of peace. The greatest courage was that required to converse and seek solutions to the problems the world and the region faced. Events of recent years, especially the pandemic,

had shown that the world was interdependent. It was not possible to survive alone, or to be safe unless we all saved ourselves, and the best way to achieve a better world was to show solidarity. Economic recovery, fighting climate change, meeting health needs and realizing human rights needed to remain as the priority lines of action for Latin American and Caribbean governments, and the region was in a decisive position to lead the way.

22. The call for a new global compact was stronger than ever; a unified response that measured up to the enormity of the common challenges. Solutions and responses needed be found by all, multilaterally, with an international architecture that supported peace, sustainable development and the realization of the human rights of all people, and particularly those in the most vulnerable situations. Asymmetries existed among and within countries. Inequality, which eroded nations and dissolved social fabrics, needed to be fought. The countries of the region had seen their fiscal space shrink, were suffering from high levels of debt, and faced the constant dilemma of financing for development. Furthermore, the main threat the world was facing was the destruction of the planet by human beings, the disappearance of biodiversity and the desertification of arable areas. However, even before the ongoing conflict in Europe, levels of investment in weaponry had once again surpassed cold war levels. The question was why millions were being spent on weapons and not on humanity's main problems. Specific answers were needed; proposals could and should emerge from the Forum to address all those problems.

23. It was important to do away with one-dimensional criteria for understanding reality. Classification criteria based solely on income hid a situation that overlooked the needs of most of the world's countries and their most vulnerable populations. Economies that focused on the here and now had led to simple, unidirectional solutions, but reality was complex, and understanding and accepting complexity was transformative. Multidimensionality called for more action and communication, because the truth was more difficult to explain. It had been an honour for Costa Rica to service as Chair of ECLAC, based on an innovative financing for development agenda and recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, with specific proposals that went beyond assessments and studies and had the potential to have a real impact. As a result of technical inputs from ECLAC and intergovernmental discussions in recent months, a toolbox was available that included proposals in areas such as national fiscal strategies, expansion and recirculation of special drawing rights, debt-for-nature swaps, debt for social protection swaps, creation of a multilateral credit rating agency and new multilateral funds financed by developed countries, such as the FACE fund proposed by Costa Rica. Lastly, he commended and thanked the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, for her work, dedication, leadership and vision, and said that the Government of Costa Rica was awarding her the Silver Grand Cross of the National Order of Juan Mora Fernández.

Presentation of the document *A decade of action for a change of era, fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (agenda item 2)

24. In the presentation of the document *A decade of action for a change of era, fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,³ the Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted several key messages, such as the growing global asymmetries between developed and developing countries (economic, health, climate and crisis response gaps), the fact that the region had been the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the central role of the State in addressing the economic and social costs of the crisis. She also drew attention to the unequal access to vaccines in the region and said that and the most worrying aspect of the recovery, which offered a historic opportunity to forge a new social compact that provides protection, certainty and

³ LC/FDS.5/3.

confidence, was that it was following a development model that had already been shown to have structural limitations. Three, often invisible, “silent crises” were still at play: (i) the loss of more than a year of classroom schooling for an entire generation of students; (ii) the increase in gender-based violence and in the unequal gender distribution of care burdens; and (iii) the exacerbation of biodiversity destruction as a result of illegal activities, often combined with killings of environmental defenders. The report examined the issues of debt, inflation, the increases in poverty and extreme poverty, and the worsening of gender inequalities, and analysed patterns in the SDG indicators, focusing on matters related to education, gender equality, the care society, biodiversity and institutional progress on the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

25. In the space for comments on the report, moderated by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, statements were made by Carlos Alvarado, President of Costa Rica, Mariana Mazzucato, Economist and Professor of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) of University College London (UCL), and Enrique Iglesias, former Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

26. The President of Costa Rica said that the document presented by ECLAC was an extremely important contribution to jointly pursuing solutions to address the critical juncture of that time and outline future pathways for sustainable development and well-being for society as a whole. The report confirmed that the damaging repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis had been exacerbated by sustained levels of structural inequality, and also addressed, from various angles and with regard to different dimensions, the severe consequences that countries were continuing to suffer as a result of the pandemic. For there to be true recovery and reconstruction, investment needed to be systematic, aligned with the SDGs and sensitive to the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The report was a clear call to action to avoid marring the futures of current and future generations, but in order to act, greater access to financing and international cooperation was needed, as they were essential for a transition to a more sustainable pattern of development. In the specific case of Costa Rica, the country had to ratify the Escazú Agreement and its government had launched several initiatives, such as the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE), and the joint work among local governments to territorialize the 2030 Agenda. There needed to be a discussion of the care society from a rights-based perspective and a more egalitarian approach to domestic and care tasks. The region must move from a culture of privilege to a care society, and a change of course was needed to move towards a new normal that was equal, sustainable, inclusive, innovative, green and decarbonized.

27. The Economist and Professor of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) of University College London (UCL) said that the consequences of COVID-19 —such as the loss of a year of schooling for an entire generation, the infodemic, the a lack of investment and underfunding of health care, vaccine apartheid and hoarding, the lack of vaccine production capacity in many developing countries because of how poorly intellectual property rights had been intentionally structured globally— were all indications of the failure to govern economic systems, innovation and development in the common interest and for the common good. There was a need to redesign how economics and capitalism worked. Existing issues were the outcomes of problematic governance of public, private and third sector institutions and the relationships between them. She then focused on four big changes: (i) changing the direction of growth, moving away from “levelling the playing field” to “tilting” the playing field in the direction of innovation-led, inclusive and sustainable growth, with proactive design of policies to free them of the concept of fixing market failures; (ii) designing an industrial strategy, with innovation policy, procurement budgets as dynamic innovative instruments to crowd in bottom-up solutions, because it was not simply a matter of listing sectors in difficulty and handing out money as all sectors needed to work together differently; (iii) providing a direction for finance and liquidity, by making public banks like the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) mission-oriented, and countries would have to focus less on deficits and instead kickstart public and private investment and innovation, the multiplier effect of which would keep debt-to-GDP ratios in check; and

(iv) investing in the dynamic capabilities of institutions. Less outsourcing of capacity and more inward investment were needed to make public institutions more flexible and agile. She noted that in the term public-private partnerships, the word “partnership” was not normative, but symbolic. Partnerships needed to be symbiotic, mutual, dynamic, with conditionality at the centre, and not the ones that reduced fiscal space. That could mean making loans conditional on the transformation of a sector or putting principles such as the common good or collective intelligence at the centre of contract design. She concluded by saying that in digital, health and clean energy spaces, it would be important to reformulate relationships between business, the State and the third sector in the region, to truly build symbiotic partnerships and take action to implement the important Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

28. The former Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted five points: (i) the rigorous preparation by ECLAC of the report, which very clearly reflected the work of the institution; (ii) the need to recognize in the preceding 75 years, significant technological progress had been made with production systems and communications; (iii) the deepening of inequality and the enormous inefficiency with which opportunities had been distributed around the world; the great contribution of the United Nations system had been to incorporate into public discussion the concept of solidarity, of society’s commitment to those who were most in need and who should be supported, but the world was still incapable of overcoming conflicts among races, religions and nationalisms, and still owed it to history to restore peace to humanity; (iv) the incorporation into growth of the concept of interaction (for example, the presence of millions of companies throughout the world, where everything was a result of a combination of everything); and (v) the concept of a change of era: in human history, such changes had always been accompanied by shocks and by violence, and that needed to be kept very much in mind. Peace mattered above all else and should be the great mobilizing purpose of the world for the future, but it was a commitment that should not be placed solely in the hands of politicians, society as a whole had to assume it. He thanked Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for her contribution to the work of the Commission through her innovation, her commitment to the goals of the United Nations, her enthusiasm, her vitality and her personal commitment.

Statements by ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda

29. Ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean then delivered statements on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The session was moderated by María del Pilar Garrido, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica.

30. The Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia said that in response to the pandemic her country had strengthened cash transfer programmes, but that was only a palliative measure and it was necessary to move towards truly inclusive growth and development, that went beyond traditional indicators. Value chains with greater processing and value added should be developed, enhancing competitiveness to orient the region more toward the international market and to take advantage of the existing market in the hemisphere. To that end, it was essential to facilitate gender equality, women’s economic autonomy and a more prominent role for women in economic scenarios through sustainable, market-oriented enterprises, with a more active role for governments in implementation of policies that had sufficient budgets to reach the required scale, as well as a more active role for genuine development banking to foster those processes. It was also necessary to promote a solidarity-based economic model that favoured partnerships, so that small producers could move towards formalization. Migration went hand in hand with lack of economic opportunities and lack of freedoms, areas in which work was needed to achieve social progress and fulfil the 2030 Agenda.

31. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba said that, as stated in the report presented, the agreed goals would not be achieved if production, consumption and distribution patterns were not transformed, and the region had much to contribute to that process. He reiterated Cuba's commitment to the SDGs and its willingness to support other countries, even in the harmful scenario caused by the economic, commercial and financial blockade that had been imposed on the country 60 years prior and which hindered the fight against the pandemic. Cuba was addressing challenges in education, gender equality and ecosystem protection, through national strategies and programmes that were aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Despite progress, there were still great challenges ahead and Cuba would continue to contribute to multilateralism and promote partnerships with other countries to achieve the change of era that was needed for Latin America and the Caribbean to become the region its population desired.

32. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda expressed special thanks to the Executive Secretary and her team for the work carried out and the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for the assistance provided. He highlighted the challenges and lessons learned in implementing the SDGs; Antigua and Barbuda's first voluntary national review had shown significant progress towards some of the Goals and the second review would be presented in 2026. His Ministry would implement three projects in 2022 on mapping, innovative financing solutions and recovery planning, in coordination with ECLAC and the Resident Coordinator in Barbados. Lastly, he said that Antigua and Barbuda was eager to hear from other countries and join forces to make the region a better place for its people.

33. The Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget (OPP) of Uruguay said that the 2030 Agenda provided guidance for comprehensive and inclusive management of development efforts. For that reason, joint action by the region was essential in order to obtain financing to implement the 2030 Agenda and not lose sight of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The greatest source of financing was always economic growth and in that respect the region was far from reaching its potential. Growth required macroeconomic and institutional stability, as well as modern institutions and quality education. Uruguay was committed to those efforts and to submitting voluntary national reviews. The pursuit of the 2030 Agenda must continue to be complemented by economic recovery and, in that regard, the report presented covered very important issues, such as the challenges posed by the pandemic, environmental challenges, challenges relating to the world of work and those related to care. Joint efforts were required not only for the region to recover, but also for it to begin to develop its huge growth potential.

34. The Deputy Minister for Social and Institutional Planning in the Ministry of People's Power for Planning of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that in the global context it was fitting to look at issues from the perspective of resilience. The challenges posed by the health emergency were being compounded in his country's case by unilateral coercive measures that affected the population and hindered the fight against the pandemic. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela remained committed to cooperation and respectful social dialogue, and was continuing to promote an inclusive economic development model, in areas such as health, education and gender equality, which had all been included in a plan with a horizon of 2025 that was aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The country also remained committed to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, within a framework of regional integration and, as always, was willing to collaborate with ECLAC to benefit the region.

35. The Undersecretary of State for Foreign Policy Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras said that a structural and institutional change had taken place in that country with the return to democracy. The new Government of Honduras had inherited a country that had to allocate 50% of its budget to debt service, preventing those resources from being translated into

development, poverty reduction or social programmes. A commitment to human rights and to defending natural resources was at the heart of the country's development and would be reflected in the signing of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement). The new government's main focus was on education, health and the fight against poverty. Progress in those areas could only be achieved by reviewing the way in which social programmes were implemented to prevent them from being linked to clientelist practices, as had occurred in the past. Honduras needed the support of ECLAC to make development gains.

36. The Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations said that inequality in the region had increased and the reduction of inequality that had begun in 2002 had been interrupted. The countries had allocated considerable resources to finance cash transfers to prevent a further increase in poverty, but the transfers, in general, were not equivalent to the poverty line. It was not only data and information that must be repositioned at the centre, as the Executive Secretary of ECLAC had said; it was also necessary to restore the centrality of policy in line with the Commission's for a decade of action for a new pattern of development, which was linked to the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a new global social contract for recovery. The post-pandemic recovery was following pre-pandemic patterns, but with the same approach to growth policies it would be difficult to reverse the 10-year setbacks in indicators. Economic and social relations in the countries needed to be restructured, for example, through cash transfers based on a new conception of how to end poverty. There was also room for renewed regional cooperation, especially in terms of new forms of financing.

37. The Ambassador of Brazil in Costa Rica said that his country was fully committed to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. In the midst of the greatest global crisis in many decades, the obstacles to fulfilling the Agenda had grown and there was an obligation to reassess, so that the result was not merely a return to normal, but a choice to build back better, leaving no one behind. Structural economic reform was high on the country's national agenda. Brazil had also made great efforts in environmental matters and had sought to develop the bioeconomy to lift people out of poverty. The government had been working on pursuit of the targets of the 17 SDGs, undertaking actions to foster progress towards the Goals. Work had been done on indicators and on disseminating results to a wider public, so that society could follow the progress in that process. Cooperation with the region had been fundamental in that regard.

38. The Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Costa Rica said that her country had made every effort to align its national strategies to overcome the challenges faced in two years of the pandemic with its drive for sustainable development. More than 90% of the initiatives in place were aligned with Goals 3, 6 and 8, as indicated in the voluntary national review submitted by the Dominican Republic in 2021. During the pandemic, the government had decided to prioritize reactivation in three areas: access to decent work, quality health care, and expanded coverage and quality of public services. To meet the challenges of the prevailing international context (supply chain bottlenecks, inflation and the military crisis in Europe), additional measures had been taken to provide social assistance to the unemployed and poor, increase liquidity to prevent a banking crisis, and directly support different productive sectors and companies. The government's main objective was to improve people's quality of life through specific outputs with measurable indicators; planning in the public sector was a flexible instrument that could be adapted to circumstances and corrected to avoid drifting away from that ultimate goal.

39. The Presidential Commissioner for Multilateral Affairs of Guatemala said that his country had developed coordination and implementation strategies to prioritize the 2030 Agenda and incorporate it into national planning instruments. Specifically, work had been done to ensure free, quality, comprehensive education (Goal 4); to formulate municipal development plans, as planning tools that improved management and cooperation capacity at the local level (Goal 11); to guarantee access to hygiene and

sanitation services by strengthening municipal water and sanitation offices, which oversaw maintenance and management of water resources, and to draft a water law to reduce the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change (Goal 6). Lastly, he underscored Guatemala's commitment to transforming the country, noting the need to create tools to mitigate the effects of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthen women's participation in all social spheres, combat tax evasion and improve public policy. That was the path to reducing existing development gaps, ending poverty and achieving sustainable prosperity for all.

40. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador stated that the meeting of the Forum, the first face-to-face meeting of that magnitude since the start of the pandemic, would provide a major boost to multilateralism. The complexity of post-pandemic recovery had the potential to hinder fulfilment of existing commitments, so it was essential to rethink priorities and courses of action to guarantee citizens' livelihoods and health. In El Salvador, the pandemic had accelerated required changes in the public health system, which had been expanded and modernized, with a focus on humanization and integration, thus contributing to fulfilment of Goal 3 and Goal 10. In education, technical modernization had been achieved by strengthening digital literacy in younger generations, furthering progress on Goals 4 and 9. In addition, the commitments to job creation and to expansion of business opportunities in all sectors had been instrumental in progress towards Goal 8. Public investment in social well-being had a direct impact on people's lives; continued technological and financial support was needed to move the world closer to achieving the SDGs.

41. The Director General of Multilateral Policy and Coordinator of the SDG Paraguay Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay said that the SDG Paraguay Commission was a milestone for the country, providing it with a structure that could pursue decisive actions with tangible benefits for all citizens. The second voluntary national review —submitted by Paraguay in July 2021— had been a very useful self-assessment, highlighting the structural problems that had been affecting the country for years, and had led to the linking of regulatory frameworks with the SDGs and to multisectoral collaborative actions to reach innovative solutions to the country's challenges. Looking toward 2030, a number of challenges lay ahead, such as further harmonizing shared policies for the free transit of persons without breaching health checks, steering trade and tourism toward a path of sustainable growth, and rebuilding the social fabric damaged by the pandemic. Collective horizontal efforts were needed, with citizens, and especially the most vulnerable populations, as the central element of public policies. More than ever, there was a clear need to continue joining forces to achieve an Agenda that called for peace, cooperation, respect and tolerance among countries as values that were inseparable from the concept of sustainability.

42. The Minister of Finance of Guyana said that the report presented showed that progress towards development was insufficient and proactive measures were urgently needed, particularly given the loss of one year of schooling in the region during the pandemic. Guyana welcomed the focus of ECLAC on the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals. He highlighted his country's initiatives in the area of food security, the sustainable development strategies to preserve rainforest and reduce carbon emissions, and tangible support for learning and capacity-building with online scholarships. He then reiterated the call for application of a multidimensional vulnerability index. Partnerships were essential and Guyana was committed to working with the United Nations and ECLAC. He thanked the Executive Secretary for her passionate leadership and outstanding support for the Caribbean, acknowledging its vulnerability and advancing the development agenda.

43. The Minister of Social Development and Family of Chile said that the health crisis had tested the capacity of institutions to respond to citizens' demands and had given a new lease of life to the path traced by the 2030 Agenda to facilitate a sustainable recovery in the three dimensions of development. While the pandemic was expected to affect the progress made on Goals 1, 3 and 8, it had rapidly become apparent

that it was also affecting education, gender equality and the environment, and was increasing inequality for particularly vulnerable groups. Amid the complex backdrop of uncertainty, the Government of Chile had sought the engagement of multiple stakeholders, and the support of civil society was vital for national recovery, as dialogues and partnerships were essential to leave no one behind. Responses to the COVID-19 crisis could become the basis for addressing other crises, such as the climate crisis. Chile was updating and strengthening its institutional framework for the SDGs, through a register of State initiatives linked to the 2030 Agenda, working groups that would study national progress on the SDGs, and a proposal for implementing the Agenda that would contribute to its adoption at all territorial levels.

44. The Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama said that voluntary national reviews were healthy undertakings to identify gaps and weaknesses and focus efforts on the most needful areas. Panama had already submitted two reviews, in 2017 and 2020, and would submit its third in 2023. Addressing climate change was a priority for the country, which was promoting the blue economy by formulating a national ocean policy; nine years ahead of schedule, the country had met the goal of the 30x30 initiative (which sought to protect 30% of the planet by 2030), and had become one of only three carbon-negative countries in the world. Another key challenge for Panama was mitigating, through a return to face-to-face education, the impact of the pandemic on education caused by a lack of access to information and communications technology (ICT) in rural areas. The country was also working on protection of women's rights and the equal pay agenda. The Deputy Minister thanked ECLAC for presenting the countries with a clear and complete overview, with recommendations for achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and called on the entire region to step up the pursuit of those Goals.

45. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said leaving no one behind was not just a catch phrase for her country: its National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013–2025 (NESDP) and other plans put people at the centre. Poverty had been substantially reduced and there had been tangible improvements in quality of life as a result of targeted action in employment, health and social protection, accompanied by incentives to reduce youth unemployment and increase entrepreneurship. Climate change remained a danger to small island developing States (SIDS) and the pandemic and volcano eruptions had compounded food insecurity. Only international assistance would help SIDS to mitigate and withstand natural disasters. Reforms in the United Nations development system and progress towards a multidimensional vulnerability index were encouraging, as was the fund for climate adaptation and comprehensive response to natural disasters. It was still possible to achieve the SDGs, but urgent action was needed.

46. The Deputy Minister of Planning and Coordination in the Ministry of Development Planning of the Plurinational State of Bolivia stated that, since 2006, the country had been implementing an economic, social and productive model that had reduced poverty and the gap between rich and poor, and increased access in areas such as health, education, housing and basic services. The Patriotic Agenda 2025, which was very similar to the 2030 Agenda in its approaches, had made it possible to reduce extreme poverty; implement a unified, universal and free health-care system, which had helped to reduce infant mortality; increase the school attendance rate of the population aged 4–17 years, and the rate of enrolment in educational establishments for the population aged 19–23 years; increase women's participation in politics, resulting in an increase in the number of seats held by women in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly; increase access to improved water sources; and reduce the Gini coefficient. Over the coming years, the challenge would be to create better economic and social opportunities for new generations, based on economic diversification, industrialization and import substitution, equitable income distribution, safeguarding fundamental human rights and protecting Mother Earth.

47. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina said that his country attached great importance to the 2030 Agenda, which had led to inter-institutional mechanisms for designing public policies that were aligned with the Agenda, integrated monitoring of progress, and the requisite budget allocation, as well as the presentation of two voluntary national reviews, in 2017 and 2020, with the third to be submitted in July 2022. As agents of public policy, governments should promote an inclusive and sustainable recovery, refraining from increasing concentration of poverty and social exclusion, and working in solidarity on the basis of international agreements. The old formulas of austerity would be of no use in the new reality, in which a systemic crisis was affecting children, the elderly, women and diverse groups disproportionately. The needs and demands of the most vulnerable groups must be recognized, starting with the most disadvantaged, in order to reach everyone. ECLAC and CELAC were vital spaces for forging social and productive political integration, and the future of the region depended on joint work, integration and unity. The Forum was the last intergovernmental meeting with the Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena. Her leadership was undeniable and, like her, countries would continue to support sustainable development with enthusiasm at the global, regional and national levels.

48. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico expressed his concern at the setbacks seen in all areas of the 2030 Agenda. The President of Mexico had proposed that the Group of 20 (G20) countries, large companies and the world's richest people should contribute a percentage of their income so that no one would have to live on less than US\$ 4 a day, regardless of which country they lived in. That would create a world standard in anti-poverty, solidarity and fraternity, and would increase the importance of international organizations. It was a viable initiative, but it had to be fought for. Examples of joint initiatives pursued by ECLAC included the *Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lines of action and proposals*, the fund for climate adaptation and comprehensive response to natural disasters, and the *Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico*. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were sister nations and their only way forward, in a world in which the strategic and political balance was changing, was to work together to present such initiatives, since individually they did not have sufficient sway in international bodies.

49. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs of the United States Department of State said that the United States sought to eliminate disparities in its own education system and to ensure equal access for marginalized populations. The protection of the country's natural ecosystems, life below water and life on land, was one of President Biden's top priorities, and they looked forward to the Our Ocean Conference in April and the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in June. The United States supported launching negotiations for a global agreement to combat ocean plastic pollution and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was implementing the "Clean Cities, Blue Ocean" initiative in Peru and the Dominican Republic to reduce the estimated 11 tons of plastic flowing into the oceans each year. Domestically, the United States had endorsed the goal to conserve or protect at least 30% of land and sea by 2030 and supported including that goal in the global diversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. She congratulated Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama on the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, a unique model for regional cooperation that showed great potential for ocean conservation and ocean-based climate solutions. The United States was committed to making real progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Multilateral cooperation, as seen at ECLAC, was the only way to solve global sustainable development challenges. Lastly, she requested that she and her colleagues at their embassies in the region be contacted to share ideas on deepening cooperation and accelerating the full implementation of the SDGs.

50. The moderator gave some closing remarks following the statements. First, she emphasized the need to transform the productive fabric and close productivity gaps based on the fourth industrial revolution, in

order to infuse the region's sustainable development with direction and intention. Economies must be more resilient and low-emission and must foster inclusion by developing green, blue and orange jobs, with women and young people playing a leading role. A new welfare architecture was also required, with new financial instruments and a new way of cooperating and relating to each other; in other words, a transformative way of being a region. She said that all the countries agreed on that point, and ECLAC and the Executive Secretary had set an example. She praised the warmth, cordiality and courage of Alicia Bárcena, who had been the voice of the region in numerous forums over the years and had successfully defended its interests in various international bodies.

51. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC then shared some reflections on the path that ECLAC had followed in recent years. She said that in 2010, ECLAC had put equality at the centre of the development agenda and since then had focused on analysing all aspects of inequality and exploring ways to close the gaps that afflicted people. Several milestones had been reached, including: development of progressive ideas for the region given the urgency of a change in the pattern of development, but with a realistic approach, as globalization intensified, the economy was repeatedly hit by crises and the threats of environmental deterioration and climate change became more acute; proposal of an agenda of equality, with the holding of rights as a regulatory framework; formulation of proposals for progressive structural change, with a need to pursue wide-ranging compacts on fiscal matters, productive policy, the advancement of women, social cohesion and sustainable development; the effort made to demonstrate with data that inequality was economically inefficient; the development of proposals for a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability in the context of the effects of the pandemic, and the proposal of eight sectors to drive investment to create growth and jobs and reduce the environmental footprint.

52. The Executive Secretary also referred to the concept of the culture of privilege, which arose from political and economic inequalities becoming ingrained and incorporated into the rules of the game of society. It was necessary to break away from structures of political and economic domination, and build alternative paths, formulas for society in which the citizen was an active participant in transformations rather than a passive subject. That was the greatest challenge for present and future generations: to expand freedoms, forge equality, deepen democracy, re-establish solidarity among the middle and working classes, and safeguard public safety. She also warned of the anger that could arise when political action fell short of the changes that mattered to society and when expectations of well-being were unfulfilled. She reiterated, in that regard, the need for compacts, in a democratic framework where the tasks ahead were immense.

53. ECLAC had worked in close cooperation with the governments of the region, promoting regional integration and open regionalism to formulate proposals to address challenges such as migration, climate change, health self-sufficiency and food sovereignty. In that respect, five initiatives were noteworthy: the *Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico*, the *Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lines of action and proposals*, the "Caribbean first" initiative, the initiative on financing for development from a regional perspective led by the Secretary-General, Canada and Jamaica, and the Escazú Agreement. Lastly, she highlighted five key messages that she believed inspired hope: the importance of continuing to focus on equality; environmental sustainability as part of development strategies and not as an externality; the role of the State and of policies as distributive instruments; the urgency of greater regional integration, to participate in multilateralism with a single voice; and the centrality of gender equality and women's autonomy, and of moving towards a care society.

High-level dialogue on an innovative financing agenda for recovery (agenda item 3)

54. In his introductory remarks to the dialogue, Rodolfo Solano Quiros, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, said that in terms of financing for recovery, the meeting was an opportunity to move from words to action. The fact that the governments themselves were the owners of the multilateral financial

organizations hindered dialogue. In practice, the Ministers of Finance, who were the directors of the banks, had to be open to such dialogue. He thanked the representatives of regional and international development banks for attending and, above all, for participating, and invited them to think creatively and innovatively.

Contributions to the innovative financing agenda for recovery: the perspective of regional and international development banks

55. The session, with representatives of regional and international development banks, was moderated by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, who said that the region's governments had a limited capacity to obtain resources to respond adequately to the health, economic and human rights crisis caused by the pandemic because of several underlying factors: high levels of debt and resources being diverted to service debt; the region's reduced fiscal space, exacerbated by lower revenues and greater pressing needs; the impact of the pandemic on tourism, and the challenge for middle-income and upper-middle-income countries to access financing and traditional forms of cooperation. As a metric, per capita GDP was not sufficient to assess countries' progress; a multidimensional metric was needed that properly reflected the socioeconomic development and particularities of each country. The ECLAC *COVID-19 Special Report* entitled "An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean"⁴ proposed specific policy measures to move forward and produce a direct impact on the region.

56. The experts participating were asked to address key aspects to improve the capacity to access and mobilize financing: (i) measures to expand liquidity and redistribute it from developed countries to developing countries, without excluding middle-income countries, which generally did not have access to concessional financing; (ii) actions to facilitate the access of countries in the region to new sources of financing such as green bonds and SDG bonds; (iii) the strategies required to strengthen regional cooperation, increasing the lending and response capacity of regional, subregional and national financing institutions and strengthening their cooperation; (iv) the role of national development banks in mobilizing resources for sustainable development; (v) regional strategies to boost public revenues by reducing tax evasion and making tax structures more progressive, and the role of global agreements on tax rates and fiscal and financial transparency in supporting countries' capacity to strengthen fiscal revenues; and (vi) in the context of the pandemic, the actions required from development banks to meet the needs of Latin American and Caribbean countries—most of which were categorized as middle-income—in terms of access to resources and financial mechanisms to support the region's development efforts.

57. Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) said that it was a dark time for Ukraine and the world and that EIB was working closely with international financial institutions to support that country. More than ever, it was important for there to be a strong European Union, to ensure that its values—such as the rule of law, human dignity, democracy, freedom and human rights—carried weight. The pandemic had shown how connected the world was and how much countries needed to collaborate. The European Union led the world in climate ambitions. EIB had played a key role in supporting investment in climate action, not only in climate technology, but also in the pursuit of the Paris Agreement goals. Most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for a small share of emissions but were the most affected by natural disasters and rising sea levels. Most EIB loans to the region had been to the public sector with a climate change focus, and over the coming years climate change and the green economy would be priorities for the Bank. EIB funds would complement European Union grant programmes and would be distributed regardless of countries' income. The challenges countries faced were global, and there was a chance to make the world fairer and more sustainable. It was imperative to act rapidly and decisively.

⁴ See [online] <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47490>.

58. Fernando Quevedo, Manager of the Country Department for Central America, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Haiti of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) highlighted the question of how to bring resources from developed countries to developing countries, since that was the institution's mission. He said that IDB helped channel those resources to the countries of the region, with concessional rates and terms that depended on the characteristics of the country. The Bank had been supporting projects to achieve the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2016. Recently, there had also been innovation in terms of financing mechanisms: IDB had forged strategic alliances with other cooperation partners to maximize the resources reaching the region through indirect financing. The public sector had been supported, one example being the *Salud Mesoamérica* initiative, and work had been done in the area of public-private partnerships. Another aspect that the institution considered important in the region was support for national and subregional public development banks. In addition, IDB had worked intensively on issuance of thematic bonds (green, blue, gender and others), which entailed attracting resources from international markets, from investors that were willing to offer better terms and better interest rates. Multilateral development banking and other partners could play an important role in providing better mechanisms and incentives for countries to manage the impacts of climate change and disasters. IDB had supported the countries with various instruments, including an accessible line of credit at no cost. During the pandemic, the Bank had approved fast disbursement instruments to assist ministries of health in the region. Lastly, in order to strengthen recovery, efforts were being made to inject more capital into the institution, which would make more resources available for the countries.

59. Julio Antonio Cárcamo, Head of the Environmental and Social Sustainability Office of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) said that CABEI had reaffirmed its role as the most important source of multilateral financing for Central America. The Bank was updating its corporate strategy, to include new elements while maintaining the original ones. Its strategic pillars were: environmental and social sustainability, regional integration, sustainable competitiveness, human development and social inclusion, and gender equity. Direct lending was at the heart of the work of CABEI, and would continue to be so. The Bank's work with the private sector, especially with micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), was also of great importance. Actions taken by the Bank in response to the pandemic included the Emergency Support and Preparedness Program for COVID-19 and Economic Reactivation, with emergency assistance and support in areas such as public sector operations, central bank liquidity, vaccine procurement, employment and youth entrepreneurship. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, CABEI had reacted quickly with its Central American Resilient Reconstruction Program, which included emergency aid, technical assistance, public investment, private investment and green and other thematic bonds. Another instrument the Bank had begun to use was development policy operations to support governments in designing and implementing reform programmes that promoted sustainable growth and poverty reduction through technical advice and financing. In addition, CABEI worked with the Green Climate Fund, which had allowed it to mobilize resources in the form of loans, grants, guarantees, and other types of cooperation. The Bank had worked on the issuance of bonds—green bonds, social bonds and particularly bonds for procurement of vaccines—and was working to mobilize additional resources, including a regional debt market, creation of an infrastructure fund for the development of Central America in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, and a sovereign bond issuance programme in the Mexican capital market. In conclusion, he called for greater collaboration between multilateral and regional development banks to improve countries' short- and long-term capabilities, and stressed the importance of measuring the effectiveness of investments aimed at improving the well-being of the region's inhabitants.

60. Hyginus Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) referred to three areas: sustainable development, financing mechanisms to drive development, and a vulnerability and resilience framework to support access to concessional finance. Sustainable development required an ecosystem of social, institutional, environmental, financial and productive capacity resilience, designed holistically,

building a bridge between stabilization and long-term development, and integrating three frameworks: the debt sustainability framework of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the investment framework of the World Bank and the resilience-building framework of the United Nations. Systemic sustainability was impossible without financing resilience, which in turn required a financing ecosystem, with resources from public and private sectors, multiple financial institutions, blending concessional and non-concessional funding and engineering instruments to meet different purposes. A suite of instruments was needed, with green and SDG-themed bonds, resilience bonds funded with special drawing rights (SDRs), private equity, contingent instruments, derivative-based instruments, and concessional funds. However, in terms of access to concessional finance, gross national income (GNI) did not capture the process of development, or the time needed to recover from shocks. Even with high levels of GNI per capita, small States faced significant challenges after exogenous shocks. CDB had been using a vulnerability index and had contributed to the multidimensional vulnerability index. Nonetheless, existing vulnerability indices were backward-looking. CDB proposed a forward-looking concept of internal resilience capacity that captured the structural factors and vulnerability that constrained development, distinguished the magnitude and persistence of shocks, and linked access to finance to the duration of recovery; a resilience capacity-adjusted measure, called the “recovery duration adjuster”, as a more appropriate and equitable measure for classifying countries for access to concessional financing.

61. Antonella Cavallari, Secretary General of the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA) said IILA was a space for dialogue, but also a place where cooperation projects were carried out in the region with financing from both Italy and the European Union. Although IILA was not a bank, it could contribute to the search for new forms of cooperation for development, and wanted to, thus building a bridge between Italy and Europe and Latin America. IILA, together with the Italian development finance institution Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), was proposing to the European Commission an initiative that focused on supporting MSMEs in the agrifood and agro-industrial chains, one of the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, to contribute to economic recovery in Latin America. That initiative could also have a gender focus, by fostering female entrepreneurship. To achieve that, the idea was to adopt blending financing that combined the two main financial components of international cooperation —non-reimbursable funds and concessional credit lines— and to add one more component: technical assistance to the recipient companies. The European Commission would provide CDP with a guarantee fund whose main purpose would be to reduce the interest rate and lending requirements of local banks, encouraging concessional credit lines to SMEs, which generally had difficulties accessing credit because of a lack of cash or equity guarantees. CDP would act as a lender to local banks, so that they would receive new resources and, because they would be sharing the risk, mobilize their own resources. Technical assistance increased companies’ chances of success, which in turn ensured loan repayment. Training was an activity that IILA had been carrying out for decades, which enabled experiences and good practices acquired in Italy to be shared with the region. In addition, the use of blending had several advantages: it reduced the importance of distinguishing between priority and non-priority countries, and the combination of funds and financial instruments could facilitate the entry of the private sector into development cooperation, either as a source of financing or as a recipient of credit.

62. Adriana Arreaza, Knowledge Manager of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) stated that the recently approved capitalization of her institution would allow it to continue strengthening its countercyclical and catalytic role through financial products and technical assistance to support sustainability in the region. In periods of economic difficulty and adverse international financing situations, CAF had played an important role for all its member countries through rapid disbursement and freely available programmes. The most commonly used products were programme-based loans, sector-oriented loans with a wide reach, swaps and contingent lines of credit to provide liquidity. In response to the outbreak of the pandemic, CAF had quickly made different financing and support alternatives available to the

countries to favour economic recovery and mitigate the social impact of the crisis. Following the capitalization, the institution would maintain its agenda of financing economic and social infrastructure and regional integration, but would also expand its financing of non-sovereign risk operations, including the private sector. That fell under three strategic lines of action: (i) climate change and environmental sustainability, and green business; (ii) equity, social inclusion and provision of public services; and (iii) economic recovery and increased productivity and competitiveness of the region's productive fabric. In addition to providing financing resources, CAF also helped its non-sovereign clients structure sustainable projects that met the highest environmental, social and governance standards, and provided technical cooperation to strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks in the region. In terms of operations, there were also plans to expand support to subnational governments, which could result in a greater impact. Other instruments were related to participation in special funds that enabled mobilization of institutional investment resources, such as infrastructure funds, and the mobilization of co-financing from global funds to support countries in meeting their decarbonization commitments, as in the case of the Green Climate Fund. She highlighted the relationship of CAF with national and regional development banks. There was a convergence between those institutions' missions and their active role in governments' counter-cyclical policy in periods of liquidity restrictions, which made them ideal partners. During the pandemic, CAF had supported the development banks of its member countries with resources to address the health emergency, assist vulnerable populations, finance enterprises (particularly MSMEs), and finance institutional strengthening initiatives. In addition to those programmes, CAF also provided facilities such as lines of credit and guarantees to development banks, as well as partial guarantees on debt issues. In short, CAF had a wide range of instruments with which to continue channelling resources and support to the private sector and member countries, not only through financing, but also through knowledge.

Interactive dialogue with ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on the contributions of development banks to the innovative financing agenda for recovery and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

63. The dialogue was moderated by Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The moderator highlighted some of the tasks that had to be undertaken in relation to the proposals made earlier: reclaiming the role of the United Nations and defending the importance of the agenda of developing countries in discussions on the international financial architecture; not allowing the conflict in Ukraine to detract from development issues and the SDGs; and supporting the Secretary-General's agenda for measurements beyond GDP. She said that, if poor measurement continued, bad decisions would continue to be made; if two decades of progress in the region had been lost in 10 months of pandemic, it was because something was being measured incorrectly. It was necessary to have a say in innovative instruments, all of which must be transparent and subject to reporting and verification, in order to obtain the expected results. She also said that at the onset of the crisis caused by the pandemic, the right decisions had been made, but on the assumption that the crisis would be short-lived. Subsequently, other crises had continued to hit countries without systematic instruments to address them thoroughly. Decisions concerning non-payment of debt service had been made in some countries, translating into the accumulation of large amounts corresponding to overdue payments; there had also been decisions on debt restructuring, a modality undertaken by only three countries, which showed that it was not properly designed. There was a need for another round of unconditional funding from the International Monetary Fund, since the pandemic was not over, and for capitalization of development banks, which did not exist at the time, since private financing would not be available without long-term public financing. Financing capacity had never been as significant as it was at the time, but it did not reach developing countries. All of those problems could be addressed if countries were able to bring a united voice to the world stage. She also mentioned the higher transportation costs faced by small island developing States and the effect on their inflation rates, as well as the inevitable looming food crisis. Lastly, she said that there would be greater regionalization of trade,

which would open up a real opportunity for greater integration that the region must seize. The countries of the region also faced the possibility of a lost decade, putting at risk the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. That could be prevented and it must be the goal that united the countries.

64. The representative of Mexico expressed her country's agreement with the proposals put forward by ECLAC and stressed that multilateralism must prevail. She underscored the need to rethink the international financial architecture and appreciated the creation of new financing modalities, but said that it was a long and complex process and that funds were of no use if they could not be accessed. ECLAC could provide substantial support in that regard and countries should exchange experiences on the funds they had been able to access. It was also important to speak of the difficulties subnational authorities faced in access to financing, including from development banks. She highlighted further that there was an opportunity to align instruments such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, among others.

65. The representative of Cuba said that it was necessary to remind developed countries of their official development assistance commitments. He stated that the implementation of innovative mechanisms for the SDGs should target new and predictable resources, and should include aspects such as knowledge-sharing and the transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies. He said that the sanctions imposed on Cuba increased the restrictions to access financing. He also reiterated Cuba's commitment to continue working together towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for which financing was fundamental.

66. The Premier of the British Virgin Islands recognized the tremendous leadership of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC in helping the region to navigate the various challenges and crises experienced and keeping countries on track to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular her commitment to ensuring that ECLAC associate members received greater attention in the regional dialogue on sustainable development. He also said that until vulnerability was included in the eligibility criteria for development financing, Caribbean small island developing States would not have access to the funding support needed to recover from natural disasters and the pandemic and to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The British Virgin Islands would greatly welcome technical assistance and services from a development bank, preferably CDB, to structure and issue catastrophe bonds and invest in other insurance instruments and economic risk mitigation products that would serve as a more prudent means of mitigating economic risk.

67. The representative of Peru highlighted the importance of development banking in that country, which had made it possible to increase the benefits to the most vulnerable sectors in the context of the pandemic. He stressed that the information shared in that space was very valuable for his country, which was about to adopt a plan towards 2050, of which the SDGs were an important input. Peru was committed to ensuring that its development plans were implemented at the subnational level. A road map to support the circular economy had been approved and work was under way on instruments to facilitate that process, while placing an emphasis on impact assessments and results-based evaluation.

68. In closing, the Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC spoke about the financing needs and challenges of Latin American and Caribbean countries for the future. The region had found itself in a growth trap since before the pandemic: before 2019 it was growing at very low rates, the pandemic had resulted in the worst contraction in the previous 100 years, and the recovery in 2021 was followed by a slowdown in 2022. The result would be another lost decade of growth. The great challenge was to boost growth that was green, environmentally sustainable and inclusive; that would require changing countries' production structures and energy matrices, which, in turn, called for significant investment efforts. In a context of low growth and an increasingly complex macroeconomic situation, financing needs were

increasing dramatically and the region's ability to mobilize resources would be central to achieving a transformative recovery. In reviewing some of the central issues addressed during the day, which could outline a future work agenda, he highlighted three in particular: (i) the need to change the global financial architecture (financial systems had to return to their basic function of financing investment, not financial speculation); (ii) the development of innovative financing instruments (issuance of new types of bonds and generation of new methodologies or strategies) and (iii) the need for coordination and cooperation among global, regional and national banks (sometimes there was a perceived separation between them and greater coordination was required to mobilize more resources).

69. Lastly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that the innovative financing agenda for economic recovery was an issue that had to be kept current and that the information produced by ECLAC was valuable for decision-making. Regional banks played a fundamental role and the times demanded modern mechanisms that placed citizens at the centre of their action.

Commemoration of International Women's Day (agenda item 4)

70. The session was moderated by María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the panellists were Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Epsy Campbell, Vice-President of Costa Rica; Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; Jean Gough, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Shi Alarcón, representative of Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva en América Latina and member of the LGBTQI+ group of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Rosa Adriana López Carrillo, representative of RedTraSex of Guatemala and focal point of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina; and Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

71. The moderator said that without women, there could be no progress in the world or economic recovery. The aim of the session was therefore to explore options for increasing the recognition and enforcement of women's rights and putting them at the centre of recovery. She used the opportunity to call for peace in Ukraine and to stand in solidarity with Ukrainian and Russian women alike who were suffering in an unnecessary theatre of war. She also advocated greater participation by women in the judiciary, in the hope that that could change the direction of controversial rulings related to women's rights. She also called for the release of Nicaraguan women imprisoned for being feminists, remembered the women human rights and environmental defenders who had lost their lives in the region in 2022, and called on countries to ratify ILO conventions concerning sexual harassment. Lastly, she paid tribute to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, noting that the existence of such a strong Regional Gender Agenda, the Commission's active role in gender issues, and mechanisms for mainstreaming gender in public policies would be impossible had she not raised her voice to fight for those issues.

72. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the post-pandemic recovery must overcome the four structural challenges relating to gender inequality, which had devastating effects on women and on society as a whole: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; the sexual division of labour and the unjust social organization of care; the concentration of power, patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns and the culture of privilege. While the first line of response was overwhelmingly female, with women

serving as health workers, teachers, caregivers, innovators and community leaders, too few women were leading countries and making decisions in the public sphere. Women spent three times as much time as men on unpaid domestic and care work, and estimates indicated that 1 in 2 women would be out of the labour force in 2022. Those who worked earned on average 11% less than men; 6 out of every 10 were employed in the sectors hardest hit by the crisis (trade, tourism and manufacturing) and 1 out of every 3 in the care economy sectors. They were also subjected to the “shadow pandemic”, victims of violence, femicide and other abuses such as child marriage and early unions. She argued that a change of era was at hand, requiring a profound transformation that recognized the linkages between the economy, society and the environment, and that would drive greater multilateral cooperation. Urgent progress was needed on new political, social and fiscal compacts and work towards a transformative recovery with gender equality and sustainability based on feminist principles of redistribution of power, resources and time, and the reduction of violence. Convinced that feminism could offer strategic solutions for overcoming asymmetries and halting environmental degradation, she called on everyone to take the path towards a care society.

73. The Vice-President of Costa Rica argued that it was necessary to develop new narratives and to put paid to the mentality by which the accumulated knowledge of women and communities was disregarded. She called for peace throughout the world, remembering the women of Ukraine and Afghanistan, as well as the women who protected the forests and who were being murdered regularly. Among the women who had inspired her, she acknowledged famous activists like Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and the 129 women who had died on 8 March 1908, as well as the women who defied the patriarchy and whose revolution was carried out on the home front, and the nameless women and girls leading the fight against biodiversity loss worldwide. Lastly, she insisted on the need to create egalitarian spaces for decision-making, not only in governments, but also in all United Nations governing bodies, for great revolutions could also be sparked when women started to reclaim the spaces in which they lived and worked.

74. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama spoke of the responsibility to act to bring about change. First, it was necessary to recognize the situation in the region: gender violence was a veiled pandemic, but more than 4,000 women were victims of femicide every year, and adolescent pregnancy was prevalent. Second, there was a need to speak out in one voice. In that regard, she commended and congratulated women’s and feminist organizations for their constant efforts in the fight against violence and anachronistic privileges. Third, what mattered most was taking action, with collective commitment and coherence between rhetoric and action. She argued that it was pointless to have trained women who had no opportunities for paid employment and referred to Panama’s Equal Opportunities for Women Action Plan which aimed to promote women’s employment in public positions. She hoped that similar initiatives would be implemented in other countries and said that another generation could not be lost; the time had come for the future with gender parity to begin.

75. The Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF drew on two actual cases to describe the status of the rights of girls and adolescents in the region. One illustrated the difficulties of access to education during the pandemic, while the other showed the rise in inequality experienced by girls and adolescents in the same period, owing to the upsurge in child marriage, sexual violence, unavailability of sexual and reproductive health services, unwanted pregnancies and transmission of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, poverty and hunger. She said that a generation of girls and adolescents must not be burdened with the cost of the pandemic for the rest of their lives: their voices must be heard and they must be made visible in statistics. Investment in their education and access to health was crucial and they must be put at the centre of policies to ensure that they lived in security, grew up with climate justice and had a say in the decisions affecting them.

76. The Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) said that International Women's Day was a celebration of women's important contributions and tireless service at home in communities. She paid tribute to Mia Mottley, the only woman Head of Government in the region and first female Prime Minister of Barbados, recipient of 2021 Champion of the Earth award and an outstanding example for women and girls of the region. For the Caribbean, it was urgent to decisively chart the path toward sustainable development and ensure the restructuring of social, political and economic systems so women and men had an equal stake and say. Insecurity, governance deficits and climate-related and other hazards were not gender neutral, as inequalities caused by socioeconomic, cultural and other factors put women at a disadvantage: post-disaster mortality rates were often higher among women and girls than men and boys. While data on COVID-19 deaths showed that death rates were higher for men, women were also affected as they accounted for over 70% workers on the front lines of the pandemic. The pandemic had also worsened women's already-low participation in the CARICOM labour market (women had lost jobs at twice the rate of men). Female-headed households accounted for approximately 40% of households in the Caribbean and were more vulnerable to loss of livelihood in aftermath of disaster. Gender equality was cross-cutting in all priority integration issues in CARICOM (single market, food and nutrition security, zone of peace, strengthening security) and success would mean women and men were included in key decision-making processes at all levels. She extended her personal regards to Executive Secretary of ECLAC, a professional ally and friend of the Caribbean who would understand that as the region sought to build back on equal footing, it would find its voice and redefine its place in the wider region. She thanked the United Nations for its support and reiterated the continued commitment of CARICOM to not just build back better but also build back equal.

77. The representative of Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva en América Latina and member of the LGBTIQ+ group of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development expressed civil society's concern at the economic stagnation and the worsening of all social, environmental and labour indicators in the region, as well as the expansion of authoritarian and dictatorial proposals on public policy by various governments in the region, leading to setbacks in human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. The data showed that institutions were being instrumentalized to criminalize women human rights defenders and that there was a lack of response to the violence, injustice and persecution experienced by women in all their diversity. She also condemned the fact that social policies aimed at prevention and care were the first to be cut and that institutions established to protect the rights of women and diverse populations were under threat. She rejected the established narratives that controlled women's bodies, the patriarchal justice that resorted to using technicalities to dismiss the daily violence against women, and the lack of climate justice. Lastly, she said that combating the culture of privilege required educating people with a gendered, non-discriminatory and intersectional perspective, and that feminists and women in all their diversity would continue to fight to achieve those goals.

78. The representative of RedTraSex of Guatemala and focal point of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development welcomed the occasion to commemorate working women, many of whom had not been covered by the social protection measures in response to the pandemic. She called on all countries to adopt protective measures to reduce gender violence, invest in prevention, response and free legal assistance, end impunity and comply with commitments on the eradication of violence and harassment. She also called for mechanisms that provided data on all forms of violence against women and girls and ensured their participation in the use of data and resources. She spoke of megaprojects and militarization in communities and indigenous peoples, which affected indigenous girls, young people and women, and demanded that States fully assume their responsibility to guarantee human, civil and labour rights, and that reparations be paid through the regulation and control of the operations of all companies,

including multinationals. She called for the promotion of inclusive measures and public policies aimed at eliminating the gender wage gap. Lastly, she urged states to stop criminalizing sex work to avoid forcing women into the hands of underworld syndicates, and pressed for truth and justice in relation to the murders of sex workers perpetrated in Peru in February 2022.

79. The Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina said that her country would host the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would address the theme of care, in November 2022. She said that the Conference and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were spaces conducive to building a shared political narrative, addressing key issues to achieve sustainable development with redistribution and, most importantly, equality, and exchanging frank views on the challenges to gender equality. It was necessary to adopt radical policies to dismantle the structural bases of gender inequality and work towards building care societies in which care work was recognized and remunerated, and where the right to provide and receive care was guaranteed. A cross-cutting approach to those issues was required in all regional discussions, as they were not the exclusive concern of ministries of women's affairs. She concluded expressing the hope that the conclusions of the Forum would be followed up at the Regional Conference in Argentina in November.

80. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations said that International Women's Day was an opportunity to mark progress, identify the road forward, and renew commitment to gender equality as the strong foundation needed to achieve SDGs; it was only with women and girls at centre of efforts that pressing global challenges could best be addressed. The Regional Gender Agenda charted an ambitious path and reflected member States' commitments, thanks to efforts of women's and feminist civil society in the region. Recent gains for women's rights and parity in some countries and the wider region gave hope. She recognized the work of Alicia Bárcena as Executive Secretary, a powerful voice for women's leadership everywhere, whose commitment and innovative proposals had made an important contribution to advancing gender equality. The contribution and sacrifices of women and girls leading efforts for women's rights for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future, often at risk of their own safety were being commemorated in 2022. Latin America and the Caribbean had shown the world it was possible to collectively build a roadmap for inclusive development but great challenges to achieving gender equality remained. The pandemic had deepened inequality, negatively affected women's rights and autonomy, and increased their burden of care, causing immeasurable setbacks world could ill afford with eight years left to implement the 2030 Agenda. Achieving a world that was equal and sustainable would require accelerated effort and innovation from all stakeholders and intensified efforts to reverse inequalities of all kinds. She called on all to recommit energies to achieving true and irreversible gender equality because everyone benefited when women had the opportunity to lead.

Panel discussions (agenda item 5)

81. Pursuant to the wish expressed by the countries that the Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, five panel discussions were organized to allow the member countries of the Forum and other stakeholders to share their experiences and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Panel 1: From development in transition to development for action: towards renewed international development cooperation

82. Panel 1 was introduced by Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and moderated by Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs in

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica. After some remarks by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, a presentation was given by Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The panellists were Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); E. Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Abdunnasser Al Shaali, Assistant Minister for Economic and Trade Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates; Niels Annen, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission; Karla Eugenia Majano de Palma, General Director of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO); Enrique O’Farrill, Head of the Cooperation Division of the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID); Sergio Colina Martín, Head of the Department of Cooperation with Andean and Southern Cone Countries of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); and Walter Clarems Endara, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA).

83. In his introduction, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that given the effects of the pandemic in the region, it was imperative that the multilateral response fully address the needs of developing countries. It was time to take action, and that must be done taking into account the different vulnerabilities and the multidimensional nature of development. Development in transition, a concept developed by ECLAC, the European Commission and the OECD Development Centre, should be understood as a positive path that strengthened countries’ development efforts through new instruments that were not necessarily financial and that supported regional and national strategies through channels such as technical assistance, knowledge transfer and adaptation of good practices, as well as formation of human capital. In that context, Costa Rica had promoted the creation of a multidimensional poverty index that sought to more accurately determine countries’ needs and thus make decisions and take actions tailored to their well-being. Meetings such as the one being held, at which national views and experiences were exchanged, were the first step towards achieving a coherent and powerful discourse for the region, to be heard by the international community with specific proposals and viable evidence-based solutions.

84. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, before giving the floor to the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC for his presentation, said a few words about the origin of the concept of transitional development, which ECLAC had developed together with the European Commission and the OECD Development Centre in response to concerns about the situation of middle-income countries when they graduated from official development assistance. She thanked the panellists for their contributions and called on more stakeholders to join the process, stressing the need to change the paradigm of cooperation.

85. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC gave a presentation in which he outlined the main priorities and actions for the post-pandemic period from the point of view of development in transition. He reviewed the process by which that concept had been born: the graduation of the first countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; the various impacts of the 2008 crisis, which had cast light on structural vulnerabilities and challenges; and the awareness among the countries of the region and the European Union of the need to rethink the graduation framework, taking into account existing vulnerabilities. The challenges of graduation of middle-income countries must be addressed, given their risk of exclusion from the international cooperation system. Concessional development financing was essential for those countries, and especially those with smaller economies. The concept of development in transition also offered a platform for dialogue for renewed cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean that went beyond

GDP and took into account the needs and strengths of the countries in the region. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic made discussions of development in transition even more urgent. Asymmetries were even reflected in the vaccination process, which the existing development and cooperation model could not contribute to. Cooperation and the multilateral financial architecture needed to be rethought from the bottom up. The priorities for the post-pandemic period, in the area of development in transition, should be to guarantee resources for recovery (debt relief was fundamental) and to move towards an international financial system for development, as well as to build partnerships based on the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, whose indicators already constituted a multidimensional framework to guide cooperation priorities. The required cooperation instruments must take into account the local dimension, especially with regard to productivity and social vulnerability, but also the regional dimension, in order to strengthen cooperation between countries and common positions in multilateral forums. A rights-based approach was needed; along with rules, standards and policy dialogue at the global level; partnerships that facilitated productive integration, access to new technologies and creation of decent jobs; and new indicators that took into account the various dimensions of economic, social and environmental well-being.

86. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP noted that development in transition was related, on one hand, to a weak link between income and non-monetary variables and, on the other, to the fact that as income levels increased, it was more difficult to access financing to move forward with development. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean the model was based on factor accumulation and a shift to a model based on productivity, innovation and a better allocation of resources was necessary. However, to carry out that transition institutions had to adapt, creating the right conditions. Countries that broke out of the middle-income trap and managed to move to a higher income level tended to have better governance indicators: less corruption, more trustworthy judiciaries, greater transparency and greater participation by civil society. Multilateralism could help in that transition to action. Instruments such as loans, cooperation or international agreements could balance power asymmetries between elites and citizens and create alternative spaces for dispute resolution, create coalitions for change that led to agreements between stakeholders. If such structural change was achieved, it would create the conditions for many of the other transitions.

87. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda said that for the Caribbean, instead of an abrupt graduation, a “graduation” that would not leave them behind was advocated. A more relevant metric for access to concessional finance than per capita GNI was internal resilience capacity, that captured the structural and vulnerability factors that often constrained growth and development. CDB had designed a “recovery duration adjuster”, which took into account the duration to recovery in gross national income, a more appropriate and equitable measure for classifying countries for access to concessional finance. The United Nations should work closely with CDB to develop a resilience framework that was more equitable and appropriate for countries facing structural problems, exogenous shocks, and much longer periods of recovery. Graduation from official development assistance undermined access to transfer of knowledge, good practices and technical standards that could help the Caribbean build indigenous skills and raise the technological capacity of the workforce. Transitional support was needed, with renegotiated economic policy agreements, such as preferential trade agreements. Other contributors to development included investment in and upgrade of statistical institutes, innovative sources of finance and hurricane clauses. Initiatives should also be developed to reduce the debt burden of Caribbean economies and increase fiscal space, such as the Caribbean Resilience Fund. As countries struggled to recover from the effects of the pandemic, it was important to ensure effective design and operationalization of the development in transition approach.

88. The Assistant Minister for Economic and Trade Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates said that micro-steps could be taken to achieve

economic growth and development and ensure countries were not trapped at a certain income level. The United Arab Emirates continued to contribute to the world and support governments in achieving strategies and policies, but wanted to do so smarter and more effectively, targeting economic growth. Some of the funds allocated by the country in recent years had been earmarked for economic growth and encouraging entrepreneurship. As Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), one challenge was to bridge the gap between high-income and developing countries within the Association, and the country had therefore proposed an IORA human development fund targeting specific human development index indicators. The country contributed to international cooperation through G20, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The regional focus of United Arab Emirates cooperation had shifted to reach as many regions as possible, reflecting the change in its role in international and development communities, as it sought to understand and assess countries' specific needs. The United Arab Emirates was trying to be more innovative and creative to help lift countries out of debt and income traps.

89. The Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany spoke of the situation in Europe, which would have repercussions the world over, including in Latin America and the Caribbean. The repercussions were already being seen in rising prices, particularly food prices. The situation would also affect sustainable debt financing. Although the events in Europe had overshadowed the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of the pandemic continued to be felt and hindered the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Latin America and the Caribbean had been the hardest region, in terms of health and the economy. It was time to rethink cooperation and drive sustainable recovery globally. The economy and society must become more sustainable in economic, ecological and social terms. Latin America and the Caribbean played a particular role in that regard; environmental protection in the region was essential for global climate change mitigation. Germany maintained a successful cooperation partnership with ECLAC, supporting Latin American and Caribbean countries in diversifying their economic models and shaping them to be resilient and environmentally friendly. The drive for sustainability must be multilateral, as global challenges could only be overcome together.

90. The Director of the Development Centre of OECD said that the Forum came at a crucial time for the region and for international development cooperation. The COVID-19 crisis had shown the world was ill-prepared for unpredictable systemic crises and demonstrated the importance of working together. In 2020 the region had experienced a sharp setback as a result of the pandemic, putting poverty levels back by decades. The pandemic was also a reminder that development frameworks need to prioritize the well-being of people and the planet. Development in transition could be put into action by building broad public and political support and development plans that anchored well-being into long-term government operations. Work to adapt the OECD well-being framework to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean was a step forward, but policy tools were needed to further align national and international priorities. Coordinated international cooperation was needed, in the form of innovative finance, cocreation of standards and norms and capacity-building, supporting regional efforts, such as the plan for self-sufficiency in health matters. The Development Centre of OECD stood ready to provide the assistance required for a strong and sustainable recovery and a prosperous future for the region.

91. The Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission said that in light of the prevailing geopolitical situation, greater unity was needed. No continent could face the challenges of the time alone; a robust multilateral solution and, above all, cooperation were required. In that context, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was of vital importance. The European Union, in its renewed commitment to Latin America and

the Caribbean, sought an effective partnership based on shared interests and challenges. Climate change, the digital divide and human development challenges were among the priorities of both regions. There were several initiatives, strategies and investments at the European level focused on those aspects, such as the Global Gateway strategy, with an ambitious and multilateral agenda that prioritized investments in infrastructure, people, institutions and countries, the EUROCLIMA+ programme, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) and others. By strengthening their ties, the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean could foster a fairer, greener, more sustainable and shared future. Lastly, she praised the Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, and her tireless work in favour of the partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

92. The General Director of the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO) said that her country worked in a coordinated manner to ensure the best results from cooperation, including all stakeholders in the search for a common solution. The country had strengthened its health, education, culture and digital transformation systems, among other areas, and its firm belief in multilateralism drove its participation in development partnerships, cooperation projects with the United Nations and initiatives funded by the European Union. El Salvador was among the countries that had best managed the health crisis during the pandemic and hoped to be a point of reference for other countries with regard to health issues. Its desire to be an example in terms of cooperation had also led to the establishment of the ESCO in 2020. The country had assumed a leading role in the implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation and helped to strengthen synergies and relationships between national priorities and strategies, in collaboration with various development partners. As both a recipient and provider of cooperation, the country had undertaken joint actions that translated into specific advantages for populations. It was important for the region to move toward a results-based evaluation approach to international cooperation and have quantifiable data to serve as a basis for designing and prioritizing interventions.

93. The Head of the Cooperation Division of the AGCID said that Chile also played a dual role (donor-recipient) in cooperation, and since 2016 his agency had been making efforts to foster international discussions on countries' development and graduation, supporting the concept of development in transition since it was first conceived. Development in transition was not a concept from outside the region; it was a framework of analysis that proposed restoring the multidimensional nature of development needs for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. It was therefore applicable to all countries, regardless of their income level. The concept was particularly significant in the case of countries where per capita incomes had risen in recent decades but where significant vulnerabilities remained in their transition to sustainable development. Upon graduation, upper-middle-income countries lost not only access to official development assistance, but also to other types of financing granted on preferential terms, as well as to technical cooperation and training opportunities. Therefore, the development in transition approach proposed replacing the graduation process with a process of gradation. All that required not only new well-being metrics and indicators, but also new stakeholders, tools and modalities, including South-South and triangular cooperation, to complement international cooperation and adapt it to the new changing international and global contexts. In addition to mechanisms and modalities of cooperation, the region needed to seek consensus and speak with one voice on the need to renew international cooperation to achieve more inclusive and sustainable development for all its inhabitants.

94. The Head of the Department of Cooperation with Andean and Southern Cone Countries of AECID referred to Spain's cooperation work, which did not follow the traditional donor-recipient pattern or rigid bilateral approaches based solely on transfers of funds. Spain had also led discussions within the European Union on graduation, gradation and development in transition, given the country's experience and close ties with Latin America and the Caribbean, and with a very clear commitment to aligning its actions with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft bill on cooperation for

sustainable development and global solidarity that had been approved by Spain's Council of Ministers in January 2022 referred expressly to the development in transition agenda. The draft focused on multidimensionality, intersectionality and the rights approach, with a focus on gender gaps, the environmental dimension and the most vulnerable groups. Spain's cooperation programmes were not governed by macroeconomic visions of development, but rather by a down-to-earth approach, with a clear focus on global and regional public goods, a commitment to South-South and triangular cooperation, a solid technical dimension anchored in innovation, and a strong emphasis on equality and inclusion.

95. The Permanent Secretary of SELA said that the major transformations the world was undergoing had reshaped the challenges faced by the countries of the region in their transition to development and had highlighted the need to build a new approach to international cooperation to support development objectives. Regional cooperation was one of the assets of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, but progress in that area had been modest. When renewing the focus of international cooperation, the aim should therefore be to strengthen integration and make the best possible use of its dividends. To strengthen that new vision of international cooperation and contribute to overcoming development traps, instruments and solutions needed to reflect national development needs and priorities and link them with international strategies; higher levels of well-being must be sought and human capital variables must be monitored; there should be impact evaluation mechanisms for international cooperation, fostering its innovation and effectiveness, and the concept of cooperation should be broadened, going beyond financing and adding actions relating to technology transfer, policy dialogue and research and development. SELA had undertaken efforts to renew its areas of action, guided by direct communication with its member countries; The aim was to contribute more dynamically to international cooperation, creating spaces for dialogue, reflection and coordination regarding public policies, sharing of best practices, and more and better integration for the region.

96. In his concluding remarks, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC said he hoped that international cooperation—which he considered a topical issue to reflect on and keep on the agenda—would be the subject of ongoing discussions, in view of the situation that the world would have to face in the coming years. Large economies were changing social cooperation and their budgets by shifting resources from welfare budgets to military budgets. That would have major repercussions for international cooperation. If Latin America and the Caribbean did not acknowledge and discuss the issue as a region, regardless of political position, it would not be able to overcome the situation in which it found itself. ECLAC would continue to work with its partners, but very hard times were ahead and much more than rhetoric was needed.

Panel 2: Statistical, quantitative and territorial monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

97. Panel 2 was moderated by Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the panellists were Rolando Ocampo, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC; Marco Lavagna, Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; Carol Coy, Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN); Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia; Graciela Márquez Colín, President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico; Luciana Mermet, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Christian Guillermet Fernández, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica.

98. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on CEPALSTAT and the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway),

in which he described how statistical information was organized to monitor progress on the SDGs. He outlined the gradual development of those tools, highlighting the creation of the Regional Knowledge Platform in 2019 and the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, as well as the update of CEPALSTAT in 2021 that included a geoportal, enabling visualization and monitoring of the indicators of the 169 SDG targets. He said that the data on the countries of the region, compiled by CEPALSTAT and produced by the countries themselves or by United Nations entities, were open, interoperable, integrated and comparable, allowing information to be viewed in relation to the territory, in accordance with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere. The Regional Knowledge Platform incorporated the collaborative platform of all the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes through the issue-based coalitions and the way in which the information produced by the different entities was linked. The COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered together all the information on the actions undertaken by the countries to address the pandemic, thus enabling monitoring of the aims of the various measures and analysis of whether their implementation had been beneficial or regressive.

99. The Director of INDEC of Argentina, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, said that the region was a noteworthy example for its commitment to monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both through its participation in international forums and through coordination on statistics. The tools described in the presentation were meeting points at the disposal of the countries. There were several areas on which to focus future efforts: coordination of methodologies, to make data more compatible at the regional level, and work on training programmes, not only for national statistical offices, but also for other national and subnational entities, to apply statistical best practices; data exchange agreements, to obtain more statistics of a higher quality, which related to regulations, protocols, forms of protection, anonymization and data governance; use of administrative records; and the need to work within the framework of the concept of national data systems, which included private organizations and civil society. Better coordination between government agencies was also important, such as those working on the same topic. Platforms such as CEPALSTAT were a contribution to the development of systems for that purpose.

100. The Director General of STATIN congratulated ECLAC on the development of CEPALSTAT and the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) and said that with the rapid improvement in technology, users were accustomed to getting information as quickly and as easily as possible, and that was being translated to statistics offices. Whereas in the past statistics offices had focused more on data production than on dissemination, dissemination was being given equal priority. From the perspective of the Caribbean, some recommendations for the interface were: breaking down the regional profile into Latin America and the Caribbean, as representation mostly focused on Latin America given the wide disparity in size between Caribbean and Latin American countries; allowing ECLAC to lead the strengthening of national statistical systems in the subregion to improve statistical capacity not just in national statistical offices but in line ministries, which were an important source of data for SDGs; and increased dialogue with countries on the platform indicators because some were available but not included. Overall, the interface was a welcome addition to data dissemination in the region.

101. The Director General of DANE of Colombia stated that the two platforms outlined in the presentation were symbolic of a very important element of the concept of development in transition, since the new conception of development required changes and one of them concerned the governance and organization of statistics. In that regard, interoperability was vital for coordination and was clearly present in the two platforms. During that period of reconstruction of development models, statistical capacities were a priority. The discussion on the concept of development in transition showed that progress was needed on forms of measurement, to have more precise measurements, for example at the subnational level. That could only be

achieved by building the capacities of statistical offices. The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC had already discussed the challenges of measurement in the context of development in transition, in a process that would allow a shift from development in transition to development for action, based on information such as that offered by the platforms described in the presentation.

102. The President of INEGI of Mexico said that the platforms described in the presentation were very powerful tools for statistical offices and for decision-making in relation to SDG monitoring, which made it possible to visualize where a country was in relation to the SDGs, where it was heading and what the regional differences were. The inclusion of national and regional profiles was a great achievement, as it combined some of the most important indicators into a single view, providing valuable information for specialists and also information suited to the general public. In improving those tools, she suggested that country profiles could also include geographic statistical data generated in a specific country to serve as an example from which other countries could learn.

103. The Resident Representative of UNDP in the Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed appreciation for all the entities making their information available to the countries. She recalled that paucity of data had been discussed in past years, but CEPALSTAT was helping to make a wealth of data available. Many challenges remained in the countries, particularly in relation to subnational and group-specific data. United Nations entities should identify those gaps to support processes to close them. The tools described in the presentation showed how to use data to identify gaps and were therefore a key input for the technical assistance that could be provided by the United Nations. The innovations included in the Regional Knowledge Platform were steps in the right direction, as they did not only focus on production and supply of data, but also moved towards information for action, making the platform a space for collaboration.

104. The Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica highlighted the reflections on the importance of a data ecosystem for the region and said if no measurements were taken it was not possible to make good decisions that became public policies that had an impact on people.

105. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said a challenge was posed by traditional mechanisms not being designed to measure the efforts made by his country, through subsidies and various social programmes and investments, in the context of coercive measures. In addition, the population and the countries made, through transfers and investments, efforts that were not expressed in GDP.

