Document of the Work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Committee Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Joshua Cummins</th>
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<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Daniel Sweeney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Jean-Paul Sayre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Kathleen Parrinello</td>
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Agenda

I. Social and Economic Development in Cities

II. Promoting the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

III. Guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<td>30 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 1 abstension</td>
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Summary Report

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. Social and Economic Development in Cities
II. Guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean
III. Promoting the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The session was attended by representatives of 34 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Social and Economic Development in Cities.”

By Tuesday, the Dais had received a total of eight proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including low-income and social development for informal housing, transportation as a means for improving education and international stability, and providing regional co-operation for medical sanitation. Delegations formed working groups and collaborated with great devotion and passion in addressing topic I during a strenuous day of diplomacy and cooperation.

On Wednesday, eight draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had an amendment. The committee adopted eight resolutions following voting procedure, four of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including education initiatives focused on environmental and sustainable development, the inclusion of indigenous people, and recognition of gender equality. The passionate rhetoric employed by the body and the diligence seen in their resolutions highlighted the serious nature of the issues facing cities experiencing social and economic development.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Deeply concerned with Barbados’ Climate Change and Urban Development Studies stating that 66% of the 180 million impoverished persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) live in cities,

Noting with concern the high rate of homelessness within the LAC region and being aware that homelessness rates can be as high as 59% depending on location according to statistics from the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Youth Change Program,

Taking note of the World Bank finding that 5.6% of the LAC population is below the poverty line and the importance of helping the homeless to regain dignity through home ownership and employment, which will encourage fluidity between classes and establish a more cohesive middle class structure,

Noting the work of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and their work in improving the standard of living for Member States around the world and especially within LAC,

Taking into consideration the success of Nicaragua’s Housing for People initiative (NHP), a program that helps people purchase homes through loans granted by the government,

Confident that Member States have the capacity to improve the lives of impoverished people in a sustainable and economically empowering way,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 and more particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere and SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

Concerned that most impoverished people live in non-legalized neighborhoods where there are no taxation controls, therefore leading to the lack of basic needs and services,

Noting with satisfaction French legislation, the April 2015 amendment to the Macron law, which requires supermarkets to save and donate food traditionally discarded or destroyed, in order to cut down on food waste,

Recognizes the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that found that 6% of the global food losses occur in Latin America, this food could potentially feed all of the citizens in the Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize, and Colombia,

1. Calls for the establishment of facilities for Housing and Employment for Lower Income People (HELP) located in and run by LAC Member States, to be funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, in order to house and provide job trainings to those in informal settlements such as:

   a. Mexico’s Neza-Chalco-Itza;
   
   b. Brazil’s Rocinha;
   
   c. Haiti’s Cite Soleil in Port-au-Prince;
2. Suggests Nicaragua’s NHP initiative be implemented across LAC with loans being funded via individual partnerships with willing developed Member States and host Latin American Member States, as well as contributions from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Mercy Corps, Habitat for Humanity, and InterAction, working in partnership with United Nations bodies such as PSUP, and any other willing programs;

3. Establishing HELP facilities will:
   a. Take citizen applicants who are in need of these programs, due to homelessness or living below the poverty line, applicants should also show individual interest through self motivation, and have the potential for a quick turnaround ensuring the success of affording housing of their own;
   b. Provide trainings at each HELP site to teach business management and technical skills to those seeking better employment taught by entrepreneurs and business owners from the same Member State;

4. Emphasizes that the HELP program would provide citizens with shelter in order to transition informal settlements to officially legalized communities in government reports;

5. Recommends the creation of a system called Waste Not within HELP facilities to:
   a. Redistribute usable food from supermarkets to HELP facilities through FAO, in order to decrease food waste;
   b. Reallocate inedible food to agricultural farms by way of FAO in order to provide compost for crops and to avoid food waste accumulation in landfills;

6. Encourages the FAO, World Hunger Project, the World Food Programme (WFP), and other programs to work in partnership with HELP facilities during the initial startup of Waste Not in order to facilitate the transfer of food products from supermarkets to the specified HELP locations;

7. Requests that Member States implementing the HELP program work in partnership with HELP facilities in designing annual reports on the success of these programs and these reports will be submitted to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and reviewed in the hopes of improving and solidifying these programs, as well as gauging the need for future changes;

8. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at next biannual meeting on the implementation of this resolution.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the sovereignty of all Member States as stated in Article 2.1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which supports “positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning,” which can be achieved through both increasing educational opportunities and access to transportation in order to sustainably develop cities,

Drawing attention to the importance of vocational training and proper education and its relationship to social mobility and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as stated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2011 in their report titled “Challenges for Education with Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean,”

Praising the success of Mexico’s Prospera Program (formerly Oportunidades), which incentivizes education by providing financial support to families in rural and urban areas who send their children to schools, which promotes responsible urbanization, both economically and socially,

