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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 18

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 8th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Appreciation was expressed for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and for the continuing contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to economic, social and environmentally sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Delegations highlighted the Commission's influence on national economic policy formulation, its multidisciplinary approach and the interdependence of its 13 subprogrammes. The value of multilateralism and regional cooperation was underlined, and it was noted that the Commission's intellectual leadership, data and analysis remained essential assets for its member States.

3. While welcoming the overall direction of the document, it was recommended that the Commission continue to focus on areas of comparative advantage and refrain from expanding its mandate. Reference was made to the need for the Commission itself to tailor its strategic frameworks to match its regional functions.



4. Support was voiced for the inclusion, in the programme plan, of work on taxing ultra-high-net-worth individuals, a subject currently on the agenda of the Group of 20 and in the Pact for the Future and the negotiations on an international convention on tax cooperation. Further research and initiatives in that area were encouraged.
5. It was suggested that the emphasis on poverty reduction, combating hunger and addressing income disparities should not only appear under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, but be treated as a horizontal priority across the entire programme.
6. In view of the statistic that more than three quarters of non-governmental organization-reported killings of environmental and land defenders occurred in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, support was expressed for continued engagement through mechanisms such as the Escazú Agreement.
7. Questions were raised about the “traps” in Latin America and the Caribbean associated with slower economic growth that were referred to in the programme plan, and how the Commission envisaged addressing them in 2026 and beyond. The eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago from 31 March to 4 April 2025, was highlighted as a demonstration of effective regional cooperation. One delegation indicated that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while based on good intentions, was not legally binding and remained subject to national interpretation; the same delegation recalled that it had dissociated itself from the Pact for the Future.
8. With reference to paragraph 21.7, the strategy to promote a multisectoral approach to development and to support countries in special situations, including landlocked developing countries such as Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, was welcomed. The approach was viewed as an opportunity to address complex development challenges through coordinated action across thematic areas.
9. With regard to subprogramme 1, International trade, integration and infrastructure, a request was made to specify whether the commitment in paragraph 21.21 (e) to address the special situation of landlocked developing countries involved a new study or an update of earlier analyses. On the same subprogramme, clarification was sought on the comprehensive regional database on infrastructure, transport and logistics noted in paragraph 21.29, including whether similar databases were being developed by other regional commissions and how interoperability would be ensured. In addition, it was suggested that the opportunities and challenges associated with critical minerals also be reflected in subprogramme 1, given their impact on trade and investment.
10. Questions concerning subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, focused on paragraph 21.34, where the programme proposed to link micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to advanced technologies identified as drivers of productivity; details were requested on the concrete actions and pilot initiatives envisaged.
11. Under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, the inclusion of work on progressive taxation of the super-rich was welcomed and further analytical depth was encouraged.
12. On subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, it was reiterated that poverty eradication, reduction of inequality and the fight against hunger be emphasized across the whole programme and not be confined to a single subprogramme.
13. Turning to subprogramme 5, Gender equality and women’s autonomy, additional information was requested on the knowledge exchange initiative referred

to in paragraph 21.83, which aimed to develop model guidelines and provide enhanced training for government officials on institutionalizing gender equality policies.

14. In connection with subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, the recent meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was commended for reinforcing regional ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

15. Regarding subprogramme 8, Natural resources, appreciation was expressed for the focus on critical minerals and the bioeconomy; it was proposed that the macroeconomic, trade and industrial dimensions of critical minerals also be addressed in other subprogrammes.

16. Questions about subprogramme 10, Statistics, concerned whether, during the forthcoming biennium, the Commission would provide statistical support for monitoring implementation of the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, including indicators relevant to transit States in the region.

17. On activities grouped under subprogrammes 11–13 (on subregional activities and support for integration processes), delegations welcomed the practical assistance provided and encouraged wider dissemination of best practices arising from those efforts. Delegations expressed interest in the plans outlined in paragraph 21.160 to employ foresight and other anticipatory governance tools; further clarification was requested on their practical application for identifying risks and opportunities before they materialized.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**