106. The representative of Guatemala stated that the country had joined others in committing to linking its national agenda with the 2030 Agenda and that development accelerator fields had been established around ten national development priorities, with strategic goals. He described the tools available to monitor those areas and said that the process required the contribution of all stakeholders, from the public, private and academic sectors, civil society, local governments and international cooperation, who contributed by incorporating actions that promoted fulfilment of the SDGs.

107. The Director General of DANE of Colombia said that it was important that the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) aggregated information on SDGs according to the custodian agencies of the United Nations system, in order to unify efforts, avoid duplication of tasks and improve capacities. A representative of Costa Rica highlighted the importance of statistics to measure national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

108. In closing, the Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC reviewed the suggestions made and said that they would be worked on jointly.

Panel 3: Natural disasters and the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean

109. Panel 3 was introduced by Charles Hernández, Deputy Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, and moderated by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. The panellist were E. Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda; Ashni K. Singh, Minister of Finance of Guyana; Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); Keisal Peters, Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Carla Barnett, Secretary General of CARICOM; Wayne Henry, Chairman and Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ); Lindorna Lambert, Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management of Montserrat; Katia Avilés-Vázquez, representative of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Raúl Salazar, Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); and Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

110. The Deputy Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that every year, small island developing States, many of them in the Caribbean, faced the onslaught of nature and climate change, which was evident every hurricane and tropical storm season and which was capable of causing human and material losses that set back the development of those countries. That issue would be addressed by the panel.

111. The moderator said that the panel, which was devoted to the consideration of the unique challenges facing the countries of the subregion, was an integral expression of the ECLAC “Caribbean first” initiative. It underscored the resolve of ECLAC to explore in depth the critical issues undermining the development trajectory of the Caribbean and afforded the widest consideration of the strategic response to address those concerns. Natural disasters were one of the issues central to the multidimensional vulnerability of the Caribbean. In 2021, as the subregion struggled to cope with the impact of COVID-19, it had experienced the full range of natural shocks. Finding the best way to mitigate and moderate their impact by planning for and investing in resilience had to be at the heart of an effective sustainable development strategy for the subregion. However, that was a tall order for middle-income countries largely ineligible for concessional financing and confronting persistently low growth, declining official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment while shouldering high and growing levels of indebtedness in a less than sympathetic international financial environment. The panel would discuss how best to recommend to governments of the Caribbean, with the support of the regional and international communities, strategies to meaningfully and practically enhance the resilience of the subregion. To add to those imperatives, the resilience of national institutions and the production capacity of the subregion had to be strengthened.

112. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda, said that climate change in the subregion could undermine its future development and prosperity, and that intervention was needed in three areas: biodiversity, water scarcity and the impact of climate change on the tourism sector. The international community had a major role to play in providing technical, technological and financial support for resilience-building in the Caribbean, individually or through partnerships with existing regional organizations. However, to attain impactful support, the international community had to recognize the subregion’s high levels of vulnerability. The onus was on the subregion to unequivocally make

its case, for example with the multidimensional vulnerability index. Climate change technology cooperation initiatives were important and could allow for a bottom-up approach utilizing local practices and indigenous knowledge as a starting point for designing climate change technology-related interventions.

113. The Minister of Finance of Guyana said that the words “asymmetry” and “disproportionality” described the link between climate change and the Caribbean. The global community must put its collective mind to investment to safeguard the physical survival and safety of the people of the subregion from a disaster not of their making and to the fact that the subregion’s economies had faced sustained vulnerabilities, resulting in highly volatile growth and unsustainable debt. That raised the imperatives to address the debt overhang resulting from the inherent vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS and the need to diversify the productive sector into activities that ensured greater climate resilience, which required heavy investment in technology and human capital. More attention must be placed on how SIDS in the Caribbean could better harness the potential of the blue economy. Lastly, global architecture must be put in place for countries that had preserved vast standing forests that now provided valuable climate services to the world, to ensure they were adequately compensated through market-based mechanisms or otherwise.

114. The Secretary General of ACS said it was critical to convert knowledge about risk and disasters into concrete actions by mainstreaming disaster risk management into national and regional public policy. The Caribbean was not only in an asymmetrical position with respect to the impacts of climate change, but also in its ability to adapt to climate change. The way forward entailed a greater focus on comprehensive disaster risk management to address the root causes of vulnerability to disasters and climate change in the Caribbean region; increasing public awareness of climate change and its impacts and promoting changes in social behaviour; greater collaboration among intergovernmental organizations, regional governments, the scientific community, businesses and communities to understand complex risk patterns and make informed risk management decisions; continued development of market-based solutions and greater multilateral cooperation to finance climate adaptation and build adaptation capabilities in the region. One important takeaway was the discussion with the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, following which ACS was willing to take to the next ministerial council the project concept document outlining the provision of assistance in relation to the “Recovery Duration Adjuster” (RDA).

115. The Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, focused on reality, re-evaluation and resilience. Although the Caribbean had made tremendous strides in pursuing the SDGs and its regional agenda, the inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS had too often stalled, reversed or discounted those gains. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had embarked on a re-evaluation of the climate crisis by formulating national legislation, policies and plans relevant to climate change. The region’s efforts to build resilience had been undermined by the slow progress of the international community to deliver on its outstanding US\$ 100 billion per annum commitment to counter climate change. She welcomed the proposal to create a Caribbean resilience fund. To address the Caribbean’s vulnerability, there was a need for: (i) an enabling environment to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in planning, budgeting and implementation processes; (ii) improved capacity for data and information collection, management and sharing for determination of climatic risk and access to technology and financing for adaptation; and (iii) adaptation actions to ensure increased resilience of the most vulnerable members of the population. She urged the diplomatic partners present to continue advocating for the development and survival of SIDS and their populations.

116. The Secretary General of CARICOM said that addressing the twin scourges of climate change and natural disasters was primary to the region’s development aspirations, for without tangible action, development would roll back or continue to elude many, as the sectors that sustained livelihoods the most were hardest hit. Caribbean Heads of Government had called for urgent climate action in the Ambergris

Caye Declaration, adopted on 3 March 2022 in Belize. Reports by international bodies and regional academic institutions on the climate portended a bleak and uncertain future: projected sea-level rise would threaten critical infrastructure; increasing temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns would affect crop growth and productivity, and thus food security; and the greater intensity and frequency of storms would trap countries in a difficult and unending cycle of rebuilding. The layering of crises —the pandemic compounded by natural disasters— placed unprecedented demands on countries with limited fiscal space and health systems on the verge of collapse; development resources therefore had to be redirected towards social interventions. Proactive regional initiatives implemented to address multiple hazards included a four-pronged disaster management strategy, a commitment to reduce reliance on food imports, and building code enhancement, adaptation and enforcement. CARICOM had a unique opportunity to integrate a green post-COVID-19 path. Robust multi-hazard risk modelling and the provision of adequate resources were critical in rebuilding efforts. At a granular level, major investment in critical infrastructure was needed. CARICOM SIDS that most needed concessional financing were the ones facing the most qualification hurdles. The need for a fair and equitable climate financing framework and for frank discussions and targeted interventions on concessional financing and capacity gaps in resilience-building proposals could not be overstated. The CARICOM Secretariat would continue its efforts on SDG-related issues and stood ready to work with partners. There was scope to address asymmetries and instil a comprehensive, resilient gender- and youth-sensitive approach that secured development for all.

117. The Chairman and Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica highlighted the Caribbean's extreme vulnerability to climate change-related events and natural disasters, the related economic costs of which increased indebtedness and could derail development; its exposure to multiple hazards; the co-occurrence of climatic and other hazards; and the resultant change in the region's pre-existing disaster profile that aggravated vulnerability. He then spoke of four asymmetries. The first was geographical: Caribbean SIDS were among the most vulnerable to climate change despite the Caribbean's negligible contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Second, the data and capacity asymmetry was manifest in the continued unavailability of and inaccessibility to localized climate information to guide risk assessment and in governments' limited capacity to process and analyse climate data to effectively inform sectoral planning and decision-making. The third asymmetry was economic, as the magnitude of disaster-related costs often outstripped GDP and losses and damage were unevenly distributed, disproportionately affecting infrastructure and climate-sensitive sectors. The fourth asymmetry related to the gender perspective in disaster risk reduction, as the differential impacts of disasters and extreme climates reinforced existing gender asymmetries, placing a greater burden on women and girls in resource-dependent communities, limiting income-generation activities and affecting their role as caregivers. He recalled the conclusions of the Seventh Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean held in Jamaica in 2021, in particular the need for concerted integration of disaster risk reduction in recovery, greater cooperation and investment, increased knowledge of risk and better data sharing for evidence-based decision-making, and the key role of women and young people as agents of change. Developed countries should reduce GHG emissions, because the development agenda and the climate agenda were two faces of the same coin.

118. The Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management of Montserrat said that in a region marked by economic, physical and social vulnerability to climate change, the challenge was not just the magnitude of the impacts but also the frequency of extreme climate events. The region's economy was underpinned by climate-sensitive sectors vulnerable to disasters in succession and projections pointed to an increase in extreme events. Building resilience and adapting to absorb and recover from external shocks required sector-driven climate data that informed decision-making and reduced vulnerability. Early warning information was crucial to address the lack of localized and integrated empirical indices. There was a need for sustained and significant investment to capitalize on the benefits of

improved preparedness, and public and private stakeholders must engage to help to build the requisite technological capacity to improve data collection, policymaking, education and outreach and expand institutional mandates across the Caribbean. She stressed the importance of freely accessible climate records and innovative technology to automate information generation. Montserrat applauded the creation of the multidimensional vulnerability index. In British overseas territories, the focus on debt management had stifled climate financing, efforts were geared towards immediate recovery instead of resilience-building, and funding was either restricted by donors' agendas—limiting recipient countries' ability to allocate funding to critical climate issues—or less accessible owing to the severing of ties with the European Union. Unlocking access to concessional financing, identifying and exploiting regional strengths and leveraging opportunities for collaborative research and development were key to decision-making and resilience-building. The Caribbean could ill afford delayed action or inaction: proactive and endemic efforts were imperative to solve climate challenges together.

119. The representative of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, recalling the Caribbean's common colonial history based on extractive economies, said that in the last 10 years the region had faced its worst environmental and health crises and in that context climate change could not just be points of an agenda. When disaster struck, economic recovery was prioritized over human life and human rights. In the aftermath of disaster, militarization threatened the lives of environmental defenders and unmet health and basic needs resulted in preventable loss of life. She detailed other repercussions such as the lack of gender equality, scarcity of resources and difficult food access owing to loss of land and agriculture, and gentrification and displacement of poor communities as the ultra-rich eroded political protections and capitalist interests were given free rein. Despite talk of leaving no one behind, the defenders of vulnerable populations bearing the brunt of climate change were conspicuously absent from the meeting. Open borders and endogenous development were needed to break the cycle of resource hoarding. She highlighted a number of other economic, environmental and social solutions to bring about a societal shift and address the root causes of climate change. A truly bottom-up approach meant not just changing lending criteria, but changing the system; building better, not building back. She urged countries to adhere to the Escazú Agreement and called for the establishment of climate and resilience funds, the inclusion of hurricane clauses in debt relief and debt cancellation for SIDS. Freedom of trade, employment and circulation within the region were key to preparedness for and recovery from climate events and facilitated true regional integration.

120. The Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of UNDRR praised Jamaica's leadership in disaster risk reduction and concrete proposals to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework at regional, national and local levels. He reiterated that disasters were not natural but anthropogenic and solutions existed: building resilience and taking action to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. However, of the almost US\$ 5 billion allocated for post-COVID-19 recovery, only 4% had been invested in sustainable solutions. In 2015, the Sendai Framework had raised the bar on knowledge of the multiple hazards facing countries; the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic called for better understanding of risks and stocktaking of whether there was sufficient information, connectivity and institutional collaboration to make informed decisions to protect against future hazards. He referred to the importance of risk governance and transforming the capacity of governments to face systemic, interconnected risks. The pooling of funds in the Caribbean to source medical supplies at the outset of the pandemic was a best practice in regional collaboration to address a common threat. At national level, it was critical to break silos between ministries and ensure a whole-of-government response and a multisectoral approach to resilience-building. He also emphasized the importance of resilient investment. Only 60% of regional MSMEs had post-disaster contingency plans to protect their investments. Consideration must be given to whether incentives or regulations would be needed or metrics should be developed to assess decision-making in the financial sector. There had been advances in taxonomies for disaster reduction criteria to orient private sector investment and the insurance sector provided good examples of how to channel capital assets into sustainable decision-making. Those and other instruments such as resilience

rating and stress testing were already available but the decision to use them across sectors was lacking. In closing, he encouraged countries to participate in the upcoming review of the Sendai Framework and called for financing for disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean, for decision-making based on building resilience and prospective analysis not only in the post-disaster period but also for disaster prevention.

121. The Executive Director of GCF said that the Fund had invested almost one third of its total portfolio in the region, including US\$ 400 million in five major projects in the Caribbean. IDB predicted the Caribbean could face annual losses from climate change damage equivalent to about 10% of the subregional economy by 2050. The GCF approach to support green resilient recovery from COVID-19 involved: helping to establish a supportive environment for climate action; catalysing climate innovation; de-risking transformative projects to attract private finance; and helping to align finance with sustainable development. The speaker said he looked forward to hearing more from the Forum on the further steps GCF could take to support climate action in the Caribbean and Latin America.

122. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico acknowledged asymmetries and the severity of the climate crisis and called upon the countries in the region to demand, at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), specific financial resources for loss and damage. She said Caribbean countries faced extreme natural disasters with devastating consequences for entire communities and humanitarian aid had only flowed to those communities for a few weeks while access to resources from green funds involved an entrenched bureaucracy that meant the process took years with no guarantee of success. Therefore, a united front had to be presented at COP27.

123. The representative of Guatemala said that natural disasters affected all of Central America and that the President of the country had called for understanding and solidarity from the industrialized countries, which were largely responsible for climate change and whose actions had a damaging impact on the region. Guatemala was one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. Climate projections for Guatemala for the next 30 years included crop failures, displacement of production areas, water shortages, increased risk of waterborne diseases, reduced energy output potential, and loss of critical ecosystems. Agile and quality climate financing was required. It was important to carry out recovery-oriented actions, with the cooperation and assistance of friendly countries and the international community. Also necessary were new partnerships such as South-South cooperation, as well as an approach to planning based on reducing vulnerabilities and better understanding of risk.

124. The representative of Cuba said that her country had ratified its full commitment to sustainable development in the Caribbean and its support for the ECLAC “Caribbean First” initiative, which put Caribbean countries at the centre of regional efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. In addition to comprising SIDS and mostly middle-income countries, the Caribbean was the area most affected by climate change and contributed the least to it. It was very important to continue to address the specific needs and challenges faced by Caribbean countries in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. That call referred to all Caribbean countries, including Haiti, whose transformative recovery would require twice as much effort and international support compared to the rest of the countries in the region to overcome its gaps and strengthen its resilience to exogenous shocks such as those produced by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Cuba reaffirmed its willingness and commitment to continue supporting the development of its Caribbean brothers and sisters, sharing what it had and not what it had left over through South-South and triangular cooperation, complementing North-South cooperation. In view of the epidemiological and health emergency in the subregion, Cuba would continue to support vaccination of Caribbean people against COVID-19 through advisory services and the provision of vaccines produced in the country. In response to the effects of climate change, Cuba had made its modest resources

and capacities available, mainly relating to disaster risk reduction, a priority issue in its cooperation framework with the United Nations for 2024 and its national economic and social development plan through to 2030.

125. The Director General of DANE of Colombia said that climate change would continue to have an impact on the quantity and intensity of weather events, including droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides and temperature rises, which would greatly affect Latin America and the Caribbean, owing to its significant vulnerability. The costs of inaction far outweighed the effects that those phenomena would have on the territories and populations of the region. Those risks of natural origin had to be addressed multilaterally given their nature and dimensions. The ECLAC initiative to establish a resilience fund as a tool to build resilience to such events was an important step. Such initiatives should be accompanied by the inclusion of climate change and natural disaster statistics in national statistical systems. It was vital to have the support of international organizations, regional commissions and other key stakeholders to include data and statistics and to further foster collaboration between national statistical offices and other key national authorities through mechanisms such as South-South and triangular cooperation. In that regard, it was also important that efforts were being made globally to establish indicators and measurements under international standards to measure the degree of vulnerability of countries and their ability to adapt and comply with the requirements of different international agendas. International organizations needed to continue working to build capacities in the region for adaptation of national statistical systems, and for integration of different data sources. Emphasis was placed on the role of the inter-agency framework in addressing disaster risks with a prevention, mitigation and adaptation approach which constantly placed the preservation of human well-being and ecosystems at its centre.

126. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean underscored the following takeaways: financing of adaptation and investment in resilience as the most critical strategy for strengthening the subregion's adaptation to climate change; the emphasis on mainstreaming climate change and adaptation policies and on advancing and enhancing the enabling environment; the provision of technical and technological support by regional institutions to ensure countries were on the right track in terms of geospatial data and statistical information that allowed for more effective evidence-based decision-making in risk reduction, planning and forecasting; the need to ensure no one was left behind; the need for gender balance and gender sensitivity and the protection of cultural heritage; the importance of the strong participation of the private sector and non-governmental organization community; and the Caribbean resilience fund, which was expected to be launched in 2022 in the three pilot countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and which would focus on: resilience-building; resuscitation and investment in growth; and debt reduction.

Panel 4: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for sustainable recovery: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean

127. Panel 4 was chaired by Adriana Solano Laclé, Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, and moderated by Jeannette Sánchez, Chief of the Natural Resources Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Franklin Paniagua Alfaro, Deputy Minister for the Environment of Costa Rica; Brigitte Baptiste, Chancellor of Universidad Ean in Colombia; Amelia Arreguín Prado, member of the Convention on Biological Diversity Women's Caucus; Esther Camac Ramírez, leader of the Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA) in Costa Rica; Eva Zabey, Executive Director of Business for Nature; Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); Luis Miguel Aparicio, Head of Sustainable Landscapes for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); Ana María Hernández Salgar, Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and

Piedad Martín, Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Closing remarks were made by Joseluis Samaniego, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC.

128. The Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica highlighted the importance of the topics to be addressed by the panel and invited participants to present their ideas.

129. The moderator said that the prevailing context was singular, as the world was experiencing an unresolved severe health crisis, a long-standing environmental crisis, and a very delicate recent political crisis owing to the military conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. What those three crises had in common was that they forced contemplation of the fact that the survival of civilization was at stake, so mechanisms needed to be found to sustain life. In that context, biodiversity was fundamental, as it was the basis of the food supply and ecosystem services that allowed humanity to exist. Although the enormous biodiversity of the region was one of its main features, governments often had a negative relationship with nature, without properly linking the present with the long term. In the private sector and civil society, there were good practices, but also lessons that had not been learned and mistakes that were repeated, such as overexploitation of resources, pollution and acidification of marine ecosystems, and deforestation. The targets of the 2030 Agenda were not being achieved because of factors such as insufficient resources being dedicated to environment, an incipient and incomplete environmental institutional framework, and weak governance in most of the countries of the region. The aim of the panel was therefore to discuss, based on the experiences of governments, agencies, the private sector and civil society, how to identify opportunities and address those challenges.

130. The Deputy Minister for the Environment of Costa Rica said green accounting was essential to determine whether there was a process of sustainable recovery. The extractivist model on which the countries of the region were based was exhausted and, in order to chart a different course, green accounting was needed, to reorient budgets and economic activities. It was also vital to develop ways of obtaining accurate territorial information: for example, Costa Rica had a tool for measuring and monitoring land-use change and management that, among other findings, had established that growing oil palms did not lead to deforestation, which added value to that product on the international market. He also defended the need for institutional reform to integrate sectors, in order to break down barriers between different ministries. That was of utmost importance, as problems usually crossed divisions among sectors; for example, a problem such as pesticides was the responsibility of ministries of health, agriculture and the environment. Costa Rica was 25 years behind in that area, but significant progress was being made.

131. The Chancellor of Universidad Ean in Colombia said that overcoming food-related challenges entailed reorganization of land use, taking into account factors such as vulnerability and climate threats, and also progress in science, which revealed how much humanity depended on ecosystem services. Modern agriculture needed to be more sensitive to the changing conditions of the land. Therefore, the institutional framework linked to food production should take on ecological knowledge, in its broadest sense, as the basis for sustainable production. Agricultural agendas should be regenerative, avoiding expanding agricultural frontiers and practices that polluted and overexploited, but also enhancing wild biodiversity, the lack of which was reflected, for example, by increases in pests or decreases in land's carbon absorption capacity. The creation of networks for food security and food sovereignty should be a priority at the regional level; countries should open up and share as regarded the food trade, as complementarity was the key to future food security. Another factor relating to the redesign of ecosystems was financial investments, which could arise from a new approach to the relationship between the private and public sectors. Sustainable entrepreneurship should be promoted and efforts should be made to ensure that investments were not lost owing to climate and other risks. In that regard, innovation in science and technology was also essential, as

was decolonization of education, since the concepts of biodiversity and care for nature were still very detached from food production, when in fact they were entirely related.

132. The member of the Convention on Biological Diversity Women’s Caucus stressed that the evaluations carried out on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had made it clear that decision-makers were unaware of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Targets and did not know what biodiversity was or the crucial role it played in sustaining life on the planet. She said that one of the possible actions for the development of a new global biodiversity framework was therefore to communicate and educate, in order to put the issue of biodiversity at the centre of development policies. Society in general also needed to be reached, because it was possible for biodiversity to be put at risk or for decisions to be made that favoured it in all spaces (such as companies, universities and subnational governments). Another lesson learned from the Aichi Targets was the importance of integrating human rights approaches, and particularly recognition of the right to a clean and healthy environment, as well as ensuring gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, intergenerational equity and full and effective participation of youth. In that regard, those groups should not be focused on as vulnerable people or people whose rights had been violated, but recognized as citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to participate in the democratic governance of biodiversity. Lastly, the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean were concerned by the enormous volume of resources being spent on the arms race and on security issues, instead of on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

133. The leader of ECMIA in Costa Rica stated that life and the environment were in real danger. Specific action therefore needed to be taken and political, financial and cooperation commitments needed to be made a reality, rather than remaining as empty words, as they often did. The roles and knowledge of indigenous and Afrodescendent communities, women and civil society should also be recognized, as they were committed to the conservation of natural resources. Efforts must be made to guarantee their participation and advice in decision-making and policy implementation, creating real, effective and measurable mechanisms for that purpose. She emphasized the importance of the Escazú Agreement, especially for protection of indigenous defenders, who were often killed in territorial conflicts. It was also essential to guarantee compensation for damage caused by State policies, to punish companies that pollute the land, to not grant subsidies to extractive projects, and to strengthen environmental oversight bodies. Another development model was needed that would promote rationalization of resource use, protection of biodiversity, decommodification of nature, democratization of management of commons and the creation of decent work, as well as a new land-use planning to protect resources and promote partnering forms of production. Indigenous peoples should be explicitly included in implementation of the 2030 Agenda—which did not make their specific problems visible—so as not to be left behind, as was usually the case.

