

RECALIBRATING... HOW TO GET BACK ON TRACK TOWARDS THE SDGS

Table 2: New Challenges for Social Institutions and Regional Cooperation¹

Thursday, 29 September 2022 | 4.00-6.00pm

Concept Note

The member countries of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted in 2019 the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, which includes four axes with a series of lines of action to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. The Regional Agenda allows for progress on social compacts and fiscal covenants enabling a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability.

As ECLAC has pointed out, social issues are not played out in the social sphere alone, but they are fundamental to sustainable development as a whole. Accordingly, the links between social policies, social protection, the environment, the labour market, the production structure and fiscal policy are equally important. At the same time, social institutions play a key role in determining the quality, transformative capacity and legitimacy of social policies in the context of the structural and long-term challenges that guide action implemented under the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thus, in line with axis 2 of the Regional Agenda, it is imperative to strengthen the region's social institutions to ensure inclusion, equality and sustainability and to address the critical obstacles to inclusive social development, in a context marked by simultaneous crises related to the environment, health, migration, the exacerbation of poverty and food insecurity. To this end, the dimensions of the institutional framework must be considered: (i) the legal and regulatory dimension, which refers to the set of laws and regulations that provide the legal foundation on which policies are designed and implemented, and which govern the participation of the various stakeholders; (ii) the organizational dimension, relating to the concept of social authority, the division of labour and horizontal and vertical coordination; (iii) the technical and operational dimension, which helps to provide the instruments and tools necessary to implement social policies in an effective, efficient and transparent manner; and (iv) the funding dimension, which encompasses all the resources, sources of funding and the financial sustainability of social policies.

In line with this objective and the mandates issued by the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in the framework of round table 2 of the Ministerial Forum on “**New challenges for social institutions and regional cooperation**”. It will seek to create a space for national social development authorities to share views, experiences, opportunities and challenges for social institutions and regional cooperation, with a view to building social protection systems in the region that are universal, comprehensive, sustainable and dually resilient.

¹ Fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The discussion scheduled for this activity was preceded by two working meetings at which representatives from Latin American ministries and from Caribbean ministries shared preliminary views.

Provisional agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report by the Chair on progress in the implementation of resolution 4(IV) of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the agreements of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. New challenges for social institutions and regional cooperation
4. Other matters
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements

Modalities and format:

The round table will be chaired by Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy of Antigua and Barbuda, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference.

Following the opening, adoption of the agenda and report by the Chair of the Presiding Officers, a plenary session will be held in which the secretariat of the Regional Conference will deliver a presentation containing background information for discussion. This session will be moderated by the Chair of the Presiding Officers.

This will be an opportunity for the participating authorities and representatives to share views, experiences and expectations on this issue, and speak of programmes, public policies and challenges in their respective countries.

The round table will be held in hybrid format, with representatives attending in person and remotely.

Preliminary agenda:

10 minutes	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) • Luis Felipe López-Calva, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy of Antigua and Barbuda, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean • Esteban Bernal, Minister for Economic and Social Inclusion of Ecuador
5 minutes	<p>Adoption of the Agenda</p>
10 minutes	<p>Report by the Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Progress in the implementation of resolution 4(IV) of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the agreements of the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
80 minutes	<p>Plenary: New challenges for social institutions and regional cooperation</p> <p><i>Theme 1:</i> Opportunities and challenges for the legal and regulatory, normative, organizational, technical and operational, and financial dimensions of social institutions in response to emerging needs and demands faced by ministries of social development</p> <p><i>Theme 2:</i> The role and potential of regional cooperation in the context of current and future challenges for social institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC • Yorlery León Marchena, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica (to be confirmed) • Paula Poblete, Undersecretary for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile • Cayo Cáceres, Vice-Minister for Social Policy in the Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay • Andrea Brugman, Undersecretary of Social Development of Uruguay <p>Statements by member countries of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
5 minutes	<p>Other matters</p>
10 minutes	<p>Consideration and adoption of agreements</p>