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**Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based
solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and
its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind**

Regional contribution on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat hereby transmits the input from the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago from 31 March to 4 April 2025, to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

* [E/HLPF/2025/1](#).



Regional contribution on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Summary

The eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Santiago from 31 March to 4 April 2025. It was chaired by Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and was open to States members of the Forum and observers, the United Nations system, regional and subregional bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the report entitled *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*, which contains an analysis of the progress and status of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, as well as projections for their achievement by 2030.

Several multi-stakeholder events were held on 31 March, including civil society meetings and the meetings of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean with the United Nations country team in Chile and with United Nations resident coordinators in Latin America and the Caribbean. There were also more than 40 side events.

Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Forum were adopted.

The present report is based on the summary of the Chair of the meeting.

I. Introduction

1. The eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, from 31 March to 4 April 2025, convened under the auspices of ECLAC. It was open to States members of the Forum, associate members of ECLAC and observers, the United Nations system, United Nations resident coordinators, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, academia, the private sector and civil society.

2. Preparatory activities included: a forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean; an interfaith pre-forum; a meeting of the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; and the meetings of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean with the United Nations country team in Chile and with United Nations resident coordinators in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 40 side events were organized by multiple stakeholders.

II. Opening session

3. The Executive Secretary said that, in the ongoing uncertain economic and geopolitical context, financing, international and regional cooperation, and multisectoral partnerships were essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECLAC was working to galvanize transformative action in areas such as governance, social dialogue and the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of the institutions responsible for each Goal.

4. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru and Chair of the Forum said that the Forum served as an opportunity to promote coordination and collaboration among countries of the region, foster national capacity-building, identify gaps, challenges and shared goals, and enable peer-to-peer learning through the exchange of good practices and lessons learned. He reaffirmed the commitment of Peru to multilateralism and the promotion of an international development agenda centred on social inclusion, sustainability and cooperation.

5. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs said that the stark realities and escalating global challenges that undermined development gains and growth prospects warranted a decisive response and a renewed sense of the urgent need to strengthen multilateralism. He highlighted the region's leadership in transformative, people-centred sustainable development policies, noting that the pivotal conferences to be held in 2025 would reset the trajectory towards the achievement of the Goals and the establishment of a fit-for-purpose international system.

6. The Deputy Secretary-General said that, with five years remaining until 2030 and progress on sustainable development dangerously off track, countries of the region nevertheless continued to play a leading role on the global stage. The Pact for the Future must not remain mere words on paper: achieving the Goals demanded bold reform, regional unity of purpose and acceleration of the key transitions that would drive systemic change. The unprecedented merging of policy and operational assets resulting from the stronger link between regional commissions and the resident coordinator system had the potential to enhance the support provided to the entire region. The Forum must be a turning point for renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda and collective action.

III. Dialogues on global action

7. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs said that the Forum offered a unique opportunity for dialogue regarding action at all levels, which was crucial for the formulation of innovative responses to sustainable development challenges. The three upcoming global summits were critical opportunities for the international community to reinvigorate partnerships in order to arrest detrimental trends and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through bold action in areas such as financing for development, debt restructuring and international financial architecture reform, social development, poverty eradication, and climate resilience and adaption.

8. The session on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville, Spain, in 2025, was moderated by the Undersecretary of Finance of Honduras, Roberto Carlos Ramírez. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs said that obstacles to vital investment in sustainable development and climate action trapped developing countries in a vicious cycle of limited growth or worse, stagnation. The draft outcome document of the Conference included proposals for a transformative investment push for fiscal space and resource mobilization, and a fundamental overhaul of the international financial architecture. A professor at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, José Antonio Ocampo, spoke about various measures to tackle debt distress in developing countries, strengthen national and international development banks, establish specific funds to support sustainability and address the taxation of global corporations and high-income earners. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC, Daniel Titelman, said that national and international finance pillars were complementary and that tax reform was needed to achieve more progressive systems at both levels. A senior executive at the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile, Dinorah Singer, said that it was necessary to highlight the role of development banks in helping countries to narrow gaps, as well as the need to strengthen their resource mobilization and foster a new international financial architecture. Finally, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Kamina Johnson Smith, said that the financial obstacles to the attainment of the Goals in the region should be addressed through reform of the international financial architecture, reorientation of financing for sustainable development and alignment of private sector engagement with the initiatives of international financial institutions with respect to developing countries.

