



**Trigésimo octavo
período de sesiones
de la CEPAL**

26 a 28 de octubre de 2020

20 October 2020

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirty-eighth session of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2020

**Guidelines for the interventions of the ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of
Latin America and the Caribbean
(Monday, 26 October, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Costa Rica time))**

It is a great honour for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Government of Costa Rica that you will participate in the thirty-eighth session of the Commission and, in particular, in the **Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean on post-pandemic economic recovery**, under item 4 of the provisional agenda.

Prior to this dialogue, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC will give a presentation on reconstruction and transformation with equality and sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean (**9.45–10 a.m., Costa Rica time**). The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on Latin America and the Caribbean. Starting as a public health crisis, the pandemic has precipitated the worst economic and social crisis of the last 100 years and has revealed serious structural gaps in the development model in the region.

The problems we see today were not caused by the pandemic. The region showed signs of economic exhaustion, environmental sustainability problems and social inequality prior to the pandemic. By the end of 2019, when no one could have imagined what would happen in 2020, the region had been suffering an economic slowdown for more than five years, which was beginning to translate into higher levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality in various countries of the region. The scenario of economic sluggishness included declining investment rates, stagnant export volumes, widening productivity gaps and increasing levels of domestic and foreign debt; factors that compound each other, preventing a return to more vigorous growth.

In the light of this scenario, critical thought must be given to the crisis exit strategy. If the region's pre-pandemic economic and social trajectory reveals anything, it is that a successful exit strategy cannot simply be a return to the status quo.

Following the Executive Secretary's presentation, the floor will be given to those ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean who wish to speak for no more than seven (7) minutes, so that they can share their thoughts on the post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Modality: The meeting will be held virtually, through the Webex platform, for which the secretariat will send you a link in due course.

Date and time: Monday, 26 October 2020; 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Costa Rica time) To see the time in your country, you can check: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/?low=c&sort=1> .

Moderator: Rodolfo Solano Quirós, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica

Order of speakers: First, the ministers of foreign affairs of member States of Latin America and the Caribbean will be given the floor in the alphabetical order of the names of their countries in Spanish. The floor will then be given to the vice-ministers or high authorities designated to represent the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the alphabetical order of the names of their countries in Spanish. It will be followed by the interventions by other member States of the Commission and the Premier or high-level representatives of associate members of ECLAC.

Languages: The interventions can be made in Spanish, English or French, according to your preference. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in those three languages.

Statements: You are kindly requested to send a written version of your statement by email to secretariadelacomision@cepal.org, so that it can be posted on the Commission's website for the session after delivery.

Documentation: The documentation for the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC is available on the ECLAC website <https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/en>.