



**Thirty-eighth
session of ECLAC**
26–28 October 2020

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

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2020

**Guidelines for participation in panel 2: Policies for a transformative recovery
(Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m. (Costa Rica time))**

It is an 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 **panel 2, entitled “Policies for a transformative recovery”**, based on chapter V of the session position paper, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*.

Panel 2 will be held on **27 October, between 11.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. (Costa Rica time)**, following the presentation of the ECLAC position paper, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and panel 1.

The panellists on panel 2 are invited to reflect critically on the policies required for a transformative recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, ECLAC states that for Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome the limitations imposed by its development style, a progressive structural shift towards more knowledge-intensive sectors, with higher rates of growth in demand and employment, is required. This must be achieved without sacrificing the quality of natural resources and the environment of the services they provide. Lastly, it is noted that these changes call for a coordinated set of policies, called a big push for sustainability.

Chapter V of the document sets out the framework conditions and policies for the medium and long terms that will enable actions in key areas, as well as in other areas that are fundamental to achieving sustainable development.

Chapter V argues that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has turned a spotlight on structural problems that the Latin America and Caribbean region has been facing for decades: sluggish growth, a heterogeneous and poorly diversified production structure, high levels of informality and lack of protection, social inequalities and global asymmetries. It has also highlighted the unsustainability of a development pattern based on ever deepening inequalities, increasingly precarious social reproduction, environmental destruction and the weakening of multilateralism and international cooperation. The region is therefore on the cusp of a change of era that will involve uncertain, lengthy and complex processes of structural change that will revolutionize the technological base and ways of producing, distributing, inhabiting, consuming, accumulating, thinking and living together.

Chapter V argues that the world is facing far-reaching changes that represent an epochal change. Since the 2008–2009 crisis, economies around the world have shown low rates of productivity and GDP growth; the inequality that has been growing since the 1980s has led to an accumulation of political tensions and undermined the legitimacy of democracies. There is a growing understanding that environmental frontiers

and constraints are being breached and the destruction of biodiversity and the risk of zoonosis are on the rise. The chapter therefore proposes that it is time to discuss the foundations of a new development pattern—a different welfare and social protection regime, a new global environmental accord and a global governance capable of rising to the challenges facing humanity and the planet. Following decades of economic orthodoxy, there is a growing recognition of the potential for heterodox policies, such as more active fiscal policies, progressive tax systems and universal social protection in areas such as health care and education. This policy approach is needed because, under the current development model, markets do not provide signals (profitability, incentives, prices) that foster progressive structural change, —a change that allows for increased productivity together with social inclusion, equality and growing environmental sustainability. On the contrary, these signals often tend to amplify inequalities and sacrifice social and environmental issues in favour of a form of economic growth that is based on a culture of privilege and spurious competitiveness.

The panel is invited to reflect on policies for a transformative recovery, identifying those that could link competitiveness with the fostering of equality and environmental protection can generate a better-quality and more dynamic development process, and support alignment with other goals that are essential for achieving environmental objectives. The chapter stresses that an active State is required to coordinate, guide and induce change in production and consumption patterns, while discouraging unsustainable forms of behaviour —a State that represents and brings together a wide range of social stakeholders rather than just minority interest groups.

The panellists are invited to critically evaluate chapter V, analysing and contrasting the ideas and arguments presented, and giving their thoughts thereon. Each panellist will have **10 minutes for his or her presentation** and will have a few extra minutes to answer questions or respond to observations from meeting participants

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: Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. (Costa Rica time). To see the time in your country, you can check it here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/?low=c&sort=1> .

Moderator: Representative of Costa Rica.

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

Presentations: Panellists may prepare a slideshow presentation if they wish. You are kindly requested to send a written version of your presentation and any accompanying slideshow presentation to secretariadelacomision@cepal.org, so that they can be posted on the Commission's website for session after delivery. Panellists who wish to give a slideshow presentation are asked to notify the secretariat by writing to the same email address in order to ensure that they will be able to share their screens.

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