

10-14 April 2022

Documentation of the Work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) NMUN Simulation*



Conference B

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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Committee Staff

Director
Assistant Director
Chair

Marielisa Figuera Saggese
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Agenda

- I. Implementing SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean
- II. Increasing Access to Technical and Vocational Education Training

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
ECLAC/1/1	Implementing SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

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

- I. Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean
- II. Increasing Access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training

The session was attended by representatives of 19 Member States. On Sunday, delegates adopted the agenda in the order of topic I, then topic II, and began discussions on the Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). By Monday evening, the committee discussed potential solutions to concretely address the topic and submitted one working paper to the Dais covering a wide range of sub-topics, including funding and the creation of a sub-body.

On Tuesday, delegates incorporated feedback received from the Dais, and organized the working paper to account for proper flow of ideas. Delegates were very cooperative, all gathering together as a body to review all ideas in the working paper. The Chair facilitated the discussion in an informal session, assisting delegates with the revision process.

On Wednesday, one draft resolution had been approved by the Dais, which was then passed by consensus on Wednesday afternoon. Delegates began discussion on topic II, Increasing Access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training, following voting bloc. Transparency, collaboration, and diplomacy were central to the body's discussion and in their approach to resolution writing. The delegate's commitment to implementing SDG 7 in the region was illustrated through their hard work and eagerness for compromise.



Code: ECLAC/1/1

Committee: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Topic: Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the adverse effects of climate change displayed in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), exemplified by more than 230,000 deaths as a result of air pollution in the region in the year 2019 alone,

Emphasizing Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 (2021), “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,” which acknowledges the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all,

Reconfirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7’s four-part goal of ensuring affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, to recognize sustainability as not only climate-friendly, but also feasible, practical, and functional for the Member States and their populations on a long-term basis,

Cognizant of the need for regional and international solidarity and collaboration to address energy issues as well as recognition and utilization of already existing resources such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and all sub-committees of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) within the region,

Solemnly affirming the relevant role of IRENA in relation to this committee on research, development, commercialization, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies,

Supporting fully previous efforts taken by Member States such as the South American Energy Summit (2007), the Caracas Action Plan (2012), the Margarita Declaration (2014), the Paris Climate Accords (2016), and other multilateral action,

Acknowledging with deep gratitude the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) for the diligent efforts towards promoting public and private partnerships and foreign direct investment (FDI) as means to ensure affordable, reliable, modern, and sustainable energy services for all,

Noting with approval the success of existing programs such as the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Lighthouse Initiative, as well as the ECLAC-German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) partnership in facilitating the development of sustainable electricity and energy facilities and plants,

Expressing its appreciation for previous efforts to collaborate among different entities such as IRENA and the International Energy Agency (IEA), Member States, and ECLAC to increase access to renewable energy in LAC including the Long-Term Energy Scenarios (LTES) for Developing National Clean Energy Transition Plans in Latin America developed by IRENA in cooperation with ECLAC and GET. transform,

Bearing in mind the importance of transparency when it comes to funding allocations, based on the precedent set by the United Nations High-Level Dialogue (HLDE) Stakeholders Thematic E-Consultation (2021) report that details the appropriate oversight, measurements, and accountability for fund stakeholders,

Recognizing that the voices and needs of those belonging to ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities

struggling with financial stability, educational attainment, and/or any economic circumstance that lowers the quality of life must be amplified and heard in the pursuit of sustainable energy,

Expressing concern regarding the impact of a green energy transition on Member States' economies, and on Member States reliant on the consumption of petroleum, natural gas, and other fossil fuels,

Acknowledging the need for substantial funding of approximately \$80 billion a year, brought by ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, during the ECLAC's session on "*Energizing society to ensure successful and sustainable growth*," held on the 22nd of June in 2021, in order to ensure the proper implementation of SDG 7 in the LAC,

Keeping in mind that the implementation of SDG 7 and transition to reliance on sustainable energy solutions should result in positive benefits for every Member State located in the LAC region, including maintenance of economic sustainability, uninterrupted cultural practices and norms, and better quality of life for all in the region,

Recognizing programs like the Official Development Assistance (ODA) which promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing Member States,

Fully aware of the United Nations recommended target urging developed Member States to allocate 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) on ODA as established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),

Having examined the fundamental need for financial support similarly described in the *International Climate Fund (ICF)* and through the adoption of the *Glasgow Climate Pact*, as well as the need for additional educational training endeavors to equip local and regional communities with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue sustainable ends,

Highlighting the Water and Energy Unit of the Natural Resources Division of ECLAC, which utilizes data and analytics to make informed policy decisions in the implementation of sustainable development, which encourages future progress in this spirit,

Taking into account the unique economic, social, and geographic needs of each Member State in terms of sustainable development in relation to the green energy transition process, such as the current industries the economy depends on and the sustainable resources available (i.e. wind, hydropower, solar, and others),

Recognizing individual Energy Development Funds (EDF) that finance alternative energy source production found to be successful in the other Member States and thus inspiring the pursuit of similar endeavors in LAC,

Calling attention to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol that named Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) as a tool to incentivize renewable energy and document electricity consumption,

Affirming the creation of the Committee by the South-South subcommittee by General Assembly resolution 58/220 (2004), "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" to strengthen international cooperation and development,

Recognizing the spirit of cooperation and solidarity from the basis of economic, social, and cultural ties between ECLAC Member States,

Acknowledging the role that remittance contributions from diasporas play in the economies of the Latin American and Caribbean nations,

1. *Encourages* the creation of the subsidiary body, Affordable and Sustainable Energy for Latin

America and the Caribbean (ASELAC) which would:

- a. Further recommend the participation of one representative from each ECLAC Member State which will:
 - i. Meet twice each year at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Headquarters in order to assess progress, ongoing initiatives, and seasonal challenges faced in energy generation by overseeing the creation of National Action Plans on SDG 7 for each individual Member State to assure the effective use of resources and means;
 - ii. Advise the creation of a local and/or regional Board of Directors to include indigenous and minority members to amplify local and regional voices and needs, providing education as a basis for motivation towards greater action;
 - iii. Ensure the functions of the body actively prioritize and declare the unique needs of individual Member States in achieving SDG 7 while supporting a diverse range of sustainable options and efficient infrastructure to reduce fossil fuel reliance;
 - iv. Strongly encourage collaboration and cooperation with pre-existing partnerships, ECLAC subsidiary bodies, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for purposes of information exchange and advisement on policy implementation;
 - b. Look favorably upon the creation of a regional Advisory Council, comprised of experts in fields relevant to renewable energy, including chemists, anthropologists and sociologists, climatologists, engineers, and geographical experts which would function to create a sustainable energy action plan that would be recommended to individual Member States;
 - c. Promote the creation of a Board of Directors within each Member State, functioning under the ASELAC body and liaising between the Advisory Council's suggestions and policy implementation by local governments;
2. *Advise* the implementation of the Advisory Council, so that it:
- a. Ensures that the actions the advisory council takes will address the interests of minority groups which includes Indigenous groups, Afro-Latinos, and socioeconomic minorities;
 - b. Draws attention to environmental impact assessments;
 - c. Utilizes the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) which identifies inconsistencies in experts' input and excludes inconsistent expert input from analysis of the decision problem to ensure the validity of expert knowledge;
 - d. Allows experts to adjust their assessment through a reaffirmation process and fine-tune their assessment for unbiased decision-making;
 - e. Uses AHP to identify green supply chains;
 - f. Collaborates with IRENA using the Renewable Energy Resource Assessment to identify resource potential, excluded areas, priority areas, and the technical potential of renewable resources;
 - g. Works in close collaboration with the Renewable Resources Unit, Agricultural Unit, and Water and Energy Unit of the Division of Natural Resources;
3. *Suggest* that the work of the Board of Directors within the individual Member State facilitate the continued conversation between the Advisory Council and the state-local governments that:
- a. Creates a recommended action plan in the form of a calendar, suggesting specific actions and policies to implement in order for the Member State to reach its targeted 2030 SDG 7 access;

- b. Reaffirms the need for the explicit and full consent from the legal jurisdiction of indigenous communities before working within their communities;
 - c. Assigns a percentage of seats on the Board of Directors to be for indigenous representatives which will be equivalent to the percent of each respective Member State made up of indigenous peoples;
 - d. Advises that each Member State define standards and certifications for new renewable resource projects;
 - e. Encourages the development of state infrastructure assessments to test the soundness and feasibility of new projects proposed;
4. *Further recommends* the ASELAC Green Integrity Report (GIR) to document all funds transferred between any relevant parties to:
- a. Ensure transparency to the public to view at their own discretion identifying high-risk beneficiaries, contracts, or firms with the help of a data analytic system that monitors transactions;
 - b. Produce a biannual report published on the ECLAC website which will be published in languages pertinent to the LAC region;
 - c. Monitor the application and use of funds over a long-term basis to ensure the responsible and appropriate use of investments for the development of renewable energy by listing the benefactor(s), recipient(s), and quantity of funds;
 - d. Support the mobilization and outreach of stakeholders from different sectors towards the HLDE;
5. *Recommends* that Member States both in and out of the LAC region adhere to contributing the recommended portion of their GNI to the ODA program suggested by the OECD which will be:
- a. Subject to the transparency mechanisms listed in operative clause 4;
 - b. Delegated to approved NGOs in order to facilitate private sector introduction of sustainable energy projects which need additional economic help;
 - c. Suggesting that a Diaspora Donation-Investment fund be created through ECOSOC and OECD and function as an online extension to the primary GNI ODA fund and will be exclusively funded by donations from the diaspora as well as other private citizens, on a voluntary basis;
 - d. Encouraging Member States to meet or exceed the recommended monetary contributions as recommended by the ODA;
 - e. Supporting the creation of an Advisory Council overseeing LAC and reporting to ASELAC while functioning to provide expertise and pertinent data concerning sustainable energy to the government of Member States;
 - f. Endorsing supplemental funds for program implementation under the ASELAC subsidiary committee by:
 - i. Requesting that a set amount of funds come from ECLAC as part of the budget allocation;
 - ii. Reaffirming that those funds address ASELAC programs pertaining to the direct success of SDG 7's goals by the means approved by the ASELAC subsidiary board;
6. *Takes note of* the expertise some Member States have in the use of specific renewable energies to

mentor other Member States in varying levels of sustainable development by:

- a. Facilitating collaboration among Member States to supplement existing projects and encourage long term cooperation of the same nature and;
 - b. Implementing biannual check-ins and building National Energy Cooperation Reports on the process of mentorships in order to ensure long-term partnerships are fruitful;
 - c. Strengthening the proposed national action plans for the specific Member States through assistance on the implementation and effectiveness of said ones;
 - d. Delimiting the energy sectors to which aid is being provided, based on the expertise of each Member State, such as hydropower, geothermal, solar power, and others;
7. *Promotes* the creation of a Renewable Resources Unit under the Natural Resources Division of ECLAC to supplement and assist Member States in the transition to sustainable and renewable energy, which will:
- a. Be established and function alongside the Agricultural Unit and Water and Energy Unit under the Natural Resources Division of ECLAC;
 - b. Manage conflicts between Member States related to renewable energy and its challenges;
 - c. Work in close collaboration with experts to conduct research in sub-regions;
 - d. Present research and assist in the dissemination of information, technical cooperation, capacity building, and establishment of intergovernmental platforms conducive to dialogue;
 - e. Analyze policies and provide implementation recommendations;
 - f. Facilitate collaboration with related UN bodies such as the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment and the International Renewable Energy Agency;
8. *Encourages* Member States to work with ASELAC to develop their own action plans based on collected information and solutions that:
- a. Invites Member States to share their specific and unique needs for SDG 7 implementation;
 - b. Calls for analysis by the established group of experts in their respective fields and areas of expertise on sustainable energy sources, geography, and current progress within sustainable development;
 - c. Determines through compilation of this data, what each specific Member State needs in order to reach the 2030 goal for SDG 7;
 - d. Recommends a plan, in coalition with the Board of Directors, for Member States to implement what was discovered in the research process for 2030; access via a calendar updated annually to project the progression toward the targeted goal of SDG 7;
9. *Suggests* that ASELAC encourage Member States to establish a Free Energy Trade Agreement for Latin America and the Caribbean (FETALAC), reducing the cost for energy importers in the LAC and resulting in:
- a. An increased ability for Member States to electrify rural regions;
 - b. A reduced cost of energy for people living in the region;

- c. An increase in the infrastructure that facilitates the spread and allocation of energy throughout the region;
 - d. An incentivization in the production and export of clean energy for energy exporters in LAC;
 - e. A smooth transition from fossil fuel-based economies to renewable energy by imposing special clauses in the agreement that will favor eco-friendly energies;
10. *Further invites* ASELAC to encourage Member States to establish a Free Resources Trade Agreement for Latin America and the Caribbean (FRTALAC) which will result in:
- a. A reduction in the costs of the trade of resources relating to energy (i.e., coal, lumber);
 - b. Further cooperation between businesses and other Member States within the LAC, formalizing integration;
 - c. The ability for workers to have membership in a union, and the right to create a union must be recommended in the strongest terms;
 - d. Local producers, including rural and indigenous communities, receiving compensation for the possible loss in profit due to increased competition with multinational corporations and large producers with superior access to technology and equipment;
11. *Further recommends* that ASELAC oversee and fund the establishment of a subcommittee focused on fiscal incentives for small businesses, private and public corporations, and foreign investors, all implemented at the discretion of Member States:
- a. With each Member State assuming the presidency of the subcommittee on a rotational basis;
 - b. Giving “green” subventions to businesses proportionally to their size and carbon prints;
 - c. Incentivizing renewable energy production and reliance through energy certificates;
 - d. By suggesting tax incentives for businesses and organizations that prioritize the production of sustainable energy, such as wind and solar;
 - e. By working with NGOs to perform background checks on the yearly greenhouse impacts of the financial actor asking for the incentives overseen by the GIR;
12. *Suggests* that Member States implement fiscal incentives, financed at their own discretion, including subsidies for small businesses and small producers through the implementation of:
- a. A national net metering for small producers of non-fossil fuel energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass production credited for up to 36 months against future consumption;
 - b. Preferential financing for small businesses and small producers whose energy supply exceeds 40% renewable energy would be monitored by the GIR;
13. *Expresses its support* for the collaboration of all Member States when effectively distributing pre-existing funds from the ICF and local NGOs, as they explore educational advancements focused on SDG 7 by:
- a. Defining where funds are allocated to provide for the needs of local communities;

- b. Suggesting the implementation of education on renewable energy as a core part of all primary and secondary schools;
 - c. Encouraging the collaboration between local governments and private industries to create and facilitate training workshops to provide businesses with knowledge and resources to be more energy efficient;
 - d. Creating educational exchange programs that provide a smoother transition for local workers to learn about the production and benefits of sustainable energy, while emphasizing their rights to basic necessities and medical aid;
14. *Looks favorably upon* the creation of programs at the national level with each Member State to replace older machinery and home appliances with more energy-efficient systems as a means to diminish overall electrical consumption by:
- a. Facilitating the modernization of industrial machinery through the implementation of tax incentives, particularly for smaller companies for the use of environmentally-sound systems in both the service sector and in industrial facilities at the discretion of the Member State;
 - b. Gradually replacing home appliances such as refrigerators and fans through the identification of inefficient systems in the home and the potential environmental and health impacts as well as the blacklisting of the aforementioned appliances;
 - c. Creating a Member State that would buy back fossil-fuel-powered machinery and give back a part of the profit in the form of a discount on environmentally friendly electrically powered machinery and motors whilst recycling the parts of the old machinery;
15. *Welcomes* that Member States implement, at their discretion, measures that would assist in the standardization of the electric system to:
- a. Assure that each Member States' electrical grid operates at peak efficiency by consulting experts to develop proposals at local and national levels;
 - b. Make sure that rural communities and indigenous people, if they so choose, are adequately connected to any national power grids in a manner that allows them to:
 - i. Maintain sovereignty on their own recognized land;
 - ii. Receive a satisfactory supply of electricity;
16. *Strongly recommends* the establishment or greater enforcement of existing standards by the national governing bodies of Member States for insulation suited to the climate of the region for future construction as a means to reduce the required electrical output needed for home heating and cooling;
17. *Suggests* that Member States explore the use of biological waste created by agriculture as an opportunity to produce biomass and thermal energy through the use of privileged financial accordances for private industries that engage in the practice at the circumspection of national governmental bodies;
18. *Supports* the development of Research Programs for Innovation (RPI), a program facilitated by governments outside the LAC region, with the goal of achieving SDG 7 by 2030 in ways that focus on the field of energy-efficient electronics by:
- a. Ensuring sustainable development in the LAC, with research being adapted and reinforced based on their specific needs;
 - b. Providing necessary instruments to industries in LAC countries;

- c. Ensuring the resources necessary for innovations' implementation in LAC;
 - d. Promoting cooperation with the private sectors in exchange for tax deductions or non-monetary gains;
19. *Encourages* Member States to expand the collaboration with other governments outside the LAC region, such as IRENA, to ensure effective utilization of resources, implementation of effective solutions, and avoid duplication of programs by:
- a. Creating an initiative in collaboration with IRENA, such as the SIDS lighthouse initiative, the EESP (Energy and Electricity Sustainability Project) focusing on the creation and maintenance of hydroelectric, wind power, and other renewable energy-producing facilities in the LAC;
 - b. Considering the EESP to collaborate with existing initiatives such as the SIDS Lighthouse in the Caribbean with a focus on coalition building to achieve successful energy transition;
20. *Further advises* that ASELAC cooperate with other energy sustainability focused ECLAC subsidiary bodies or related regional bodies including:
- a. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, to enable regional cooperation and participation in the body's efforts;
 - b. The Committee on South-South Cooperation, to strengthen international cooperation and development;
 - c. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LAC RFSD) to facilitate forums and reports on the progress of sustainable energy projects;
 - d. The USAID Caribbean Clean Energy Program (CARCEP) to accelerate clean energy development in the region;
 - e. The Clean Energy Finance Facility for the Caribbean and Central America (CEFF-CCA) to support private-sector clean energy development in LAC;
21. *Decides* to promote through ASELAC civil and productive negotiations between Member States to:
- a. Prioritize neutral and apolitical cooperation between Member States in accordance with the United Nations System Code of Conduct;
 - b. Pursue solutions toward the implementation of SDG 7 without effect by current political tensions;
 - c. Encourage efforts to utilize appropriate and beneficial dialogue towards achieving the goals specified in SDG 7;
22. *Establishes* the need for a Report on the Advancements and Progress of ASELAC every two years to:
- a. Assess the standing of the programs and developments of this resolution through the subsidiary committee;
 - b. Collect and review data pertaining to the progress made by Member States.