Appraising Jamaica’s vocational training program, Human Employment and Resource Training (HEART), which offers technical and vocational training in order to create a skilled and competitive workforce, which will facilitate the rural-urban transition by providing the lower income families in the rural areas with the opportunity to be involved in the development of cities,

Citing the World Bank, which in Chapter 3 of their report titled “The Inclusive Green Growth: Natural Resources and Rural Services,” stated that the inadequate condition of rural transport systems has led to social exclusion of rural populations and perpetuated urban-rural disparities that directly inhibit the growth of cities by limiting the transfer of ideas, resources, and human capital between the urban and rural areas,

Acknowledging the success that the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) has had by creating the Inland Transportation Committee (ITC), which is a unique subsidiary to Europe’s subregional committee that deals with increasing cooperation and negotiation in the field of transport, which promotes urbanization,

Taking into consideration the deep concerns of Latin American countries, which often face isolation and inefficiency in their transportation systems, which creates difficulty in properly developing its urban areas, both economically and socially,

1. Suggests that Member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) discuss the issues of national and trans-regional transportation affairs as a means of promoting educational and vocational opportunities in the cities at the 36th Session of ECLAC in May 2016;

2. Invites ECLAC Member States to discuss the creation of a program similar to the European ITC collaboration regarding trans-regional and transnational infrastructure, which will be called LAC ITC, in order to provide better and more affordable access to public transportation by:

   a. Encouraging ECLAC Member States to divide into three geographical groups: first comprised of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, in order to focus on development in populated areas and less populated areas;
b. Assembling regularly to discuss further improvements which will allow a sharing of experiences and an acquisition of knowledge, as well as solving common and/or individual problems in the three different geographical groups;

c. Emphasizing the importance of LAC Member States’ sovereignty in their proactive, equal positions under potential newly formed sessions in the ECLAC;

d. Recognizing the power of states to utilize the LAC ITC as a forum in which to report national concerns and address international affairs in collaborative ECLAC sessions;

e. Addressing the improvement of transportation infrastructure, which helps citizens in the respective countries to get easier access to transportation to cities in order to acquire jobs as well as education which is absent in most rural areas in LAC, likewise promoting economic and social development in cities;

3. Encourages all Member States to utilize international cooperation for improving the sustainability of social and economic development through the implementation of programs such as Mexico’s Prospera Program, which could be financed by either the Member State’s government, private institutions, or a combination of both based on local needs;

4. Further invites Member States to adopt a program that offers technical and vocational training in order to create a skilled and competitive workforce, similar to the HEART program in Jamaica, which would be financed through the contributions from eligible employers, to be determined by taxable amounts relative to each Member States’ regulations;

5. Calls upon all Member States to promote transportation cooperation among urban and non-urban areas in order to close the educational and vocational gap between rural and urban areas, which would facilitate the economic and social development in cities.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the fact that one out of every five inhabitants of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries live in informal settlements,

Recalling "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family" in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as implemented by Houses for People in Nicaragua, along with Infonavit, and SHF in Mexico, all of which provide financial housing assistance to underprivileged families in LAC,

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” as well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 that seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which are provisions that are upheld by initiatives such as Sustainable Social Housing Initiative (SUSHI) in Sao Paulo, as well as the Micro-Insurance Development Program, (MIDP),

Deeply concerned that the richest 10% of the population, owns 71% of the wealth in LAC region, according to the Oxfam 2016 research “Time to Tax Growth Report,” thus perpetuating a system of inequality in LAC posing obstacles to the accomplishment of SDG 1, which is to end poverty in all its forms,

Affirming Member State’s need to advance the world’s consideration of planning systems that will help to build societies that are equitable and free of social exclusion, as previously developed in The Montevideo Consensus and by the Ad hoc committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Target 2 of SDG 4, which calls for increased access to education, seeing that linking informal settlements with city centers enables those living in poverty to benefit from public services that are not existent in informal settlements, such as public education,

Emphasizing the necessity of access to clean water to guarantee the right to a healthy life as noted SDG 6, Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights - General Comment 15, Paragraph 2, and as further noted in Water Aid’s report “Turning Slums Around: The Case for Water and Sanitation,”

Bearing in mind that in LAC there are still 100 million people who do not have access to improved sanitation, and 36 million who do not have access to improved drinking water, according to the Water Sanitation Program in 2014, and reflecting on the Double-SABESP Program in Maceio, Brazil, along with the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Fresh Water Related Issues, Including Sanitation (UN-Water),

1. Urges Member States to address the growing size of informal settlements by:

   a. Providing government micro-loans to aid those in informal settlements in building and improving sustainable housing, such as the Homes for People program in Nicaragua, or the Infonavit program in Mexico, which subsidize loans to impoverished workers;

   b. Implementing subsidies to help partner those living in informal settlements with private contractors to help improve self-built housing, utilizing the framework provided by the SHF in Mexico;

   c. Providing people living in informal settlements with resources to improve and develop self-built housing, as done by TECHO in Uruguay, which implemented a social program that effectively employs impoverished people to build their own homes, in order to further sustainability;
2. **Recommends** Member States to take steps to strengthen informal settlements by enacting programs such as those offered by both the United Nations and other Member States in order to:

   a. Increase sustainability and offer shelter to vulnerable populations, as did SUSHI in Sao Paulo, which provides green building materials in the construction of sustainable housing, to those who cannot afford a home, or lost theirs to a natural disaster;

   b. Subsidize the price of micro-insurance, paired with a campaign to raise awareness for the responsibilities of property ownership, while also receiving technical assistance to improve infrastructure, as seen in the MIDP;

3. **Invites** governments to improve their tax collection mechanisms as previously discussed in ECLAC’s XXVII Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy in Santiago and recommended in the Oxfam research Time to Tax for Inclusive Growth, as well as enabling more efficient allocation of these funds towards social development projects;

4. **Further recommends** Member States to strive to connect public transportation to informal housing areas to ensure that citizens are properly assimilated and have equal ability to take advantage of the opportunities provided by urbanized areas, noting the success achieved in Medellin, Colombia, in which the local government was able to increase education rates from 25% to 89%;

5. **Requests** LAC Member States to subsidize household water connections for the urban poor and to remove the requirement of land tenure as a condition for water service provisions by including slum areas in water servicing policy as suggested in Water Aid’s report “Turning Slums Around: The Case for Water and Sanitation;”

6. **Further invites** national governments to implement policies for water efficiency through:

   a. Increasing partnerships between private corporations to discuss ways to efficiently transport water throughout urban areas by sharing information to improve water access through improved plumbing between corporations, as modeled by the Double-SABESP Program;

   b. Partnerships between national governments and UN-Water, which partners with member states and international agencies to ensure that proper sanitation is achieved, as to ensure the healthy quality of water;

7. **Calls upon** the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission on the implementation of this resolution for the next 6 biennium meetings.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling both Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal 11, urging all Member States to make cities inclusive, safe, and resilient from rapid urbanization and environmental destruction, as well as SDG 10 urging all Member States to decrease inequality within the economy and informal employment through programs such as the Brazilian Bolsa Familia Project, which gives children the opportunity of future employment through government financial assistance to the family,

Emphasizing the importance of educational programs such as the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiatives (ESCI), which focuses on youth partnership with universities to promote sustainable development,

Keeping in mind the World Programme of Action for Youth, which takes measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full effective, and constructive participation in society adopted by the General Assembly resolutions 50/81 and 62/126,

Acknowledging the success that Honduras’ program Chamba Ahorita has had in reducing informal employment by promoting the creation of new jobs through providing financial support to employers willing to increase employment positions,

Reaffirming the General Assembly resolution 70/220 and its focus on education, and collaboration with the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies,

Recognizing that the National Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainable Development, which is a framework to set concrete goals and outcomes to achieve a sustainable future, and the National Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainable Development, which was successfully implemented in Jamaica as one of the actions for resolution 686 (XXXV) on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. Supports all measures in order to decrease inequality within LAC cities by:
   a. Establishing incentives such as tax reductions for employers to decrease informal employment as a form of inequality as done with the direct funds and tax break incentives given to families keeping their children in compulsory education such as the Brazilian Bolsa Familia Project;
   b. Inviting Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Member States to create a similar program to Chamba Ahorita to motivate companies to create new formal jobs;
   c. Strengthening public-private partnerships such as the Caribbean Development Bank to further enlarge infrastructure throughout the region;

2. Recommends the expansion of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative program in Latin America and Caribbean Cities:
   a. To establish a direct relationship with public schools, through educational programs aimed at promoting eco-friendly behavior among youth;
   b. To create channels of collaboration with universities aimed at long term programs for youth throughout their compulsory education;
c. Through a Productive and Sustainable Cities Development Policy loan by the World Bank, as well as a grant established by the Inter-American Development Bank in 2011, including donations from organizations such as the International Community Foundation, and Japan’s Ministry of Finance;

3. Encourages an exchange of educational resources such as techniques for education and use of guest programs for educators from countries that possess a surplus, to countries that possess a deficit, with an eye towards educating children about the environment and pollution by:

   a. Expanding the mandate of the United Nations Solution Exchange Program to incorporate Latin American countries;

   b. Assisting Member States that possess a deficit and request assistance;

   c. Creating public campaigns within local municipalities to promote environmental awareness;

   d. Generating additional and sufficient funding for education through sustained global advocacy efforts as well as appropriating funds through third party funding;

4. Suggests the creation of a voluntary exchange of entrepreneurs and effective business practices for the industries of eco-tourism, renewable energy, and sanitation;

5. Encourages the international community, including the private sector and relevant civil society actors, to provide and mobilize financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and to supply expertise from all sources, as available;

6. Encourages all Member States to integrate environmental education in their compulsory education modeled after Student Cleanup System, which is currently in place in Japan.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming the fundamental ideas of the Charter of the United Nations to promote international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

Emphasizing the Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) and resolution 1984/67 and their purpose to ensure greater cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United Nations,

Highlighting the mandate of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and resolution 553 (XXVI) for social and economic development, regional relationships and international cooperation,

Noting resolution 2573 (XXIV), resolution 2691 (XXV), and resolution 2822 (XXVI) and their principle devotion to the Charter of the United Nations objectives of peace, progress and promotion of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Recognizing the principles supported by the resolution 2951 (XXVII) in highlighting the need to prioritize not only primary and secondary education but also higher and tertiary education,

Guided by resolution 3081 (XXVIII) and the objectives of the United Nations and its Member States,

Deeply convinced that the interdependence of today’s economies and societies profoundly affects higher education, and higher education in turn shapes globalization – through teaching, research, and other services,

Observing that an estimated 1.5 million young students worldwide currently study abroad, from which more than half of them come from countries in Europe, East and South Asia and only a few students come from Africa, the Middle East and Latin America,

Deeply concerned that Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) have a very small opportunity to mix with their peers in other countries,

Recalling that there are already existing programs in place that extend from the United Nations University such as Biotechnology Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC) in Caracas, Venezuela, which ensures that biotechnological applications respect human and animal rights and do not negatively impact the environment,

Understanding that in a 21st century global economy, a college degree or advanced training is required for the best-paying and fastest-growing jobs, and many students struggle to complete their education due to work and family responsibilities,

Realizing the need for the broadening access to international higher education and research systems for talented LAC students, irrespective of their background or country of origin,

Recognizing the good work that the United Nations University has done in Tokyo, Japan in its efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its agencies and Member States,
1. **Encourages** the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Campus (LACC) of the United Nations University for the necessity of scholars, engagement in research, postgraduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter in LAC;

2. **Urges** LACC to be devoted to continue research into the current international issues of human and economic development that are of concern to the United Nations and Member States;

3. **Expresses** its hope for the LACC to carry on the United Nation University’s priority programmed areas, which include world hunger, natural resources and human, economic and social development;

4. **Proposes** the current budgetary structure of the United Nations University headquarters be adopted and used to micro-finance this vital center of higher education including:
   a. Investment income predominantly derived from an endowment fund that originates mainly from the host government and other Member States with an interest in the expansion;
   b. Funding from agencies and international organizations, such as the world bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
   c. Funding from foundations and other private sources in Latin America, the Caribbean and foundations abroad;
   d. Donations from other Member States, which currently fund the United Nations University’ headquarters in Tokyo, Japan;

5. **Requests** that indigenous studies are included at LACC in order to accommodate for the high population of native peoples in the Latin American region, these studies would include education of indigenous languages, culture, and traditions;

6. **Further proclaims** the creation of a financial aid office within the United Nations University – LACC, which will provide:
   a. Fiscal assistance and grants to non-traditional students can not receive tertiary education as a result of financial burdens;
   b. On-campus housing and housing provided by local institutions and centers, which will be granted on a need basis for those students coming from distant rural areas and small cities to help relieve the traveling cost;
   c. Financial assistance to students who combine academic service learning, social entrepreneurship, and public-private partnerships;

7. **Further recommends** that this campus educate students in the fundamentals of social entrepreneurship to:
   a. Help them develop plans to address pressing social needs in the community, such as urbanization, homelessness, crime, hunger, poverty and sustainable use of environmental resources;
   b. Assist them in partnering with nonprofit organizations;
   c. Fund the implementation of plans to resolve these issues;

8. Incorporate basic scientific research and the application of the results of science and technology in the interests of development;

9. **Suggests** that LACC be an environmentally friendly campus with quality and global competitive education and high literacy rates.
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Noting with deep concern the frequency of preventable disease outbreaks throughout Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) cities, and seeing the problems that the Zika Virus has caused throughout the regions urban areas and acknowledging that further research and education on the topics of sanitation and disease prevention can yield a long term solution to the problems of disease and poor medical care,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises to expand access to adequate and healthy sanitation methods,

Guided by the introduction to the constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), which states, “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition,”

Complying with Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family,”

