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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2025

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 18

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect.21\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2024/6](#)).

Discussion

2. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and for the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information in 2023. The important work of the Commission in strengthening economic ties between countries in the region and with other countries and regions of the world, with a view to advancing towards a more inclusive, sustainable development model, was highlighted.

3. A delegation recognized that the Commission had established itself as an invaluable and legitimate forum for political dialogue and for reaching regional consensus and articulating agreements that could enable Latin America and the Caribbean to influence the reconfiguration of the global architecture in a way that was more in line with the objectives of its creation and the needs of its peoples.

4. Another delegation recognized the long-standing work of the Commission as a stronghold for critical thinking and knowledge production in the region that had helped countries in the development of policies and said that its expertise could be



particularly helpful for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly as countries in the region struggled to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The demonstrated capacity of the Commission to provide informed analysis, quality technical assistance based on scientific evidence, and strategic guidance for the formulation of effective public policies was acknowledged. The delegation highlighted the need to promote the diversification of productive structures through innovation and the incorporation of new technologies. The same delegation emphasized that innovation and the incorporation of new technologies was an indispensable condition for enhancing the capabilities in the region to generate greater value added in production and to position the region favourably in the transition to a sustainable energy model.

5. A delegation emphasized that the Commission played a crucial role in fostering the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean by supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another delegation expressed its support for the Commission's firm commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through its broad agenda of equality and social development, which addressed the many dimensions of inequality and poverty. The same delegation appreciated the gender perspective and disability inclusion in the Commission's operational activities.

6. A delegation noted the alignment of the proposed programme plan with the United Kingdom–Latin America strategic framework, which is focused on four main policy pillars: values, climate, trade, and defence and security. Another delegation underscored the relevance of the cluster approach promoted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to increase productivity, productive development and inclusive growth of countries, including the pillars of strengthening macroeconomics for development.

7. The close cooperation of the Commission with various institutions in Chile was appreciated. Additional information was requested on how the Commission interacted with the resident coordinator system and the United Nations development system and the relevance and importance of that cooperation and consultation.

8. A delegation was encouraged by the ambition to ensure inclusive economic growth throughout the proposed programme plan as an essential aspect to address the needs of marginalized groups. It was noted that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had reversed 18 years of growth in women's labour force participation in the region. The same delegation asked how programme managers could ensure inclusivity within programmatic activities.

9. With respect to subprogramme 1, International trade, integration and infrastructure, support was expressed for the objectives outlined related to the use of digital trade (para 21.22 (a)) and logistics (para 21.22 (b)). The same delegation requested an assessment of progress or planned progress in those two areas.

10. With respect to subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, appreciation was expressed for the progress made on policies to accelerate digital transformation. The same delegation sought clarification regarding figure 21.III and planned activities for 2025 and beyond, including how the subprogramme might take advantage of advances in artificial intelligence to accelerate further progress.

11. With respect to resource mobilization, a delegation said that the region was lagging behind in such efforts and asked the Commission to provide more information about what was being done in the region. With reference to Result 2 of subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, which concerned strengthened resource mobilization, the same delegation asked whether anything else in line with

that objective was being undertaken, such as studies on specific needs and challenges faced by the region in general or specific countries.

12. A delegation expressed strong support for the Commission's efforts under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation noted that 20 per cent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean did not have access to social protection programmes, putting the most vulnerable at risk, and welcomed the Commission's efforts to use lessons learned to deliver essential technical assistance to tackle issues affecting those in need. Another delegation appreciated the emphasis, in the proposed programme plan, on expanding social protection systems to include informal and independent workers, many of whom were women or individuals from socially excluded groups, including people with disabilities. The same delegation requested additional information on engagement with civil society and other experts to help shape the initiative's focus on the specific needs of informal workers.

13. The importance of subprogramme 5, Gender equality and women's autonomy, was highlighted by delegations. One delegation expressed concern at the high number of femicides in 2022, as noted in paragraph 21.76, and requested information on the figures for 2023. The same delegation expressed appreciation for the Commission's continuous work to mitigate the consequences of those horrendous crimes and welcomed the initiative to provide a specialized course on measuring gender-based violence against women. The Commission's efforts to train government officials and stakeholders to better inform policymaking in the measurement of gender-based violence, as illustrated in figure 21.XI, were commended. The same delegation requested clarification on the specific skills acquired by the stakeholders and government officials and asked how those skills were essential to further reducing violence against women. A delegation welcomed the emphasis on improving the availability of gender statistics and the capacity of States to promote gender equality. Another delegation reiterated its support for gender equality and women's empowerment as cross-cutting elements in the sustainable development strategies of the countries in the region.

14. On subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, a delegation welcomed the proposed focus on a rights-based approach to sustainable development and human settlements. 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) was highlighted. Delegations remarked on the progress achieved in terms of increased access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, including consideration of people's environmental concerns, as well as the Commission's support in that regard.

15. The meaningful work of subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, and subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organization, to support the implementation of national development programmes and strategic reforms to benefit implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was noted. With respect to subprogramme 11, a delegation asked if the Commission had considered additional action to support Haiti and expressed its support for addressing the current challenges in the country. Another delegation highlighted and welcomed the lessons learned and planned change under subprogramme 12 related to digital inclusion, to support countries left behind and promote digital transformation in Caribbean countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Committee commended the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its efforts to promote the economic and social development of the regions, and underlined the importance of the Commission's role in ensuring regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable development and fostering strong economic relations among countries, both within the region and with other countries of the world, in accordance with its mandate.

17. The Committee commended the efforts of the Commission for its work with the countries of the regions in exploring measures and raising awareness to address and fight poverty and inequalities.

18. The Committee reiterated the need to promote coordinated actions to foster integration, inclusive and resilient economic recovery, and sustainable development in the regions, with a gender perspective, in accordance with the mandate of the Commission.

19. The Committee commended the Commission's plans to increase its work on social protection, while also promoting health and educational policies, as well as labour and social inclusion, in accordance with its mandate.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 7

Sustainable development and human settlements

Result 3

In the title of the result, replace "circular economy" with "sustainable consumption and production patterns, including circular economy,".

Paragraph 21.108

In the first sentence, replace "circular economy" with "sustainable consumption and production patterns, including circular economy,".

Table 21.21

Item 7

After "urban areas", insert "the reduction of waste generation, the needs of the countries of the region for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and for climate change adaptation, the needs of the countries of the region in the fight against plastic pollution".

Paragraph 21.126 (b)

After "applied research", insert "in a variety of areas, including the issue of increasing public sector workforce diversity and the use of artificial intelligence by the public sector,".