INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUESTS TO VISIT ECLAC HEADQUARTERS
IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

1. General information about the organization

1.1. History and work of ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

It was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world. The scope of the Commission's work was later broadened to include the countries of the Caribbean, and the promotion of the region's social development was included as one of its primary objectives.

Originally established as the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948, the Commission began to function that same year, and by resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, ECOSOC changed the Commission's name to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves the needs of the Central American subregion, and in December 1966, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was founded in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, ECLAC maintains country offices in Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Montevideo and Bogota, as well as a liaison office in Washington, D.C.

The 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with several Asian, European and North American nations that have historical, economic and cultural ties with the region, comprise the 45-member States of ECLAC. Thirteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members of the Commission.

For more information on the history and evolution of the thinking of ECLAC, click here: http://www.cepal.org/en/historia-de-la-cepal

For more information on the Commission’s latest activities, click here: http://www.cepal.org/en/press
1.2. ECLAC headquarters building

The headquarters building of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, Chile, was designed by the architect Emilio Duhart—in collaboration with Chilean architects Christian de Groote, Roberto Goycoolea and Óscar Santelices—and is considered a landmark of enormous historical and architectural value.

Located at Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Vitacura, the building was inaugurated in 1966 by then President of Chile, Eduardo Frei Montalva, and United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant. The handprints of both men, together with those of all the workers, can be seen on the walls at the entrance of the building.

This singular structure, inspired by French architect Le Corbusier, consists of exposed concrete and interwoven volumes, and includes references to the history and art of Latin America and the Caribbean. The building is a great structure of reinforced concrete, simultaneously robust and lightweight, in which the main storey appears to be sustained by 28 pillars.

The building is remarkable for its graceful integration into a landscape framed by the Andes mountain range and the Mapocho River, fronted by an oval pool and water fountains surrounded by gardens inhabited by swans and peacocks.

In Duhart’s own words, “the United Nations building is both house and monument. The house of the community of nations. The monument, a visible expression of its spiritual and social aspirations. House and monument arise as an artistic and functional unit, legible to all.”
2. Instructions for visits

ECLAC periodically receives visits from groups of students from universities and other institutions of higher learning as well as government officials. Visits may be scheduled between March and November, and they may only take place in the morning, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the stipulated day. Visits are free of charge. ECLAC does not organize individual visits.

These visits can be of two types:

a) Thematic talks aimed at groups of students and public officials interested in economic and social matters in the region. The minimum content covered in the talks relates to the work of the organization, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. They last around 2 to 3 hours, depending on the schedule and available resources. The group must be made up of at least 15 people. The thematic talks include a brief tour of the building lasting 30 minutes.

b) Tours of the building aimed at architecture students/professionals. These visits last for one hour and are capped at a maximum of 20 people.

If you would like to request a visit, complete this online form at least one month before the tentative date of the activity. ECLAC’s Public Information Unit will contact you.

If the visit is confirmed by ECLAC, a list of participants must be sent with their full names and the numbers of their identity documents or passports, at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date.

Visitors must enter through ECLAC’s main entrance (Avenida Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, Vitacura), where they will have to present their identity document or passport at the Reception area.

IMPORTANT – On the day of the visit, at least 75% of the registered participants must be in attendance and they must arrive punctually. Only a 10-minute grace period will be permitted after the scheduled time. If these requirements are not met, ECLAC reserves the right to cancel the visit.

Confirmed visits may be subject to rescheduling or cancelation due to possible changes in the agenda of the organization’s high-level activities.
3. Security rules for visitors

All visitors entering ECLAC headquarters must wear the identification badge issued or validated by the Security and Safety Unit in charge of entry procedures at ECLAC. Visitors must keep this badge visible at all times.

To obtain an identification badge, all visitors must present a valid identity document.

The following Chilean or non-Chilean identity documents are acceptable to obtain an identification badge to enter ECLAC premises:

- Identity card.
- Driver's licence.
- Passport.
- Identity document issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.
- Laissez-passer.
- United Nations staff identity card issued by another duty station, with the same standard format and smartcard type used by ECLAC.

Additionally, all visitors must undergo a security inspection, which includes checking personal belongings through scanners and metal detection devices and/or palettes.

All persons entering or exiting ECLAC premises must scan their cards on the PACT reader pads provided.

Participants in guided visits must enter ECLAC headquarters via the south entrance (Av. Dag Hammarskjöld, 3477, Vitacura).

Visitors must always remain with the group led by the United Nations staff member responsible for their visit.

In case of an emergency during their visit to ECLAC premises, visitors must follow the instructions of security personnel.

Visitors are not allowed to move around on their own in unauthorized areas or offices.

Visitors may not take photographs of United Nations staff members or of the security devices in and around the building.

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