9. The session on the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar in 2025, was moderated by the Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Michelle Muschett. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs said that advances in social development over the past 30 years had brought 1 billion people out of extreme poverty, but that the current moment was one of profound global crisis. The Second World Summit would chart a course forward. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented a special report entitled “The road to the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development: towards a pact for inclusive social development”. The Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados, Kirk Humphrey, expressed both hope and scepticism, recalling the aspirational spirit of the first World Summit while acknowledging its failure to determine the “hows” of implementation, and he called for bravery moving forward. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile, Javiera Toro Cáceres, said that social development ministers of the region had agreed that the document entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean looking ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development: proposals for inclusive social development” would serve as an input to

the Summit. The Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, Leslie Carol Urteaga Peña, reaffirmed her country's commitment to regional cooperation in order to chart a course forward based on mutual support. Peru had recently made efforts to address challenges, including urban population growth following the pandemic and the effects of disasters on the most vulnerable groups. An adaptive approach to social protection, characterized by preventive and transformative policies that would lead to more flexible and resilient social protection systems, was one way to pre-empt potential problems. The National Secretary for Care and Family in the Ministry of Social Development of Brazil, Laís Abramo, said that her country's recent experience had shown that it was possible to eliminate hunger and poverty through a set of coordinated policies, such as a conditional income transfer programme, non-contributory pensions, formal job creation, an increased minimum wage and expanded public services. The former Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Juan Somavía, said that the current global climate, characterized by growing geopolitical disorder, the dissolution and formation of new alliances and a preference for arms over diplomacy, was affecting the United Nations, which should be prepared to defend its identity and mandates. Finally, the President of the Committee of Working Women of the Americas, Yamile Socolovsky, said that the union perspective was that the social rights debate should be primarily focused on the world of work, where inequalities and obstacles to building societies based on full social justice were plain to see.

10. The session on the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Belém do Pará, Brazil, in 2025, was moderated by the global leader of Climate and Energy at World Wide Fund for Nature International, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, who stressed that climate change was one of the most serious threats facing humanity. He added that the success of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties depended on strengthening the case for climate action and confronting denialist voices. The Ambassador of Brazil to Chile, Paulo Roberto Soares Pacheco, said that all stakeholders and resources should be aligned in order to achieve the goal of fostering low-carbon and climate-resilient development and strengthening climate governance in the framework of sustainable development. New nationally determined contributions reflected the determination of Brazil to define a new development paradigm that reconciled the goals of enhancing social development and combating climate change. The Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance of Barbados, Dwight G. Sutherland, presented the achievements to date under the Bridgetown Initiative, the aim of which was to reform the global financial architecture, with a focus on climate finance. The Director of Environment and Impact for Chile, Peru and Ecuador at Patagonia, Inc., Macarena Sánchez, explained how the company she represented had managed to be both profitable and responsible with respect to the environment and local communities. The Coordinator of the Ecclesial Network for Justice and Peace of the "greater homeland", Daniel Seidel, called upon countries to sign the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which was particularly important in the light of the fact that the highest number of environmental leaders were killed in the Amazon region.

11. The session on the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, was moderated by the Ambassador of Mexico to Chile, Laura Moreno, who invited delegations to participate in the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which her country would host in August 2025. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

María-Noel Vaeza, said that femicide, the disproportionate burden of care work on women and gender stereotypes were persistent issues in the region. The co-founder of the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Centre and a member of Articulación Feminista Marcosur, Virginia Vargas, said that the women's movement had played a proactive role in drafting the Beijing Platform for Action, but that its voice had been lost in the implementation process. The linking of the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda had enabled gender mainstreaming across the 17 Goals. The Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States, Noemí Espinoza Madrid, reaffirmed the commitment of the Association in the light of the challenges posed to women by the climate crisis, economic inequalities and the need for improved access to justice. The Minister of the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia, Virginia Albert-Poyotte, said that significant progress had been made in the Caribbean in relation to the Goals identified as priorities by the forum, including on poverty, education and jobs.

