



# Economic and Social Council

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## Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2016

[on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for  
Latin America and the Caribbean ([E/2016/15/Add.1](#))]

### 2016/12. Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, of resolution 700 (XXXVI), entitled “Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development”,

*Endorses* the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as set out in resolution 700 (XXXVI) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

*44th plenary meeting  
25 July 2016*

### Annex

#### Resolution 700 (XXXVI)

#### Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E) of 16 April 2015, adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its sixteenth extraordinary session, held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a regional consultation process aimed at establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, in 2016,

*Recalling also* resolution 696 (PLEN.31) of 28 April 2016, adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the regional

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consultation process aimed at establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development,

*Having examined* the draft report on the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

*Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

#### **Annex to resolution 700 (XXXVI)**

#### **Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E) of 16 April 2015 of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through which, inter alia, a regional consultation process was launched with the aim of establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, in 2016,

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage and United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources,

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which, inter alia, committed Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to

mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which States committed to strengthening the Economic and Social Council as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, in which the Assembly, inter alia, acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

*Emphasizing* the importance of establishing a regional forum to follow up and review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for, inter alia, strengthening coherence and coordination, promoting cooperation, providing policy guidance, fostering national capacity-building, hosting voluntary State-led national reviews, identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets, fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation, encouraging participation of all relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for partnerships, favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability and promoting the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies,

*Recognizing* that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development, and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

*Emphasizing* the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the financing for development processes, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes promoting the impact of international development cooperation,

*Taking into consideration* the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and recognizing the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the note by the secretariat of the Commission prepared in fulfilment of Committee of the Whole resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E),

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Also decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries and that it should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations, in order to guide an inclusive regional process drawing on national-level reviews and contributing to follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, including in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and that, within existing resources, it will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings, as appropriate, while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner, and in this regard also decides that:

(a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:

- (i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;
- (iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning;
- (iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies;

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

- (vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation;
- (viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts;
- (x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee;
- (b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide input and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- (c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate;
- (d) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025;

5. *Stresses* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries and the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, in order to address the universal character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Highlights* that the meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and that it will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, inter alia:

- (a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level;
- (b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and

production patterns, the reduction of inequalities, the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature;

(c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the Statistical Commission<sup>3</sup> and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, also taking into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate; all indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, they should be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner;

(d) Following up and reviewing the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>4</sup> at the regional level;

(e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024<sup>5</sup> at the regional level;

(f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and other modalities of cooperation, in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation;

(g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews;

(h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned;

(j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development;

(m) Favours people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability;

(n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks;

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 4 (E/2016/24)*, chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/101.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

(o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as that of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate;

(p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission and will be aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue annually, four weeks in advance of the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a progress report, which will be considered a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council, as appropriate, will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and national-level reviews, as appropriate, and will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a quadrennial progress report, to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

10. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to submit, through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations and a summary produced by the Chair of the Forum, as appropriate:

(a) To the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) To the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) To the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. *Highlights* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant

stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

12. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to volunteer for national reviews, and encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to further develop modalities for hosting them in accordance with the related principles and guidelines set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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