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



Conference A

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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

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

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
ECLAC/1/1	Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Adopted by acclamation
ECLAC/1/2	Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Adopted by acclamation
ECLAC/1/3	Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Adopted by acclamation
ECLAC/1/4	Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean	Adopted by acclamation

Summary Report

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

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

The session was attended by representatives of 36 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda in the following order: "Implementation of SDG 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean." followed by, "Increasing Access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training." beginning discussions, forming working groups, and drafting working papers. By Monday, the Dais received a total of 4 working papers, including ideas to create a panel of energy sector experts for the collection, review, and knowledge sharing on climate, biofuels among other topics. Such as the inclusion of Marginalized groups in the decision-making regarding sustainable energy and the creation of a financing and investment program for both developed and developing countries.

On Monday, delegates showed professionalism, made good use of their preparation and research, and began enthusiastically negotiating their work, taking the initiative to merge groups and work on their own. By Tuesday, Delegates continued with the debate and strengthened their work and proposals, and towards the end of the day, three draft resolutions were accepted by the Dais and a final draft resolution was accepted Wednesday morning. On Wednesday, all four draft resolutions were adopted by the body, 2 of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions without a recorded vote requested by the Commission, following the voting procedure. These resolutions represented a wide range of issues including addressing inequality for marginalized groups, data collection, the establishment of methods for equitable distribution of monetary funding, and the publication of an ECLAC handbook including various policy recommendations in line with the promotion of renewable energy production.



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Code: 1/1

Committee: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, specifically Article 1.3, which encourages international cooperation to solve international problems of an economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian character,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), especially Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 (“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”), 13 (“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”), and 17 (“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the partnership for sustainable development”), the Paris Agreement (2015), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015),

Calling attention to ECLAC’s “Big Push for Sustainability” concept defined at ECLAC’s 2020 session,

Highlighting the urgency of the climate crisis and the need to address the topic of clean and affordable energy immediately,

Reminding all Member States that the 2 °C, preferably 1.5 °C, target of the Paris Agreement can only be achieved if all countries commit to reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and be gravely concerned about the impacts of climate change,

Emphasizing the benefits of data collection and exploration surveys to assess the possibility and feasibility of region-specific renewable energy,

Acknowledging already established data collecting bodies like the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Regional Observatory on Sustainable Energy (ROSE), the Voluntary National Review (VNR), the Conference on Science, Innovation, and Information and Communications Technologies (CSIICT), the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (ROPDLAC), CEPALSTAT and other institutions,

Bearing in mind the fruitful contributions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and national funds like the International Climate Finance fund and the successful prior examples in requesting and receiving funding to realize and develop sustainable energy production methods,

1. *Establishes* an advisory group under ROSE named Advisory Panel on Affordable and Clean Energy (APACE), with a five-year rotational membership of:
 - a. Fifteen energy-sector and statistic experts from the LAC region, trying to balance experienced and junior members;
 - b. Ten international stakeholders such as NGOs and other policymakers;
2. *Directs* ROSE, the CSIICT, the ROPDLAC, and CEPALSTAT to collect data on a district level on:

- a. Energy access rates with a specific focus on rural LAC areas;
 - b. Climate data, geological survey data, and data on the availability of biofuels to determine the most feasible energy source per region;
 - c. Current exploitation rates of sustainable energy resources and technologies;
 - d. Further relevant data on APACE's request;
3. *Authorizes* APACE to review all the collected data by ROSE, IRENA, CEPALSTAT, the CSIICT, the ROPDLAC, VNR, and national statistic bureaus as well as conduct feasibility studies on:
- a. Mini- and off-grid solutions, as well as transnational grid solutions, connecting the various electric grids of the LAC region to improve reliability and decreasing costs;
 - b. Enhancing existing energy production technologies and creating smart solutions in combining conventional and renewable energy plants;
 - c. Country-specific sustainable energy production, such as geothermal, solar or hydroelectric energy;
4. *Instructs* APACE to derive country-specific policy recommendations on sustainable energy projects in the LAC region on a biennial basis and on request:
- a. That take care of each country's unique circumstances by providing individual recommendations on specific renewable energy projects in specific regions;
 - b. That outline a detailed cost structure, the proposed capacity, and feasibility so that Member States can use it to request funding from international financial institutions;
5. *Mandates* the establishment of a virtual knowledge sharing platform under ROSE:
- a. Consisting of a database on completed sustainable energy projects in the LAC region that both the ROSE and Member States themselves can contribute data to and access;
 - b. Utilized by Member States that plan to facilitate a specific renewable energy project to find information on the capacity, costs, project duration, barriers, and best practices of similar projects, as well as to connect directly with Member States that have implemented these and;
 - c. Urging countries with the knowledge and expertise in regard to renewable energies to share relevant data;
 - d. Facilitating the creation of partnership by Member States to collaborate, share knowledge, and best practices on sustainable technologies as well as on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
6. *Encourages* Member States to seek out resources in their own discretion provided by institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, and IDB or other funding in order to:

- a. Grant aid in the form of Green Financing such as Green Bonds;
 - b. Aid in the realization of feasibility studies provided by APACE;
7. *Commits* to make ECLAC's engagement in the fulfillment of SDG 7 more visible to the public by:
- a. Introducing a specific ECLAC work area on affordable and clean energy under the Sustainable Development section on the website that includes APACE as one of its major tools;
 - b. Updating the ECLAC online guidance, where Member States would be able to access updated information and strategies;
 - c. Establishing education programs directed towards the general populations about the benefits of sustainable energy and how local communities can assist;
8. *Calls upon* Member States to participate in and utilize the VNR program to assess and present progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the goal of:
- a. Aiding knowledge sharing within the Latin America and Caribbean region;
 - b. Increasing awareness around the implementation and usage of sustainable energy and its specific application methods in various Member States.



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Code: 1/2

Committee: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Concerned with the threatening consequences of climate change due to excessive usage of fossil energy sources, as stated in the *2021 United in Science* report by the World Meteorological Organization,

Reiterating the commitments made in the *Future We Want*, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and the *United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change*, such as the commitment to recognize that people are at the center of sustainable development in order to achieve a just, equitable, and inclusive world,

Fully aware of the economic challenges of the transition from fossil energy sources to renewable energies in the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC),

Deeply concerned regarding the lack of acknowledgment marginalized groups receive in decision making,

Noting that rural populations often do not have the same access to energy as urban populations within the LAC region according to the *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2020*,

Aware that the rapid economic growth of LAC, has created a gap between labor market needs and workers trained in sustainable industries,

Recognizing the diversity of vocations needed to facilitate the transition to sustainable energy and the need for vocational training,

Highlighting that the promotion of sustainable energy creates reliable employment opportunities that raise the standard of living as well as reduces the numbers of workers in environmentally harmful industries,

Emphasizing the potential of the large natural resources reserves in LAC, which gives it a prominent role in the progress towards sustainable development,

Understanding that when expanding access to electricity, internet, water, and transportation, sustainable methods must be prioritized over nonrenewable ones,

Fully aware that the active support of the local population is crucial throughout the transitional process from conventional to sustainable energy,

Acknowledging the importance of socio-cultural, economic, environmental, engineering, and historical civil society organizations in securing a democratic space for the regional dialogue of renewable energy and sustainable development at large,

Noting the role that international organizations such as the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) play in the promotion of research and development of Member-States,

1. *Suggests* that Member States include marginalized groups in decision-making regarding sustainable energy practices regardless of factors such as their skin color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and indigenous status by:
 - a. Developing outreach initiatives that augment the participation of diverse perspectives in nationally funded clean energy project planning;
 - b. Investing a portion of their energy-related funds toward grants given to rural and minority-owned sustainable-energy businesses and initiatives;
 - c. Working with non-governmental organizations to maintain inclusive employment in the labor force and logistics while implementing renewable energy across the LAC region;
2. *Decides* the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean should initiate the investigation of rural areas with the most urgent need for energy access with an emphasis on:
 - a. Increasing the establishment of sustainable energy infrastructure to achieve universal access to electricity further;
 - b. Working towards establishing and maintaining an interconnected, sustainable energy sector;
3. *Suggests* Member States promote the active participation of the civil society in the transition process from conventional to sustainable energy by:
 - a. Relying on public advertisement through media platforms, public spaces, and education organizations, such as the Mission Panama website, to keep the civil society aware of the decisions made, progress achieved toward SDG 7, and policies enforced, making it clear how they can perform an effective role in the successful implementation of the policies;
 - b. Encouraging the creation of grassroots councils to oversee the actions of the public and private sector toward sustainable energy and collaborate with the Member State in order to guarantee that the proper efforts are being put into practice to effectively achieve the target goals of the nation;
 - c. Continuing to report progress to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC, Res 358 (XVI)) and to the Committee on South-South Cooperation United Nations ECLAC, along with the techniques used to achieve the reported progress;
4. *Invites* the consistent involvement of civil society organizations that are based in the region, as well as those that are international in scope, in all aspects of the pursuit of universal and affordable access to renewable energy, such as but not limited to the areas of:
 - a. Policy-making and policy-review;
 - b. Project planning;
 - c. Site visits and topographical examination; and,
 - d. Construction and infrastructure development;

5. *Supports* REnovables in Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC), and its Energy Compact Initiative made to strengthen energy transition and coordinate international relations, in particular by:
 - a. Inviting Member States to join RELAC as an efficient way of multilateral cooperation by advertising it on a broad international level;
 - b. Suggesting the strengthening of the monitoring scheme already in place (RELAC) by designing systematic and periodic evaluation systems to detect problems and needs related to the transition to renewable energy;
 - c. Encouraging the transition to renewable energy by promoting innovation and stimulating technology transfer in order to reach the regional target of at least 70% renewable energy penetration by 2030;
 - d. Combining financial resources through international cooperation by creating funding alliances between Member States, international agencies, and the private sector in order to attract and simplify investments in the regional renewable energy transition;
 - e. Promoting economic ties such as increasing foreign direct investment and diminishing trade barriers to increase imports of the needed technologies;
6. *Encourages* coordination between ECLAC and Member States for the development of vocational training programs focused on preparing workforces and regional infrastructure for the transition to sustainable energy sources by:
 - a. Promoting vocational training focused on science and technology, public administration, and sustainable energy operation;
 - b. Utilizing the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to train civil servants of member states to develop vocational training programs for a sustainable energy workforce;
 - c. Emphasizing the need for “Greening TVET” as described in UNESCO-UNEVOC’s *Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training: A Practical Guide for Institutions*;
 - d. Increasing cooperation between public and private institutions for the advancement of international education opportunities to further deepen skills sets and employment qualifications;
 - e. Strengthening regional coordination for standards of accreditation;
7. *Invites* international organizations such as the OEI and IADB to provide a platform for Member States to engage in discussions regarding clean energy research and development by:
 - a. Tasking the Conference on Science, Innovation, and Information and Communications Technologies to produce periodical reports on current clean energy research developments;
 - b. Establishing research partnerships with sustainable energy organizations, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Inter-state Renewable Energy Council, and

Brazil's Eletrobras, one of the largest electric utility and clean energy companies in Latin America and the world;

- c. Recommending that Member States participate in research exchange programs where they can share their findings for the benefit of all Member States.



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Code: ECLAC/1/3

Committee: Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 (“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all”) and SDG 8 (“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”) and SDG 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) and SDG 13 (“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”) and SDG 14 (“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”) and SDG 15 (“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”),

Acknowledging the UN Charter and specifically chapters 8 and 9 and 10 focusing on the powers of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and all actions related to the economic perspective along with the bodies under the ECOSOC,

Guided by the Paris Agreement (2015) and its efforts on combating climate change and to reduce the excessive carbon dioxide emissions,

Determined to pursue the goals of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), such as energy access and infrastructure, and committed to supporting developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in these areas,

Having adopted the 2021 COP26 goals stressing the need to embrace a more sustainable behavior,

Alarmed that only about a quarter of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) energy is currently produced by renewable sources, half of which are combustible sources like firewood and sugar cane,

Highlighting the importance of accessibility of energy for the educational sector by increasing access to online learning and online TVET programs, especially in rural communities,

Recognizing the work with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in pushing and supporting governments and the need to create and work toward renewable energy sources,

Recommending the expansion of wildlife protections in both land, air, and sea to divert funding for renewable energy investment,

Emphasizing the need to merge education in the energies issues, with the aim of developing a strong environmental culture,

Recognizing the need to expand the education infrastructure for programs in education systems in maintaining energy sustainability jobs in energy sectors,

Seeing the need to replace energy generated by fossil fuels with energy generated by renewable energy sources and the facilities that are required for that production,

Recognizing production of energy through solar power, wind power, hydro power, and geothermal energy as renewable energy sources while highlighting the challenges of storing clean energy,

Acknowledging the need to efficiently transmit electricity to both urban and rural areas to give all people access to electricity considering that there are 12 million people who lack access to electricity in the LAC region,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that almost 12 million individuals lack access to electricity within LAC according to the World Bank,

Concerned by the fact that 577 billion dollars are necessary to make the electricity sector more renewable as per the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),

Alarmed by the fact that the LAC region has a 0.5% deficit in access to energy in urban areas and an 8% deficit in rural areas,

Noting with concern that it would require annual investments of \$118 billion to promote renewable power generation and energy efficiencies and electrification of heat and transportation and power grids to be in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement as per the IDB,

Concerned with the threatening consequences of climate change due to excessive usage of fossil energy sources as mentioned in the *2021 United in Science* report by the World Meteorological Organization,

Expressing great interest in developing extensions of geothermal energy sectors within the LAC,

1. *Advocates* the creation of a financing and investment program with the cooperation of Sustainability Energy Fund (SEF), World bank, IRENA, the Interstate renewable energy council (IREC) and the Inter-American Development Bank to invest extensively for the transition to sustainable energy by installing a fair mechanism for both developed and developing countries in order for them to contribute to the program;
2. *Calls upon* the implementation of sound financial initiatives including programs and multilateral collaborations such as the World Bank's *Energy Sector Management Assistance Program* (ESMAP) to fund a switch towards 'green energy' among rural territories seeing that a large areas of LAC belongs to such rural communities;
3. *Urges* the establishment of methods for equitable distribution of monetary funding from bodies such as the IEA or major development banks (MDBs) alike across LAC seeing that many developing nations do not attain such funding as easily or frequently as developed nations;
4. *Encourages* the expansion of the mandate of the SEF to include the financial assistance of Member States and governments if called upon;
5. *Strongly endorses* the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce the interest rate for funds borrowed by LAC countries to indulge sustainable development and sustainable economy in the system along with funds directed at the increase of renewable energy concentration in the state;
6. *Promotes* the increase in funding of the implementation and the advancement of the production and transmission of affordable and clean energies through strong economic ties by:

- a. Encouraging major investment countries to increase FDI inflows to LAC Member States which are specifically used for funding renewable energy projects;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to offer tax incentives and other monetary incentives that can boost investment in clean energy projects in LAC;
 - c. Advising LAC Member States to promote issuing green energy stocks, of which the gains can be used to fund clean energy projects in the region;
 - d. Diminishing trade barriers between all Member States to increase trade of the needed technologies and commodities for clean energy projects;
7. *Recommends* that Member States recognize the need to protect the environment from unsustainable means of implementing renewable energy by stressing the cooperation between the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF), the Inter-state Renewable Energy Council (IREC), and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) by:
 - a. Promoting policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance carbon abatement in the land use sector, including the conservation and sustainable management of forests;
 - b. Supporting initiatives that promote the reconstruction and protection of coral reefs and the seabed, specifically limiting the practice of fishing in certain areas and policies to combat offshore oil drilling;
8. *Instructs* the Natural Resources and Infrastructure department beneath the executive secretary of ECLAC to create a new working area "LAC wildlife protection to sustainability" mandated on the protection of wildlife as all the projects are implemented as it:
 - a. Adheres to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD);
 - b. Includes all Member States in the LAC region;
 - c. Requests reports from Member States showing their progress in the construction of accordance with their CBD status;
9. *Collaborates* with UN-Habitat and IRENA, Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) and Solar Energy International (SEI) to integrate green technology energy sources in end-use sectors, via:
 - a. Installing solar and photovoltaic panels transportation, industrial, and agricultural sectors;
 - b. Implementing the *CNE National Energy Policy for 2020-2050* for the share of clean energy technologies in end-use sectors;
10. *Recommends* to stimulate the race to decarbonization by leveraging the knowledge of more technologically advanced countries, using carbon taxes to invest in renewable energies projects which can also benefit LACs' economies;
11. *Suggests* the protection of native communities and their regions concerning of extraction of resources from the land in order to reduce magnitude of unsustainable means of energy production as well as maintaining the integrity of native soil;

12. *Advises* Member States to develop the independence of the region in the energies sectors by:
 - a. Reducing energy imports, especially those derived from fossil fuels;
 - b. Focusing on domestic-energy sources using a strategic approach with the natural resources of the region and expanding the transport system to rural space;
13. *Encourages* Member States to educate their citizens to a sustainable behavior among households through:
 - a. Welcoming local NGOs and institutions to create advertising campaign in rural and urban areas to allow people to be aware of the many advantages of renewable energies;
 - b. Encouraging multi-stake holder partnerships, including citizens, and their participation in platforms such as the Green Finance LAC Platform (GFL) in sharing information of green energy solutions, particularly emphasizing SIDS;
14. *Advises* Member States to ensure that projects and initiatives that prioritize a shift towards renewable energy prioritize an increase in access to the internet in the educational sectors by:
 - a. Allocating funding to school districts in rural areas;
 - b. Providing schools with photovoltaic panels to power computers;
 - c. Installing energy saving technologies to ensure the efficient usage of resources;
15. *Encourages* Member States to reform educational programs to encourage sustainability and to support emerging sustainable energy sectors that:
 - a. Incorporate sustainability in school curriculums to establish a more progressive mindset or perspective of sustainable energy usage among future generations;
 - b. Encourage the study of environmental sciences and engineering by encouraging educational institutions to provide fellowships and scholarships to students as an incentive to enter the field;
 - c. Encourage institutions to replicate programs such as Peru's *Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* program where individuals are trained to maintain and operate sustainable energy sources and systems;
16. *Encourages* sustainability in already established companies by providing appropriate tax breaks to companies to companies that:
 - a. Employ professionals with expertise in sustainable and environmental sciences;
 - b. Create sustainability departments to guide companies in their reformation of production processes towards sustainability;

17. *Stresses* Member States to immediately implement plans and strategies for clean energy transitions according to Member States' abilities by:
 - a. Constructing renewable energy facilities for producing clean energy that use Hydro, Solar, Wind, and Geothermal power;
 - b. Recommending to make newly constructed renewable energy facilities capable of withstanding the effects of vulnerabilities caused by climate change;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to assist with supply and demand for different renewable energy resources and the production of clean energy;
 - d. Implementing domestic electricity transmission strategies to fairly distribute energy to all citizens, including those in more rural area;
18. *Suggests* the cooperation between the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and Member States of the council in the LAC region and to increase their focus for sustainable development projects and the indulgence of sustainable energy in the economic systems;
19. *Endorses* Member States to guarantee access to modern, clean, and equitable renewable energy for all by using electricity transmissions plans that include:
 - a. Goals to use renewable energy resources and plans to have clean energy sources replace conventional energy sources that use fossil fuels;
 - b. Clear metrics for measuring electricity based on the capacity of each Member State;
 - c. Strategies to facilitate cooperation between entities that supply power within Member States;
 - d. Strategies to increase long-distance transmission and transmit power to rural areas to help more people in those areas gain access to electricity;
 - e. Methods to evaluate and improve transmission efficiency;
20. *Recommends* Member States to expand clean energy-fueled transportation through:
 - a. Granting special priority for the transition of the transport sector to utilize clean, renewable energy;
 - b. Phasing out the use of fossil fuels powered trains through the use of carbon taxes and construction of electrified rail;
 - c. Expanding public rail transportation networks in order to reduce reliance on cars;
21. *Suggests* to exchange best practices on the transition from fossil energy sources to renewable energies in the LAC region through the creation of a research agency mandated to analyze and

collect data related to sustainability and renewable energies as they organize a summit bi-annually by:

- a. Enhancing collaboration through a developing link between engineers of ECLAC Member States;
- b. Establishing research cooperations with technical universities in the LAC region;
- c. Hosting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) to present their work on data analysis of the renewable energy situation in the LAC region through their technological and innovational work in analyzing the key performance indices on sustainability;
- d. Encouraging SMEs to promote transnational knowledge sharing by familiarizing with existing databases such as the Latin America & Iberia Database in order share research and experience concerning renewable energy and raise awareness for the concentration of clean energy in the region;

22. *Recognizes* the value of international cooperation regarding the development of geothermal energy production facilities by:

- a. Advising Member States of the ECLAC to join the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA);
- b. Recommending contributions to an investment fund to be used towards the development of geothermal energy solutions and opportunities.



Code: 1/4

Committee: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*,

Appreciating the General Assembly resolution 70/1 *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Appreciating ECLAC's promotion of reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region through the Energy Efficiency and the Energy Big Push Program,

Deeply alarmed by the research, conducted by the World Economic Forum in 2021, that 79% of energy is produced using fossil fuels in the LAC region,

Deploring the impact that the current dependency of non-renewable energy sources, such as fossil fuels, have had on global climate change,

Highlighting the importance of achieving a greater diversification in energy production in order to effectively face the imminent climate crisis,

Noting ECLAC's project *Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Caribbean Through the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and the Use of Renewable Energy Technologies* (2016) which seeks to strengthen the capacity of renewable energy production within the Caribbean,

Noting with regret the estimated 11 gigawatts of unutilized geothermal potential of the LAC region and considering that 85% of it still to be utilized,

Stressing the importance of the Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean (SEF) which helps in financing and strengthening the development of geothermal energy projects in the Caribbean,

Emphasizing the drastic impact of non-renewable energy resources on the planet with almost 60% of global greenhouse emissions occurring due to non-renewable energy,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations report on *Energy Transition Towards the Achievements of SDG 7 and Net-Zero Emissions* (2021),

Recalling ECLAC's report on *Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division* which stated the fact that 90% of the energy used in transportation representing 27% of total energy consumption in LAC regions is through fossil fuels,

Acknowledging the work done with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in encouraging and supporting Member States to transition and implement renewable energy sources that are both sustainable and affordable to the needs of Member States,

Adhering to the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015), signifying the importance of increasing the share of renewable energy as well as doubling the rate of energy efficiency globally,

Deeply convinced that the Public-Private Partnerships and investments can support the regions sustainable development,

Acknowledging the Climate Bonds Initiative organized by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which aims to promote the usage and accessibility of green bonds in the regions,

Recalling ECLAC's *Annual Report on Regional Progress and Challenges in Relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2017),

Recognizing the difficulties in raising funds and the technological limitations faced by the LAC to progress towards improving the infrastructure around renewable energy,

