

SRMUN Atlanta 2015
Unifying Our Global Community Through
Humanitarian Collaboration
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Atlanta, GA
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2015 and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). My name is Daniel Lonergan and I am honored to serve as director of “The Commission” this year. This will be my second year on SRMUN Staff and my 9th year in Model United Nations overall. Joining me on the dais is my Assistant Director, Sebastian Feculak. Sebastian and I are excited to see the work the committee will accomplish this year.

ECLAC’s primary mandate is to contribute to regional economic development. This is done through coordinated action directed towards furthering the economic development of Member States, as well as reinforcing economic ties with other states throughout the world. Connecting with this conference’s theme of “Unifying Our Global Community through Humanitarian Collaboration”, ECLAC’s impact on economic stability, education, and development certainly correlates with the work to be done under this theme.

The topics of debate for ECLAC include:

- I. Developing Environments that Facilitate Entrepreneurs and Small Business
- II. Improving the Management of Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper covering both topics. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length, single spaced. The objective of the position paper is to provide realistic, creative solutions to each topic, while incorporating the history and policy of your Member State. These position papers should serve as a foundation for your delegation’s plan of action, and the solutions contained within should help argue that your plans are the best course of action for ECLAC and the region as a whole.

Delegates are encouraged to use the position papers as an opportunity to state what your Member State plans to accomplish in this committee. Strong, well developed position papers are an excellent foundation for conference preparation. It is important to ensure all sides of each issue are adequately addressed and presented in a clear and concise manner that will be easy for your audience to understand. More detailed information on writing position papers may be found on the SRMUN website (www.srmun.org).

All position papers MUST be submitted by the extended deadline of 6 November 2015, by 11:59pm EST using the submission system on the SRMUN website. Remember it is not the amount of words that you use, but the quality in which they are used. This extended deadline only applies to ECLAC delegations.

With your help, Latin America and the Caribbean will be in good hands in the coming years. If there is anything I can help with, feel free to contact me. You may also contact the Director-General, Joel Fitzgerald with any questions or concerns. Good luck on your preparations, and we will see you in November.

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Committee History of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

On 28 February, 1948, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 106 (VI) established the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).¹ Commonly referred to by its Spanish acronym, “CEPAL”, the Commission initially focused solely on Latin America. However it gradually, then officially, expanded to include Member States from the Caribbean through the adoption of ECOSOC Resolution 1984/67 on July 27, 1984.² After expansion, the Commission officially changed its name to the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).³

The Commission's current mission states its purpose is to

Function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, technical cooperation services, (advisory services) training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination.

- Resolution 553/XXVI of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, San Jose, 1996.⁴

ECLAC is one of five regional commissions within the United Nations system. The Commission is made up of 33 Member States from within Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as several from Europe, Asia, and North America in accordance with maintaining “historical, economic, and cultural ties”.⁵ In total, there are 45 members of ECLAC.⁶ The Commission also includes 13 Associate Members of non-independent territories.⁷ The established headquarters is located in Santiago, Chile and there are two sub-regional headquarters – one in Mexico City, Mexico and one in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, there are several “country offices” located in various ECLAC Member States.⁸ The current Executive Secretary of ECLAC is Alicia Bárcena, who has been in office since 2008.⁹

The majority of the budget for ECLAC comes from Member State contributions.¹⁰ To ensure effectiveness and transparency as a financial structure, the Commission works through a three-step process of “cycle planning” that includes strategy and legal framework, program and budgeting, and accountability and evolution.¹¹ The first phase includes creating the structure of discussion for the body and initiatives that need to be addressed.¹² As part of this initial planning session, the Body also reviews legislative documents and mandates from the United Nations General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and Member States to understand viability, limitations, and any other relevant information for producing the outcomes of its initiatives.¹³ These sessions serve as a basis for the “planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of the biennial programs.”¹⁴ Yields from the work of ECLAC are submitted for review to numerous intergovernmental bodies that include the GA, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), and the Administrative and Budgetary Committee.¹⁵

¹ “Acerca De La CEPAL,” Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), <http://www.cepal.org/en/about> (accessed May 3, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ LC/G.2590(SES.35/7). *Report on the Activities of the Commission from January 2012 to December 2013*. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. April 11, 2014.

⁵ “Member States and Associate Members,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/estados-miembros> (accessed May 3, 2015).

⁶ “Member States and Associate Members,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/estados-miembros> (accessed May 3, 2015).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ “Acerca De La CEPAL,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/about> (accessed May 3, 2015).

⁹ “Office of the Executive Secretary,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/about/office-of-the-executive-secretary> (accessed May 3, 2015).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “Ciclo Planificación-Programa-Evaluación,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/ciclo-planificacion-programa-evaluacion> (accessed May 15, 2015).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ “Ciclo Planificación-Programa-Evaluación,” ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/ciclo-planificacion-programa-evaluacion> (accessed May 15, 2015).

The second phase of the three-step "cycle planning" involves more detail than the first phase, often including specific and comprehensive analysis on how the Commission will fulfill the agreed upon directives and the respective budgetary concerns for these directives.¹⁶ In this phase, the Commission often creates a logical framework addressing the priorities and strategies for each planned initiative.¹⁷ This second phase is also subject to a review process by the UNGA and its subsidiary bodies such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), as well as the GA Fifth Committee.¹⁸

The final phase, known as the "accountability and evolution" phase, is crucial to understanding previous successes, failures, and the best practices of past initiatives¹⁹. This audited information is released to the public, ECLAC Member States, and the UN through various sources.²⁰ This phase ensures that ECLAC consistently delivers across all activity areas and is the manifestation of the institutional goal to "continuously review and assess the Commission's overall effectiveness and sustainability".²¹ To achieve this goal, ECLAC produces a report on the activities of the ECLAC system as well as a report on the technical cooperation within the ECLAC system."²²

Although The Commission has accomplished many progresses and successes, the history of the Commission is not without blemish. However, what is most notable about ECLAC is its growth and evolution. The work of ECLAC is deemed some of the impactful regional development efforts, and its example is shared worldwide.²³ Since its inception, ECLAC has advanced through five phases of theoretical ideals - Industrialization through import substitution (ISI) until the 1950s, Reforms to facilitate industrialization in the 1960s, Reorientation of development "styles" towards social homogeneity and diversification as a means of promoting exports in the 70s, Overcoming the external debt crisis through "adjustment with growth" in the 1980s; and finally Changing production patterns with social equity in the 1990s.²⁴ At the 40-year anniversary of the institution, Jose Cayu ela remarked on the difficulties faced prior to the creation of ECLAC stating, "There were no reliable and prompt communication systems and interregional trade was insignificant."²⁵ The region has seen a substantial amount of growth since the inception of ECLAC, particularly under the leadership of economists Ra ul Prebisch and Celso Furtado, and the institution has taken a leadership role on the subject of structural economics.

The current Member States of the ECLAC include:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivi, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad y Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Associate Members include:

Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cura ao, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

¹⁶ "ECLAC Programme of Work and Programme Budgeting," ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/ambito-programatico-presupuestario> (accessed May 15, 2015).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ " mbito de Rendici n de Cuentas-Evaluaci n," ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/accountability-and-evaluation> (accessed June 5, 2015).

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ "Hist ria da Cepal", ECLAC, <http://www.cepal.org/en/historia-de-la-cepal> (accessed June 5, 2015).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Jose Cayuela, "ECLAC 40 years (1948-1988)," ECLAC, 1988, <http://archivo.cepal.org/pdfs/librosCepal/S8800010.pdf> (accessed May 15, 2015).

I: Developing Environments that Facilitate Entrepreneurs and Small Business

"Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are very important in the productive structure of Latin America, since they generate a large number of jobs; however, they have low productivity and contribution to GDP. It is essential to increase their productivity and in order to do so, incorporating innovation is crucial."

—Mario Cimoli, Director of the Division of Development, Productivity and Management of ECLAC²⁶

Introduction

Entrepreneurship has been unequivocal in the advancement of economic growth and capital. However, entrepreneurs can only succeed if they are equipped with the right tools and information to create successful ventures. Agnes Josi of the Bank of Saint Lucia notes that generally when a new business fails, it is often a result of a lack of managerial skills, over-optimism, and most importantly, a lack of business plan.²⁷ Ensuring that people have access to comprehensive education in understanding these dynamics is critical for success. Josi points out that simply knowing how to keep better financial statements will give the proprietor a way of monitoring business performance. Programs like the ones in Belize that seek to educate young people on how to be self-employed have proven to be helpful in regions historically known for high rates of unemployment.²⁸ In the development process, entrepreneurs are not byproducts, but rather the force that brings that movement to life.

A previous ECLAC study in the *Cepal Review* has highlighted the purpose of having a strong entrepreneurial community to breed success. Underlining efforts of European countries such as Italy, they had stated the availability of “local labor supply, saving capacity, and entrepreneurial skills inherited from the preindustrial period,” allowed for the economic development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially in the manufacturing sector.²⁹ It is because of strong communities however, that these enterprises came to existence. The local community allowed for a modernization of life and production due to shared institutions, culture, and physical infrastructure.³⁰