1. **Endorses** the development of a program called the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural-Medical Exchange (LACCME) as a subsidiary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in order to spread the scope of public health information and services in otherwise inaccessible or marginalized areas; to accomplish this, LACCME will:

   a. Use the resources of ECLAC to foster connections between universities, medical students, NGOs and central governments for the purpose of creating a program to offer medical students the opportunity of practicing medicine and medical education in underdeveloped areas;

   b. Work with participating universities to offer a high quality, practical educational experience for course credit and will aid in the bridging of cultural gaps between countries;

   c. Seek to harness the dedication and skill of medical students for the success and betterment of their region, and will improve relationships among Member States’ through the shared cultural and charitable experience;

   d. Coordinate aid between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and central governments, with the central governments collaborating in issuing annual reports specifying their regions most in need of aid in order to determine how best to allocate NGO funding and student participation;

   e. Act as a subsidiary of ECLAC, which in turn will provide any necessary and proper support for LACCME;

   f. Collect annual reports created by participating nations welcoming medical students primarily concerned with the program’s impact on vital health statistic in order to evaluate effectiveness and search for possible improvement and submit them to the ECLAC Executive Secretary and the LACCME governing board for consideration and evaluation of LACCME success;

2. **Encourages**, the Inter-American Development Bank, WHO, the World Bank and others to financially, technically, and logistically support LACCME;
3. Requests the logistical and financial support of regional and worldwide NGOs with the capability and interest in supporting LACCME in order to:

   a. Ensure the continued success of LACCME through their logistical and material support;
   
   b. Aid in setting the policy and direction in which the program will pursue, on an equal footing with the participating countries;
   
   c. Fund the program, which will be directed primarily to, healthcare supplies, transport of students, security, food, and providing grants to those who house guest students;

4. Authorizes the creation of a governing board to manage the LACCME program, which will include:

   a. One representative from each participating member state and one representative from sponsoring NGOs;
   
   b. Annual financial audits by ECLAC, in order to control costs and minimize corruption and abuse;
   
   c. The responsibility of managing the intake of donations from international organizations, other governments, or private donors, and formulating an annual budget and approving discretionary spending;
   
   d. Participating universities, under the direction of the LACCME governing board, that will have a designated LACCME coordinator, appointed by these universities and reporting to the LACCME governing board to manage the logistical aspects of their exchange activities, and these coordinators will also work directly with self-appointed representatives from host countries regarding the administration of the LACCME program;
   
   e. Students and their faculty advisors travelling to areas determined to be most in need of aid by the LACCME governing board, and they will be matched with nurses and doctors in these areas in order to ensure effective communication and completion of their assigned objectives.
The Economic Commission for Latin American and Caribbean,

Seeking economic cooperation in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, especially when addressing Agenda 21 to create environmental strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in urban developments,

Recognizing the sovereignty of all Member States as stated in Article 2.1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Concerned by the discrepancy of safety and building standards among Member States that do not ensure that buildings and infrastructure are resilient in the case of a natural disaster and puts citizens’ safety at risk, increasing the mortality rate caused by natural disasters,

Deeply unsettled by the building of infrastructure in dangerous areas including fault lines and flood zones, also aware that such buildings are often housing for low-income communities who are unaware of the impending danger as seen by scientific research by Universidad Católica and Universidad de Chile and communities in Peru built in flood zones with poor quality materials,

Having examined the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) National Strategy for Capacity Development outlined in “Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR),” which provides a plan outlining five priorities, and determined its approach to capacity development in regards to DRR be in the best interest of states of the LAC region,

Affirming importance of careful urban planning as a necessary foundation of DRR, also affirming that equal access to clean water, sanitation facilities and wastewater management are crucial to the development of the rapidly growing cities within the LAC region considering that 60% of the population living in high-poverty areas lack adequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities,

Realizing that many states within the LAC region are vulnerable to climate change-related disasters, particularly hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, and floods, which lead to the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and agriculture, resulting in 240,000 fatalities and $85 billion in damage in the LAC region between 2005 and 2012 according to the UNDP report “Disaster Risk Reduction: What does UNDP do in Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean,”

Recognizing that the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which laid out a global, legally binding framework for preventing and addressing corruption, is imperative to ensuring that funds are appropriately allocated to disaster risk reduction efforts,

Acknowledging that the current existence of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) that provides support to farmers through training, field demonstrations, videos, and other educational materials and techniques for each type of crop, environment, local culture and learning capacity of the participants involved,

Fully aware of the need to provide food to the growing populations of the world, estimated to reach 9.7 billion by 2030, and ever increasing urbanization and relocation to cities, also aware of the advantages associated with aquaponics – utilizing waste produced by fish as nutrients for plants growing hydroponically which then clean the water – which uses less than 50% of the water needed for traditional farming, the production of zero waste, and the ability to produce both plants and fish products, and considering the “Global Assessment Report 2015 (GAR15)” by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which emphasizes to mainstream DRR in agriculture, as well as recommendations provided in the FAO’s input paper prepared for the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 titled “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture: an Assessment of progress made against the Hyogo Framework for Action,” which includes guidance on agriculture in
national DRR strategies, drivers for mainstreaming DRR in agriculture, implementation of DRR in agriculture, and many others,

Acknowledging that the Natural Farmer Training Program, which is a month-long intensive training program in organic farming and permaculture focusing on increasing production of crops for local and urban markets which improve resilience for natural disasters, implemented by the Source Farm Foundation in Jamaica, has been proven successful because currently trained farmers are skilled with not only a sustainable way of farming but also business management skills and knowledge on disaster mitigation and adaptation,

Considering that the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility, a multi-country risk pool that provides insurance for immediate government funding in the event of natural disasters in the Caribbean region, has been criticized for having inconsistent successes of funded projects,

Acknowledging that the International Building Code (IBC), which sets minimum building safety standards, exists to ensure the safety of citizens around the world,

Recognizing that Colombia’s Metrovivienda promotes safe building practices and affordable housing by selling plots of peri-urban land to developers committed to setting affordable housing prices,

Recognizing that certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and nonprofits such as Construction for Change and the International Code Council (ICC) provide services that ensure safety of buildings and infrastructure by providing education, certification, and safety career services,

Acknowledging the success of the Brazilian national housing provision through the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) known as the My House, My Life Program, a stimulus package launched in 2009 to provide more housing for low and middle-income households in response to the 2008 economic crisis,

Endorses the collaboration of states of the LAC region with developed countries, as seen in the work of the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Department’s Disaster Preparedness Program (DIPECHO), which funds select DRR programs in the LAC region,

Keeping in mind that Latin American countries have received private-sector funds drawn from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), allows Member States to invest at the national level, specifically for DRR when responding to extreme weather and destruction of mega-disasters,

Highlighting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which encourages all Member States to allocate sufficient funds in their budgets to DRR programs, thusly providing sufficient funding for developing essential initiatives such as early warning systems and post-disaster relief,

1. **Encourages** ECLAC Member States to prioritize DRR in all efforts for disaster preparedness and post-disaster relief, such as building resilient infrastructure, sustainable farming practices, developing social programs, and facilitating cooperation amongst states of the LAC region;

2. **Requests** support from NGOs and nonprofit organizations that specialize in safe construction of buildings and infrastructure such as Construction for Change and the ICC to support ECLAC Member States to incorporate careful urban planning guided by the IBC to address the rapid urbanization of states of the LAC region and build a foundation for DRR in city-wide infrastructure by:

   a. Creating a national certification program based on guidelines outlined in the IBC and in partnership with specialized NGOs;

   b. Ensuring that buildings are inspected by a nationally certified building inspector to ensure the safety of all living and working spaces, such inspectors would:

      i. Inspect buildings to ensure they are safe;

      ii. Inform building owner of required and suggested renovations based on inspection results;
iii. Prove their ability and ethical responsibility through a certification process;
iv. Be held accountable by reporting to the inspector’s respective nation in the case of incompetence of fulfilling that person’s role;

c. Establishing and incorporate these practices shared by NGOs and developing countries;
d. Improving city planning by modeling programs after Colombia’s Metrovivienda;
e. Being supported by a newly created United Nations Special Rapporteur voted on by LAC countries financially supported by the United Nations to finance, examine, monitor, advise, and report on such planning;

3. Recommends that a warning system called the Latin American and Caribbean Disaster Alert and Preparedness Program (LACDAPP) composed of representatives that are experts in DRR and that are from all states of the LAC region selected by their respective parliaments, be created under the auspices of ECLAC following protocol outlined by the UNISDR that is tasked with:

a. Ensuring LACDAPP representatives are experts in environmental issues and policies and further educating government leaders on sub-regional, national, provincial, and local levels about natural disasters and warning systems;
b. Creating and monitoring a sub-regional warning system with the following hierarchy:
   i. National meteorological agencies, reporting to national civil defense agencies;
   ii. Civil defense agencies distribute warning to both leaders responsible for local response and regional leaders responsible for reporting to LACDAPP;
   iii. LACDAPP reporting to the affected countries;
c. Providing a database of information collected through early warning systems in order to facilitate a collective, rapid response to natural disasters;
d. Researching DRR, reducing climate change related disasters, and what practices best reduce damage from such disasters;
e. Hosting a biannual open forum composed of representatives from all states of the LAC region to discuss:
   i. Programs and program development of supporting communities affected by natural disasters;
   ii. The effects of natural disasters that specifically hinder low-income peoples with an emphasis on indigenous peoples and other minority groups;
   iii. Strategies to educate citizens on emergency protocols in response to early warnings;
   iv. DRR technologies, strategies, and programs;
   v. National plans for responding to natural disasters and strategies that ensure citizens are informed on post-disaster safety procedures;
   vi. Other best practices discovered by LACDAPP nations in DRR and post-disaster relief;

4. Calls for the creation of an open ad-hoc working group, Debt Swaps for Sustainable Urban Development (DSSUD), to address potential opportunities for debt restructuring in the form of debt-for-development swaps modeled after the 2015 ECLAC concept The Debt Reduction Through Financing for Climate Adaptation Swaps, which intends to help those Member States with unsustainable debt obtain the fiscal resources necessary to pursue sustainable urban development goals by:

a. Acting as an advisory board to ECLAC, under the chairmanship of the ECLAC executive secretary with financial experts and representatives who are appointed and confirmed by ECLAC Member States;
b. Acting as an arbiter in negotiations between borrower Member State and lender Member States;

c. Prioritizing the reallocation of state resources towards mitigating climate change rather than debt burdens through the use of debt-for-development swaps, wherein borrowing states agree to commit resources toward addressing the interrelated issues of climate change resilience and urban development in cities in exchange for debt restructuring opportunities agreed upon with creditor Member States;

d. Authorizing the DSSUD to publish reports concerning how Member States allocate resources agreed upon in debt swaps;

e. Continuously engaging the international community, international financial institutions, as well as relevant NGOs in the process of negotiations;

5. **Urges** ECLAC Member States to improve post-disaster relief efforts by:

a. Modeling post-disaster housing relief after UN-HABITAT’s My House, My Life Program, which is designed to stimulate the production and acquisition of new housing units for the low and middle income populations;

b. Partnering with regional government bodies and FAO on post-disaster agricultural relief to increase the efficiency of aid delivery;

6. **Calls upon** ECLAC Member States to apply or model their own capacity development plan after the UNDP’s National Strategy for Capacity Development outlined in UNDP’s article titled “Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction” to identify, assess, and monitor natural disaster risks as well as to enhance early warning systems;

7. **Advocates** for urban planners to take into consideration importance of providing universal and equal access to water and sanitation facilities as well as wastewater management, regardless of race, class, gender, region, legal status, or ability;

8. **Urging** all ECLAC Member States to promote the transparency of funded projects through voluntarily reporting program outcomes in order to decrease the diversion of funds due to corruption;

9. **Suggests** that ECLAC under the purview of UNDP creates a network modeled after SAN to encourage collaboration of leaders of agriculture around the world to find best practices in farming;

10. **Recommends** that Member States pursue the use of aquaponics as per the guide “Small-Scale Aquaponic Food Production” published by FAO;

11. **Calls upon** Member States to provide technical information and human resources to improve the training of Permaculture Organic Farming System (POFS), which focuses on local sustainable production to increase food security and agricultural profitability by extending support to young farmers;

12. **Recommends** that the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility’s model is expanded to incorporate elements of evaluation, planning, and follow up to ensure that funded projects are successful;

13. **Urges** states of the LAC region to collaborate with developed nations and model their work after DIPECHO in order to increase available resources, expertise, and funding for DRR projects;

14. **Encouraging** states of the LAC region to collaborate with NGOs and the private sector to broaden expertise and funding for DRR projects being developed at the national level to prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

15. **Requests** that states of the LAC region nations prioritize the issue of DRR in their national budgets and allocate the necessary funds to sufficiently supply essential programs, policies, and strategies with the aim to increase disaster preparedness and post-disaster relief efforts;
16. *Urges all Member States of ECLAC to remain committed to respecting the sovereignty of each country represented in the United Nations within the LAC region;*

17. *Calls upon states of the LAC region to prioritize economic sustainability and international cooperation, especially when addressing DRR in urban developments, following the principles of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.*
The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Emphasizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by stressing Article 2 “The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members;”

Affirming the UDHR by highlighting Article 1 stating: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as outlined by General Assembly resolution 61/295,

Recognizing the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, for the respect of the indigenous peoples rights by stressing Article 2, which mentions: “Governments shall have the responsibility for developing, with the participation of the peoples concerned, coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of these peoples and to guarantee respect for their integrity,”

Recognizing the efforts with the global co-operation in the protection of minority groups, such as women and indigenous peoples, outlined in the Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA),

Recalling the achievements as set forth in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with regard to Goal 5: Promote gender equality and empower women for example in the MDGs report, which mentions: “90% of countries have more women in parliament since 1995;”

Retiring the recommendation related to language adopted by the permanent forum of indigenous issues mentioning: “Member States should consider the adoption and full implementation of comprehensive national indigenous education policies based on the following goals,”

Acknowledging the importance of education in fostering knowledge, innovation, and skill development that creates an adequate and skilled workforce to improve the economic capabilities and promote innovation and growth in Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC),

Encouraged by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights highlighting Article 26 stating: “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis merit,”

Considering the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) currently in effect to improve the social and economic development in cities, in particular Goal 5: gender equality, Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth and Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries and Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

Recognizing the importance of encouraging students to become involved with community service programs for higher education, such as the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), which strengthens the link between national education and national development,

Observing the extension of regulations within countries to alleviate corruption and exploitation of youth in the work force as seen with the child and youth codes,

Expressing its hope concerning the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 called Changing with the World to bridge the gap between rich and poor and to reach gender parity in employment and politics,
Considering the growth of urbanization, like mentioned on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) website, 80% of people in LAC live in urban areas, inclusion of culture is essential for the social and economic development of cities.

Acknowledging the issues of inequality, poverty and exploitation raised through the efforts of the UNDP, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Declaration on the Right to Development (DRD), the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) document “The Future We Want,” and the SDGs, and the efforts employed by Ecuador’s 2001 Youth Law and the 2007 The Agenda for Productive Transformation document “My First Employment,”

Appreciating the efforts and policies of countries that increase youth science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and employment for adolescents within the countries of LAC, the goals of which are outlined by the 2007 Agenda for Productive Transformation as well as the global Youth Forums, which grant the youth workforce opportunities,

Deeply regretting the ILO statistic that 27 million youth currently working in conditions of informality, reaffirms the inequality of cities created by the exploitation of youth, underemployment and informal employment,

Believing that education is primordial for the social and economic development of cities,

Stressing the importance of prosperity of all cities in the LAC region,

1. Calls upon the sovereignty of each Member State;
2. Recommends the implementation of a national ministry within Member States such as the Women’s and Gender Equality Ministry that is in place in Chile that will address gender equality;
3. Further recommends the integration of minorities such as indigenous peoples and women into politics and respecting sovereignty of Member States:
   a. Reserving seats to women with a proportional of the political system;
   b. Reserving seats to indigenous with a proportional of the political system, similar to Article 176 of Colombia’s 1991 Constitution, which reserved seats in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate for indigenous and afro-descendant representatives;
4. Invites Member States to take note of the Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA) to improve the international cooperation for the respect of indigenous rights ensuring that indigenous groups are consulted on issues relating to land management and practices:
   a. Ensure that indigenous groups are consulted on issues relating to land management and practices;
   b. Improve water management by creating laws ensuring equal access to basic necessities, such as clean water, especially for indigenous populations;
5. Encourages the development of bilingual school systems, that is inclusive to cultural linguistics and specifically to indigenous groups in order to guarantee equal education opportunities regardless of race, sex and social background;
6. Encouraging a bilingual school program that integrates and involves peoples who speak the native and national languages and emphasizing the need for language courses that include the indigenous people into the society, thus creating an inclusion of a highly educated and society;
7. Endorses education when fostering knowledge, innovation, and skill development, which creates an adequate and skilled workforce to improve the economic capabilities and promote innovation and growth in LAC:
a. Extending the approach of opportunities by providing the youth with a wider range of after school programs, extracurricular activities, with the inclusion of all peoples, regardless of race, gender, or any other social background;

b. Implementing partnerships with local, regional, and statewide foundations that introduce students to new opportunities, which will foster new-found creativity and talents;

8. **Calls upon** all Member States from the LAC region to continue their efforts in reaching the 17 SDGs especially in education and gender equality as well as other inequalities:

a. Improve water management in cities by proposing policies concerning water to meet today’s needs, considering that indigenous people often live in rural area where water is not always accessible;

b. The implementation and use of new technologies that would promote sustainable energies;

9. **Welcomes** women and indigenous peoples to run for higher levels of political offices in order to strengthen the social and economic development in cities;

10. **Urges** Member States to begin the process of creating inclusive youth, indigenous, and women education programs for the purpose of:

a. Creating educated leaders in STEM fields by providing them with scientific literacy and greater employment prospects;

b. Incorporating educational initiatives focused on youth, indigenous, and women that are inclusive and non-discriminatory, in order to offer additional opportunities for future education or employment;

c. Integrating education programs that a focus on future employment opportunities to provide paths into the workforce;

d. Incorporating antidiscrimination policies to secure the right of decent work, income, and social protection;

11. **Encourages** the Member States of ECLAC to incorporate the extension of youth employment programs in order to decrease urban and rural youth unemployment, underemployment and informal employment through:

a. The creation of inclusive country work/labor programs for the purpose of integrating the youth into the national workforce;

b. Policies that promote youth employment, paid internships, and the use of financial incentives to companies and businesses which employ adolescents and the youth similar to Ecuador’s 2001 Youth Law, the 2007 Agenda for Productive Transformation, and the Ecuadorian program My First Employment;

c. The extension of regulations within countries to alleviate corruption and exploitation of youth in the workforce as seen with the Child and Youth Code;

d. The implementation of labor standards and worker rights, similar to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which shall allow greater equality and social and economic development;

e. Extension and implementation of economic protection during times of unemployment, maternity leave, disability, health issues and natural disasters;

12. **Calls for** Member States to take action by enforcing child/youth employment codes though:
a. Creating a more formal youth employment framework at national and local levels;

b. Working with government legislation to protect the human rights of youth in the workforce to decrease discrimination;

c. Increasing communication with the ILO to address and promote worker’s rights, provide necessary benefits, and proper employment wages to decrease exploitation;

13. *Invites* the Institute for Higher Education in LAC, the Union of Universities of Latin American and Caribbean, to highlight the importance of strengthening the link between national education and national development by encouraging students to become involved with community service programs.