



*American Model United Nations*

**Economic Commission for Latin America and  
the Caribbean**

**Report to the Economic and Social Council  
on Sustainable Development and Human  
Settlement**

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## Executive Summary

1 The Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has  
2 undertaken the process of crafting solutions thematically. The following  
3 recommendations delineate the main topic into five different categories: education, rights,  
4 the environment and biodiversity, economics, and government efficiency.  
5

6 In regards to education in Latin America and the Caribbean the Commission suggests  
7 several solutions to problems at hand. The Commission's analysis identified the benefit  
8 of the education of primary-level urban students on their respective cities to encourage  
9 civic engagement and involve students in the sustainable building of their cities. Further,  
10 the Commission's discussion of States with well recognized education systems to assist  
11 States with struggling education systems, particularly in the Science, Technology,  
12 Engineering and Math fields. Lastly, the body's discussion identifies the importance of  
13 education for long-term sustainable development.  
14

15 This body discussed supporting citizens' right to work through an Employment Initiative  
16 Program. The discussed training might take the form of night classes provided in joint  
17 action between members of the private sector and relevant United Nations bodies.  
18 Furthermore, the body feels that it is pivotal that sustainable development be conducted  
19 in recognition of the sovereign Right to Development of indigenous peoples while  
20 reinforcing their role in the process.  
21

22 Due to rapid urbanization and an increase in agriculture to sustain a growing population,  
23 the Commission recognizes that a threat is posed to forests, water supply and biodiversity  
24 in Latin America and the Caribbean. As such, the Commission's research finds the  
25 adoption of forestry programs, proper waste management systems and the phasing out of  
26 traditional landfills beneficial. The Commission's research further supports the adoption  
27 of strategies such as the incorporation of renewable energy to preserve natural resources.  
28

29 In addition to past measures, the body also found that maintaining an investable  
30 environment of self-sufficiency through comprehensive reforms is a major driving force  
31 of economic growth. Five measures that would be extremely beneficial in realizing this  
32 goal include: interest rates, increasing financial market regulation, maintaining stability,  
33 common financial reporting standards and implementing improved liquidity standards.  
34

35 The Commission discussed the roles played by transparency in the public and private  
36 sectors, as well as the optimal balance between the effectiveness of institutions and fair  
37 governance. The Commission recognized the necessity of solidifying government  
38 institutions and maximization of efficiency for sustainable economic and social  
39 development to occur.  
40

41 This body recognizes the importance of the advancement of education, economics, the  
42 environment, rights and governmental efficiency for the purpose of sustainable  
43 development and human settlements. The body highlights that the aforementioned  
44 aspects each play a critical role in achieving this goal.

# Matters calling for action by the United Nations Economic and Social Council

## ***Draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council***

45 The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean recommends to the  
46 Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### **Draft resolution I/1**

ECLAC/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic Commission for Latin  
America and the Caribbean

47 *Recognizing* the long term goal of eradicating poverty through technology and  
48 expertise sharing,

49

50 *Emphasizing* the benefits of expertise and information sharing for higher  
51 education, especially programs such as research regarding sustainable development,

52

53 *Emphasizing* the benefits of further transparency through the sharing of  
54 technology,

55

56 *Recognizing* that this body is committed to the enhancement of education to  
57 combat poverty and to increase national participation in the global economy,

58

59 *Noting* that there are technological disparities between the Member States of this  
60 committee that can effectively be minimized through technology sharing between these  
61 Member States,

62

63 *Recognizing* that the improvements of higher education, especially in fields that  
64 encourage better sustainable human settlement, can help alleviate the burdens of crime,  
65 poverty, gender inequality and ecological ruin for the Member States that participate,

66

67 *Noting* the resources of more able Member States and their potential benefit for  
68 developing Member States,

69

70 1. *Urges* the short term approach of expert lending between Member States of this  
71 committee, done so in the following manner:

72

73 (a) Creation of a forum in which Member States of this committee can request  
74 experts that pertain to economic development in whichever fields they deem fit,  
including, but not limited to:

75

(i) Urban planning;

- 76 (ii) Agricultural engineering;  
77 (iii) Disaster preparation;  
78 (b) The encouragement of Member States that can spare respective experts to fill  
79 these requests in the forum;  
80 (c) The encouragement of Member States, both expert-donating Member States  
81 and expert-recipient Member States, to provide whatever benefits available to these  
82 experts, such as funding or lower residency requirements, to encourage experts to take  
83 action;  
84 (d) The experts could provide specialized, technology based solutions to local  
85 problems in the expert-recipient Member State;  
86  
87

88 2. *Further urges* for Member States of this committee to adopt a long-term  
89 process of higher education sharing to decrease the aforementioned technological  
90 discrepancies in the following manner:

91 (a) The encouragement of Member States to broaden and bolster study abroad  
92 programs between Member States in this committee, especially in fields pertaining to  
93 sustainable human settlements;

94 (b) The encouragement of Member States in a manner similar to the expert  
95 exchange program in Operative Clause 1, to allow teachers and professors into Member  
96 States looking to improve higher education in fields regarding to sustainable human  
97 settlements;

98 (c) The confirmation that education in the fields in question is not limited to  
99 classroom or university settings, and call upon experts and teachers to share knowledge  
100 with non-student locals to further sustainable developments of human settlements;

101 (d) The emphasis that this program will empower future generations of native  
102 experts provide better and more localized approaches to sustainability;  
103

104 3. *Encourages* the development of programs that would provide incentives to  
105 those underprivileged students who have specific interest in these expertise fields;  
106

107 4. *Encourages* the development of educational resources to develop sustainable  
108 domestic expertise;  
109

110 5. *Recommends* that Member States implementing these programs reach out to  
111 non-governmental organizations and current United Nations bodies that work on  
112 programs similar to this resolution's goals, such as Engineers Without Borders, to  
113 increase the effectiveness of programs proposed.

## Draft resolution I/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

114 *Reaffirming* that the global environment is an international issue, and that all  
115 states are stewards of the Earth and carry the responsibility of ensuring that the world's  
116 resources be preserved to the best of their ability as set forth by General Assembly  
117 resolution 44/228 (LXXXV) of 22 December 1989,

118  
119 *Deeply concerned* by the effects that illicit drug trade has on biodiversity and its  
120 contribution to deforestation worldwide,

121  
122 *Recognizing* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime to study  
123 and analyze the illicit global drug trade,

124  
125 *Viewing with appreciation* of the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drug and  
126 Crime to establish international mechanisms for the prevention and eradication of the  
127 drug trade through the strategy outlined in the Economic and Social Council resolution  
128 2012/12 of 10 August 2012,

129  
130 *Cognizant of* the illicit drug trade and the damage that it has done to biodiversity  
131 worldwide, as well as the hindrance that it poses to the development of sustainable  
132 practices,

133  
134 *Additionally reaffirming* that the reason rural farmers choose to grow crops that  
135 are production inputs for the illicit drug trade is due to an artificially restricted supply  
136 which drives prices higher than that of alternative crops and encourages rapid  
137 deforestation for their growth,

138  
139  
140 1. *Urges* the establishment of a regional program geared toward the restoration of  
141 forests damaged as a result of the international drug trade;

142  
143 2. *Encourages* the implementation of state-sponsored vertical farming for the  
144 cultivation of crops used in the manufacture of drugs on the illicit drug trade market;

145  
146 3. *Recommends* the investment and research into the cultivation of crop inputs of  
147 the illicit drug trade;

148  
149 4. *Further recommends* that legal and international law regulatory bodies such as  
150 INTERPOL enhance establishment of a global monitoring system to study the full extent  
151 of the effects of the practices associated with the illicit drug trade so that more effective  
152 methods of restoration may be developed and implemented in damaged regions;

153  
154  
155  
156

6. *Reminds* States that all programs of restoration should be conducted with the consent, coordination, and collaboration of local indigenous populations and should under no circumstances violate their territorial or cultural rights.

## Draft resolution I/3

ECLAC/I/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

158 *The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*

159

160 *Recalling* Article 26, Section 1 of the United Nations Declaration of Human  
161 Rights which states that “everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at  
162 least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be  
163 compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and  
164 higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit,”

165

166 *Recognizing* the wide-spread scale of deforestation and unsustainable behavior  
167 that plagues Latin America and the Caribbean,

168

169 *Noting* the importance of education in the improvement and furthering of  
170 sustainable development goals,

171

172 *Deeply concerned* by the lack of access to education in many areas of Latin  
173 America and the Caribbean,

174

175 1. *Suggests* a widespread implementation of a solution already successfully  
176 implemented by the government of Chile, in which urban primary level students are  
177 surveyed on their respective home cities and then those opinions are taken into  
178 consideration when teaching students how to care for their city, which stresses the  
179 importance of sustainable development from a young age;

180

181 2. *Endorses* implementation of a program in which developed States provide well-  
182 trained teachers to developing States with struggling education systems in order to enable  
183 students to seek higher education, primarily in the fields of Science, Technology,  
184 Engineering and Math, which would greatly improve the benefiting State’s capacity to  
185 create new, tailored sustainable development;

186

187 3. *Urges* the implementation of a study abroad system that will award scholarships  
188 to students to be educated in States recognized for their excellence in higher education  
189 under the condition that these students return to their native countries and use their

190 knowledge to teach or train in their respective fields for the duration of five years,  
191 therefore enhancing their system of education, helping to improve upon the existing  
192 educational systems by infusing qualified teachers and professionals into educational  
193 institutions;

194

195 4. *Recommends* recognizing, addressing, and overcoming those obstacles that  
196 prevent students from attending school, as well as improving the provision and  
197 accessibility of education to students in all areas and economic situations, including but  
198 not limited to:

199

200 (a) Reinforcing infrastructure and public transportation to ensure school  
201 attendance;

202 (b) Improving literacy rates and general education in rural areas;

203 (c) Determining a basic level of education required for all students in order to  
204 keep students engaged in learning.

Passed by consensus, with 1 abstentions

## Draft resolution I/4

ECLAC/I/4

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic Commission for Latin  
America and the Caribbean

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

205 *Understanding* the positive impact that foreign direct investment has on the  
206 growth and development of economies in the Latin American region,

207

208 *Convinced* of the urgency of implementing policies that are feasible in both short-  
209 term and long-term time frames in an effective manner,

210

211 *Recognizing* the massive amount of biodiversity in Latin America and the  
212 Caribbean,

213

214 *Acknowledging* the constant pressures of land use changes stemming from the  
215 modern international economy and its impact on biodiversity,

216

217 *Stressing* the potential economic benefits in preserving biodiversity through the  
218 reductions of environmental externalities that impact productivity and human capital,

219

220 *Bearing in mind* that standards of living in most of the Latin American and  
221 Caribbean regions are below poverty level



222  
223 *Understanding* that liquidity is the availability of cash compared to the amount of  
224 investments undertaken and is important for private institutions as well as  
225 governments and other public entities,  
226

227 *Acknowledging* that the current international liquidity standard of Basel III is only  
228 applicable to developed States and negatively impacts developing economies in Latin  
229 America and the Caribbean,  
230

231 1. *Urges* Member States to maintain investable fiscal environments in order to  
232 ensure continued and growing foreign direct investment levels by undertaking the  
233 following measures:

234 (a) The requirement compliance with International Financial Reporting  
235 Standards (IFRS);

236 (b) The continuation of base interest rates (analogous to the Federal Funds  
237 Rate in the United States or the long-term bond rate) at a low level;

238 (c) The removal of obstructive trade barriers, defined as tariffs or other  
239 protectionist measures that hinder the proliferation of a free economy by  
240 restricting cross-border trade, as recommended by document GA/EF/3367 in the 68<sup>th</sup>  
241 General Assembly on 9 October 2013, primarily through the use of multilateral trade  
242 agreements;

243 (d) The establishment of long-term government stability, which reduces  
244 default risk and again further encourages investment;  
245

246 2. *Urges* the creation of new robust and logical liquidity standards that apply to  
247 banks in developing nations and measure risk as follows:

248 (a) The maintenance of the Basel III capital ratio formula as “Capital Ratio =  
249 Eligible Capital/Risk-weighted assets”;

250 (b) The reclassification of hedging as hedging within the context of available  
251 opportunities within a host nation;

252 (c) The classification of nationally owned or controlled banks as  
253 systemically important, and assigns an additional risk coefficient  
254 based on regulatory history;

255 (e) The establishment of the Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs)  
256 buffers proposed in Basel III as concrete standards in Latin American and other  
257 developed areas;  
258

259 3. *Designates* this new standard as Basel Alpha  
260

261 4. *Asks* States to begin implementing it within two fiscal years;  
262

263 5. *Encourages* the local development of similar liquidity standards with  
264 respect to government liquidity;  
265

266 6. *Promotes* the use of ecotourism as an incentive for conservation by Member  
267 States;  
268

269           7. *Encourages* the cultivation of multilateral and bilateral aid agreements for  
270 further conservation of natural resources and overall biodiversity;  
271

272           8. *Stresses* the importance and prioritization of protecting endangered species in  
273 order to further preserve ecosystem health and the surrounding human community;  
274

275           9. *Recommends* the incorporation of sustainable energy systems and apparatuses,  
276 such as wind turbines and photovoltaic cells, into urban planning and construction, for  
277 the purposes of:  
278           (a) Pressure reduction on vulnerable lands through energy resource development;  
279           (b) Transitioning to more sustainable urban economic and energy-related  
280 practices;  
281

282           10. *Endorses* the establishment of “Funds for Forests” by Economic and Social  
283 Committee, United Nations Environmental Programme, United Nations Development  
284 Programme and United Nations-HABITAT in order to foster multilateral agreements  
285 between United Nations bodies and developed nations with developing nations in order  
286 to enhance conservation, through the prioritization of poorly cultivated or easily erodible  
287 lands for eligibility of reforestation and restoration;  
288

289           11. *Expresses* the hope that indigenous peoples will be involved in conservation  
290 and matters regarding their land;  
291

292           12. *Emphasizes* the education utility of ecotourism and reforestation programs as  
293 a means to inspire more sustainable consumer behaviors and overall economic activity;  
294

295           13. *Suggests* the further development of databases through the Economic and  
296 Social Committee and United Nations-HABITAT with the purposes of sharing  
297 information regarding environmental regulation, such as environmental impact  
298 assessment and regulatory mechanisms, as easily adaptable templates;  
299

300           14. *Promotes* the expansion of the Biodiversity and Business Offshoots  
301 Programme into a Latin America and Caribbean-centric program to incorporate  
302 businesses into sustainable development in the following ways:  
303           (a) Funded through a collaboration of financial instruments, industry, and various  
304 states;  
305           (b) Operated under a mitigation framework of “avoid, minimize, restore, and  
306 offset” to achieve no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity as defined by  
307 PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and the United Nations Environmental Programme;  
308           (c) Run in conjunction with the Organization of American States, Economic and  
309 Social Council, and the UN Environmental Programme;  
310

311           15. *Emphasizes* the need for urban planning in poverty stricken cities in order to  
312 promote:  
313           (a) Better standards of living for current residents in urban areas;  
314           (b) Safer regions for business to thrive;  
315           (c) Thriving cultural centers within cities;

316

317

(d) Higher rates of elementary education attendance;

318

319

16. *Calls upon* developed States to offer guidance to help with urban planning in these areas;

321

322

17. *Expresses* the need for better health and education access in both urban and rural areas;

324

325

18. *Urges* all developed States to support these developing States through foreign direct investment in order to:

327

328

(a) Invest in the future of the world economy;

329

(b) Raise the standards of living in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Passed, Yes: 26 / No: 3 / Abstain: 0

## Draft resolution I/5

ECLAC/I/5

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sustainable Development and Human Settlements

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

330

*Noting with appreciation* the Economic & Social Council's resolution 2011/8 of 21 July 2011 and the principles found therein,

332

333

*Affirming* the need for insightful and critical analysis of the vulnerability of all humans in the face of natural disasters,

335

336

*Expressing* concern at the degree to which natural disasters have increasingly proved detrimental to the economies and a security threat to all Member States,

338

339

*Further invites* States to consider the incorporation of infrastructure that will ultimately provide economic opportunity for the rising number of individuals among those unemployed,

342

343

*Reminding* Member States that in accordance with Res/2011/8 of 21 July 2011 deep concern is expressed at "the increasing challenges facing Member States in regards to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis,"

348

349

*Emphasizing* all States' responsibility under Article I of the United Nations

350 Charter to promote humanitarian solutions for the betterment of society,  
351  
352 1. *Urges* Member States to implement a form of protection for citizens as well as  
353 the local environments;  
354  
355 2. *Suggests* that such infrastructure be utilized to maintain and protect the  
356 biodiversity of the region considering the number of expanding urban centers;  
357  
358 3. *Further urges* each State to explore possibilities that would shelter the  
359 uniqueness of physical environments while simultaneously providing employment  
360 opportunities for citizens through the creation of jobs relating to such protection;  
361  
362 4. *Endorses* the adoption of building code standards in areas affected by  
363 hurricanes, tsunamis, etc., based on new structural construction codes currently being  
364 researched by the International Federation of Red Cross & associated societies' Disaster  
365 Law Programme together with the United Nations Development Programme;  
366  
367 5. *Encourages* the induction of clear evacuation policies, emergency plans, and  
368 natural disaster education so as to better equip citizens with effective means of survival in  
369 emergency situations according to the needs of each State, including, but not limited to:  
370 (a) Instruction of local government officers to lead citizens through approved  
371 evacuation routes from their neighborhood;  
372 (b) Instruction that these routes be numerous in number depending on the scale of  
373 the urban area as well as the number of citizens found within so as to ensure a quick and  
374 organized exit;  
375  
376 6. *Strongly recommends* the use of the Inter-American Development Bank and the  
377 United Nations Development Program in reference to funding for such actions to promote  
378 the ultimate goal of disaster risk reduction.  
379  
380  
381  
382

Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 1 / Abstain: 7

384

## Consideration of Sustainable Development and Human Settlement

385 At its 2013 session, the Commission considered agenda item I, Sustainable Development  
386 and Human Settlement.

### *Deliberations*

388 Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican  
389 Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy,  
390 Jamaica, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Mexico, Republic of Korea,  
391 Panama, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

392

393 Sustainable Development and Urban Settlements

394

395 The Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has  
396 undertaken the process of crafting solutions thematically. The following  
397 recommendations delineate the main topic into five different categories: safety, rights,  
398 environment, economic issues, and education. These topics are explored in a time  
399 sensitive manner to address relevant issues for the past, present, and future.

400

401 A. Education

402

403 The body as a whole generally agreed that an educated workforce is key to progressive,  
404 sustainable development. As a result, the Commission agreed that Member States that  
405 focus on improving education at every level possible would be very beneficial. This is  
406 important in light of the fact that 30% of school-aged children are still excluded from  
407 secondary education and one half of children have not yet completed their secondary  
408 schooling.

409

410 The discussion of the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean  
411 suggests the distribution of a solution that has already been successfully implemented by  
412 the government of Chile. In this program, primary-level urban students are surveyed on  
413 their cities in order to encourage civic engagement and involve students in the sustainable  
414 building of their cities from a young age.

415

416 Additionally, an increased emphasis on sustainable development within the context of  
417 biodiversity could make this concept more easily understood at the primary school level.  
418 Through knowledge of the importance of endangered species protection and careful  
419 urban planning, the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean can develop environmental  
420 awareness and foster sustainable consumer behaviors.

421

422 The Commission generally found that developed States could provide well-trained  
423 teachers to under-developed States with struggling education systems in order to greatly  
424 improve basic education. This especially applies to students seeking higher education in

425 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The body finds that students  
426 need to be exposed to STEM early on so they may be incentivized to provide further  
427 innovations in their communities.

428

429 Furthermore, the body analyzed the potential of Member States to award scholarships to  
430 students who wish to be educated in well-recommended education systems in foreign  
431 States under the condition that these students return to their native States for five years  
432 after completing their studies. The body's research suggests that this will decrease the  
433 immense 'brain drain' that is prevalent in the region. The Commission's discussion also  
434 highlighted the benefit of a series of scholarships that would target the logistical obstacles  
435 that prevent some students from attending school.

436

437 The body recognizes that education is a long-term investment in the development of the  
438 individual. As such, a strong education program is essential for the development of a  
439 State. With this in mind, we support the incorporation of Education for Sustainable  
440 Development (ESD) into state curricula, particularly disaster risk reduction (DRR).  
441 Developing nations suffer the most from the effects of natural disasters. However, States  
442 who have incorporated DRR into educational programs have experienced widespread  
443 successes and reduced casualty rates.

444

#### 445 B. Rights

446

447 The discussion of the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean was  
448 centered around a Finance and Employment Initiative Program (FEIP) that would act as a  
449 scholarship to provide incentives for employers in Latin America and the Caribbean. The  
450 body generally agreed to the benefit of nightly workshops to encourage and enable  
451 individuals in emerging economies to transition from the informal sector to the formal  
452 sector. This would involve formal training and encouraging the provision of skilled jobs  
453 for individuals in developing nations. The discussed workshops would also provide  
454 childcare and be located in a central, accessible location. The Commission's discussion  
455 recognized the importance of informing individuals in the community on these  
456 workshops, which might provide a counselor for the first orientation workshop in order to  
457 ensure a smooth transition to answer initial questions. As such, the body recognized the  
458 benefit of distributing culturally relevant fliers throughout affected communities in order  
459 to inform community members on the importance of the workshops.

460

461 The body wishes to emphasize the importance of indigenous rights in the region. The  
462 Right to Development is an individual centered human right that reinforces the right of  
463 the human person to full sovereignty over all of human persons natural wealth and  
464 resources. This is a reference to the declaration on the Right to Development and the  
465 specific right of human beings to be, "the central subject of development and should be  
466 the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development". As States continue to  
467 develop, and more human settlements are constructed, they must strive to strengthen the  
468 role of indigenous populations and continue to reinforce their human rights. States should  
469 work to promote an ethic of sustainable development that reinforces the rights of  
470 indigenous communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

471

472

### 473 C. Environment and Biodiversity

474

475 Research by the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean encourages  
476 a continued respect for the environment in regards to national parks and historical  
477 landmarks in Latin American and the Caribbean. The Commission would like to  
478 acknowledge the importance of the environment so it can be enjoyed by future  
479 generations.

480

481 Furthermore, we encourage the promotion of state forestry programs and the adoption of  
482 the eco-systemic approach, which allows for a comprehensive overview of forestry  
483 ecosystems, the environmental services that they provide, and their social, economic, and  
484 cultural components, such as was implemented in the National Forestry Development  
485 Plan of Colombia.

486

487 Much of recent urbanization in Latin America has proceeded more rapidly than  
488 governments of limited means can manage. In fact, 80% of Latin Americans reside in  
489 cities. Globally, these cities create 80% of the world's greenhouse gasses and produce the  
490 vast majority of total waste.

491

492 In Latin America and the Caribbean, the situation regarding waste is dire. While 99% of  
493 North American trash finds its way to a recycling plant or sanitary landfill, in Latin  
494 America 35% of trash is in an open dump or is released into the atmosphere in an open  
495 burn. Furthermore, only 3% of Latin American trash is recycled. This means that Latin  
496 America trails Europe in recycling percentage by a factor of nearly 4 to 1. For these  
497 reasons, better waste management systems should be implanted in urban environments.  
498 In particular, government-run Distribution-Collection Systems (DCS) could provide  
499 reusable plastic receptacles to collect bio-waste and other trash receptacles at central  
500 locations. The trash could then be distributed into miniature landfills and remote  
501 distribution sites.

502

503 In regards to trash distribution sites, the body supports the phasing out of traditional “dry  
504 tomb” landfills in favor of bioreactor landfills. Bioreactors circulate air, moisture and  
505 natural gases to decrease trash volume by between 15% and 20%. This decreased volume  
506 ultimately shrinks the land needed for landfills and reduces the risk of both infection and  
507 methane explosion. Research shows that the cost of the bioreactors is outweighed by the  
508 cost-savings they provide in health care, real estate appreciation and maintenance fees.  
509 Bioreactor programs may be eligible for existing carbon-credit incentives. The carbon  
510 credit program in Costa Rica is noted for its protection of an estimated 340,000 hectares  
511 of forest.

512

513 Deforestation is another huge concern in Latin American countries. Between 1990 and  
514 2010, El Salvador lost 23.9% of its natural forest cover; Haiti now enjoys a mere 2% of  
515 its natural tree cover. Even a country like Guatemala, where over 71% of citizens are  
516 dependent on wood stoves for cooking, saw its forests evaporate at a rate beyond any  
517 other country in the world for five consecutive years between 2005 and 2010. Research  
518 shows that national parks and historical landmarks in the form of greenbelts are key tools

519 for governments to combat such destruction. The success of parks in Argentina, which  
520 now protect four million hectares of forest, is a heartening example of the positive effects  
521 of the greenbelt strategy. Moreover, parks encourage the use of bikes and, when in  
522 conjunction with public bike sharing programs, have the capacity to substantially  
523 decrease greenhouse gas emissions. For example, Rio de Janeiro's bike sharing program  
524 facilitates over 5,000 journeys every day.

525  
526 Greenbelts also counteract desertification, reverse erosion, and guard the fragile water  
527 table. These parks could be planted and maintained by local communities in cooperation  
528 with provincial, municipal, and central governments. The trees would consist of a mix of  
529 lumber and fruit-bearing trees.

530  
531 Another concern with cities is, of course, the agricultural strain that growing populations  
532 place on their rural counterparts. In Latin America, twice as much forest was converted to  
533 land for agriculture as in any other world region during the 1990s. While this  
534 Commission does not discourage agricultural development, Member States are  
535 encouraged to incentivize development that maximizes employment and sustainability.  
536 For example, local employment quotas and crop diversification would provide an  
537 economic stimulus and a more balanced national diet, respectively. Conditional cash  
538 transfers might incentivize these corporate behaviors. Bolsa Verde, Brazil's conditional  
539 cash transfer program, has been a huge success. This model has been expanded to protect  
540 the water shed in places like Costa Rica. These conditional cash transfers could also be  
541 applied to civilians to incentive solar home improvements or reduced water consumption.  
542 The Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean also considered the  
543 promotion of improved strategies for rural development in order to minimize the harmful  
544 effects of urbanization. In accordance with the proposals of the Cairo Conference of  
545 1994 on International Population and Development, the Guatemalan government has  
546 developed policies proposed by the Secretary of Planning and Programming of the  
547 Presidency (SEGPlan) with the goal of improving the urban environment. The  
548 Commission also discussed support for SEGPlan policies, many vocalized their concern  
549 with the oversight of the land and means of supporting the often poverty-stricken rural  
550 population.

551  
552 It is agreed that business and industry must be involved in sustainable development. For  
553 example, the body discussed expanding the Biodiversity and Business Offsets  
554 Programme, which uses a hierarchical approach to encourage private businesses in order  
555 to to avoid activities that negatively impact biodiversity. If that is not possible, then the  
556 bodies research still found that business could minimize damage by restoring ecological  
557 communities and, if all else fails, buy biodiversity credits to bolster other biodiversity  
558 conservation elsewhere. This organization would be run in association with the United  
559 Nations Economic and Social Council and the Organization of American States. It would  
560 function in roughly the same manner, but focus on Latin America and the Caribbean.

561  
562 Further recommended strategies include subsidizing ecotourism and renewable energy as  
563 well as the legal protection of endangered species. The ecotourism industry creates a  
564 financial incentive for corporations to protect natural spaces. It also raises awareness for  
565 environmental issues within the voting public. Moreover, ecotourism operates essentially



566 as an export product that creates jobs and pools capital. The United Nation’s “Funds for  
567 Forests” program is recommended as a tool here. Similarly, renewable energy like wind  
568 turbines, photovoltaics, and oceanic turbines are boons to both environmental and  
569 economic goals. Additionally, protection of endangered species is essential to maintain  
570 biodiversity in a growing poaching market.

571  
572 Research must continue to improve the most productive agricultural products, vertical  
573 farming techniques, and best practices in regards to the extraction of natural resources  
574 like oil. This research ought to stress information sharing and data sharing between  
575 Member States and NGOs as well as focus on standardizing the environmental analysis  
576 criteria. Funds for this research would come from home governments in cooperation with  
577 relevant NGOs. Growing incomes, improved nutrition, and diminished spending on  
578 pollution-related health concerns would offset this capital investment. By preserving  
579 ecological integrity, the body discussed its hopes to minimize the impact of disease  
580 vectors on the general population, such as mosquitos that cause malarial outbreaks.

#### 581 582 D. Economy

583  
584 This Commission discussed and analyzed a series of 'meta-incentive' plans to account for  
585 the negative externalities associated with highly-taxable undeveloped areas. Each of these  
586 incentive plans would produce a revenue stream, potentially available to host States to  
587 subsidize low-income settlements within their urban extensions. The body seeks to secure  
588 this through past successful efforts by the World Bank and the International Monetary  
589 Fund such as Land Value Taxation. This will be temporary and for a time period of three  
590 years, unless otherwise extended by the host government. This method has been found  
591 successful in short-term instances as a shock to individuals in emerging economies.

592  
593 The body is also concerned with the self-sufficiency of Latin America and the Caribbean,  
594 again noting the immense urban population growth in the region. In order to allow  
595 population growth and international programs to bring about the best possible result, this  
596 body stresses their analysis of the need to engage in public-private partnerships between  
597 local governments, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as microfinance  
598 organizations and potential international investment. The body’s discussion the need to  
599 offer tax breaks along with other fiscal incentives to local microfinance NGOs in  
600 particular. Furthermore, the body encourages host government oversight of payment and  
601 collection of private actions. The body requests 18 to 25% of the hired employees of the  
602 NGOs to originate from the host State. The mission of the partnership should include a  
603 focus on self-sufficiency of the programs.

604  
605 In the past, foreign direct investments (FDIs) have had a significantly positive impact on  
606 economics in Latin America this body finds that implementing measures that will ensure  
607 continued growth of FDIs would be beneficial for the region. First and foremost, this  
608 body looks favorably upon multilateral trade agreements and frowns upon protectionist  
609 trade barriers such as obstructive tariffs. Furthermore, the bodies research shows that  
610 increased regulation in the financial markets to limit fraudulent actively would increase  
611 investor confidence. It’s important to note that the regulation was discussed only up to the  
612 point that it doesn’t impede participation in the market. Also, the body’s analysis

613 encouraged maintaining stable and low borrowing rates through effective monetary  
614 policy.

615  
616 As a final point, the body discussed the importance of maintaining liquidity standards for  
617 government institutions and financial institutions. Transitioning from simply accepting  
618 these International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) to suggesting to them, as  
619 Europe and the United States have already done, would increase investor participation.  
620 Additionally, liquidity would preserve financial stability and increase investor  
621 confidence.

#### 622 623 E. Governmental Efficiency

624  
625 Regarding the current state of domestic affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the  
626 Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean discussed the solidification  
627 of existing government institutions in the region. Fair governance is a boon to economic  
628 growth, social equality, and judicial efficiency. It is therefore analyzed that both the  
629 public and private sectors be transparent to both the international community and the  
630 citizenry of the given State. The Economic Commission on Latin America and the  
631 Caribbean encourages Latin American and Caribbean States to aid each other in these  
632 efforts, if requested. Aid could take a variety of forms, including law enforcement  
633 training or policy recommendations. These recommendations would advance the region  
634 economically and socially. More effective national governments will improve the lives of  
635 Latin American people by repairing and advancing infrastructure, increasing access to  
636 clean water, reducing crime and drug trafficking, creating more effective education  
637 systems as well as incentivizing educated citizens to remain in the region.

#### 638 639 F. Other Recommendations for Action by the Commission

640  
641 With the emergence of large population and economic growth within intermediate cities,  
642 sustainable urbanization has become increasingly important. With the current growth  
643 rates it can be expected that approximately 90% of the Latin American and Caribbean  
644 population will reside in urban areas by 2050.

645  
646 The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean finds that the Economic  
647 and Social Council's participation in the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative  
648 (CITIES Initiative) as outlined by the Inter-American Development Bank  
649 overwhelmingly beneficial. The Commission commends the CITIES initiative in its  
650 efforts to integrate environmental sustainability, comprehensive urban development,  
651 fiscal sustainability and good governance, as well as provide them with a comprehensive  
652 information sharing system.

653  
654 As a region highly prone to natural disasters and extreme weather, it becomes  
655 increasingly important to focus on the fortification of disaster infrastructure, especially in  
656 developing States where increased vulnerability during natural disasters is experienced.  
657 Infrastructure in developing countries needs to be built to codes, which minimize possible  
658 impacts and help with quicker recuperation afterward. Infrastructure building becomes  
659 problematic in developing countries due to lack of funding. For this reason, the

660 commission requests the creation of developmentally focused funds for infrastructure  
661 building. This in itself will also stimulate the economy by increasing employment  
662 opportunities. As such, it is in the best interest of Member States to adapt a system of  
663 disaster risk reduction that will most efficiently protect citizens as well as the unique  
664 environments found within this region. The Commission suggests a larger push towards  
665 structured effort to promote sustainable infrastructure in compliance with cultural norms.  
666  
667 Another topic that needs to be redressed is the topic of an urban area's carbon footprint.  
668 The Commission strongly encourages the Economic and Social Council to adopt  
669 practices such as Chile's Grant Auction Mechanism (GAM), which creates a market-  
670 based solution to curb the environmental impact of both small and large businesses.

### ***Action taken by the Commission***

671 At its meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Commission approved for recommendation  
672 for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a revised draft resolution entitled,  
673 "Recognizing the long term goal of eradicating poverty through technology and expertise  
674 sharing," sponsored by Bahamas, Germany, Haiti, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Argentine, Chile,  
675 Guatemala, Guyana, Portugal, Peru, Panama, United Kingdom, Cuba, Japan. This  
676 resolution was not amended and was passed by consensus.  
677

678 Also at this meeting ECLAC debated and approved a draft resolution entitled,  
679 "*Reaffirming* that the global environment is an international issue, and that all States are  
680 stewards of the Earth and carry the responsibility of ensuring that the world's resources  
681 be preserved to the best of their ability as set forth by the General Assembly  
682 resolution44/228) (LXXXV) of 22 December 1989". The resolution is sponsored by  
683 Colombia, United States, El Salvador, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Netherlands,  
684 Panama, Portugal, Jamaica, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Brazil. This resolution was not  
685 amended and passed by consensus.  
686

687 At this meeting ECLAC also debated and approved a draft resolution entitled, "*Recalling*  
688 Article 26, Section 1 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which states  
689 that 'everyone has the right to education...'" This resolution is sponsored by Haiti,  
690 Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico, United Kingdom, Germany,  
691 Guyana, Honduras, Japan, Chile. This resolution had two amendments, amendments A  
692 and B. Amendment A was brought to the floor and added to the resolution with a vote of  
693 21 in favor, 1 opposed and 5 abstentions. Amendment B was brought to the floor and  
694 added to the resolution with a vote of 22 in favor, 1 opposed and 4 abstentions. The draft  
695 resolution was debated and adopted by consensus, with one abstention (Costa Rica).  
696

697 Also at this meeting, the Commission debated and approved draft resolution I/4  
698 beginning with the preambular phrase, "Understanding the positive impact...", sponsored  
699 by Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, Ecuador, Spain, the United Kingdom, Bahamas,  
700 Jamaica, Colombia, Panama, Dominican Republic, Republic of Korea, Portugal, Cuba,  
701 Costa Rica, Venezuela, Peru and Italy. The final resolution passed with a vote of 26 in  
702 favor, 3 opposed and 0 abstentions.

703

704 Also at this meeting, the Commission debated and approved draft resolution I/5  
705 beginning with the preambular phrase, “Noting with appreciation its resolution..,”  
706 sponsored by Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Italy, Dominican Republic,  
707 Bahamas, Panama, Cuba, Colombia, Netherlands, Haiti and Guatemala. The final  
708 resolution passed with a vote of 21 in favor, 1 opposed and 7 abstentions.

## **Adoption of the Report**

709 At its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 26 November 2013, the draft report of the Commission was made  
710 available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no  
711 amendments, adopted the report by consensus.  
712