The Foundation for Sustainable Development in Latin America (FUNDES) Business Enabling Environment Conditions Programme helped generate some answers to understanding the needs of business, allowing for continued growth by conducting research in Argentina, Colombia, and Costa Rica. The results of the study, with the guidance of Emilio Zevallos, are narrated in the *Cepal Review* and are broken down in the following categories: finance; technology and information; marketing and external trade; regulatory structure and competition; organization and cooperation; human resources; other factors. Within each category, the study provides more details about the problems, such as finance and the lack of available credit from appropriate sources; the lack of information about the market behavior and technology to foster increased productivity; the lack of cohesion between different sized enterprises; and the shaky “regulatory structure” based much on “patronage and corrupt practices with the authorities.”³¹

ECLAC can improve the opportunities of men, women, and youth from diverse backgrounds through improving regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship. In doing so, it will make capital distribution more accessible for SMEs to thrive. ECLAC is committed to enhancing the capacity of enterprise and improving equitable multilateral trading systems that will help to stimulate economic growth and development not only in our region, but worldwide.

²⁶ “Innovation in SMEs Should Be Promoted to Improve Their Contribution to Productivity,” ECLAC, June 11, 2014, <http://www.cepal.org/en/notes/innovation-smes-should-be-promoted-improve-their-contribution-productivity> (accessed June 18, 2015).

²⁷ LC/CAR/G.695 *Report of the Meeting of Caribbean Small Business Entrepreneurs, Organizations and Agencies*. ECLAC. 19 June 2002.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Carlo Secchi, “On the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the improvement of the production structure of developing countries,” *Cepal Review* No. 27, December 1985, http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/12437/27131141I_en.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed June 18, 2015).

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Emilio Zevallos, “Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America,” *Cepal Review*, April 2003, http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/10928/79051068I_en.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed June 18, 2015).

Carlo Secchi explains, SMEs have a multitude of advantages that make them an attractable investment for development. He discusses five points which are: flexibility; understanding of and involvement in local niches; lower costs; better community relations with things such as using local traditions and skills, or even with working within environmental and ecological constraints; better “economic democracy and industrial relations.”³² Another study by ECLAC found that because the best production systems exist in bigger cities, smaller enterprises tend to concentrate in already more developed or important areas of the countries.³³

History

Muhammad Yunus received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for the success of his innovative approach for micro financing that, at the time of his award, had given out loans to over seven million people.³⁴ His approach however was not limited to South-East Asia, as the strategy of developing micro-entrepreneurs in Latin America has existed for over 30 years. Today, around 35 percent of individuals are benefitting from a micro-loan to support small businesses and working people. This is estimated to aggregate to around USD 40 billion within the microcredit sector.³⁵ Other data from the World Bank shows that an incredible 60 percent of individuals in Latin America are working for business with five or fewer employees.³⁶

In the early days of ECLAC, the region focused much of its development policy on import-substitution industrialization, pushed for by policymaker and the original ECLAC theoretical architect Raul Prebisch around 1949.³⁷ Therefore to create the needed capital for the strategy, primarily large enterprises were utilized. However, many small- and medium-sized industrial enterprises (SMIs) began to prosper after the 1950s, as the market liberalization slowly began to increase in the region. The economic and financial shocks of the 1980s sent destabilizing waves across smaller and less protected industries, which facilitated numerous bankruptcies. Market failures with inadequate government policies to stave off the collapse of businesses further led to many other negative impacts on the industries. Most saw a reduction in the industries providing goods and services, while others experienced total collapse. A report from CEPAL discussing competitiveness for SMEs mentions the small share of exports due to referenced enterprises. These are typically associated with a region’s “technological backwardness, poor access to markets for inputs and final goods, and scant diffusion of modern managerial practices, marketing and quality control, as well as difficult access to information in general.”³⁸

Macro financial crises that have included commodity price volatility or currency problems such as with the Peso have only highlighted the importance of micro-based initiatives. Originating in Mexico, the term “*empresa media*” helps to create the nomenclature that encompasses microenterprises that are capable of driving development. It ignores the more common statistical indicators, such as the number of workers, but rather focuses in on “qualitative” benefits.³⁹

Latin American and Caribbean Member States have a history of migrants being the predominant entrepreneurs; examining the early 20th century reveals that seven out of every ten businesses in Argentina were owned by

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ “Grameen Bank – Facts,” *Nobelprize.org*, Nobel Media AB, 2014, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2006/grameen-facts.html (accessed June 19, 2015).

³⁵ Veronica Trujillo and Sergio Navajas, “Financial Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: Data and Trends,” *Fomin*. Multilateral Investment Fund, November 2014, <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getDocument.aspx?DOCNUM=39204520> (accessed June 19, 2015).

³⁶ “Latin America: Entrepreneurs' lack of innovation curbs creation of quality jobs,” The World Bank, 5 December 2013, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/12/05/latin-america-many-entrepreneurs-little-innovation-growth> (accessed June 16, 2015).

³⁷ “Prebisch and ECLAC,” *CEPAL*, <http://prebisch.cepal.org/en/prebisch-and-eclac> (accessed June 16, 2015).

³⁸ BT/HOL/97/S93. *Small and medium-sized Industrial Enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean and International Competitiveness*. ECLAC.

³⁹ Emilio Zevallos. “Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America.” *Cepal Review No. 79*. April 2003. http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/10928/79051068I_en.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed June 16, 2015).

migrants, a trend found all over Latin America.⁴⁰ When LAC people did take to self-employment, they controlled industries such as sugar refinement and beer production. At the same time, more technical industries such as trolley engineering, automotive, carpentry, and iron works were nearly 100 percent migrant run.

Current Situation

Change has occurred in the last 20 years and the region has experienced entrepreneurial growth. As of 2013, one in three Latin American workers is self-employed.⁴¹ The problem the region is facing now is that lack of efficient innovation for small enterprises to continue growing rather than remaining small, as explained by Augusto de la Torre, World Bank Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean. As it is highlighted by the World Bank studies, it can be attributed to, “chronic shortage of innovation within the region.”⁴²

When considering the best approach to educating future entrepreneurs, it is important to consider the difference between high- and low-growth potential. An entrepreneur falls into one of these two categories, mostly based on the businesses’ potential to employ people. This may be due, in part, to a history of emphasizing studies in the humanities, law, and social, economic, or political fields of study, possibly constraining their ability to educate more individuals in technical fields such as engineering, science, or math.⁴³ Therefore, to increase a more productive workforce, working towards combining these technical fields into business production will benefit the process in favor of “production and export of value-added products.”⁴⁴ This would allow for increased efficiency and more opportunity for employment.⁴⁵ During the June 2014 meeting of *The Future Challenges in Science and Technology in Latin America: The role of the members of Congress*, Antonio Prado, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, announced “urgent incorporation of science and technology in the countries of the region.”⁴⁶

Investment in human capital is only a part of what the World Bank highlights as inadequate developments in part of benefitting SMSEs. A lack of regional cohesion in intellectual property rights is another staggering problem that reduces efficiency in production. Through distinct laws governing copyrights in each country, “ensuring intellectual property rights can be a significant bureaucratic undertaking for the region’s entrepreneurs.”⁴⁷ The complex system often leads to legal overlaps and confusion that deters product creators for fear of losing valuable research and development.⁴⁸ This can hinder development of both domestic and regional markets.

The FUNDES research has found that initiatives fail because their intentions have other consequences or end up increasing costs for enterprises. However, the study shares a few points of success, that is represented by other authors as well, in again highlighting the importance of financial and human resources.⁴⁹ Therefore, the study highlights two issues that hold back development of human resources, which includes “i) the view of business regarding the social security contributions they have to pay for workers, and ii) the effectiveness of occupational training instruments.”⁵⁰ Social security reaches into the costs of hiring workers, and therefore this becomes difficult on behalf of both businesses and governments in how to accommodate workers with protection while still

⁴⁰ “Latin American Entrepreneurs: Many Firms but Little Innovation,” The World Bank, 2014, <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/LAC/LatinAmericanEntrepreneurs.pdf> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ “Central America: Investing in People to Create Better Jobs,” The World Bank, 27 June 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/06/27/Centroamerica-el-rol-del-capital-humano> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ “Countries of Latin America should move towards knowledge-intensive productive structures,” ECLAC, 9 June 2014, <http://www.cepal.org/en/notes/countries-latin-america-should-move-towards-knowledge-intensive-productive-structures> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁴⁷ “Latin America: Entrepreneurs’ lack of innovation curbs creation of quality jobs,” The World Bank, 5 December 2013, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/12/05/latin-america-many-entrepreneurs-little-innovation-growth> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Emilio Zevallos. “Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America.” *Cepal Review No. 79*. April 2003. http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/10928/79051068I_en.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁵⁰ Ibid.

maintaining competitiveness. As far as referencing the training programs, the study mentions that all of the countries in the study have the necessary programs both within public and private sectors.⁵¹ The question becomes about their effectiveness and costs in relation to the success of development. It would be ideal to assess the various programs and see their progress and how they can be improved appropriately.

The concluding assessments of the FUNDES study recognize three main parts to the “public environment for small enterprises.”⁵² Beginning with a focus on the macro-analysis and Member States, the bottom-up approach will only be successful if the larger state institutions and international markets remain stable for it to exist. Therefore, there is the utmost responsibility for ECLAC Member States to maintain economic security and continue moving away from volatility dangers. Smaller businesses do not have the same capacity to weather shocks and are regularly overlooked by state governments when it comes to bailouts during economic turmoil. The second focus remains again to not overlook the significance of the MicSMEs, or micro small and medium enterprises.⁵³ Even though individually they are a very small part of national income, MicSMEs help to maintain incomes for the lowest of the economic strata, not to mention that the aggregate of these enterprises helps to support majority of the people in Latin America.⁵⁴ Therefore, to the first situation, because they are not deemed large enough for maintenance by the state, they do not have sufficient resources available during financial crises. The final point focuses on the cooperation between the state governments and institutions in conjunction with public demand for policy action.⁵⁵ The report mentions the ineffectiveness of these programs to define the existing problems and therefore resources are used inefficiently.⁵⁶ Developing closer links with information sharing between the local business owners and the state in understanding the dynamics are important for the success of public policies related to Micro-SMEs.⁵⁷

During the inauguration meeting of “Innovation and SMEs in Latin America” last year, Mario Cimoli, director of the Division of Development, Productivity and Management of ECLAC, discussed options for public policy to target within the discourse that still are lacking.⁵⁸ Emphasis of the discussion was placed on “innovation and accelerating the development of new knowledge, as well as the incorporation of new technologies, products and services that have less environmental impact.”⁵⁹ Cimoli also discussed the lack of incorporation in the relevant “productive structure” of Member States.⁶⁰

Jürgen Klenk, the Senior Advisor of the ECLAC-BMZ/giz Programme, also discussed the gap that exists in productivity.⁶¹ It encompasses two parts, first being the technological gap of the existing firms with other regions. The second gap however, has to do with the communications between small and large firms, which represent a productivity gap six times larger between the two.⁶² In other regions, especially those shared by OECD countries, the gap is much smaller.⁶³ The ability to close this gap or reduce it will allow for greater innovation as firms of all sizes will be able to gain access to new technologies that will allow for innovation and “strengthen economic development.”⁶⁴ Antonio Prado also discusses reducing the gap by “accelerating the convergence of productivities with developed countries, which requires moving towards knowledge-intensive productive structures, i.e. a process of structural change.”⁶⁵ Data provided has shown that innovation that is responsible for capital accumulation

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ “Innovation in SMEs should be promoted to improve their contribution to productivity,” ECLAC, 11 June 2014, <http://www.cepal.org/en/notes/innovation-smes-should-be-promoted-improve-their-contribution-productivity> (accessed June 18, 2015)

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ “Countries of Latin America should move towards knowledge-intensive productive structures,” ECLAC, 9 June 2014, <http://www.cepal.org/en/notes/countries-latin-america-should-move-towards-knowledge-intensive-productive-structures> (accessed June 16, 2015).

amounts to 12.6% of GDP compared to that of OECD countries, which stand at 30.1% for 2010.⁶⁶ Structural development for creating the right environment is imperative for initiating development of SMEs, but only a part of the whole as those businesses also require further protections. Innovation can lead to growth of SMEs with technical capabilities. Therefore the World Bank discusses the need for clear set of rules to define intellectual property (IP) rights.⁶⁷ Without a regional unification on property rights, managing an enterprise between Member States in the region creates a difficult environment for trade.

Latin America and Caribbean is behind other regions when it comes to patents. In Bolivia, Paraguay, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Peru, less than one in one million people have applied for patents.⁶⁸ Latin American and Caribbean countries introduce far less new products than similar developing countries; releasing or developing new products at a rate that is less than half of that which is seen in more rapidly growing countries such as Thailand or Macedonia.⁶⁹ There are already a number of regional Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as the Association of Small Business Entrepreneurs (ADECK), that specialize in getting new innovations the funding required, however more funding is needed in order to meet future demands.⁷⁰ Promoting the networking of organizations to others with the same entrepreneurial goals may provide one possible solution. At the Meeting of Caribbean Small Business Entrepreneurs in June 2002 the key points included how networking can reduce costs, promote available credit, and develop prospective entrepreneurs from a young age were key points in the conference.⁷¹ ECLAC's Economic Affairs Officer, Mr. Donatus St. Aimee, reaffirmed the importance of networking among LAC small and medium enterprises.⁷² He explained "that networks should first and foremost be a depository of knowledge and information that was easily accessible to all the stakeholders, and was only as strong as the weakest link, hence the need for continuous input at the national level."⁷³ This leaves ECLAC Member States with the following question: How can the regional body expand upon this and increase connectivity?

Committee Directive

Successful entrepreneurs transform ideas into profitable commercial enterprises. These individuals see a need among their fellow citizens and resolve to turn that need into a service. Entrepreneurs are around us every day, moving the economy forward. Providing entrepreneurs with the necessary tools to mature a small business into something bigger is important in that doing so contributes to the economic growth and development of Member States and the region as a whole.

The committee would find it best to seek solutions to increase development in structural ease for building up technical assistance for small- and medium-sized enterprises. Focusing on creating cohesive infrastructure and business environments allows for appropriate developments in productivity and efficiency. These problems, as highlighted before, slow down the pace of development in regions that are captured by micro-entrepreneurs that make up a large portion of the working population. Innovation has been repeatedly mentioned as a problem that keeps SMEs from growing. Finding innovative ways to develop technologies and research would be appropriate, as well looking into how the ECLAC region can increase technology transfer from other countries through foreign investments or finding inter-regional means of doing so. It is worth mentioning that many vocational and training programs already exist, but it can be useful to look into the ones that are efficient and create the most benefit from their missions.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ "World Bank: Understanding Latin America's Shortage of Innovative Entrepreneurs," The World Bank, 5 December 2013, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/12/05/world-bank-latin-america-shortage-innovative-entrepreneurs> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ LC/CAR/G.695. *Report of the Meeting of Caribbean Small Business Entrepreneurs, Organizations and Agencies*. ECLAC. 19 June 2002. <http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/9/11739/G0695.pdf> (accessed June 17, 2015).

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

II: Improving the Management of Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean

“We need to make definitive progress towards greater and better governance and use of natural resources, so that the latter can contribute to a more diversified economy that is more environmentally sustainable, and that creates synergies in terms of employment, well-being and sustainable long-term economic development for the region.”—
Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, 20 January 2015⁷⁴

Under the leadership of Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC is working to ensure regions that provide and share the benefits of their natural resources receive proper compensation and that natural resources are looked after for the long term which can be accomplished through appropriate governance that will allow for environmental sustainability and encompass the dynamics of equal opportunity within the development of the region.⁷⁵

Latin America and the Caribbean is rich and bountiful in many natural resources; hosting one fifth of the world’s forested area, a fifth of the world’s petroleum, a quarter of the world’s biofuel reserves, and one third of the world’s fresh water supply. Additionally, the region is rich in minerals and includes 44 percent of the world’s copper supply, 50 percent of its silver, and 65 percent of the global lithium supply on only 13 percent of the world’s land mass.⁷⁶ Although ECLAC Member States have an abundance of precious resources, these resources require responsible management and unless actions are taken in that regard, they may become scarce or depleted completely in the very near future.

History

The Latin American and Caribbean region is rich in natural commodities, and has been since the first European explorers. From the 16th century to the 19th, LAC countries produced 80 percent of the world’s silver, fueling the monetary systems on three continents.⁷⁷ In Potosi, now current day Bolivia, the largest mining operation for its time was founded in 1546. By 1672 the town hosted over 200,000 people and was one of the largest and richest towns in the world. Today it is one of Bolivia’s poorest regions.⁷⁸ The effect that LAC commodities has had on the world, has many historians asking if they have been more of a blessing or a curse? How is it that a region so gifted in natural treasure has failed to keep pace with parallel Member States, which now enjoy high-income status?

In recent decades Latin American and Caribbean commodities have seen a growth in global demand, especially in building materials. Beginning in the early 2000’s LAC exporters of iron, copper, aluminum and other minerals used in construction began seeing an increase in demand.⁷⁹ This increase coincides with the rapid paced development seen in several Asian Member States during the same time period. Prices for these exports continued to rise before peaking in 2007, during which construction across the globe slowed due to a number of financial collapses. As of 2013, prices on LAC commodities were beginning to creep back up which is a good sign for the LAC economy, but it will amount to nothing if this region continues to rely predominately on raw exports.

After Europe became part of the Latin American economy a vast amount of raw resource were shipped overseas. With the new European money, many LAC people wished to purchase goods from their new trading partners, but many of the goods that Latin America wanted to import had been through several processing stages. In the event Latin America wanted to import goods made with LAC materials, the Latin Americans were charged the cost that would be owed to the craftsman, and any salesmen along the way, as well as the cost incurred shipping the raw materials and then the finished product.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ “Region’s Governments Advance towards a Compact on the Government on the governance of Natural Resources, with ECLAC Support,” ECLAC, January 2015, <http://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/regions-governments-advance-towards-compact-governance-natural-resources-eclac-support> (accessed June 30, 2015)

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Emily Sinnott, et al. *Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The World Bank, Washington, D.C. 2010.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ *Natural Resources within the Union of South American Nations: status and trends for a regional development agenda*, ECLAC & UNASUR, May 2013.

⁸⁰ Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America*, (New York: Monthly Review Press 1973, 1997).

