



What Does It Mean to Serve as Chair of ECLAC?

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, and it is headquartered in Santiago, Chile. It was founded to contribute to the region's economic and social development, to coordinate actions directed towards this end, and to reinforce economic relations among countries and with other nations of the world.

ECLAC's members include the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, along with some nations from Asia, Europe and North America that have historical, economic and cultural ties to the region. In total, the Commission has 46 Member States and 14 associate members, which are non-independent Caribbean territories.

ECLAC engages with its member countries' sectoral authorities through thematic intergovernmental meetings, which enables it to achieve coherence in the institutional proposals that it offers them. This intergovernmental architecture is very relevant to its work.

The Chair of ECLAC is elected by the Commission's member countries, and its mandate lasts for a two-year term. This term begins at each biennial session of ECLAC and concludes at the start of the following session.

Serving as Chair entails constant dialogue with the Executive Secretariat of ECLAC, which is manifested in consultations with the Chair regarding the content for each session. The Chair also presides over the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

This institutional architecture is composed of its session, which is the highest decision-making body and is held regularly every two years; its Committee of the Whole; and it is completed by the following subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings:

1. Statistical Conference of the Americas
2. Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
4. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
5. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
6. Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
7. Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies
9. Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean
10. Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean



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11. Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).

Each of these conferences elects presiding officers, composed of a chair and various vice-chairs, who make up the presiding officers or executive committee, depending on each case.