# Report of the 39th Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**Date**: 2022-10-24

**Location**: Buenos Aires, Argentina

## Executive Summary

The 39th Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) took place in Buenos Aires from October 24-26, 2022, addressing critical regional challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, particularly the war in Ukraine. Key discussions focused on transforming the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing production, inclusion, and sustainability. The session highlighted the need for bold, transformative policies to tackle issues such as inequality, social gaps, and climate change. ECLAC’s position document outlined ten priority areas for action, including enhancing productivity, promoting gender equality, and fostering regional cooperation. The session concluded with the adoption of resolutions aimed at strengthening multilateralism and ensuring that no one is left behind in the recovery process. The next session is scheduled to be held in Peru in 2024.

## Characteristics

* The 39th Session of ECLAC took place in Buenos Aires from October 24-26, 2022, with participation from 32 member states and various UN agencies.
* The agenda included discussions on economic recovery, sustainability, and social inclusion, emphasizing the need for transformative policies in response to cascading crises.
* Key themes addressed were productivity, inequality, climate change, digital transformation, and regional cooperation, with a focus on leaving no one behind.
* Resolutions adopted aimed to enhance collaboration among member states and promote a comprehensive approach to development aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
* The session highlighted the importance of multilateralism and innovative financing mechanisms to support development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | Santiago Cafiero, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto de la Argentina; Arnoldo André Tinoco, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de Costa Rica; Mercedes Marcó del Pont, Secretaria de Asuntos Estratégicos de la Argentina; Claudia Mojica, Coordinadora Residente de las Naciones Unidas en la Argentina; António Guterres, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas; José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL; Alberto Fernández, Presidente de la Argentina; Joseph Stiglitz, Premio Nobel de Economía; Mariana Mazzucato, Profesora de Economía de la Innovación y el Valor Público en la University College London (UCL); José Antonio Ocampo, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público de Colombia; Rebeca Grynspan, Secretaria General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD); Gabriel Rubinstein, Secretario de Política Económica del Ministerio de Economía de la Argentina; Raquel Kismer de Olmos, Ministra de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social de la Argentina; Pablo Mieres, Ministro de Trabajo y Seguridad Social del Uruguay; Rodrigo Malmierca, Ministro del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de Cuba; Juan Carlos Holguín Maldonado, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana de Ecuador; Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de El Salvador; Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Denis Moncada Colindres, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Nicaragua; Janaina Tewaney, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá; Julio César Arriola, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Paraguay; César Rodrigo Landa Arroyo, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Perú; Albert Ramchand Ramdin, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname; Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; Carlos Rafael Faría Tortosa, Ministro del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores de Venezuela |
| Research and Innovation Actors | Mariana Mazzucato, Profesora de Economía de la Innovación y el Valor Público en la University College London (UCL); Joseph Stiglitz, Premio Nobel de Economía |
| Economic Actors | Luis Felipe López-Calva, Director General de la Práctica Mundial de Pobreza y Equidad del Banco Mundial; Rebeca Grynspan, Secretaria General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD); Mario Lubetkin, Subdirector General, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO); Fernando Yanez, Subsecretario de Seguimiento de la Secretaría Nacional de Planificación del Ecuador |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Agenda; Digital Acceleration; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Platforms |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance; Data Governance; Data Protection; Data Privacy |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence; Innovation in Computing; ICT Innovation |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Social Cohesion; Gender Equality in Tech |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |

## Practical Applications

* The **Plan for Self-Sufficiency in Health Matters** was prepared at the request of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to expand capacities to produce and distribute vaccines and medicines in the region.
* The **Debt Swap for Climate Change Adaptation Initiative** was proposed to address climate change impacts through financial mechanisms.
* The **Caribbean Resilience Fund** was established to support climate resilience efforts in the Caribbean region.
* The **Comprehensive Development Plan** for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and south-southeast Mexico aims to tackle the structural causes of migration from a development and human security perspective.
* The **Escazú Agreement**, which provides protection to environmental activists, has been signed by 24 countries and ratified by 13.
* The **Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean** was established to enhance cooperation among member states.
* The **Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development** was adopted to address social inequalities and promote inclusive development.
* The **Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022)** was adopted to promote the use of information and communication technologies for development.
* The **Observatory on Social Development** is being maintained to systematically update and share data on social development issues in the region.
* The **Ministerial Conference on the Information Society** is set to be held to promote regional cooperation on policies related to information and communication technologies.
* The **Statistical Conference of the Americas** is actively working on improving the quality and availability of statistics for better policy-making in the region.

## Commitments

* The goal to reduce poverty to 3% globally by 2030, as stated by the Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank.
* The commitment to hold the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, as requested in the resolutions.
* The call for member States to participate in the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Montevideo from 16 to 18 November 2022.
* The commitment to convene the nineteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) in the second half of 2023.
* The request for the secretariat to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work for 2024 to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration.