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Forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, 7–9 October 2026

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME[1]

Wednesday, 7 October

8 a.m.–2 p.m.	Collection of credentials (AC Hotel)
8 a.m.–1 p.m.	Free time to explore Santiago de los Caballeros and its local cultural offerings Time allocated to tours and activities related to industry, culture, tobacco heritage, tourism and other notable attractions in and around Santiago de los Caballeros.
11–11.30 a.m.	Transfer to Centro de Convenciones y Cultura Dominicana UTESA for the lunch for ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation
11.30 a.m.–1.45 p.m.	**Lunch hosted by Raquel Peña, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic, for ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation attending the forty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (Magna II Room, third floor) (by invitation)**
Noon–12.20 p.m.	Remarks by Raquel Peña, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic
12.20–1.30 p.m.	Panel discussion on the northern region and the impact of public-private dialogue on the Dominican Republic's transformation Moderator: Mario Pujols, Executive Vice-President of the Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic (AIRD) • Miguel Lama, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Santiago Free Zone Corporation • Lina García, CEO of Envases Antillanos and Chair of the Association for Development (APEDI) • Manuel Estrella, Founder and Chair of Grupo Estrella • Julio Virgilio Brache, First Vice-Chair of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP)

[1] Please note that this is a paper-smart meeting. Conference documents are available at [online] https://periodo desesiones.cepal.org/41/en.

2.30–3.15 p.m.	**Opening ceremony of the forty-first session of ECLAC**
	• José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC • Gustavo Lembcke Hoyle, Ambassador of Peru in the Dominican Republic • Luis Abinader Corona, President of the Dominican Republic
3.15–3.20 p.m.	Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
3.20–4.40 p.m.	Presentation of the ECLAC position document, *Managing Transformations in an Era of Ruptures*, by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC Comments on the document: • Víctor Orlando Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic • Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda (virtual) • Andrés Velasco, Dean of the School of Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (virtual)
4.40–6 p.m.	Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities on the document *Managing Transformations in an Era of Ruptures* Chair of the dialogue: Víctor Orlando Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic
7 p.m.	Dinner hosted by Víctor Orlando Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, for ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation, with Luis Abinader Corona, President of the Dominican Republic (Hotel Santiago Curio Collection by Hilton, Grand Ballroom Saman, second floor) (by invitation)

Thursday, 8 October

8.30–8.45 a.m. Official photograph of heads of delegation

9 a.m.–12.30 p.m. **Presentation of the document *Ruptures and opportunities: proposals for Latin America and the Caribbean to thrive in the new geopolitical era*, prepared by the ECLAC Commission on Geopolitics, Globalization and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean**

Opening remarks:

- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC

Presentation of the report:

- Michelle Bachelet, Co-Chairperson of the ECLAC Commission on Geopolitics, Globalization and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Keith Nurse, President of the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago from 2022–2025 and member of the ECLAC Commission on Geopolitics, Globalization and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Iván Duque, Co-Chairperson of the ECLAC Commission on Geopolitics, Globalization and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)

Comments:

- Albert Ramdin, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Mario Lubetkin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, the country serving as pro tempore Chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Chair of the Group of 77 and China (virtual)

Dialogue of ministers of foreign affairs and high-level authorities on the document *Ruptures and opportunities: proposals for Latin America and the Caribbean to thrive in the new geopolitical era*

12.30–2.30 p.m. Lunch hosted by Víctor Orlando Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, for ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation (museum of the Centro de Convenciones y Cultura Dominicana UTESA, second floor) (by invitation)

High-level seminar

2.30–4 p.m. **Panel 1: A new stage of regional integration: what to do and how to move forward**

Moderator: Rubén Silié, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

- Christopher P. Sinckler, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados
- Daniela Arruda Benjamin, Director of the Regional Integration Department, Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil
- Raquel Serur Smeke, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- Carla Natalie Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Carlos Díaz-Rosillo, Founding Director of the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom at Florida International University
- Fernando Capellán, President and Chief Executive Officer, Grupo M & Codevi, Dominican Republic
- Lina Ajoy Rojas, Secretary-General of the Central American Integration System (SICA)

4–4.30 p.m. Statements by delegations

16.30–6 p.m. **Panel 2: Digital transformation, artificial intelligence and productive development**

Moderator: Luis Madera Sued, Deputy Minister for Government Coordination and Follow-up, Ministry of the Presidency of the Dominican Republic

- Ulises Canchola, Special Ambassador for Emerging Technologies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- Craig Ramlal, Chair of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union's (CTU) Caribbean Taskforce on AI and Executive Director of the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Centre of the University of the West Indies
- Mercedes Aramendía, Executive Director of the Alliance for Digital Infrastructure and an Open Internet (DIG.IA-LAC) of Uruguay
- Anne Lemaistre, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Haiti
- Secilio Espinal, Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra (PUCMM), Dominican Republic (to be confirmed)

6–6.30 p.m. Statements by delegations

6.30 p.m. Reception hosted by the Dominican Republic (esplanade of the Monument to the Heroes of the Restoration)

Friday, 9 October

9–10.30 a.m. **Panel 3: Macroeconomics for development and sound and strong taxation**

Moderator: Peter A. Prazmowski, Executive Director, National Competitiveness Council of the Dominican Republic

- José Antonio Ocampo, Professor Emeritus of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University
- Martín Francos Rodríguez, Deputy Minister of Planning and Public Investment in the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Dominican Republic
- Rodrigo Arim, Director of the Planning and Budget Office of Uruguay
- Guillermo Díaz, Senior Economist in the Unit of Macroeconomic Studies of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)
- Oscar Valencia, Regional Economic Advisor for Mexico, Central America, Haiti and the Dominican Republic at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

10.30–11 a.m. Statements by delegations

11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. **Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the outcomes of other intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC since its fortieth session**

- Marcelo Bisogno, Technical Director of the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
- Enrique O´Farrill, Executive Director, Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID) in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Juan Pablo Vial, Head of Digital Affairs, Division of Science, Energy, Education, Innovation and Astronomy (DECYTI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society and Digital Transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Tatiana Lemos Sandim, National Secretary for Planning in the Ministry of Planning and the Budget of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
- Saumíneo Da Silva Nascimento, Director of the Department for Labour Market Inclusion at the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Rodrigo Arim, Director of the Office for Planning and Budget in the Office of the President of the Republic of Uruguay, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Derionne Edmeade, Director of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in his capacity as Chair of the 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)
- Candice Ramsaran, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, in her capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)
- Laura Itzel Castillo, Minister for Women of Mexico, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)

12.30–1 p.m. Statements by delegations

1–2.30 p.m. Lunch break

2.30–3 p.m. **Presentation of the report on the activities of the Commission, 2025, and the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2028**

3–3.15 p.m. Statements by delegations

3.15–3.30 p.m. **Consideration and adoption of the resolutions of the Commission at its forty-first session**

3.30–4 p.m. Closing session

- Víctor Orlando Bisonó, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic
- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC