



## Recommendations for promoting a shared vision for better governance of natural resources and infrastructure

On 8 November 2016, members of the ministerial delegations of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay attended the High Level Regional Dialogue on Natural Resources Governance and Infrastructure, that was held in Santiago de Chile. In line with the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDG) of Agenda 2030, they formulated and agreed upon the following recommendations to promote a shared vision for better governance of natural resources and infrastructure governance for Latin America and the Caribbean, which should be considered by Governments, multilateral organizations, and other stakeholders in civil society, the private sector, and academia in the region:

1. It is necessary to establish a government strategy that promotes a long-term shared vision on the governance of natural resources and infrastructure for sustainable development. In this context, strengthening institutions is key to fostering structural change in the region, in order to reconcile the increased and improved access to infrastructure services with a more sustainable use of natural resources, as well as with the new development paradigm that the region requires to meet the objectives of Agenda 2030. Good governance is a requisite to facilitate dialogue and participation among state and non-state stakeholders, including academia, the private sector and the civil society, so that together they may develop and strengthen a democratic framework in line with the national development goals.
2. Member States must establish long term strategies and policies that strengthen the role of the State vis-à-vis the use of natural resources, so as to achieve full development that incorporates economic, environmental, social and institutional sustainability. In this regard, it is important to focus on capacity-building in public institutions, especially to effectively manage conflicts related to extractive industries, such as, for instance, those involving social, environmental and labour issues. Similarly, regional and national institutional framework must be aligned with the States' sovereign policies so governments and firms may efficiently and appropriately manage rents from extractive industries. Furthermore, where necessary, fiscal frameworks should be pro-actively adapted to the changes in price cycles, to improve the State's share in revenues from natural resources and to create mechanisms to support savings and promote investment aimed at achieving higher levels of employment and sustainability. At the same time, a more sustainable use of natural resources should be based on transparent and effective mechanisms that ensure the protection of the environment. Governments should continue to invest in research and innovation which help to mitigate and, in the best of scenarios, avoid any environmental impact with detrimental consequences for social-well being.

3. A new generation of public policies on infrastructure is required, that are: (i) integrated and sustainable, (ii) encompass a higher and better infrastructure endowment, and (iii) ensure that infrastructure is designed and operated in a manner consistent with the aims of sustainable development. Likewise, to provide more resilient and lower-cost sub-regional services, it is necessary to tap into the potential of integrating economic infrastructures in the region, through economies of network and scope. Establishing strategic planning is critical to investing in the sector, as higher amounts of quality investments are needed to generate resilience and positive externalities and contribute to the progress of the society. In the transport sector, the promotion and implementation of integrated and sustainable policies on logistics and mobility is an essential step for maximizing the sector's contribution to sustainable development. In order to achieve all these changes and ensure their effectiveness, public policies must be placed within a general framework of infrastructure governance that enables better policy integration and stronger coordination between the State, the private sector and the society.
4. To follow up on the progress made through the points listed above, a systematized and regular regional dialogue should be established, to serve as a mechanism to facilitate the development of a shared vision for the governance of natural resources. In addition, national multi-stakeholder dialogues should be held in parallel to build consensus and strengthen the institutional framework for governance.
5. On similar lines, a systematized and regular regional dialogue on infrastructure governance should be established, in order to attend to the region's needs in terms of infrastructure and related services in an integrated and sustainable manner, ensuring the well-being of its current and future users and moving towards the infrastructure endowment designed and suitable for sustainable development.
6. Bearing in mind the above, the ministerial delegations attending the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to design and implement a programme of work for the medium and long terms, which includes the following elements: (i) a research programme to facilitate a substantive discussion and to formulate and apply public policy tools that incorporate the government's strategic and political vision, and the participation of the private sector and civil society; (ii) awareness-raising, technical assistance and capacity building activities enhancing the capacities of the member States; and (iii) convening of the High-level Regional Dialogues on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure Governance in a regular and systematic manner, that incorporate and address the outcomes and contributions of the research and technical cooperation programmes.