Referring to ECLAC's publication titled *Investment in Renewable Energy, Fossil Fuel Prices, and Policy Implications for Latin America and the Caribbean* (2017), examining the correlation between implications of oil prices and investments in renewable energy,

Mindful of the Peace Uses Initiatives (PUI) project highlighting alternative energy systems and their potential in addressing the financial gap and challenges to implementation of SDG 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"),

Bearing in mind the World Bank annual report *From Crisis to Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Recovery* (2021) prepared by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA),

Acknowledging that during emergency situations, states are often forced to rely on non-renewable sources for energy as certain,

Recognizing the efficiency of educational training programs in ensuring the sustainability of implementing renewable energy sources,

Emphasizing the necessity of acquiring educational and monetary support when implementing SDG 7 from well-developed establishments such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or willing Member States,

Acknowledging the importance of fostering self-reliance during the creation and maintenance of renewable energy projects,

Recognizing the importance of progressive goals to promote proactive implementation of SDG 7 frameworks,

Affirming the need for future generations in both rural and urban areas to have foundational knowledge regarding renewable energy sources as stated in SDG 7,

Considering how the use of renewable energy increased just of 3% in 2020, according to the Global Energy Review, meanwhile green energy patents jump to 28% in the last year,

Recalling the International Climate Finance (ICF), Nordic Research, and the European Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Region,

Noting the interest of gender and ethnic inclusion, United States Agency examined renewable energy policies in 33 countries and found that only six policies (18%) included gender keywords and considerations,

Acknowledging the work done with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in encouraging and supporting Member States to transition and implement renewable energy sources that are both sustainable and affordable to the needs of Member States,

Affirming the importance of responsible use of our natural resources, such as water, wind, sun, but especially heat with the earth, as IRENA underlines,

Drawing attention to the impact that this resolution will have towards our future generations and their rights, as first declared in the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity* (1992),

1. *Requests* Member States to establish a Regional Geothermal Office in direct collaboration with the Global Geothermal Alliance aimed at:
 - a. Supporting geothermal development within the LAC region with particular concerns on those Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which are more economically vulnerable to the imminent climate crisis;
 - b. Mapping out geothermal resources and identifying potential new markets;
 - c. Facilitating the exchange of insights and experiences among key stakeholders in order to identify and remove obstacles of national policies;
 - d. Promoting models for sharing and mitigating the risks and enabling effective frameworks for the implementation of new projects;
2. *Recommends* Member States to work in collaboration with the PUI to provide technical assistance and funding for potential geothermal projects which have been identified through the aforementioned Geothermal Alliance's regional office;
3. *Suggests* Member States to join work with IRENA in implementing renewable energy sources to mitigate climate change by using affordable, diverse, and climate resistant resources to the needs of their state by:
 - a. Ensuring renewable energy resources and facilities are a mix of hydropower, solar power, wind power, and geothermal energy;
 - b. Enhancing Member States local supply of renewable energy resources, such as geothermal and hydropower, to cover local needs;
 - c. Implementing renewable energy resources that will take up small spaces and be cost effective to reflect the needs of Member States;
4. *Strongly encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to join, in order to serve as a platform for dialogue, cooperation and coordinated action between the geothermal industry, policy makers and stakeholders worldwide;
5. *Suggests* ECLAC to collaborate with SEF in aims of expanding SEF's mandate of the to include not only the Caribbean Island but to be expanded onto Latin America as well in order to fulfill the full utilization of geothermal potential of the entire region;
6. *Recommends* the publication of an ECLAC handbook by Member States consultation entitled Latin America Regulatory Practices for Energy Markets which will include various policy recommendations for the regulation of energy production and the promotion of renewable energy production specifically tailored to the LAC markets;
7. *Encourages* Member States to provide more accurate valuable insights on the wind renewable energy sector to be included in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in order to:

- a. Increase cooperation with the World Wind Energy Association to achieve more information that would give researchers the possibility of developing several energy generators;
 - b. Give more specific data on energy output and weather predictions;
 - c. Prevent the lack of data that could damage the efficiency of energy markets;
8. *Invites* Member States to promote affordable and clean energy initiatives through increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) going towards the advancement and introduction of new infrastructure for renewable energies;
9. *Recommends* Member States to ease trade barriers placed between developed and developing Member States in order to facilitate and increase access to technologies and commodities needed for renewable energy production in the region;
10. *Proposes* that Member States collaborate through information sharing in the LAC region through public advertisements to raise awareness of the benefits of clean energy, such as a better future and increased stability;
11. *Advises* for the creation of Education and Energy Immersion Programs, fostered by each Member State in LAC which include localized training programs to advance innovation and education pertaining to operations and construction of renewable energy centers;
12. *Promotes* collaboration with NGOs for educational resources and professionals on short terms which will ease intra-dependence on NGOs in the long term;
13. *Encourages* the self-reliance of LAC member states upon receiving support from NGOs regarding the establishment of renewable energy sources and their maintenance;
14. *Encourages* Member States to take advantage of geothermal power in order to reduce economic dependence on other Member States and finally gain the coveted autonomy that was missed during colonialism decades to:
 - a. Increase funds for geothermal research in universities and research institutions present in Member States territory;
 - b. Improve security standards, especially spreading the Volcano Notification Service (VNS)'s presence among global citizens;
 - c. Address the situation of those citizens living near the involved areas, making sure that they will receive enough support by the government and NGOs for a new shelter and proper resources;
15. *Encourages* the cooperation of NGOs and global leaders in the sector of renewable energy to provide educational instruction to citizens of LAC in hopes of fostering long-term sustainability of these efforts during the implementation of SDG 7;
16. *Recommends* the creation of timelines by ECLAC, in partnership with LAC member states, to create tailored funding plans, connecting developing States with both educational and monetary resources;
17. *Promotes* the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to meet annually, instead of their previous biennial mandate, as well as create an annual report to be provided to every member state of LAC as a guide for implementation and sustainability of energy facilities;

18. *Promotes* the funding and implementation of educational programs by NGOs and LAC Member States within primary and secondary school curriculums regarding renewable resources as stated in SDG 7 to teach students how to effectively utilize technology and infrastructure in both rural and urban areas;
19. *Calls upon* the creation of an information sharing platform guided by ECLAC, which will host the Inter-American Development Bank and representative Government Bodies of Member States to elaborate on ways to lower market and financial barriers which have prevented investments from the private sector on renewable energy and smart grid projects;
20. *Calls attention to* the dire need for emergency funds from international and national programs like the Regional Programme for Latin America and Export Finance program to act quickly upon climate change issues in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in LAC by:
 - a. Acknowledging the emergent events that require funds in the SIDS region;
 - b. Focusing on emergency and funds for direct investment in sustainable energy resources for SIDS in case of emergency caused by natural disasters caused by climate change;
 - c. Including IRENA and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to validate allocated resources to ensure funding is used to develop sustainable short term solutions that can be diverted into long term solutions;
21. *Emphasizes* the need for a comprehensive medium-term development planning for and by the Member States to be known as the Medium-Term National Development Plan, which should be included in the VNR and include initiatives such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Enabling energy policy environments, and providing financial de-risking instruments to attract private sector actors, such as the reduction of government debt through direct economic benefits, increased tax revenues and annualized investment inflows;
 - b. Investment guarantee instruments as they improve the structure and quality of renewable energy investments, making projects more attractive to private actors. Look towards Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) such as Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), National Development Banks, and IRENA;
22. *Strongly endorses* a collaboration between ECLAC and the World Bank Green Bond Initiative to fund, identify and curate a list of eligible mitigation projects such as solar panel installations, photovoltaic panel installations, windmill installations. microgrid projects, geothermal plants, biomass plants, hydropower, and energy storage.