12. The session on the Pact for the Future was moderated by the Deputy Secretary-General for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Carla Serazzi, who recalled that the Pact for the Future had been adopted at the Summit of the Future in 2024 with the aim of revitalizing multilateralism and improving global governance. The Vice Minister for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation of the Dominican Republic, Hugo Francisco Rivera Fernández, noted that no country could fully implement the Pact for the Future and achieve sustainable development on its own. The Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Inga Rhonda King, called for a concise, science-based and action-oriented declaration, with support for developing countries, in order to drive progress towards achieving the Goals. The Director of the Pact for the Future Implementation Team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Themba Kalua, said that the political commitments set out in the Pact must now give rise to tangible action, including on peace and security, regional representation, international financial reform and the governance of artificial intelligence. The Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking, Philipp Schönrock, said that it was important to support Governments and the various stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Digital Compact. The region had a unique opportunity to lead its digital transition. A member of Resolution Project, Rolando Pelicot Ruiz, noted the vital role played by young people, who worked together and mobilized to lead initiatives with regard to the various areas encompassed by the Pact for the Future. Children and adolescents should not be seen merely as beneficiaries of programmes and projects, but rather as strategic stakeholders and agents of change. The co-facilitator of the ImPACT Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, Rosario Díaz Garavito, explained that implementing the Pact would require solidarity and ambitious action on shared priorities. A member of the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, Marcela Browne, welcomed the fact that the Pact contained concrete responses to pressing challenges such as climate change, inequality and the digital transition. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname and newly elected Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Albert Ramdin, said that the implementation of the Pact required decisive leadership through a whole-of-society approach, coupled with community buy-in and legislative commitment to a concrete agenda, in accordance with national development strategies. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Mario Lubetkin, reaffirmed his country's commitment to multilateralism and said that the Goals had served as its fundamental policy planning and implementation framework. Enhancing international cooperation was indispensable in order to ensure the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

IV. Dialogues on regional action

A. Presentation of the report entitled *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*

13. Presenting the report entitled *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*, which was the eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that progress towards achieving the Goals was insufficient, given that only five years remained in which to do so. In the document, it was noted that only 23 per cent of the targets were expected to be achieved in the region by 2030; for 41 per cent, the trend was moving in the right direction but too slowly to reach established thresholds; and for the remaining 36 per cent, progress had stalled or there had been regression from the 2015 baseline. The view of ECLAC was that the answers lay in five key areas: governance and collaboration arrangements among stakeholders for each Goal; the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of the institutions responsible for policies in relation to each Goal; spaces for social dialogue among the institutions and key stakeholders involved in each area; the political economy of reforms and transformations; and the challenge of financing, which encompassed domestic resource mobilization and possible reforms to the international financial architecture.

14. He examined the development traps that the region faced, which were a low capacity for growth, high inequality with low social mobility and social cohesion, a lack of environmental sustainability and weak institutional capacities. He also examined the chances of achieving the targets and the role of non-governmental stakeholders.

B. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean: presentation of the system-wide results report for 2024 of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. The session was moderated by the Director General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Jorge Félix Rubio Correa. The report was presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP, in their capacity as Vice-Chairs of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

16. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the region had shown resilience and a capacity for innovation despite the complex development landscape it continued to face. That landscape was marked by low economic growth, an annual financing gap, high levels of labour informality, food security problems, a high homicide rate, gender-based violence, education gaps, vulnerability to climate change and disasters, and challenges posed by migration. In 2024, participants in the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean had made progress in the areas of knowledge management, data and statistics, transparency and results-based management, and the optimization of common services at the regional level.

17. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean presented the activities undertaken by the issue-based coalitions on climate change and resilience, equitable growth and financing for development, human mobility and governance for peace, justice and strong institutions. She also summarized the activities of the working groups on gender equality and the empowerment of women

and girls, youth, populations left behind, peer support, data and statistics for the Goals, and evaluation.

18. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office, Roberto Valent, highlighted the critical role of the resident coordinator system and the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, and stressed the need for responsive regional cooperation in close alignment with country needs.