134. The Executive Director of Business for Nature said that all humanity’s foundations—peace, human rights, respect for each other and for the planet—were being stress-tested. In that regard, the social, planetary, health, climate and financial systems humans depended on and impacted were interconnected, and it was essential to secure their resilience. That could be done by transforming the economic and financial system so that it recognized the true value of nature and people, by accelerating and expanding business action, and by ensuring there was policy ambition. Protecting, restoring and sustainably using nature needed to become the default business decision, and large financial flows should be redirected away from environmentally harmful subsidies. Indigenous peoples and local communities were the real custodians of biodiversity, and the population as a whole had much to learn on protecting, restoring and respecting nature. On the policy front, political certainty could drive business innovation and investment. Lastly, to engage in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework businesses needed to: understand that nature loss was a material risk to their interests, but also an opportunity; find ways to engage and take responsibility for successful implementation of the framework; and have confidence that the framework would be impactful and translate into legislation that levelled the corporate playing field.

135. The Chief Executive Officer and Chair of GEF said that the Fund he led, which was based solely on environmental criteria for resource allocation —not on per capita income or human development indices— had invested US\$ 121 billion in 153 countries over the preceding 30 years. Despite the size of that figure, no economic fund would be sufficient to close the financial gaps that prevented countries from meeting their environmental commitments. The aim of funds such as GEF was therefore to help generate long-term public policy that was consistent with those commitments, something that no country could claim to have achieved to date, as all of them continued to foster investment in economic activities that contributed to climate change and biodiversity loss. In fact, such activities were allocated 50 to 150 times more resources than biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation. It was in countries' own interest to learn to mobilize their domestic financial resources more efficiently, with budget management that enabled identification of exactly what was allocated to conservation of natural capital. Governments needed to understand that natural capital could not continue to be destroyed, as it was life and health insurance for the economy and for citizens, and must be properly and seriously managed, as was done with other types of capital. In closing, he called on humanity to heed indigenous communities' warning that the prevailing economic model was irrational, seeking unbridled economic growth without recognizing planetary limits and leading to degradation of ecosystems and of living conditions, but also to social breakdowns and the rise of nationalist movements that questioned democratic systems.

136. The Head of Sustainable Landscapes for Latin America and the Caribbean of GGGI listed policies that ought to be prioritized for the region to fulfil Goals 14 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda and to continue to grow. Firstly, he said coordination among national and subnational governments needed to be strengthened to make progress in land-use planning and management, reducing land-use changes and expanding protected areas. It was important for subnational entities to receive direct incentives to reward their ecosystem conservation and restoration measures (such as ecological fiscal transfers or budget allocations based on achievement of results in that area). Secondly, it was vital to encourage private sector participation through capacity-building at the local level and support to MSMEs in financial and business planning, market knowledge and opportunities to form links with value chains. Governments should create green business incubators and accelerators, provide seed capital and concessional financing, and provide early-stage support. For large companies, tax incentives and mechanisms should be established that recognized investment in areas related to conservation and restoration of ecosystems. Third, with regard to sustainable financing, mechanisms for valuing ecosystem services should be strengthened and support should be given to the issuance of issue-based sustainability bonds focused on investments in conservation and restoration of natural capital. International cooperation was crucial to supporting resource mobilization and reorienting investments with a long-term perspective.

137. The Chair of IPBES stated that biodiversity loss directly resulted in loss of human well-being: biodiversity loss was usually associated with phenomena such as climate change, desertification and pollution, but it was also linked with problems in the areas of poverty, health, education and development. For example, the disappearance of pollinators would affect future food production, and zoonotic diseases that could lead to pandemics arose from poor interaction between humans and the natural environment. Data indicated that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had not been met by the deadline (2020) and that there was a clear risk that the targets of the 2030 Agenda would not be met either. To avoid that, it was necessary, firstly, to recognize what was being done wrong. There were five direct drivers of biodiversity loss (land and ocean use change, species exploitation, climate change, pollution and the introduction of invasive alien species), but underlying those were root causes: social values and behaviour, and a desire for individual accumulation of wealth. It was becoming increasingly difficult to talk about planetary sustainability while humanity competed individually for resources. She called on governments to promote ongoing work, dialogue and links among different bodies—for example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and IPBES—to establish a coherent framework for biodiversity protection.

138. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP stated that work was needed on target 17.14 (enhance policy coherence for sustainable development), which should guide the pursuit of all other 2030 Agenda targets, ensuring long-term investments, efficient budget allocation and effective participation by different stakeholders. Environmental degradation increased vulnerability to weather events and disease, and investing in conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature contributed to management of those risks. She then presented three specific proposals: (i) ensuring that investments do not compromise biodiversity by strengthening regulation, conducting ex ante and ex post evaluations of such investments, and seeking coherent goals of well-being, equality and development; (ii) using measures beyond GDP to make sustainable decisions, including the real value of nature in economic decisions, developing value chains focused on biodiversity and attracting the private sector to ecosystem restoration as a business, and; (iii) taking a serious approach to the limited nature of land resources and competition for it (land squeeze), to make more coherent decisions on how to use it, produce more efficiently, protect and restore it and reduce its consumption, in order to prevent socioenvironmental and productive conflicts and promote sustainable growth that was compatible with planetary limits.

139. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Guatemala said that the country had prioritized the green agenda, focusing on adaptation and resilience in the area of national development, in order to leave no one behind. There was a national action plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation, which had been given priority in the national budget to counterbalance the high cost of the losses and damages that the country had suffered over the last decade. Guatemala was considered one of the most megadiverse countries in the world and protected areas accounted for 30% of its territory. Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda was to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. To a large extent, fulfilment of the SDGs would come from the territories and from local governments. The strategy of implementing the municipal water and sanitation offices (OMAS) was fundamental for the sustainable use of biodiversity, and that initiative had been launched with cultural relevance. Formulation of a water and sanitation master plan would be essential for land management, environmental care of water recharge zones and protection of ecological belts, all with citizen participation. Territorial planning would be fundamental for there to be: (i) territories that were resilient to climate change, with good risk management; (ii) green territories that conserved forests and biodiversity, with intelligent management of access to water; and (iii) competitive territories that attracted investment, created job opportunities and become development hubs, preventing forced migration and bringing prosperity and development to the population.

140. The representative of Mexico said that conservation of biological diversity was a priority for the country, and proper management of biodiversity was an indispensable tool for poverty reduction and progress towards a just, sustainable and inclusive recovery. Working on the integration of biodiversity into productive sectors would enable decision-makers to give due consideration to the value of biodiversity for the well-being of humanity. The environmental sector alone would not be able to reverse the loss of biodiversity and partnerships would be required among the various stakeholders, including the private sector. Therefore, efforts had been made to foster synergies among the three Rio conventions: biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Partnerships and projects linking those agendas through nature-based solutions, with a focus on ecosystems, were needed. Sustainable, resilient, just and green reconstruction would be made possible by implementing projects that addressed needs such as biodiversity recovery and conservation, soil restoration and recovery, and by applying climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Examples of such initiatives were sustainable agriculture and wood pasture systems. Sustainable wood pasture farming techniques prevented land degradation, promoted soil and ecosystem conservation and restoration, reduced drying up of water sources, and promoted mitigation through carbon capture and storage. Such systems also improved food security and plant and livestock quality, prevented contamination of water bodies, and brought health to communities. Internationally, there had been various initiatives promoting a new green and inclusive economy, and a fundamental part of that was the circular economy.

In Mexico, through the National Zero Waste Vision programme, the aim would be to transform the traditional waste management system into a circular economy model that would enable rational use of natural resources. It was important to properly integrate productive sectors into biodiversity and it was essential to address that as a cross-cutting issue, identifying the impacts on nature and the dependence on its ecosystem services, in order to value it, mitigate negative externalities and establish financial mechanisms to invest in conservation. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), there were different conceptualizations of multiple values of nature, so there were different ways of measuring diversity and there would be times when a monetary valuation would not be appropriate. Another significant part of the Platform's last report referred to the extensive traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and communities, which made them the guardians of nature. Mexico had committed to contributing to safeguarding the biocultural heritage and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, always in accordance with the precautionary approach.

141. The representative of Peru said there was a discrepancy between the international agreements and consensus that countries signed and adopted and certain domestic policies were in conflict with environmental preservation or the fight against degradation of biodiversity. Peru, like many of those represented at the meeting, was among the most megadiverse countries in the world and had a geographical structure with a vertical succession of different "ecological belts", with differentiated environmental units. It also had the second largest Amazon rainforest in South America. That was why Peru faced all the problems that had been discussed. Timber industrialization policies in particular needed to be ended, as they went beyond the sustainable limits that would preserve the forest, and more precise limits of a different nature should be put on illegal logging, which was steadily advancing in the region, particularly in the Amazon. Mining was an essential element of the economy of the vast majority of South American countries and some Central American countries. Beyond development in transition and the various productive transformation strategies that had been discussed for 30 years or more, Latin America was a region whose economy—with few very clear exceptions that were explained by specific processes—was based on exports of commodities, and in many cases economies were essentially based on mining. It was clear that there was a degree of incongruity to be overcome between mining and environmental preservation in various areas, including problems such as water pollution, environmental contamination and the harmful effects on peoples of mining that was not sustainably regulated. The same was true of the ocean; all the countries had signed a series of very important agreements to preserve the marine environment, but there were still unresolved problems, for example, in relation to trawling or other fishing methods that polluted the marine environment. It was therefore vital for discussions on preservation of the environment and the effects of climate change to address the key issue of sector policies related to the economic activities and industries that polluted the most, or that contributed the most to deforestation or desertification, being aligned with international agreements. It would be important to establish some kind of platform that would make it possible to identify problems country by country, or subregion by subregion, and build a cooperative approach that would enable solutions to be found for problems from within. That would prevent the region from moving toward an extremely delicate situation in relation to the contradiction between the real and specific models through which the economies of most of the countries of the region were moving. It would also contribute to the propositions and aspirations for the region to help halt climate change and make the planet a sustainable habitat for current and future generations.

142. In his closing remarks, the Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC said that there was a clear desire for change, but that the right path was not being found. It was important for solutions to be sustainable and not to create new problems. Agroforestry systems were an important good alternative, since they had many advantages: they were more productive, provided employment and regenerated nature. The bioeconomy, wood pasture farming and sustainable fisheries were economic alternatives that needed to be further developed. Mexico was the only country in the region that

measured ecological domestic product (it had included accounting of degradation and depletion of natural capital since the 1990s). If policies could be harmonized and the right measurement could begin, it would be possible to educate, raise awareness and measure the effectiveness of changes to incentives. When counting, it was crucial, for example, to determine how much net environmental spending was being invested in economies and to record the contributions of the different communities. Work was required to integrate national and international policies, interlinking ministries of finance and other productive and environmental ministries, as well as the different levels of government (national government and local authorities) and communities. Incentives and disincentives (penalties) should be created for the private sector, but to be able to penalize destructive companies, measurement was needed.

Panel 5: Education and gender equality: human rights central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

143. Panel 5 was moderated by Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC and the panellists were Charles Hernández, Deputy Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Claudia Uribe, Director of the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALAC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Marcela Guerrero, Minister for the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Women's Institute (INAMU) of Costa Rica; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; María Carmelina Londoño, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Nadine Gasman, President of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico; Lucy Garrido of Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Nora González Chacón, focal point of the education, science and technology group of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; and Ana Gúezmes, Director of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

144. In his introductory remarks, the Deputy Director of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica stressed the importance of the topic to be addressed by the panel and underscored that education and gender equality were crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

145. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC described the effects of the pandemic in terms of exacerbation of gender inequality and setbacks in education. She said it was a drawn-out health crisis, not an emergency, with effects on poverty, inequality, unemployment, labour informality and education that would be difficult to reverse. The pandemic had also resulted in an unprecedented setback in terms of women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy. The crisis offered a historic opportunity to rethink and restructure education systems in order to move towards resilient, inclusive and quality education systems, from a gender-equality perspective. The signs of economic recovery showed that the productive structure was based on a sexual division of labour that reproduced patterns of inequality. Therefore, without changes in the prevailing development model, growth would not necessarily result in an improvement in women's living conditions.

146. The Director of OREALC of UNESCO stated that the ongoing situation was the worst educational crisis in history, with wide-reaching and severe effects at all levels. In addition to the interruption of face-to-face classes, problems included the lack of connectivity and limited access to school-related services, such as school meals and preventive health, which affected the poorest and most vulnerable to a greater extent, with consequences in terms of loss of learning, mental health, teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence. The pandemic had already left the region with structural gaps in terms of equity and inclusion, and compliance with the 2030 Agenda had not been guaranteed even before

the crisis. Much of the progress made in education in the 2000s had slowed in the 2010s. Attention needed to be paid to the resources being allocated to education, as a renewed effort would be required in the areas with the largest gaps, focusing on gender and equity. However, resources alone were not enough to overcome gaps. An entire generation was at risk. She therefore called for more urgent action to achieve the goals, with more resources and more dialogue, so that the region could move forward, together, from the crossroads it faced. While the education crisis had been silent, greater importance had to be attached to education and action needed to be taken quickly to prevent irreversible damage.

147. The Minister for the Status of Women and Executive President of INAMU of Costa Rica said that it was a change of era, in which new forms of living together were being proposed in response to the challenges faced. During the commemoration of Women's Day, the flag had been flown for sustainability, the challenges of equality in the context of the digital divide and in Industry 4.0, and the need for equality from a care perspective, areas in which goals had been set at national and regional levels, so that women would have more opportunities to access markets and political participation, which would not be possible if women were limited to the roles established by the sexual division of labour or in private spaces of care. Women also had to be encouraged to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies and professions and in the opportunities offered by Industry 4.0, and their presence in those areas had to be highlighted. The ways to overcome gaps included combating the patriarchal culture, protecting countries' economies and labour markets, favouring women's access to the fastest-growing sectors, moving towards the distribution of power in the public and private sectors and in decision-making, and achieving a social compact based on a system of care and care economies that put women on an equal footing.

148. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that care, violence, early unions and new concepts of masculinity were key issues. The situation for women and girls had already been difficult before the pandemic. There were still stereotypes that affected women and the pandemic had worsened the situation, creating a vicious circle between care and confinement to the home, which had increased violence and the burden of unpaid work. Work was being done with other United Nations entities to move towards new forms of care that would enable women to have time at their disposal; time being the most important factor for economic activity, political participation and leisure. Unpaid work needed to be recognized, redistributed and reduced. Early unions must also be ended and the legal age for marriage raised. It was important to invest in education and offer a second chance to women who had been raped or who had entered into early unions, so that they could re-enter education and continue their schooling. Digitization was needed for women in the region, with a greater presence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Progress should also be made towards a new concept of masculinity, with joint responsibility for caregiving, and that should be reflected in education. Education was necessary for the respect of all human rights, and particularly those of women; for peaceful coexistence; to leave discrimination and stereotypes behind; to end gender-based violence; for parity at all levels; for sexual and reproductive education from an early age; or social mobility and the elimination of poverty; for inclusion and to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid work, which was borne mostly by women.

149. The Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia stated that women had the potential to contribute to overcoming the crisis. Women brought irreplaceable elements, in terms of empathy, ethics of care and sensitivity to others. In a crisis such as the one that was occurring, with the loss of jobs, lives, opportunities and hopes, women had the capacity to move forward, and their inclusion translated into increases in GDP and productivity, diversification of exports and increased entrepreneurship. Increases in women's income resulted in a larger volume of resources for families' education and health. Consequently, focusing the economic recovery on women was the smartest way to carry those efforts forward, as empowering women had a multiplier effect on the economy (growth and recovery). Colombia had made efforts through employment recovery programmes that prioritized women, production incentives for women's entrepreneurship and a gender-focused reactivation that included

support for the digitization of women and a greater presence of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A true closing of gaps in the region had to prioritize three areas: (i) promotion of education as a prerequisite for access to other rights and guarantees for women; (ii) economic empowerment of women from a rural and urban perspective; and (iii) economic and social recognition of care tasks.

150. The President of INMUJERES of Mexico said that even before the pandemic education had posed critical challenges, especially in terms of how adolescent girls and young girls taught and learned, and the advancement of women. The pandemic had changed everything: many girls had dropped out of school, in greater proportion than boys, and mothers had largely been the ones who had supported educational processes. A number of initiatives had been undertaken in Mexico to sustain the educational process in the emergency situation. The pandemic had raised awareness of the need for large-scale rethinking of the educational system. In that regard, a process had begun at all levels. The new educational proposal sought to transform the patriarchal, Eurocentric, racist and homophobic model. In that regard, INMUJERES aimed to mainstream gender in all areas. Consultations were underway to strengthen a new curriculum proposal, including critical thinking, active participation and leadership of young and adolescent girls in all areas, and inclusive education. From the perspective of INMUJERES, achieving substantive equality was closely tied to that transformation of the education system.

151. The representative of Articulación Feminista Marcosur stated that the most appropriate response to the question of how to move forward was to open more spaces for participation by women and citizens in general. In addition to physical barriers, there were administrative barriers, such as those that prevented displaced, refugee and migrant young and adolescent girls from continuing their education, because their administrative status was unclear. Progress was made by civil society and governments and politicians were often further behind, but it was necessary for the two groups to move forward together. Secular, free and compulsory schooling was vital, and education budgets were needed that supported changes towards anti-sexist, anti-racist and anti-discriminatory education, promoting people's freedom, equality and happiness. It was important for women's and feminist organizations to have resources to carry out their work, including from the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminists Organizations and Movements. Lastly, one lesson that should have been learned from the pandemic was that equality was the horizon.

152. The focal point of the education, science and technology group of the mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development outlined the factors that were preventing fulfilment of SDG 4 on quality education. She said that economic, political and gender inequalities in the region were becoming more severe and that there were various existing gaps in education. Proposals included the need to redefine education as a human right at all educational stages and throughout the life cycle, with gender-sensitive, intercultural, emancipatory, transformative, secular, free, accessible and quality education, with a budget that safeguarded it. That entailed a need to recognize Internet access as a human right, to make digitization a public service that was guaranteed by the State, to allocate a sufficient percentage of GDP and of the national budget to education, and to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190). There were challenges in creating a new social contract that was less neoliberal, that focused on human rights and protecting rights and life, as well as investing in the care economy and eliminating wage and labour gaps, with special attention to priority populations. She warned that there was a trend of privatization of education, and stressed the need for cooperation between countries, taking into account civil society organizations, which were closely interlinked with regard to different issues. Lastly, school curricula needed to be changed, as without cultural transformation the other changes would not be possible.

153. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that although the region faced great challenges at that time, it also had many opportunities to achieve the desired development with a focus on equality, social justice, sustainability, democracy and peace. For a transformative recovery with equality

and sustainability, a shift from formal equality to substantive equality by investing in gender equality was required. Women's autonomy, empowerment and the right to education were a condition, a path and a catalyst for sustainable development. There was a need for a social compact to establish universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems; a fiscal compact to ensure the financial sustainability of those protection systems; and a statistical compact to provide better disaggregated and georeferenced statistics. The advancement of women translated into progress for society as a whole. The pandemic had highlighted the link between caring for people and the environment; social and gender inequality had to be reversed in synergy with the environmental dimension, placing the sustainability of life and the planet at the centre.

154. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Guatemala mentioned the objective of guaranteeing access to education without discrimination, including early childhood and preschool education, with quality standards, aiming for free education, promotion of technical and higher education, and incorporation of theoretical and practical content on sustainable development and the culture of peace, as well as the challenge of incorporating the gender perspective in childhood, and at the academic level, equality regardless of sex, ethnicity, area of residence, income level or access to technology.

155. The representative of Mexico stressed the importance and challenges of comprehensive sexual education were highlighted as a particularly effective measure for preventing the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, unwanted teenage pregnancy and even gender inequality and gender-based violence. There were benefits to creating guidelines for media outlets so that they not only stopped reproducing stereotypes on their platforms, but also shared responsibility for building a better world, free of violence, discrimination and gender inequality.

156. The representative of Colombia said granular data was needed to assess inequalities and formulate specific policies and to advance in the systematic integration of the gender perspective in all phases of planning, production and use of data and statistics in all areas, and underscored the value of ongoing dialogue between producers and users of information. In that regard, DANE worked to produce reliable data that contributed to closing gaps in education, as part of progress toward gender equality.

Peer-learning session: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

157. The session was moderated by Cielo Morales, Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). Introductory remarks were made by Ángela María Penagos, Director of the Agrifood Initiative of Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. The participants in the session were Félix Ulloa, Vice-President of El Salvador; Sharon Saunders, Ambassador of Jamaica to Costa Rica; Isaac Alfie, Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay; Eduardo Brau, Undersecretary for Information Management and Analysis of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina; Vince Henderson, Minister for Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy of Dominica; Oliver Joseph, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs of Grenada; Adriana Bolaños Argueta, Deputy Minister for Bilateral Affairs and International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; and Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname.

158. The moderator said that the session, as a space for collective reflection, was a new feature of the Forum, which had arisen from the work of a community of practice, with the participation of countries' technical teams and the entities of the United Nations system, to support countries in the preparation of

their voluntary national reviews based on peer-to-peer learning. Over the preceding two years, ECLAC had advocated linking short-term emergency response measures with medium- and long-term recovery policies. To achieve that, institutional frameworks needed to be strengthened with the capacity to implement comprehensive programmes that interlinked sectors and territorial levels, mainstreaming climate action, gender equality and citizen participation. The voluntary national review exercise fostered partnerships among development actors and contributed to multi-stakeholder and multilevel thinking for a coordinated and coherent approach to SDG implementation. The countries represented at the session would present their reviews to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2022, some for the first time, others for the second or third. She therefore invited the participants to comment on the lessons learned from the process of preparing reviews, going beyond the technical aspects of their content.

159. In her introductory remarks, the Director of the Agrifood Initiative of Universidad de los Andes in Colombia said that a worsening had been observed in the SDG index in Latin America and the Caribbean, an aggregate measure of the region's progress toward the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda, comprising more than 100 indicators, which was developed by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODS) of Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia. In 2020, for the first time since adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the regional average index had fallen, and three quarters of the countries were further away from achieving the SDGs than in 2019. For the 2030 Agenda to continue to guide countries' recovery work, there needed to be a change from guidelines to instruments, with clear implementation mechanisms, and for each target to be a public policy objective. The traditional way in which policies had been formulated needed to be changed: instead of looking at how different sectors could contribute to the Agenda, that should be the main policy, to be implemented through those sectors. Collaboration was also needed within and between countries, and that required new leadership that created trust and had interdisciplinary capabilities, to implement policies that led to transformations, and to evaluate them comprehensively. An enabling environment was required, and particularly sufficient, specific budgets, based on data and aligned with planning objectives.

160. The Vice-President of El Salvador said crises and changes of era required cultural and institutional changes, as well as updating of national agendas and regional and subregional integration agendas. Examples included the creation of new institutions in his country to address the challenges of the pandemic, and the changes that had had to be made a few days earlier to the action plan to strengthen multisectoral relations between the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and CARICOM, owing to the conflict that had broken out between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. There was also a need for capacity to reorient priorities in response to crises and external shocks, but always focusing public policies on safeguarding rights—particularly health measures taken during the pandemic to safeguard the right to health—while at the same time addressing the need for economic recovery in the sectors hit hardest by the crisis. Despite the challenges of the prevailing context, he reaffirmed his country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and said it was important to maintain the comprehensiveness of public policies to achieve the SDGs, to monitor and evaluate those achievements, and to perform related accountability exercises.

161. The Ambassador of Jamaica to Costa Rica focused on lessons from the crisis in three areas. With respect to social protection, she said cash transfers had supported citizens and businesses in the pandemic in her country, in the absence of unemployment insurance, although the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) was studying introducing the latter. Secondly, in the digital sphere, lockdowns had led to expansion of remote work and remote education, highlighting the digital divide and revealing challenges and opportunities. Thirdly, in terms of financing, fiscal rules had been relaxed to support spending, but further shocks would worsen the situation, so innovative mechanisms were required, such as blended financing at a mix of concessionary and market rates and development bonds. Jamaica's institutional arrangements regarding the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs largely focused on the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan (2009–2030) and multi-stakeholder consultative mechanisms. Implementation of

Vision 2030 Jamaica was largely coordinated around Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (MTFs) which provided a strategic policy-based results framework for alignment of sectoral and organizational strategies. In terms of challenges, after Vision 2030 Jamaica was first adopted, it had become clear that participation was needed not only by technical experts but also at the grassroots level.

162. The Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay said that success in implementing the SDGs would depend on the quality of the actions taken by the countries. The voluntary national reviews were, in that regard, a very valuable tool, since their multi-stakeholder preparation process enabled accurate information to be obtained on the progress achieved and the situation in each sector, learning about deficiencies and taking measures to refocus actions. What was not measured could not be assessed, and what could not be assessed could not be improved. Therefore, statistical processing of information was fundamental in that process. It was important for the countries of the region, like Uruguay, to have a consolidated system of social protection measures (such as unemployment insurance, a minimum wage and old-age pensions) since, in the current context, many were facing significant restrictions related to debt and rising interest rates, which depleted fiscal resources, and those restrictions were unlikely to disappear in the short term. The aim was to manage public money prudently and efficiently, prioritizing support for the most vulnerable people and the weakest productive apparatus during crises.

163. The Undersecretary for Information Management and Analysis of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina stated that his country would be presenting its third voluntary national review that year and work had been done to make it more representative and consistent, and to reflect the public policies implemented in the previous two years. Joint work had been undertaken with subnational stakeholders through the federal SDG network, providing them with training and advice so that they could prepare their voluntary local reviews. Bringing the 2030 Agenda closer to the territory was a strategic policy in Argentina, implemented through social participation forums at the territorial level (with local companies, civil society organizations, local governments and trade unions). The pandemic had arrived in Argentina when there was a pre-existing crisis, and the State had been forced to change its priorities to prevent the situation from worsening and to save lives. Policies had therefore been refocused to expand health infrastructure throughout the country, strengthen food assistance, support workers' income, employment and production, and strengthen social protection systems. In that regard, a strong State, that was present and had the capacity to make decisions and take action, played an essential role in addressing emergencies.

164. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, said, in a pre-recorded video message, that the pandemic had caused setbacks with the 2030 Agenda, and that international cooperation therefore remained crucial. The situation was exacerbated by issues such as climate change, armed conflict and economic hardship, so redoubled efforts were needed, building back better and smarter and addressing inequality. Suriname would submit its first voluntary national review in July 2022, and the ECLAC Community of Practice on the Voluntary National Reviews had been a valuable source of information. The country had also created an SDG commission, was consulting with stakeholders, and would set up a multistakeholder platform. To rebuild, recover and implement the 2030 Agenda it was crucial to: restructure financing for development; strengthen international cooperation; increase involvement of all stakeholders; and review the international trading system. A coordinated, holistic people-centred response was urgently needed to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. Only through multilateralism and strengthening of country-level mechanisms could that be achieved.

165. The Minister for Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy of Dominica said that all countries faced similar challenges from COVID-19, but small island developing States (SIDs) such as Dominica also faced climate challenges. Therefore,

conversations about the 2030 Agenda or the SDGs would not be honest if they did not include climate change. In just 10 years, Dominica had been hit by two major hydrometeorological events: in 2015 by Tropical Storm Erika, and during reconstruction by Hurricane Maria, which had both devastated the country's GDP and caused such destruction that it was almost impossible to make progress on the 2030 Agenda. In rebuilding, the country had established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD), aiming to make Dominica the first climate-resilient State, which had developed a recovery plan and a resilience development strategy. On the financial side, the pandemic had caused severe pressure: revenue had dropped, economic activities had slowed or come to a halt, but expenditure had continued. Key lessons from the period included the importance of: responsive primary health care systems; national institutions that enabled countries to withstand exogenous shocks; responsive education systems; and robust accessible telecommunications infrastructure. Lastly, energy security and food security were vital. In that regard, geothermal energy initiatives in the country were expected to provide an almost universal supply of renewable electricity and Dominica hoped to build its agricultural sector to attain food security, without relying on outside supplies.

166. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs of Grenada said that achieving the 2030 Agenda was particularly important not only through the coming years but also beyond 2030. The pandemic had highlighted challenges faced in the pursuit of the Agenda, which needed to be met head on, particularly by developing countries. The Government of Grenada had formulated a people-centred National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) and a medium-term agenda for its national development programmes, which would guide work toward the SDGs, with measures to foster socioeconomic development and reduce poverty. The pandemic had shifted priorities to measures to contain the virus, to ensure equitable access to vaccines, to address vaccine hesitancy, and to economic recovery. Reallocation of funding had been necessary to address the pandemic, removing the focus from the SDGs. Lessons learned included that: the recovery phase from the crisis was a window of opportunity for renewed social cohesion; equity was key to sustainable recovery; and that strong national institutions were needed, which people trusted. Grenada was preparing its voluntary national review in 2022 and was being assisted by ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In closing, he thanked ECLAC for developing the Community of Practice on the Voluntary National Reviews, which had helped tremendously in that regard.

167. In her concluding remarks, the Deputy Minister for Bilateral Affairs and International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that participants in the session had reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda should be the road map for all countries in the region. She underscored the importance of preparing voluntary national reviews, which were essential for analysing compliance with the Goals of the Agenda, pending actions and priority areas on which efforts should be focused. More challenges arose from the exercise, as strengths were identified, but also weaknesses, and it was only possible to address those challenges through collaborative and participatory processes, public-private partnerships and inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination. It was also crucial to build trust among the different institutions, sectors and stakeholders, in order to move forward. The goal was to work towards a green, sustainable, inclusive recovery with a far-reaching digital and technological transformation.

Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 7)

168. The session was moderated by Roberto Valent, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office (DCO) of the United Nations.

Presentation of the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

169. The 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean was presented by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in their capacity as Vice-Chairs of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

170. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the report was prepared in accordance with resolution 2020/23 adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2020, when Member States had requested the United Nations conduct transparent and inclusive consultations, in close collaboration with the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, funds, programmes of the United Nations system, the regional offices of the Development Coordination Office, and the resident coordinator offices. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had made five recommendations: (i) create a regional collaboration platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, to see what was being done, avoid duplication and seek complementarities and synergies; (ii) create a knowledge management hub; (iii) enhance results-based management and transparency; (iv) launch a change management process to consolidate existing capacities in data and statistics; and (v) provide administrative services more efficiently. The report was based on three specific recommendations: enhancing transparency, accountability and results-based management. The aim was to align the work of the United Nations system to support member States in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve better alignment, issue-based coalitions and inter-institutional working groups had been created. Among other aims, the Platform sought to link humanitarian and development issues, facilitate more effective management, develop knowledge products that were relevant to member States, facilitate policy advice, conduct inter-agency collaboration (for example in the areas of education and labour), and address cross-border issues. Themes being jointly addressed include: climate change and resilience, crime and violence, inclusive growth, financing for development, governance and institutions, and human mobility. A regional vision had been developed and common strategic positions had been adopted on issues such as gender equality, digital inclusion, energy transition and food security. It was important to support resident coordinators and country teams, and to link what was being done as a system with intergovernmental bodies such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report showed that structural social, economic and environmental inequalities had increased in the region, that the most affected populations had been the most vulnerable (women, youth, migrants, refugees, Afrodescendants) and that the region was facing the risk of a lost decade.

171. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP detailed some types of support that the Platform provided to country teams through different regional initiatives. He focused on cross-border issues, which required a subnational or multi-country approach, and on positioning the United Nations system as a point of reference for knowledge and experiences that were useful for policy design, and said global agendas needed to be brought to the regional and local levels. Continued efforts needed to be made for the United Nations system to form strategic partnerships with civil society and the private sector. In terms of issue-based coalitions, there were some specific initiatives on climate change and resilience, crime and violence, and inclusive growth, and a lot of work had been done in the area of human mobility. A thematic cluster had been created on financing for development and very targeted actions had been undertaken in the areas of governance and institutions. Two cross-cutting themes ran across all the thematic clusters: (i) gender and empowerment of women and girls; and (ii) youth. During the year, three areas of work had been added: food systems, urban development and HIV/AIDS. Looking ahead, priorities had been set for areas of action and a decision had been made to address economic and social inequalities,

environmental issues of climate action, strengthening governance systems and supporting transitions in terms of connectivity, energy and food systems. Addressing those priorities would entail meeting specific demands, which were changeable in a context of uncertainty, and being ready to respond to them, taking into account cross-border issues, continuing to emphasize the role of advocacy and communication, continuing to work with regional intergovernmental bodies, and serving as a link between the global and local levels.

172. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico said that the proposal had very positive elements and a structure that contributed to coordination of the support of the United Nations for work in the countries to move toward the SDGs. It was important to consider implementation of the 2030 Agenda in each country, since although the Agenda was a shared agreed horizon towards which to advance, it took a different form in each country according to national priorities. The Platform represented a great opportunity, enabling attention to issues that were key not only to the 2030 Agenda, but also far beyond it. The key issues with opportunities for joint action through the Platform were: care systems, energy transitions and the circular economy. Those matters needed to be approached in a way that enabled understanding that responsibilities, historical trajectories, possibilities, actions and aspirations were very different, not only in the region, but also with respect to countries in other regions. If work was not done to promote differentiated transitions, the opportunity to pursue a major transition that was fair and feasible would be lost.

173. The representative of Cuba said that her country was pleased that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development had become an excellent demonstration that the United Nations system and States could work in line with each other to move toward the SDGs. She expressed appreciation for efforts to increase the effectiveness of support to countries in the region, and particularly the work done in 2021, which for some countries in the region had been an even more difficult year than that when the COVID-19 pandemic began. The United Nations system had offered a timely and very constructive response to the pandemic, but faced a greater task: rebuilding and recovering in a resilient and sustainable manner from the damage the pandemic had caused and still caused, without overlooking medium- and long-term development goals and transforming patterns of development, to effectively and comprehensively fulfil the 2030 Agenda. The support of all United Nations system entities would be fundamental in that great challenge. It was hoped that the Platform would continue to strengthen and contribute to meeting the needs of the countries of the region through multilateralism and for a change of era.

174. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the Forum had been a very enriching space where entities, resident coordinators and country representatives had been able to enter into dialogue, which contributed substantially to being more effective, collaborating more and interlinking actions. Despite the difficult year in 2021, many capacities had been oriented towards reconstruction. What was being sought, as a United Nations system, was a dialogue with the countries on the issues raised. A care society, going beyond a care economy, entailed a leap in quality. Numbers needed to be calculated for the energy transition: how much it would cost, how many jobs it could create. Another emerging issue was the circular economy, which was related to cities, rural areas and industry. Countries' contributions were encouraging and helped a better understanding of what could be done. Also, interregional cooperation was extremely important. The question was how to raise Latin America and the Caribbean's profile on the global stage, giving more impetus to regional positions.

175. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica said that it was important to recognize and emphasize that the Vice-Chairs of the Platform provided valuable input for a clear view of how to forward more decisively. In that respect, the coordinated work of the United Nations development system and its agencies, funds and programmes had been essential to ensure that the work was productive and,

above all, concerted, since it could not be an isolated effort. Coordination with United Nations country teams and resident coordinators was essential. Member States urgently needed to make greater use of the capacities of the resident coordinator offices and the United Nations agencies in the territories of the region, since it had been demonstrated that, in times of greater difficulties, those agencies were capable of providing timely responses to the requirements of the States. He invited all member States to rediscover those valuable capacities of the United Nations system. At a time when COVID-19 was having an unprecedented impact on all countries in the region, the coordinated support of the United Nations had been essential. The region should draw on the support of the United Nations to formulate a forward-looking strategic regional vision and to work together to develop common positions. What was not measured could not be seen, and in that regard it was important to be grateful for the efforts to increase transparency and generate knowledge, opening spaces for exchange and creating forums such as the Platform. The United Nations could be relied on to continue accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

Other matters (agenda item 8)

176. A representative of civil society then read the declaration included in annex 2.

Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 9)

177. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, the Forum adopted intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which are attached hereto as annex 1 and a Summary of the Chair of the fifth meeting of the Forum was prepared.

Closing session

178. In the closing session, statements were made Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

179. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica highlighted key ideas: peace, dialogue and active participation needed to be fostered as a path to sustainable development; reducing the large economic, social and environmental gaps and asymmetries among and within countries, focusing on health, climate and gender; liquidity should be redistributed from developed to developing countries and appropriate instruments were required that took into account the extent of the pandemic, environmental, gender and equity issues, vulnerabilities and the need to build resilience; it was necessary to speak of “gradation”, not graduation, and the countries of the region could not be left out of cooperation or access to concessional funds, so development needed to be measured in a multidimensional way, taking into account each country’s structural gaps and vulnerabilities; the economic recovery should be truly transformative, science-based, sustainable, green and blue, inclusive, just, innovative and resilient; awareness needed to be raised of the true value of nature, the services provided by the environment and its undeniable contribution to sustainable development; the region, particularly Central America and the Caribbean, was highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters; for the recovery to be sustainable, new shared intersectoral compacts needed to be forged through participation and dialogue that resulted in social cohesion and prosperity while strengthening and legitimizing democracy and the full exercise of human rights, paying special attention to the territories and the local level, taking into account their realities; the autonomy and empowerment of women and girls, including access to education, technology and digitization, were prerequisites for progress toward an equitable and inclusive model of development; societies must show solidarity and move from a culture of privilege and exclusion to a society of collective responsibility; greater political dialogue, agreements and cooperation were needed, and above all a unified

voice for the region within the international community, to seek solutions that benefited populations, with a forward-looking vision of well-being and dignified life, and a pragmatic but no less ambitious approach, within a framework of new multilateralism, aspiring to a new global compact that represented a unified response from the international community to put sustainable development first and that included reshaping the international financial architecture.

180. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the Forum, which was coming to an end, had been unique for many reasons: for the intensity of the exchanges, reflecting the interest and commitment of governments, civil society, the private sector, the academic sector and all those who had participated in the intense discussions. She thanked the Chair and the people of Costa Rica for their hospitality and for hosting the Forum so efficiently and successfully, and expressed gratitude for the work carried out during the years the country had chaired ECLAC, in the very adverse context of the pandemic. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a space that allowed the region to speak with its own voice, to recognize its rich diversity, but at the same time, to bring together and champion shared aspirations and to envision paths to a better future. Over the course of three days, with healthy frankness, the participants had shared experiences of sustainable development efforts from all corners of the region, set out their successes and difficulties, learned together, and seen that the obstacles that were sometimes believed to be specific, local and unique, were in fact frequent and shared beyond borders. Innovative ideas, original practices and effective initiatives were being discovered, which sometimes seemed inaccessible and formed part of the repertoire of more developed countries, and yet had been shown to work in sister communities. Since its creation in Mexico, she was proud to say the Forum had been a multi-stakeholder space. Almost 1,200 people had participated in that fifth meeting of the Forum, and more than half of them in person; 260 country representatives had registered to participate in the event, in addition to 230 representatives of the United Nations system, 21 from intergovernmental organizations, 19 from financial institutions and 22 from cooperation agencies, together with more than 300 representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector, in addition to the thousands of people who had followed the meeting on social media and public broadcasts of the proceedings.

Annex 1

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

We, the ministers and high-level representatives gathered in San José, Costa Rica, at the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), from 7 to 9 March 2022, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 70/1, adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 74/4, which marks the beginning of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind, including its Goals and targets, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental—, and stress that it is people-centred, universal and transformative 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, reaching the furthest behind first and empowering those in vulnerable situations to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda that supports and complements it, and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions to achieve its targets; recognize the synergies with relevant instruments, in particular of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, the SAMOA Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Further reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof;

4. *Note* that the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, met the conditions for entry into force on 22 January 2021 and entered into force on 22 April 2021 for the States parties to the Agreement, as a contribution to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development, and invite the States parties to participate in the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, to be held from 20 to 22 April 2022;

5. *Recall* the Political Declaration on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered virtually on the occasion of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, under the Presidency Pro-Tempore of Costa Rica, held from 26 to 28 October 2020;

6. *Look forward* to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that will be convened under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which will review in depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships, reviewed annually, while recognizing the integrated, indivisible, interlinked and universally applicable nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs;

7. *Reaffirm* in this regard the commitment to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, adapt curricula to the demand from the production system for new skills and foster investments for educational provisions and access, bearing in mind the importance of guaranteeing a life free of poverty; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; recognize the need to promote a structural progressive change towards sustainable development to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce deforestation, combat desertification, land degradation and drought, foster strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services in the region; and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;

8. *Note with concern* that the SDG targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved, and in this regard call upon the international community to reinforce actions to address those specific challenges, including to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage youth, and enhance financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

9. *Reaffirm* our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic and its consequences, and emphasize that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity as we recover and build back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world through reinvigorated global action and by building on the progress achieved in the last 76 years since the creation of the United Nations;

10. *Renew our* solidarity with all people and countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of the pandemic and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by it;

11. *Underline* the primary responsibility of governments for adopting and implementing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic that are specific to their national context, as well as for mobilizing the necessary resources to do so;

12. *Emphasize* that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and the flow of essential goods, and that these disruptions hinder the fight against poverty, hunger and inequality, ultimately undermining efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; reaffirm that emergency measures must be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary, that they must not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains, and that they must be consistent with World Trade Organization rules; and call upon member States to reaffirm the critical importance of connected global supply chains in ensuring the unimpeded flow of vital medical and food supplies and other essential goods and services across borders, by air, by land and by sea;

13. *Encourage* further strengthening of World Health Organization preparedness and response to health emergencies and of pandemics preparedness and multidimensional response capacities, taking into account the recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the International Health Regulations Review Committee (IHRRC) in case of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other contributions regarding this matter that can be made by the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and other relevant organizations;

14. *Reaffirm*, in that regard, General Assembly resolutions 74/270, 74/274, 74/306, 74/307, 75/4, 75/156, 75/157 and 76/175 and urgently call for universal, unhindered, timely, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory access to, and fair distribution of all quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnoses, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines against COVID-19, as well as health technologies and products, including their components and precursors, that are required in the response to COVID-19 as a global priority; encourage strengthening of scientific international cooperation necessary to combat the pandemic and support initiatives in this regard, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), and relevant pledging appeals; and call for the recognition of the COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good;

15. *Recognize* that, inequalities, or even a rise in inequalities, remain pervasive in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, which have been further exacerbated within and among countries by the COVID-19 pandemic, perpetuating all multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion in the region, especially for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations; and that tackling inequality requires, inter alia, further investment in social services, including social protection services, and economic opportunities in a partnership between governments, national and local authorities, the private sector, the international financial system, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders working together, in accordance with national plans and policies, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

16. *Also recognize* that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on women and girls, older persons, youth, children, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as the poor, deepening existing inequalities for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations; and that the coronavirus disease has also disproportionately affected people of all ages with pre-existing medical conditions, showed a higher mortality rate in men infected by COVID-19, and elevated the risks of front-line and health-care workers;

17. *Express* profound concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a devastating impact on health, including mental health and well-being, loss of life, economic growth and employment, resulting in the decimation of jobs and entrepreneurships, and the extended deterioration of public services, which, in the context of increased poverty in all its forms and dimensions and widening digital divides, as well as ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, the deterioration of oceans, and vulnerability to climate change and disasters, result in a critical incidence on the fulfilment of sustainable development and humanitarian needs and the enjoyment of human rights across all spheres of society and risk slowing down the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including on food security, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and inclusive and equitable quality education made over the past decades;

18. *Reaffirm*, in that regard, our renewed commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger everywhere, to further promote sustainable development, including inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion, to combat inequalities within

and among countries as well as to respect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course, and peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations;

19. *Reaffirm* the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development; reiterate our determination to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, stress the need to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, food supply-chains, maintain functioning food systems, avoid food shortage, reduce food loss and waste and safeguard food safety, and encourage actions to enable access to safe, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for all and to support the role of family farming, pastoralism and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition in line with the rules of the multilateral trading system; reaffirm the commitment to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; reiterate the commitment for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work, promote equal pay for work of equal value, analyse paid and unpaid care work and their relationship to the changing world of work, reduce gaps of participation and entry in the labour market, and strive for universal access to social protection; recall the pledge to reduce inequality within and among countries; reiterate the commitment to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and that people in our region have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature; stress the strong commitment to effective climate action; recommit to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, as well as to substantially reduce corruption in all its forms; and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;

20. *Reiterate* the urgency to promote decent work for all, as well as social protection policies aimed at avoiding unemployment, reducing labour informality and the failure of micro-, small and medium- sized enterprises, and enhancing income support mechanisms to better assist the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in times of crisis in order to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

21. *Stress* that recovery from the pandemic should enhance and support the development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, foster investment in innovation, research and development, as well as renewed regional solidarity and cooperation, including for the strengthening of public health systems, and on epidemiological control, while strengthening democracy and fulfilling all human rights for all; and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including by empowering and engaging all women, adolescents and girls, with the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

22. *Urge* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies, Internet access, connectivity and digital inclusion play in reducing the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic on life-long learning and quality education, health, communication, commerce and economic recovery and to ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address digital divides within and among countries and regions;

23. *Emphasize* with deep concern the particular adverse effects of the pandemic in all countries of the region dependent on commodities, remittances or tourism, as well as the impact of limited fiscal space and high debt levels on countries' abilities to withstand the consequences of the COVID-19 shock and to invest in a sustainable recovery and reconstruction of their economies and welfare;

24. *Call for* a global coordinated multilateral response to address the current impacts on sustainable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies necessary to address the current economic downturn and future depression, begin economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; welcome global, regional and national initiatives seeking international solidarity in the face of the economic and social downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the specific circumstances of each country, aimed at laying the foundations for a strong sustainable and inclusive global recovery; and encourage Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and international financial institutions, to mobilize a large-scale comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences amounting to at least 10 per cent of global gross domestic product;

25. *Call upon* Member States of the United Nations and international financial institutions to provide more liquidity in the financial system, especially in all developing countries, including by the implementation of instruments such as a Liquidity and Sustainability Facility and the broader use of Special Drawing Rights, and emphasize the need to increase access to concessional finance for the countries of the region, especially in the context of the global pandemic, including by the creation of new financial mechanisms or funds to support countries facing fiscal pressures and by considering offering low-interest loans to open up the fiscal space and, in this regard, welcome regional and global proposals and continue to call for the operationalization of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE);

26. *Underscore* the need to grant special dispensation to the vulnerable countries of the region, with regard to the actions of credit rating agencies and the measures necessary to achieve debt sustainability and reduce the indebtedness of developing countries and, in this regard, welcome innovative financing mechanisms such as the steps by the Group of 20 to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries, the institution of the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative for the Caribbean, the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund, and the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses as part of new borrowing arrangements;

27. *Recognize* the need to enhance the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through Sustainable Development Goal 17, as well as the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorate the global partnership for sustainable development to secure our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

28. *Take note with appreciation* of the reports “An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean” and “Development banks’ response to COVID-19 and their role in a sustainable recovery”, prepared by ECLAC at the request of the Chair of the Commission, as well as of the discussion initiated by the hybrid meeting on financing for Latin America and the Caribbean recovery, held in the context of the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, and further call on all parties to accelerate joint action towards increasing the efficacy of existing tools and frameworks, the design and deployment of innovative financing instruments and the urgent recapitalization of multilateral development banks in order to support countries of the region with their economic and financial challenges;

29. *Stress* the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by all developing countries, including countries in special situations, such as 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;

30. *Reiterate* that national averages based on criteria such as gross national income (GNI) per capita are not aligned with the multidimensional scope of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and do not reflect all the particularities, development needs and challenges of developing countries; recall that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measures of progress in sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, taking advantage of the existing initiatives, as appropriate; and recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic production and structural gaps at all levels;

31. *Also reiterate* the call to address further the specific development needs of middle-income countries through, inter alia, innovative financing for development as stated in the Monterrey Consensus, an accurate response to their requirements, taking into account variables that go beyond per capita income criteria, and eliminate increasing difficulties and conditionalities faced to access financial and non-financial resources, as appropriate, and recall that 73 per cent of the world's poor population is concentrated in these countries, where cooperation can have a multiplier effect on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;

32. *Stress* the importance of addressing the particular and diverse needs and challenges, which include access to official development assistance (ODA) and concessional finance, faced by countries that are close to surpassing or have recently crossed the upper-middle-income threshold but still have structural gaps and vulnerabilities, considering the multidimensional scope of sustainable development and the limits of criteria such as gross national income (GNI) for measuring development, especially in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

33. *Recall* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and look forward to the implementation of the calls made in that political declaration;

34. *Welcome* the Secretary-General's recommendations on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use, further welcome the establishment of a representative high-level panel of experts tasked with carrying forward work on the multidimensional vulnerability index, and look forward to the finalization and adoption of the index by December 2022;

35. *Reiterate* the call for immediate and substantial actions to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well the unprecedented health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and underline the urgency of finding additional solutions to major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum achieved in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, and the Samoa Pathway and in this regard, welcome the decision to convene a fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

36. *Welcome* the progress on the development of a monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, spearheaded by the United Nations Secretariat, and look forward to its finalization and adoption, and

encourage small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist in this regard;

37. *Recall* the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and its High-Level Political Declaration; also recall the convening of the regional review meeting for the Latin America region in Santiago on 11 and 12 June 2019 at ECLAC headquarters, and welcome the decision to hold the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024 with the mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and to strengthen partnerships between the landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners; and look forward to the convening of the regional review;

38. *Emphasize* the need to strengthen international development cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to ODA and concessional finance for countries in the region, including middle-income countries, and call upon the developed countries to fulfil their ODA targets, and further recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including national and local efforts, as well as international and regional cooperation that support policies and programmes to increase investment in sustainable development;

39. *Take note*, in that regard, of the *Latin American Economic Outlook (LEO) 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery*,¹ and invite ECLAC to continue to gather information and report on the impact of losing access to ODA and concessional finance on development gains as countries transition through different income levels, including through, but not limited to, the development in transition approach, and on how the international system and national governments can ensure that the development gains associated with higher income are sustained as countries transition towards sustainable development;

40. *Reaffirm* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors and, recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, encourage alignment of private sector incentives with national public goals towards long-term investment according to national realities and capacities, including innovative financing instruments and approaches, and further encourage the consideration of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to bridge the region's structural inequality gaps and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

41. *Also reaffirm*, in order to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance for our region of accessing and mobilizing additional, sufficient, adequate and well-directed financial and non-financial resources and capacity-building for the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and further recommend increasing international and regional cooperation, inter alia, to support domestic science and technology research and innovation;

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery*, Paris, OECD Publishing, 2021.

42. *Stress* further the critical role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and bear in mind that technological change includes new and powerful tools that can help to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and in this context take note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the report entitled "Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Report of the Secretary-General" and the High-level Thematic Debate on the Impact of Rapid Technological Change on the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, that took place on 11 May 2020, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in November 2020, and the Buenos Aires Declaration, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 13 to 15 December 2021;

43. *Reaffirm* the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) and commit to its implementation; reiterate the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; reaffirm that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and is an important element of international cooperation for development; acknowledge the need to enhance development effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation; and welcome the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development;

44. *Further recognize* that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access a greater and broader range of resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to strengthen national capabilities, and support States' efforts to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals, and stress the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise;

45. *Welcome* resolution 752(PLN.36), adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held at United Nations headquarters in New York on 3 December 2021, in which the Committee approved the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and decided that the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in 2023, on a date to be determined;

46. *Commit* to continuing to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and look forward to achieving positive results at the forthcoming WTO Twelfth Ministerial Conference, in particular an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines on fisheries subsidies and on the continuous reform of agricultural trade rules, in accordance with their respective mandates and emphasize, in addition, that trade, with appropriate supporting policies, can, inter alia, contribute to promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities within and among countries and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

47. *Welcome* the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Bridgetown, from 3 to 7 October 2021, under the theme "From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all", and also welcome the adoption of its outcome document entitled "Bridgetown Covenant";

48. *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;

49. *Recommend* redoubling efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, including by combating tax evasion and corruption and increased international cooperation as well as 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, as well as that the value created is distributed in a way that reinforces economic and social equality and inclusion, particularly in favour of the most vulnerable, to achieve sustainable development, according to national legislations; and further recall that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity;

50. *Express concern* that the region continues to experience a decline in correspondent banking relationships, impacting the ability to send and receive international payments, with potential consequences for the cost of remittances, financial inclusion and international trade, among other areas, and thus for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Recognize* the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination and stress that remittances are a form of private capital that cannot be equated to other international financial flows such as foreign direct investment, ODA, or other public sources of financing for development; and encourage concrete measures, as appropriate, to ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrants and their families in both origin and destination countries, and to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent of the amount transferred, while promoting conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries;

52. *Recall* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018; and in this regard take note of the endorsement by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries² of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

53. *Reaffirm*, inter alia, the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law, including international human rights law;

54. *Call upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, children and adolescents, and to address international migration through scaling up international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

² Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

55. *Take note* of the Latin American and Caribbean regional review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held from 26 to 28 April 2021, and of the convening of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022;

56. *Recognize* the importance of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 in order to reinforce the application and further implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and as a complementary tool for the integration of population issues into sustainable development; and invite the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to take place in the second half of 2022;

57. *Also recognize* the importance of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, adopted during the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico in 2019, for promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tackling the current multidimensional crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and moving towards a transformative, inclusive and resilient recovery with equality; and take note of the outcome of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development, held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2021 under the chairship of Antigua and Barbuda;

58. *Welcome* the ongoing regional efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls throughout their life course, and recall the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and note the Santiago Commitment, adopted at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the sixty-first and sixty-second meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, and underscore that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course 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 mainstreaming of a gender-responsive approach into national sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, and emergency and recovery responses to the COVID-19 pandemic;

59. *Note with appreciation* the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons;

60. *Recall* General Assembly resolution 68/237 in which it proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected, and note that 2021 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the commemoration on 31 August of the first International Day for People of African Descent, as mandated by resolution 75/170, which represents an important opportunity for the region to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

61. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 75/314 establishing the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to contribute to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind and contribute to ensuring equal enjoyment of all human rights;

62. *Reaffirm* the importance of protecting and enhancing indigenous and traditional knowledge as well as cultural, social and environmental practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and their contribution to global efforts and initiatives, in accordance with national legislation, to enable sustainable livelihoods, sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices, and food security in harmony with nature;

63. *Welcome* the multiple environmental and sustainable development events that took place during 2020 and 2021, such as the sixteenth session of the UN Forum on Forests, the High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, and the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26), and looks forward to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 15), which will take place in 2022, and in this regard call for the enhancement of synergies among these events, considering regional intergovernmental priorities as established by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate;

64. *Recall* the Food Systems Summit held in September 2021, convened by the Secretary-General with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

65. *Recognize* that the region is highly vulnerable to climate change owing to its geography, climate, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard note with concern the findings contained in the Special Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*; and the *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of IPBES; all of which represent the best available science and underscore the need to urgently increase ambition for climate action in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC and encourage all Parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement it;

66. *Take note* with appreciation of the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26), including the Glasgow Climate Pact, the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and, in particular, the decisions adopted that will enable the full implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted under that Convention in a manner consistent with its long-term goals and environmental integrity, and look forward to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27), to be held in November 2022;

67. *Stress* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of ensuring that its allocation of resources allows the effective implementation of its mandate, emphasizing, in that sense, the need to reinforce our efforts to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and ensure enhanced access to international climate finance in order to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States, in order to leave no one behind;

68. *Emphasize* the need to significantly increase climate finance, which is additional to official development assistance (ODA), to support action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and enhance access to international climate financial flows with a special focus on increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable; and in this regard aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

69. *Underscore* the need, in view of the high vulnerability of the region to climate change, to urgently promote the adoption of policies and planning that effectively contribute to increasing resilience to climate-induced disasters and achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the long-term goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, inter alia and where applicable, by taking climate change into account in macroeconomic policy, fiscal planning, budgeting, credit risk, public investment management and procurement practices;

70. *Welcome* the updated nationally determined contributions submitted in 2021 and call for the nationally determined contributions that will be updated and submitted in 2022 to reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in line with the principles of progression and non-regression and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;

71. Considering the global trend of biodiversity loss and the need to realize the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature, *urge* the adoption of an ambitious, realistic and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), to be held in Kunming, China, and further note that GBF must address the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner, be based on scientific evidence, include targets and measures to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, guarantee new and additional financial resources from developed countries to developing countries, in line with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, as well as from other sources, for implementation and for long-term monitoring and management;

72. *Recognize* the United Nations General Assembly proclamation on the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and welcome the United Nations Ocean Conference on scaling up actions for ocean protection, conservation and sustainable use based on science and innovation for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to be held in 2022;

73. *Welcome* Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as important for the enjoyment of human rights;

74. *Also recognize* that improving the environmental quality in our cities is one of the challenges we have ahead of us to achieve sustainable development, which will require efforts from member States and other relevant stakeholders in a multitude of areas, such as air, soil and water pollution, water scarcity, sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency, including clean energy sources, sustainable management of chemicals and waste, and decreasing food loss and waste, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, which promotes the full realization of the right to adequate housing and the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, welcome the outcome of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which took place in May 2019, and look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to take place on 28 April 2022;

75. *Recall* the need to renew and enhance efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda, including its relevant Goals and targets, recognize the Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste Management, adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, that aims, inter alia, to support the implementation of the chemicals and waste-related international agreements in the countries of the region, and encourage the implementation of the decisions adopted at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Barbados from 1 to 2 February 2021;

76. *Applaud* the “Caribbean first” initiative advanced by ECLAC since its thirty-seventh session, held in Havana in May 2018, and the peer learning sessions on challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, held in the framework of the second, third, fourth and fifth meetings of this Forum;

77. *Recognize* the impact of disasters on sustainable development, poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean; acknowledge the need to adopt a broader and more people-centred and inclusive preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and realign disaster financing to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk; commit to integrate disaster risk reduction into plans, policies and strategies at all levels, highlighting the importance of generating environmental and territorial data and information for decision-making by governments and policymakers, in line with national priorities, considering multidisciplinary and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms; underscore the urgent need for new conceptual and analytical approaches to improve understanding and management of risk dynamics and complex, interconnected risk drivers and cascading consequences; welcome the outcomes of the Seventh Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, hosted by the Government of Jamaica in November 2021; and recognize that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, including its core provision to “build back better”, provides guidance for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also for identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner;

78. *Note with concern* that the human and financial cost of disasters is rapidly rising, trapping countries in a continuous cycle of emergency response and curtailing governments in their capacity to achieve sustainable development, therefore reinforcing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and enhance risk governance through multisectoral engagement at national and local levels, putting disaster risk reduction at the core of sustainable development and climate change efforts, as well as the New Urban Agenda;

79. *Welcome* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges, and accelerate the path to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030; and look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review, to be held in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023 at the highest possible level and encourage States to assess and report on progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

80. *Note with appreciation* the continued support of ECLAC to member countries in the conduct of damage and loss assessments following disasters, most recently the assessments done in Guyana following the floods in May–June 2021, in Honduras and Guatemala following the passage of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020, as well as for the Bahamas following the passage of Hurricane Dorian in September 2019, while conveying our solidarity for the recent impacts of hurricanes and other hydro-climatic events in other countries of the region, including Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua and

Paraguay, added to the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognize that sustainable development objectives, including economic growth, the reduction of poverty and inequality, and the promotion of sustainable cities and settlements, are inextricably linked to the achievements of disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction;

81. *Reiterate* that the region, in particular small island developing States, continues to face the adverse effects of climate change and disasters and, in this regard, recognize the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the need to build creative and innovative partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean for sustainable development with regard to environment, climate resilience and post-pandemic recovery;

82. *Recognize* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, as well as for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing its Goals and targets, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities; and 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;

83. *Welcome* the continuous efforts of countries from our region to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda through their mainstreaming in public policies, institutional arrangements, and national and subnational follow-up and review as well as by strengthening the involvement of local and other actors at the national level, as appropriate, in the achievement of sustainable development; encourage these countries to further deepen their national efforts in that endeavour and to engage in in-depth knowledge-sharing with peers and partners throughout the region; and highlight in that regard the 28 national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the increase in the number of national and subnational initiatives promoting articulation between development priorities, plans, budgets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the efforts of raising awareness and training to disseminate the Agenda and its relationship with national development objectives;

84. *Also welcome* the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations development system at the regional level, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and reiterate the need that their activities be carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities;

85. *Further welcome* the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to better support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including through an empowered and independent Resident Coordinator system, supported by the Development Coordination Office, including its regional presence, and reiterate our commitment and support to the Secretary-General in advancing, implementing and conducting respective follow-up of his actions in this regard;

86. *Also welcome* the efforts of the Secretary-General in formulating the recommendations to harness the regional assets of the United Nations development system, recognizing the steps taken to better position the regional assets to support countries as they seek to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region;

87. *Take note* of the presentations of the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean and take note also of the practice of convening the United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform and the Resident Coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean during the meetings of the Forum, the latter upon previous consultation with their respective national public counterparts, as an opportunity to interact with the regional mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the member States of the Forum and strengthen the nexus among analytical, policy and operational work of the United Nations development system at the regional level;

88. *Welcome* the detailed commitments and actions of the Secretary-General to improve the United Nations development system's offer in countries serviced by multi-country offices to ensure more tailored technical and policy support, enhanced and aligned capacities and physical presence, strengthened policy support with regard to financing for development, data systems, disaggregated data collection and data use for informed decision-making, as well as better integration and participation of States in intergovernmental forums and processes and fostering South-South and triangular cooperation and cross-regional learning, and commend the work of ECLAC in supporting its member States and associate members covered by the multi-country offices in the region;

89. *Reaffirm* the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its ability to act as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commission;

90. *Commend* the implementation of the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) developed through a regional inter-agency effort of the United Nations system under the leadership of ECLAC, as a key tool for supporting the capacities of countries and other stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encourage the countries to use it to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and further invite the countries of the region to disseminate their statistical information relating to the Sustainable Development Goals via online platforms that can be integrated with the SDG Gateway;

91. *Take note with appreciation* of the fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean entitled A decade of action for a change of era,³ prepared by ECLAC;

92. *Commend* the 28 countries of the region⁴ that have already presented voluntary national reviews at the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and the 8 countries⁵ preparing to do so in 2022, of which 4 are presenting a second or third review, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by these countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating it into their national strategies and adjusting institutional arrangements;

³ LC/FDS.5/3.

⁴ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

⁵ Argentina, Dominica, Grenada, El Salvador, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay.

93. *Take note* of the efforts of subnational and local governments who have conducted local voluntary reviews, showing the increasing political will and commitment of their cities and regions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as their interest in actively supporting the follow-up and review processes;

94. *Encourage* countries to conduct regular and inclusive reviews, which are country-led and country-driven, of progress at the national and subnational levels;

95. *Recognize* that 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, in preparation for the high-level political forum, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

96. *Highlight* the commitment of the countries of the region to address statistical challenges and advance in the generation of quality data for the SDGs, in a timely manner, including through the strengthening of statistical systems that guarantee reliable and disaggregated data, to allow a detailed analysis of the progress in the SDGs, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, and acknowledge the contribution made by ECLAC and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to the indicators of the region; recommend that such contribution continue on a regional framework of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean; and encourage the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data;

97. *Commend* the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development for providing useful opportunities for sharing of best practices among multiple stakeholders in the peer learning sessions on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities, challenges in the Caribbean, participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda, implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level, statistical capacities, and measurement and georeferencing, held during the five meetings of the Forum convened thus far, and recommend continuing to include peer learning sessions in its meetings on other emerging issues of interest, upon request and as identified by the Forum;

98. *Welcome* the participation and contributions of the associate members of ECLAC in the Forum, recognize their specific political and economic constraints and their vulnerabilities in their pursuit of sustainable development, and encourage their continued inclusion, where appropriate, in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

99. *Also welcome* the work of civil society to strengthen its engagement in the Forum, including through the Mechanism for the participation of civil society in the Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by civil society at the margins of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the participation in the third and fourth meetings and their declarations, and look forward to the meaningful participation and contribution of civil society in the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

100. *Further welcome* the contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, and the participation, according to resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia in the fifth meeting of the Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind;

101. *Recommend* that the Chair of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC submit the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair as regional contributions to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, along with the 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their due consideration, as well as to make it available for other relevant regional and international events and processes;

102. *Request* that this regional contribution, which reflects the commitment of the countries of the region to the 2030 Agenda and highlights the challenges, priorities and progress achieved in the region on the implementation of the Agenda, be considered an input to the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the Ministerial declaration of the High-Level Political Forum by its facilitators;

103. Moreover, *request* the President of the Economic and Social Council that the contribution of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development be mainstreamed in the sessions of the high-level political forum to enrich its debates, highlight the region's expectations in this global platform and ensure coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels (national, regional and global);

104. Commit to actively participate in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in relation to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to benefit from lessons learned;

105. *Express* our deepest appreciation to Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, the first woman to hold this office, for her dedicated service, tireless work, leadership and support to the region—in a career at the United Nations spanning over two decades—in advancing sustainable development, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2016;

106. *Also express* our deepest appreciation to the Republic of Costa Rica as the Chair of the Forum, and to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their leadership in convening the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Annex 2

CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION

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de la Sociedad Civil de América
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This declaration is reproduced in the language in which it was presented. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows. *FIFTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2030 AGENDA*

Final version 7 March 2022

KEY MESSAGES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION MECHANISM**Introduction**

Within the framework of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development undertook a consultation process with thematic, collective and regional groups on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are being reviewed this year at the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and are the subject of analysis at this ECLAC Forum.

We identified challenges and proposals to contribute to the progress of the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region, with the expectation of improving effective dialogue with our governments for a qualitative contribution towards a new social contract with social justice.

For this reason, the mechanism for civil society participation of ECLAC reiterates its demand to move from two monologues to a dialogue with governments. For this reason, we request that the next Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development allow the preliminary reports presented by the countries as voluntary reports be supplemented by parallel reports with “more light,” prepared by the social organizations of the respective countries. In the same vein of building effective dialogue, we request that civil society be included in the preliminary discussions of the document of this Forum.

The key messages to governments from the mechanism for civil society participation outlined in this document focus on the SDGs under review in 2022, with the adopted United Nations perspective on the comprehensive and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda, namely:

- SDG 4 (Education)
- SDG 5 (Gender equality)
- SDG 14 (Oceans and seas)
- SDG 15 (Life on land)
- SDG 17 (Inclusive partnerships)



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Background

The civil society participation mechanism has made it known at each meeting of the Forum of the Countries that Latin America and the Caribbean was already in a situation of economic stagnation, stagnation of all social, and environmental and labour indicators, and stagnation in indicators of access to fundamental rights before the COVID-19 pandemic became an even greater obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. This indicates that the development model is exhausted and requires a new social contract that guarantees fundamental human rights and the incorporation new sustainability and global governance.

In addition to the pre-existing conditions of poverty, destitution, exclusion, the excessive burden of foreign debt in many countries, human rights violations, unemployment, labour informality, environmental degradation, the prevailing extractivist model in the region, the undignified living conditions of people in vulnerable situations, the pandemic has aggravated the economic recession, the crisis of the health system and the consequent high mortality and morbidity rates, access and permanence in all levels of the educational and professional training system, the living conditions of women, migrants, refugees, workers, children and adolescents, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, people with HIV and sex workers, informal workers, precarious workers, self-employed, domestic workers and those in the informal economy.

Eight years from 2030, there is no doubt that multilateralism, international development cooperation, regional organizations and nation states have not fulfilled the agreements signed or provided adequate responses to the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, nor have they been able to implement adequate public policies to fulfil the commitments they made to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We remain concerned about the continuity of neoliberal and adjustment policies adopted by most countries in the region, which undoubtedly hinder achievement of the SDGs. A radical change in government action and the implementation of new models of production and development that guarantee the realization of human rights are essential to accelerate fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. We note a shortfall in indicators and an absence of disaggregated data, which are indispensable for planning specific and inclusive measures, with a holistic perspective of interculturality and intersectionality.

Today, there is still a call for governments to implement a new social contract that recognizes the protection of life, promotes human rights, centralizes recovery and integrates the sustainability of the planet and decent work as State policies.