Still in 2015 ECLAC Member States are missing out on opportunities to produce more specialized sophisticated goods, with high national added value, “such as fine papers, hydrogenated or low-cholesterol oils, special steels, aluminum sections, copper alloys, etc.”⁸¹ Instead Latin American materials are shipped overseas, so that other Member States may enjoy the profits and prestige that come from making specialized products. Compared to the percentage of raw commodities LAC countries export, very little is processed in Latin America.⁸² The limited firms operating in the region could do so more efficiently if new firms were to enter the market, as a result of economies of scale within the same production cluster.⁸³ When an industry grows near their production materials, firms tend to plan in safeguards for the long-range protection and use of those commodities.⁸⁴

Current Situation

As of 2014 commodity exports made up 60 percent of LAC exports, this is alarming when compared with the 40 percent share it took ten years before.⁸⁵ A CEPAL review of development strategies based on natural resources, finds that Latin America and the Caribbean’s ability to achieve rapid development hinges heavily on the regions ability to learn to process its own natural resources.⁸⁶ By taking the profits from the increase in commodity exports and investing in better productivity methods, it would make it possible to grow in periods of adversity.

Daniel Kaufmann of the Global Economy and Development Program has also highlighted the necessity to move towards a long-term solution and to move away from solely relying on commodities for development.⁸⁷ By relying on oil revenue for as much as 95% of Venezuela’s foreign income, it is no surprise their economy is hurting as oil prices continue to decline across the globe.⁸⁸ Finding the optimal levels of dependency on natural commodities, while seeking investments in alternatives for the sake of diversification, will be crucial in a long term economy and will greatly strengthen markets in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Recent roundtable talks hosted by ECLAC have inspired discussion on numerous aspects of potential reform, “creating a long-term State policy and strategy to ensure that extraction industries contribute to development goals through productive diversification, structural change, and social inclusion; updating countries’ tax frameworks to achieve greater progressivity in State participation; institutionalizing long-term mechanisms for the stabilization, saving and investment of this income; and bolstering the capacity of public institutions to manage socio-environmental and labor disputes associated with the development of extraction sectors.”⁸⁹ Additionally updating Member States’ tax codes and public finance institutions to increase revenue by removing loopholes and subsidies that allow tax evasion is also necessary.⁹⁰

In August of 2014, ECLAC met with UN representatives to discuss goals as part of the Post-2015 Agenda. Alicia Bárcena again stated during the opening speech, “ECLAC is reaffirming that equality is the aim, structural change is

⁸¹ Joseph Ramos, “A Development Strategy Founded on Natural Resource-Based Production Clusters,” *Cepal Review No. 66*, December 1998.

⁸² Emily Sinnott, et al. *Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The World Bank, Washington, D.C. 2010.

⁸³ Joseph Ramos, “A Development Strategy Founded on Natural Resource-Based Production Clusters,” *Cepal Review No. 66*, December 1998.

⁸⁴ Emily Sinnott, et al. *Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The World Bank, Washington, D.C. 2010.

⁸⁵ Marisol Argueta de Barillas, “The Three Big Issues Facing Latin America,” World Economic Forum, March 2014, <https://agenda.weforum.org/2014/03/three-big-issues-facing-latin-america/> (accessed June 24, 2015).

⁸⁶ Joseph Ramos, “A Development Strategy Founded on Natural Resource-Based Production Clusters,” *Cepal Review No. 66*, December 1998.

⁸⁷ Daniel Kaufmann, “The Time is Now for Addressing Resource Governance Challenges in Latin America,” Brookings, February 2015, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2015/02/09-addressing-resource-governance-challenges-latin-america-kaufmann> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁸⁸ Nathaniel Flannery, “How Bad is Venezuela’s Economic Crisis?” Forbes, April 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2015/04/28/how-close-is-venezuela-to-defaulting/> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁸⁹ “Region’s Governments Advance towards a Compact on the Government on the governance of Natural Resources, with ECLAC Support,” ECLAC, January 2015, <http://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/regions-governments-advance-towards-compact-governance-natural-resources-eclac-support> (accessed June 30, 2015).

⁹⁰ Daniel Kaufmann, “The Time is Now for Addressing Resource Governance Challenges in Latin America,” Brookings, February 2015, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2015/02/09-addressing-resource-governance-challenges-latin-america-kaufmann> (accessed June 16, 2015).

the way and policy is the means.”⁹¹ At the time, she referred to the challenges of monitoring and accountability in the context of the development agenda. A year later, 7 May 2015, a three-day summit concluded at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile where representatives worked to build on the progress made by the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. A key focus at the summit was on the “creation of a regional instrument on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters.”⁹² Doing so helps reduce inequality of redistribution of resources and benefits civil rights groups, indigenous groups, and ethnic minority groups.

As recently as February of 2015, native peoples of the Peruvian Amazon protested the government “turning a blind eye” to the damages that oil companies cause to their communities and environment. In the 40 years oil companies have been active in the region, tension has only grown amongst native indigenous people. The Tigre River and other river basins have become some of the most contaminated, yet they are a main source of livelihood for the locals.⁹³ The discussion here touches upon two subjects: management of water rights, and management of oil. To appropriately address these topics, Member States will have to begin by understanding the utility of the relevant natural resources and how their distribution is equally managed by the many internal actors. The body will need to work together to help come up with universal rules and expectations in dealing with inefficiencies of natural resource governance.