19. Statements were read from the forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean; the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; and the interfaith pre-forum.¹

C. Advancing development in the Caribbean through greater synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States

20. The session was moderated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, Everly Paul Chet Greene, who mentioned that, despite the challenges they faced, small island developing States could draw hope from The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, which covered a period of 10 years. The Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia, Pauline Antoine-Prospere, said that her country was well positioned to leverage synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, and was taking steps to build climate resilience through ambitious efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while building adaptive capacity. The Senior Programme Manager for Sustainable Development and National Focal Point for Small Island Developing States in the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, Kennethia Douglas, said that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda was an opportunity to identify and address implementation gaps in relation to the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Her country would work to integrate the targets and indicators set out in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, when available, into the data repository for the Goals. The Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Nahuel Arenas, said that financing for prevention through national budgets and official development assistance was not commensurate with the high risks the subregion faced. As set out in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, a focus on resilience as the backbone of sustainable development was the only way forward. The overemphasis on compensatory measures and responses often increased the debt burden; more proactive measures were needed. The Special Envoy of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Benito Wheatley, highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation and of greater collaboration within the region. While it was ineligible for development finance, the territory was already taking steps to pursue sustainable development, for example by boosting underperforming revenue streams in order to mobilize domestic resources. He expressed appreciation for the way in which ECLAC supported associate members and called for greater inclusion of, and investment in, young people. The Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Premier of Montserrat, Crenston C. Buffonge, outlined the significant technical, administrative, access and financial challenges the territory faced because of its

¹ Statements are available in Spanish only at <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/en/programme/readings-statements-stakeholders>.

sovereignty status. Policy changes by once-reliable partners were putting the development and access to resources of small island developing States at risk amid increasing global conflict and a reduction in development aid. He urged rapid implementation of the multidimensional vulnerability index.

D. Strengthening public-private partnerships to accelerate the use of private and disaggregated data: a path to achieving the Goals

21. The session was moderated by the General Director of the National Office of Statistics of the Dominican Republic and Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Miosotis Rivas Peña. The moderator said that the growing use of data from the private sector to produce official statistics posed challenges in areas such as privacy and security. The Senior Regional Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Freddy Rodríguez, recognized the value of collaboration with the private sector, which enabled access to technologies and the development of joint solutions. The Chief Executive Officer of Education for Sharing, Abraham Muñoz, said that while there was significant information in the private sector on initiatives that targeted the achievement of the Goals and that could be replicated, it was not always clear how to encourage the use of such data. The Chair of the 2030 Agenda Committee of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers of Mexico, Félix Romano, emphasized that all sectors should work together on the 2030 Agenda and said that the formula for a sustainable future merged technology, soft and hard skills, gender diversity in the workplace, social justice, and environmental protection and restoration. A Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Statistical Institute, Denise Silva, said that the private sector had an important role to play in the ecosystem of data production and data-sharing for official statistics, and she stressed the need to focus on integrating various data sources to be able to have disaggregated indicators in relation to the Goals. The Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking emphasized the volume of data that was being generated and the fact that those data were underutilized. There was a need for mechanisms for collaboration with the private sector, a more robust enabling environment, methodologies adapted to the region's requirements, investment in public digital infrastructure, and the capability to measure the impact of data use.

E. Panel discussions

Panel 1

Goal 3: good health and well-being

22. The discussion was moderated by the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund, Susana Sottoli, who said that improvements had been made in the region in relation to health, including on child mortality, tobacco use and premature deaths from chemicals and pollution. It was nonetheless alarming that unacceptable barriers persisted, such as the increase in maternal mortality. The Minister of Health of Chile, Ximena Aguilera, described some of the institutional efforts and strategies pursued over the years, such as the national immunization programme, a pioneering model for food labelling and innovative early childhood development programmes. The Head of the Office for Planning and Sectoral Studies of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia, Pilar Torres, referred to the strategy for strengthening primary healthcare, as part of which Colombia had been sending teams to the most remote areas of the country. Reductions had been achieved in maternal and under-5 mortality rates, as well as in rates of deaths caused by HIV and noncommunicable diseases. The Head of e-Government and

Information Systems of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay, Regina Guzmán, explained that her country had prepared a strategy that included national healthcare objectives based on the targets and indicators associated with the Goals. Health system coverage was 100 per cent, and the immunization rate was high. The Director of the Regional Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Luisa Cabal, said that the region had made strides in relation to health, owing to a collective multisectoral commitment akin to the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The commitment and solidarity demonstrated had enabled the expansion of antiretroviral therapy, and mortality had declined. Political and financing challenges remained, however. A representative of the Pan American Health Organization in Chile, Giovanni Escalante, spoke of investment in health as a catalyst for sustainable development and of the need to direct funds towards comprehensive approaches to the social determinants of health. It was essential to increase public health spending to 6 per cent of gross domestic product, since strategic investment in that area was not an expense but rather an investment that yielded high returns in the form of a reduction in poverty and inequality and improvements in education, labour inclusion and economic growth. The Regional Coordinator of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, Andrés Martínez-García, said that mental health was one of the most neglected areas of public health and that a lack of universal care that was tailored to cultural differences often worsened the problems faced by those affected by conflicts, disasters and poverty. The Director of the ONCE Foundation for Latin America (a foundation focused on educational, social and labour inclusion for persons with visual disabilities), Estefanía Mirpuri Merino, noted that persons with disabilities faced barriers in terms of access to health, not only because they could not afford medical care but also because documentation, applications, and infrastructure and signage in health centres were not accessible.

Panel 2

Goal 5: gender equality

23. The discussion was moderated by the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, Ana Gúezmes García, said that the region had made progress on formal gender equality, but was far from achieving substantive equality. She highlighted the recent ECLAC publication entitled *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: gender indicators up to 2024*. The Regional Director of UN-Women said that data, which were fundamental for driving public policy, showed the urgent need for intensified efforts to overcome gender inequalities. The care society would serve as a model for gender equality and sustainable development. The Chair of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, June Soomer, said that the Goals were not adequately tailored to the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent, who faced elevated poverty rates caused by educational disparities, labour market inequality, social norms and gender roles, all of which were exacerbated by the racism inherited from the era of colonialism and enslavement. The Regional Ministerial Secretary for Women and Gender Equality of the Santiago Metropolitan Region in Chile, Ana Raquel Martínez, spoke of her country's progress in creating a national care system based on managing a network of service providers and entities. A representative of Vecinas Feministas, Pamela Martín García, said that feminist movements had as much power as groups that were against the rights of women; however, their tools were not intimidation and fear, but rather sustained work, experience and progress on rights in the region.

Panel 3**Goal 8: decent work and economic growth**

24. The Director of the Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Fabio Bertranou, who moderated the discussion, said that Goal 8 was linked to all targets under the 2030 Agenda, and that the main challenges facing the region were to achieve economic growth and decent work. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda summarized national efforts to achieve Goal 8 and put forward recommendations for its attainment in the region. The recommendations included focusing on sustainable growth, diversifying industries, investing in human capital and addressing the impacts of climate change. The Director General for Monitoring, Administration and Supervision of Trade Treaty Compliance in the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Mexico, Carlos Rafael Emiliano Gómez Rodríguez, explained that the country's economic policy was focused on guaranteeing basic rights that were essential to well-being. There were three main aspects of this: the promotion of social welfare programmes; a people-centred national development plan, drafted in consultation with the public; and Plan México, an industrial strategy aimed at strengthening strategic sectors. The Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Paraguay, Mónica Recalde, explained that her country had worked on formalizing labour, promoting social security, creating employment opportunities for young people, improving labour inspections and creating spaces for social dialogue and conflict resolution. Several structural challenges hampered the full achievement of the Goals, with labour informality being the main obstacle, especially for women, young people and older persons. She pointed to the need for training programmes covering digital transformation, the green economy and the development of care systems. The Secretary-General of the Confederation of Workers "Rerum Novarum", Fanny Sequeira, indicated that while countries reported gradual progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in their voluntary national reviews, trade union and civil society movements noted delays and stagnation. Decent work, as the main source of sustainable development, remained a utopia for many, and Governments had an inescapable responsibility to ratify and enforce compliance with the standards of the ILO.

Panel 4**Goal 14: life below water**

25. The discussion was moderated by the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme, Juan Bello, who said that oceans were of paramount importance for the planet and sustainability. The region faced a range of threats, including excessive fertilizer use, untreated wastewater run-off, plastic pollution and overexploitation. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, Arnaldo André Tinoco, highlighted the disconnect between the severity of the threats to oceans and the level of investment and cooperation in this area. Ambitious commitments were needed, as were the mobilization of all available resources, and coordinated, measurable and results-oriented action. The Director of the Sustainable Development Unit within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change of Belize, Víctor Alegría, said that Goal 14 was vital for his country. He highlighted successes including blue bonds and the support provided through the PROCARIBE+ project to enhance the traceability of key commercial marine species in Belize. The Programme Leader at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Maya Takagi, drew attention to a framework for action on the blue transformation, proposed by FAO, which aimed to expand sustainable aquaculture, the effective management of fisheries and the upgrading of aquatic food system value chains. A researcher at the French Institute of

Research for Development and the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanology and assistant researcher at the Millennium Biodiversity Institute of Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Ecosystems in Chile, Léa Cabrol, said that the region invested little in oceanography research. Such investment was important for channelling resources to effective protection policies, encouraging more sustainable economic practices, boosting innovation and using ocean resources to solve a range of challenges. The President of the National Small-Scale Fisheries Association of Chile and of the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fisheries, Zoila Bustamante, highlighted the importance of artisanal fishing – a sector that managed and restored marine resources, provided jobs and food, and allowed people to live off the oceans. Members of the artisanal fishing community should have a seat at the table for any consequential discussion of matters relating to the oceans. The Director of Red Nacional del Agua of Colombia, Juanita de los Ángeles Ariza, referred to ocean governance as a pillar of global security.

Panel 5

Goal 17: partnerships for the goals

26. The fifth discussion was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General of Planning of Ecuador, Emilia Ruiz Revelo, who said that successful implementation of Goal 17 depended on the ability of different stakeholders to work together on the basis of shared principles, values and goals. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda called for a collective commitment to international cooperation, innovation, multi-stakeholder partnerships and international trade, including the lowering of trade barriers. The Director for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba, William Díaz Menéndez, noted that the Forum had established itself as a regional mechanism for forging alliances based on respect for State sovereignty. Cuba shared the problems of middle-income countries and Caribbean small island developing States, but was also subject to an economic and financial blockade by the United States of America, which hindered its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A Senator and the President of the Special Commission for Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda of Mexico, Amalia Dolores García Medina, expressed concern about the rise of protectionism and isolationism. A regional economist at the Agence française de développement, Olivier Najar, advocated multilateralism and international cooperation in response to current crises, and outlined three areas in which the agency was mobilizing action to achieve the Goals, namely: finance; civil society; and technical expertise and knowledge. An official at the Support, Planning and Coordination Unit of the Ibero-American General Secretariat, Ander Arredondo, explained the fundamental role played by the General Secretariat in building multi-stakeholder and multilevel alliances. The General Secretariat coordinated horizontal regional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, promoting transformative public policies; supporting the development of effective and cost-effective partnerships; and contributing to the design of national policies oriented towards the Goals. The Director General for Multilateral Development Policy, Transformation and Climate at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Dirk Meyer, reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Pact for the Future and to multilateralism, which was essential for tackling global challenges. He gave examples of cooperation activities in various countries of the region, and highlighted the development policy commitment of Germany to strengthening Goal 17, as evidenced by its collaboration with ECLAC to provide targeted country-level support. Domestic and external resource mobilization were essential to finance inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in the region. The Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Dima Al-Khatib, outlined the Office's role and efforts in the region and advocated

South-South and triangular cooperation as a key complementary mechanism for countries to co-create sustainable solutions and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Goals. The Head of the International Cooperation Department at the National University of La Plata, Javier Surasky, spoke about the impact that information and communications technology and artificial intelligence were having on the way sustainable development was being conceived, measured and implemented. The world order and global economic model were being reshaped around such technologies, and countries that failed to keep up would be left behind for at least a century. The Secretary-General and Regional Director of Religions for Peace, Latin America and the Caribbean, Elias Szczytnicki, said that religion, which upheld values linked to human dignity, poverty eradication and environmental protection, had long been forgotten by the United Nations. Religion shaped the ethical frameworks that guided human behaviour and could influence how people related to the Goals.

V. Dialogues on national action

A. Successful national experiences in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

27. The session was moderated by the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office, who said that the session aimed to inspire renewed momentum across the region and beyond through the sharing of practical lessons and transferable models. The Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, Fernanda Cardona, spoke of her country's energy policy, which was based on a multiparty agreement that promoted investment, employment, energy efficiency and renewable sources. The Resident Coordinator in Uruguay, Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, said that the support of the United Nations to accelerate the country's energy transition was based on environmental, gender and social impact, and went beyond profitability to incorporate regulations, partnerships and incentives, for example. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment of Saint Lucia, Charmaine Hippolyte Emmanuel, described the outcomes of initiatives implemented by the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund in Saint Lucia relating to Goal 1, which included strengthening social safety nets for vulnerable children and adults, promoting job creation, improving education and healthcare access, and increasing climate resilience. The Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Simon Springett, spoke of the importance of linking social protection systems to disaster risk management in order to ensure access to government support in times of crisis. The Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund in the Eastern Caribbean was a successful example of regional collaboration to support policy development. The Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile, Ignacia Fernández, spoke of her country's rural development strategy, which was aimed at closing gaps between rural and urban areas regarding housing and habitat, young people, care and digital connectivity. She underscored the importance of dialogue, interministerial work, coordination with the private sector and collaboration with United Nations entities. The Resident Coordinator in Chile, María José Torres Macho, spoke about the Connected Communities programme, which fostered digitalization as a development accelerator for two regions in the country. Partnerships between United Nations entities, ministries and regional and local governments; cultural relevance; work with communities; and the gender perspective were fundamental. The Director of International Organizations and Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, María Eugenia Pino, said that her country was positioning itself as a leader in the protection of the oceans, and its experience showed that it was

possible to strike a balance between economic development and environmental stewardship. The Resident Coordinator in Panama, Ana Graça, said that the support of United Nations entities in the country was focused on innovation, which was crucial for monitoring and protecting marine areas. She also spoke of the strategic collaboration undertaken by those entities in relation to technologies and methods in order to meet several environmental targets regarding the Panama Canal.

B. Good practices and challenges in the preparation of voluntary national reviews

28. The session was moderated by the Director of International Relations in the Office of the Vice-President and Executive Director of the National Council for Sustainable Development of El Salvador, Mario Otero. He thanked ECLAC for providing a space in which to share country experiences in the preparation of voluntary national reviews and for helping to drive the achievement of the Goals through the related community of practice. The Special Adviser on Climate Change and Environmental Matters in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Rochelle W. Newbold, cited stakeholder engagement, data collection and alignment with guidelines as good practice, and limited personnel, resources, data quality, awareness and capacity as challenges. The Programme Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Latoya Clarke, highlighted good practices, including evidence-based policies and innovative communications strategies, and said that the availability of timely, high-quality data remained a critical challenge. The Director General of Economic Development in the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic, Nelson Chávez, said that his country was carrying out its third voluntary national review and that the process, in which a collaborative approach had been adopted, with rigorous technical analysis and a participatory review, was helping to strengthen national capacities for planning and monitoring and to build capacities for the generation of development statistics. Improvement was needed, however, regarding the equitable and binding participation of vulnerable territories and groups, the collection of disaggregated and timely data, and long-term strategic planning. The Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia said that ECLAC technical assistance had supported a national data gap assessment in relation to the Goals. The Desk Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Charissa Dhauri, said that her country – one of three that were carbon-negative – had expanded a national platform for the Goals to include religious and tribal organizations in the review process.

C. Public innovation to advance the Pact for the Future: accelerating action and collaboration to achieve the Goals at the national level

29. The session was moderated by the Deputy Executive Secretary a.i. of ECLAC, Javier Medina. The Executive Director of the Government Laboratory of Chile, Orlando Rojas, said that the State had to innovate to meet the ever-increasing needs of its citizens, both as a form of governance and of good public management. The Director of Innovation at the GNova government innovation laboratory of the National School of Public Administration of Brazil, Camila Medeiros, referred to the promotion of public innovation in her country at the individual, organizational and systemic levels. She outlined various initiatives in the areas of capacity-building, the creation of safe spaces for experimentation, regulatory frameworks, governance and funding to support innovation efforts. The Undersecretary for Open Government in

the Office of the President of Ecuador, Daniel Quiroga, said that the enabling factors for public innovation included: a cultural shift; the involvement of oversight bodies; institutional legitimacy; the participation of local governments, which were most aware of citizens' needs; and the involvement of the private sector, civil society and academia. The Programme Director at the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, said that modernization was a driver of development, and the benefits of technological transformation included more robust decision-making and improved human resource and performance management in government. She referred to measures implemented in relation to e-government, information and communications technology, education, health, civil registry and early warning systems, all of which improved the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and the use of resources.

VI. Adoption of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations

30. The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations were adopted.²

² See https://foroale2030.cepal.org/2025/sites/foro2025/files/2500068e_fds.8_agreed_conclusions.pdf.