We note with great concern the advance of corporate interests that threaten to decisively influence, without democratic legitimacy, the multilateral system of the United Nations and the modalities of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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In relation to **SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"**, our main messages are:

- Taking into account the situation of poverty and inequalities in the region and considering the impact of COVID-19, it is essential to reinforce public education as a fundamental human right from childhood and throughout life, including the elderly. It is important to guarantee this right at all mandatory levels, ensuring quality and continuous education from birth to higher education. This includes university education as a human right that must be guaranteed by the State in a free, quality and accessible manner, ensuring the necessary budget.
- Education should be understood as a public good with unrestricted, secular, lifelong access, guaranteeing learning for young adults, adults and older adults who have not had the opportunity to access the right to education at the established times, regardless of migratory or economic status, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, gender, without any type of discrimination, and including people who are deprived of their liberty owing to conflicts with the law. *It is vital to have emancipatory, transformative, non-patriarchal, decolonizing, anti-racist and intercultural education that provides for the active participation of the entire educational community.*
- Considering the pandemic situation and the needs of the knowledge society, it is necessary to strengthen community radio stations and Internet access as a human right; and ensure regional balances and broad coverage in terms of connectivity, equipment and digital skills. Effective access to connectivity as a right requires it to be considered a public good and service by States. As a public good, not-for-profit free access must be guaranteed in public spaces and schools, free from surveillance and intrusion into the personal space of each person. It also requires cash transfers to vulnerable households, equipment and training for students and teachers with an intercultural perspective.
- Training for citizens in digital skills, without discrimination based on migratory or other status, as well as transfers of the necessary resources, equipment and devices to students, teachers and educational centres for access to digital education at all levels.
- It is vital and urgent to increase the proportion of the national budget allocated to education, especially gender-sensitive budgets. Countries are required to comply with the official development assistance (ODA) committed to in the Incheon Declaration. It is within this framework that the countries of our region have committed to allocate and comply with a minimum of 6% of GDP and 20% of the national budget for education.
- Complementary policies that contribute to guaranteeing the human right to education focus on universal social protection, the promotion of universal basic income as a citizens' right, as well as support for households headed by single mothers or single parents. There is an urgent need for fiscal reform to reduce the regressive nature of current tax schemes in the region, as well as to make progress on the regulatory and institutional framework to address discrimination, human rights violations, and all types of violence, with particular urgency, and policies to put an end to gender-based violence, especially affecting refugees, Afrodescendants and indigenous women, sex workers, rural workers, LGBTQ+ populations, migrant women, people with disabilities, informal workers and those in the social economy.



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- Recognize and support the different forms of education in communities and villages. Ancestral knowledge, expertise and the relationship with nature and the community are important lessons learned and must have the necessary inputs, as well as ongoing consultation and dialogue with the peoples and communities involved.
- It is necessary to consider measures to encourage schooling for children, adolescents and young people with family income transfers linked to school attendance. At this level, owing to the humanitarian crisis of migration, it is imperative that migrant children and adolescents at borders and within countries be guaranteed education, including educational materials such as monitoring of school progress and comprehensive sexual education that promotes rights as a fundamental strategy to foster gender equity and respect for sexual diversity, and to prevent unplanned pregnancies in adolescence, obstetric violence, as well as early unions or marriages and child sexual abuse.

Regarding ***SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”***, the main messages are:

Women, in all their diversity, and children have been the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic owing to increased poverty and hunger; the loss of formal jobs and, more dramatically, informal jobs; the decline in domestic work, the excessive burden of unpaid care tasks such as caring for children, the sick, people with disabilities and the elderly, as well as schooling support for children through virtual education and teleworking for some. These indicators documented by ECLAC have not been accompanied—in most countries—by special attention to social protection measures that reach all women without discrimination. The combination of population growth and rapidly aging societies is driving an increase in demand for care work. Significant coverage shortfalls are expected owing to the limited scope of social security (pension) and care systems, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region. To achieve the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates creation of 120 million additional jobs in the care economy and 149 million indirect jobs by 2030.

Women who are domestic workers, sex workers, home-based workers—especially self-employed and informal workers—women with disabilities, migrant women and displaced women, and indigenous and transgender women have been the main excluded groups.

- Therefore, we call for promotion and effective application of inclusive measures that do not leave these women behind and that in the period of recovery from the pandemic, the creation of decent work is a priority for governments.
- We call on States to prioritize investments in the care economy; to eliminate the gender pay gap; and to promote employment for young women and women, in all their diversity.
- Regarding the quality of jobs in the care economy, we reaffirm the ILO SR Framework for Decent Care Work: recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, reward and represent care workers. In addition, we urge countries to ratify the ILO C189 - Domestic Workers Convention and to adopt and enforce labour regulations for this sector.
- We demand that international financial institutions and donor countries take responsibility for supporting governments by removing the obstacles and restrictive policies (including trade policies) they impose.



Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence, which affects women and girls of all ages, has increased considerably in all countries of the world. In the region, owing to the high rates of gender-based violence, there have been significant rises that persist and exacerbate the living conditions of women. Social and gender-based violence takes a heavy toll on women's bodies and lives, impacting their physical, economic and political autonomy. Latin America and the Caribbean has continued to record alarming levels of indicators of femicides, along with limited transformations in the patriarchal culture and the sexual division of labour, which is why a new paradigm that focuses on equity and equality of genders and diversities is required. In addition to the poverty and hunger that plague our region, women in all their diversity have been the main victims of violence, persecution and femicides, which cause the forced displacement of many women and their families, exposing them to greater risks of human trafficking and systematic abuse and rape in the caravans and also in transit countries.

- We call on all countries to adopt measures to protect women and girls to reduce gender-based violence, which entails investment in prevention and care, including free legal advice and the application of justice to put an end to existing impunity that fuels the persistence of the diverse types of violence.
- We insist on compliance with treaties, agreements and regulations for the eradication of all types of discrimination, violence and harassment, including the ratification of the ILO C190 Violence and Harassment Convention.
- We demand that States create the necessary mechanisms to have statistics and data on the different forms of violence against girls, young women and women, especially those who live in a situation of greater vulnerability, such as the indigenous population, Afrodescendants, those with disabilities, migrants, and those of sexual diversity, among others.
- It must be recognized that violence is both individual and collective, and therefore that strategies are needed that address both areas with a human rights-based approach, intercultural relevance, a gender perspective and progressive budgets.

We know that many countries in the region receive support from international cooperation to develop programmes to overcome some problems, however, the management of funds is generally not very transparent and does not include the participation of groups and collectives of women and girls that are especially affected.

There is clear non-compliance with ILO C169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention regarding the lack of participation and involvement of indigenous and tribal peoples, particularly women, in projects aimed at them, from planning to implementation and evaluation.

In the Caribbean, women farmers, rural and grassroots producers are not considered in most cases in relation to the operations and policies that are adopted and that jeopardize their livelihoods. This is



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compounded by the persistent persecution and criminalization suffered by many women for defending their territories and the rights of their communities.

In addition, the effects of megaprojects and militarization in indigenous communities and settlements particularly and permanently affect indigenous girls, young women and women, and there are cases of sexual violence by the military and other actors, damage to their health and bodies due to pollution of water and land. They are also victims of human trafficking, labour exploitation, femicide, forced displacement, and violence in community and family life.

- We demand an end to all violence, persecution and criminalization, and the full assumption of responsibility by the States to guarantee human, civil and labour rights, as well as the payment of reparation, through the regulation and control of the operations of all companies, including multinationals. This also requires compliance with signed international agreements, the revision of current legislation and the adoption of laws in accordance with human, economic, social, labour, environmental and cultural rights, within the framework of the regulations adopted by the entire United Nations system and to demand their binding nature.

In no country in the region has attention been paid to the sex work sector, and measures to alleviate the lack of work in the informal and self-employed sectors were not universal, causing broad sectors to be excluded.

- We demand that the States develop public policies without any type of discrimination against people based on sexual orientation, ethnicity, migratory status or gender identity. We call for implementation of pathways of action, with impact indicators, with the participation of civil society and implementation measures based on intersectoral, gender and human rights analysis. It is urgent to recognize and guarantee the rights of all informal workers, workers, community workers, social and solidarity economy workers, and self-employed workers.
- We demand that women-led responses to COVID-19 be recognized in all countries. In the context of the pandemic, it was women's groups, collectives and organizations themselves who dealt with cases of violence against girls, young women and women, in all their diversity. Women's political, community and organizational participation was affected because they spent their time caring for family members who were ill due to COVID-19 and interrupted their activities during the lockdown period. Young, indigenous, trans and Afrodescendent women are the most affected by political violence within and outside our communities, and our leadership and our own forms of participation are discredited.
- It is the right of all women that the States earmark progressive budgets, as well as providing the necessary support to address violence and other problems that hinder the full development of women's lives, so that no one is left behind.



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In relation to **SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”**, and **SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”**, the Mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, states:

The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed once again that we must change our relationship with nature. The devastating spread of zoonotic diseases has been made possible by the destruction of biodiversity and the advance of mining and energy extractivism in the territories. The role of extensive agriculture in all its forms is also at the centre of the debate on the environmental crisis, not only because of the environmental effects it has on the territories, but also because of the terrible social, labour and cultural conditions it reproduces, the subjugation and expropriation of indigenous peoples, the territorial conflicts it generates and the exclusion from access to land and food as a right.

Climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged groups and people living in developing countries, owing to the lack of sufficient social, technological and financial resources to adapt. The degradation of the oceans, seas, marine resources, as well as terrestrial ecosystems is the result of a disproportionate relationship of the current system with respect to Mother Earth, the capitalist system consumes territories, nature, flora and fauna without considering the short- and long-term effects. The worsening climate threatens to increase people’s vulnerability to poverty and health problems, as is already evident in the influx of migrants and climate refugees, mainly owing to the salinization of agricultural land, desertification, pollution and water scarcity, phenomena that are driving the increase in displacement and migration of large sectors of the population.

Several of the most devastating weather events have affected the poorest countries, which have had little to do with generating them. In 2021, global natural disasters entailed over US\$ 250 billion in losses. This undoubtedly leads us to demand more financing from the first world to alleviate the effects of its extractivism. But some aid aggravates the situation.

The environmental issue must cease to be an accessory package in the discussion of a development model. It must be fully incorporated into the fight for the sustainability of development. To this end, it is necessary to understand that economic, trade and investment policies strongly condition the sustainability of the model and restrict the opportunities to address the environmental and climate crisis.



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The crisis and the impacts of the pandemic should serve to prioritize the major threats to life from the environmental crisis and reinforce its real link to the fight for a model of production and consumption that places the planet and people at the centre.

Island countries observe a cascading effect, with rising sea levels driving an increase in climate migrants, land grabbing, disproportionate tourism, the crisis of drinking water and access to fuels. There is talk of a “Green New Deal” but in most cases solutions focused on decarbonization are proposed: “green bonds,” more exploitation of lithium or green hydrogen, and far from being a solution, new catastrophes are foreseen.

Climate action must be driven by a just transition to sustainable societies and economies to ensure an inclusive approach and sustainable solutions. Government inaction and continued business practices will undoubtedly drive more people into poverty. Just Transition also vindicates the legacy of demands for quality public services, and centralizes the real debate for the defence of common pool resources in the access, control and use of energy, water, land and seeds as human rights. Social and democratic control, transparency, accountability or public ownership of energy from all sources is an essential condition for the construction of a just transition perspective for societies.

We therefore reiterate the importance of the *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement)*, the only environmental and human rights agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean, which emerged from the Rio+20 Summit; the Agreement is the first in the world that contains a guarantee for the protection of persons and organizations that defend environmental human rights. We call for prompt ratification of the Escazú Agreement by the Latin American and Caribbean countries that have not yet done so and we advocate adaptation of national and regional regulations for its effective implementation.

It is urgent to implement another development model that centralizes socioenvironmental justice. It is not just about changing energy sources or what is produced. The transition is not only about producing more energy, but also about making better use of it, creating decent work and the just transition demanded by the countries of the global South. The same applies to water, the use of biomass and processes to streamline consumption and transportation. A change in the relationship model is promoted to generate and strengthen experiences that contribute to the decommodification of Nature, to deprivatization (in the sense not only of strengthening the public but also the community), to democratization, deconcentration and decentralization in the management of common goods, in the generation of energy, in production and consumption. We advocate indigenous communities and peoples, Afrodescendants, campesinos, farmers and rural areas having full rights over the territories, to which end it is essential to avoid the privatization or breakup of common or communal lands, empowering these actors as strategic actors in the care and protection of land, territories and natural assets.

Governments in the region must ensure adaptation and economic compensation for losses and damages, formulating policies to prevent, minimize and address the displacement of people, mainly women and girls, taking care to implement measures that include a gender and diversity perspective, and contribute to building resilience in affected populations and climate justice. This concept of climate justice must



encompass climate, gender, economic, and social justice. These dimensions must be reinforced in order not to remain only in one aspect of the climate change struggle. Finally, the link of a model linked to common goods must consider relational goods, which are central to how each and every one relates to the different genders and to nature, to the world of work, health, etc. In this regard, common goods are not consumer goods, they are goods that reinforce our rights and change the ways we relate to each other.

Financing to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation policies must be based on principles of justice, transparency and democratic decisions. Access to finance and technology transfer for countries in the global South is essential to address climate change. Financing must focus on changing the production and consumption model and not only on superficial decarbonization, as seems to be the trend in institutional debates.

- Penalties and expulsions for companies that damage or pollute the land are necessary, but States should also refrain from providing facilities and subsidies for the development of extractive projects and, instead, strengthen environmental oversight bodies with adequate budgets and the necessary political backing to fulfil their role.
- We demand that the States apply the conventions, treaties and declarations they have adopted in relation to the protection of lands, territories and natural resources and guarantee the right of communities and peoples to live a full and peaceful life, essentially in the territories, seas, rivers, mountains, savannahs, Amazon, mountains, hills, among others.
- Consultation and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) within the communities where the lands, territories and seas are located should be a mandatory action for companies and governments that want to develop any extractive project. Simulation of consultations, extortion or co-opting of community authorities and any other practice where the right to FPIC is not guaranteed must be punished; it must also be ensured that consultations are representative, full and effective.
- Governments need to recognize and value the knowledge of indigenous peoples in biodiversity and environmental conservation and work with communities to design and implement national and local mitigation and adaptation plans.
- Recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples, women and youth and their knowledge systems, directing economic and technical support to their own initiatives related to response and risk reduction to climate change and disasters, and promoting the recovery and transmission of indigenous and aboriginal peoples' knowledge.
- Promote the institutionalization and mainstreaming of the gender, intercultural, intergenerational, intersectionality, and individual and collective rights approaches in State measures related to climate change and disasters, by raising awareness and training of public officials, including teachers, as well as ensuring the allocation of specific budgets.

Regarding SDG 17, *Partnerships for the goals*, we reiterate and recommend:

Today, a radical change is urgently needed, the implementation of a new social contract, which is to say a new development paradigm that guarantees the realization of human rights, labour rights, environmental and cultural rights and the acceleration of fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.



- We demand that the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean strengthen a multilateral governance system based on solidarity, starting with universal and equal access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Partnership building requires a change in behaviour on the part of State, market and civil society actors. **State and multilateral actors** must implement commitments to development cooperation reform.
- International cooperation remains the cornerstone of development partnerships, an indispensable public asset for countries and communities in developing countries and those lagging. However, current trends suggest that development cooperation priorities are being eroded. State and multilateral actors must implement specific binding commitments based on solidarity and overcoming asymmetries between countries and peoples. In addition, the current practices of suppliers in the South are not entirely promising. They go against the principles of South-South cooperation and seem to be heading along a trajectory similar to traditional North-South cooperation. In addition, ODA has been declining increasingly rapidly for some years. While there is increasing attention to “partnerships” across the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, the definition of partnerships has been shrinking, with alarming signs of privatization of cooperation and growing interference by the private sector, particularly large corporations and multinationals. As a result, organized civil society, and in particular the movements of the global South, are facing shrinking spaces.
- It is essential for the countries of the region to be able to count on international development cooperation, reviewing those policies that have encouraged social and gender violence and the persecution of human rights and trade union activists. In addition, it is necessary to inform and raise awareness among women and their families about the risks of suffering more violence in caravans and mass movements in the migration process. It is essential that funding bodies and United Nations agencies support countries considered as displacing countries to reduce the causes of forced emigration, while supporting temporary or permanent receiving countries to have programmes to reduce violence of all kinds and ensure the provision of health and other services on an equal footing with the country’s population. Upon reviewing the participation of States, it is evident that the lack of operational indicators makes it difficult to have a review and evaluation process that would allow us to see the impact of the different policy decisions on displaced persons and migrants.
- The diverse actors of civil society, including trade unions, indigenous peoples, human rights movements and activists, women’s rights activists, youth groups, environmental defenders, have undoubtedly contributed to the construction of a sustainable development model. However, increasing attacks on civil society in various forms: legal, administrative, selective criminalization, harassment and abuse, and other forms of violent repression, including persecution and assassinations, undermine the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, we reiterate that transformative progress on the SDGs will not be possible without a civil society that is fully participatory and active, but equally recognized and incorporated into development processes, which is the responsibility of current governments.
- States should recognize the role of social dialogue as a means to define and implement inclusive and sustainable recovery policies.

Annex 3

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS¹**

**A. Estados miembros del Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe
sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible/
States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
on Sustainable Development**

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- Santiago Cafiero, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

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**B. Estados miembros de la Comisión que no son miembros del Foro
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Non-Forum-member States members of the Commission
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**D. Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas que no lo son de la Comisión
y participan con carácter consultivo/
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Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

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Comisión Europea/European Commission

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Fundación Internacional UE-ALC/EU-LAC International Foundation

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Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

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Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

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Panellists**

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- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General de las Naciones Unidas
- Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de Costa Rica
- Mariana Mazzucato, Economista y Profesora del Instituto de Innovación y Fines Públicos (IIPP) de University College London (UCL) (virtual)
- Enrique Iglesias, ex Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL (virtual)
- María del Pilar Garrido, Ministra de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica de Costa Rica
- Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vicepresidente del Banco Europeo de Inversiones (BEI) (virtual)
- Fernando Quevedo, Gerente del Departamento de Países de Centroamérica, México, Panamá, República Dominicana y Haití del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)
- Julio Antonio Cárcamo, Jefe de la Oficina de Monitoreo Social y Ambiental del Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE)
- Hyginus Leon, Presidente del Banco de Desarrollo del Caribe (CDB)
- Antonella Cavallari, Secretaria General de la Organización Internacional Ítalo-Latinoamericana (IILA)
- Adriana Arreaza, Gerenta Encargada de Conocimiento del Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF) (virtual)

- Rebeca Grynspan, Secretaria General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD)
- María-Noel Vaeza, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe de la Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)
- Epsy Campbell, Vicepresidenta de Costa Rica
- Erika Mouynes, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá
- Jean Gough, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe del Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)
- Carla Barnett, Secretaria General de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) (virtual)
- Shi Alarcón, representante de Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva en América Latina e integrante del grupo LGBTQI+ del Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil en la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible y en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Rosa Adriana López Carrillo, Representante de la RedTraSex de Guatemala y punto focal del Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil en la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible y en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Ministra de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad de la Argentina (por video)
- Jolita Butkeviciene, Directora para América Latina y el Caribe y Relaciones con los Territorios y Países de Ultramar de la Dirección General de Asociaciones Internacionales de la Comisión Europea (virtual)
- Niels Annen, Secretario de Estado Parlamentario del Ministro Federal de Cooperación Económica y Desarrollo de Alemania
- Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)
- Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Directora del Centro de Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)
- Shantal Munro-Knight, Ministra de la Oficina de la Primera Ministra de Barbados
- Karla Eugenia Majano de Palma, Directora General de la Agencia de El Salvador para la Cooperación Internacional (ESCO)
- Enrique O’Farrill, Jefe de la División de Cooperación de la Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID)
- Sergio Colina Martín, Jefe del Departamento de Cooperación con los Países Andinos y el Cono Sur de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)
- Abdunnasser Al-Shaali, Ministro Adjunto de Economía y Comercio del Ministerio de Asuntos Internacionales y Cooperación Internacional de los Emiratos Árabes Unidos
- Walter Clarems Endara, Secretario Permanente del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA) (virtual)
- Mario Cimoli, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto de la CEPAL
- Marco Lavagna, Director del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC) de la Argentina, en su calidad de Presidente de la Conferencia Estadística de las Américas de la CEPAL
- Carol Coy, Directora General del Instituto de Estadística de Jamaica
- Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director General del Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) de Colombia
- Graciela Márquez Colín, Presidenta del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) de México
- Luciana Mermet, Representante Residente del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) en el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

- Diane Quarless, Directora de la sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe
- E. Paul Chet Greene, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional e Inmigración de Antigua y Barbuda
- Keisal Peters, Ministra de Estado a cargo de Relaciones Exteriores y Comercio Exterior de San Vicente y las Granadinas
- Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretario General de la Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)
- Wayne Henry, Presidente y Director General del Instituto de Planificación de Jamaica
- Lindorna Lambert, Secretaria de Finanzas del Ministerio de Finanzas y Gestión Económica de Montserrat
- Katia Avilés-Vázquez, representante del Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Raúl Salazar, Jefe de la Oficina Regional para las Américas y el Caribe de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNDRR)
- Carla Barnett, Secretaria General de la CARICOM (virtual)
- Yannick Glemarec, Director Ejecutivo del Fondo Verde para el Clima (FVC) (por video)
- Jeannette Sánchez, Directora de la División de Recursos Naturales de la CEPAL
- Franklin Paniagua Alfaro, Viceministro de Ambiente de Costa Rica
- Ana María Hernández Salgar, Presidenta de la Plataforma Intergubernamental Científico-Normativa sobre Diversidad Biológica y Servicios de los Ecosistemas (IPBES)
- Luis Miguel Aparicio, Jefe de Paisajes Sostenibles para América Latina y el Caribe del Instituto Global para el Crecimiento Verde
- Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Director Ejecutivo y Presidente del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM)
- Esther Camac Ramírez, lideresa del Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA) en Costa Rica
- Eva Zabey, Directora Ejecutiva de Business for Nature (virtual)
- Amelia Arreguín Prado, Integrante del Grupo de Mujeres del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) (virtual)
- Piedad Martín, Directora Regional Adjunta para América Latina y el Caribe del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) (virtual)
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director de la División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos de la CEPAL
- Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director de la División de Desarrollo Social de la CEPAL
- Claudia Uribe, Directora de la Oficina Regional de Educación para América Latina y el Caribe (OREALC) de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)
- Marcela Guerrero, Ministra de Condición de la Mujer y Presidenta Ejecutiva del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAMU) de Costa Rica
- María Carmelina Londoño, Viceministra de Asuntos Multilaterales del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia (virtual)
- Nadine Gasman, Presidenta del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES) de México (virtual)
- Lucy Garrido, Articulación Feminista Marcosur
- Nora González Chacón, punto focal del grupo de educación, ciencia y tecnología del Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil en la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible y en el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Ana Güzmes, Directora de la División de Asuntos de Género de la CEPAL

- Cielo Morales, Directora del Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES)
- Ángela María Penagos, Directora de la Iniciativa Agroalimentaria de la Universidad de los Andes de Colombia
- Félix Ulloa, Vicepresidente de El Salvador
- Sharon Saunders, Embajadora de Jamaica en Costa Rica
- Isaac Alfie, Director de la Oficina de Planeamiento y Presupuesto (OPP) del Uruguay
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- Vince Henderson, Ministro de Planificación, Desarrollo Económico, Resiliencia Climática, Desarrollo Sostenible y Energía Renovable de Dominica (virtual)
- Oliver Joseph, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Asuntos de la CARICOM de Granada (virtual)
- Albert Ramdin, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Negocios Internacionales y Cooperación Internacional de Suriname (por video)
- Roberto Valent, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Oficina de Coordinación del Desarrollo (OCD) de las Naciones Unidas

**I. Invitado de honor/
Guest of honour**

- Carlos Alvarado, Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

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**L. Gobierno local/
Local government**

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**M. Sector privado/
Private sector**

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N. Parlamentarios/ Parliamentarians

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- Yolanda Marín, Directora, Comisión Asesora Permanente de Desarrollo Social, Senado de la Nación, Paraguay, email: ymarin@senado.gov.py

O. Instituciones financieras y bancos de desarrollo/ Financial institutions and development banks

Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE)/Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)

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