Long term commitment and planning dedicated towards the drinking water and sanitation sectors is required in order to achieve a more stable and efficient institution. “Water has an economic value which must be internalized in the decisions of its users in order to build awareness of the fact that it is essential and scarce.”⁹⁴ Member States should note the importance the drinking water and sanitation sector has when working to reduce poverty and fostering economic development. Improvements made in the quality and access to clean drinking water will also benefit agricultural industries and tourism.⁹⁵

In addition, progress made “towards sustainable and equitable exploitation of natural resources will reinforce the ability of the Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean to tackle the challenges relating to their development agenda, including the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).”⁹⁶ As stated in Principle 8 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 3-14 June, 1992; “to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable pattern of production and consumption and promote demographic policies.”⁹⁷

Information is essential when planning new policies or regulatory decisions. However a significant challenge for policy makers has been a very scant supply of relevant up to date information. According to Latin American economist Fernando Losada, “the availability of macro and financial information on a timely basis is essential for figuring out where to put your money.”⁹⁸ When Governments and private investors alike are left with insufficient information, projects never get funded, sanitation plants never get built, and natural resources are harvested without restriction. It is for these reasons there has been an emphasis placed on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration by a

⁹¹“ECLAC Consultation Addresses Accountability in Post-2015 Agenda,” ECLAC Press Release, August 2015, <http://sd.iisd.org/news/eclac-consultation-addresses-accountability-in-post-2015-agenda/> (accessed June 31, 2015).

⁹² “First Round Negotiations Concludes for Regional Agreements on Rights of Access in Environmental Matters,” ECLAC Press Release, May 2015, <http://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/first-round-negotiations-concludes-regional-agreement-rights-access-environmental> (accessed June 31, 2015).

⁹³“Preliminary Document of the Regional Instrument on Access to Information, Participation and Justice on Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean,” ECLAC, May 2015, http://www.cepal.org/dmah/noticias/noticias/7/54807/Preliminary_document_P10_ECLAC_May_2015.pdf (accessed June 31, 2015).

⁹⁴ *Natural Resources within the Union of South American Nations: Status and trends for a regional development agenda*, ECLAC & UNASUR, 2013, <http://www.cepal.org/dmri/noticias/noticias/8/49938/2013-190-UNASUR-WEB.pdf> (accessed June 16, 2015).

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ A/conf.151/26 (Vol.I). *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*. United Nations General Assembly. August 1992.

⁹⁸ Nathaniel Flannery. “How Bad is Venezuela’s Economic Crisis?” *Forbes*, April 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2015/04/28/how-close-is-venezuela-to-defaulting/> (accessed June 16, 2015).

number of Latin American Member States, notably the governments of Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.⁹⁹

Conclusion

Commitments must be made to ensure the full exercise of rights of access to information, participation, and justice as they are described in Principal 10. Goals should be established to monitor progress in these areas and to the Member States, such as the ones listed above, which have already expressed a willingness to launch programs to explore the “feasibility of adopting a regional instrument, ranging from guidelines, workshops, and best practices to a regional convention open to all countries in the region and with meaningful participation of all concerned citizens.”¹⁰⁰

It is will also be important for Member States to address challenges that natural resource exporting Member States face in terms of public policies, institutional framework, the regulation of ownership and the effective use of income. Additional challenges involve regulatory, fiscal, and macroeconomic functions, as well as public policy formulation and implementation and management of socio-environmental conflicts.¹⁰¹ Success on these fronts will depend heavily on public management and acceptance.

Shortage in specialized human capital, as well as narrow or out of date production lines, has for years held the LAC economy back.¹⁰² It is persistent issues like these that allow Member States such as China, Germany and Japan, who import LAC raw materials, to produce sophisticated commodities more efficiently than many LAC Member States.¹⁰³ Member States need to “ensure efficient investment of windfall earnings from natural resources”, “by developing mechanisms such as funds that can be used to avert any future price volatility or promote public investment in education, health, infrastructure, and innovation and technological development,” which in the long-term will reduce natural resource extraction.¹⁰⁴

Committee Directive

ECLAC Member States should be prepared to discuss more efficient ways of harnessing natural stocks on order to direct gains towards growth associated with more renewable and less homogenous products. As well as ways to progress to a higher, more developed industrialization, one which will close equality gaps.¹⁰⁵

The committee body must also examine long-term strategies on how to facilitate, economic growth, as well as environmental sustainability in a mutually supportive way. Any future plans designed to encourage this partnership should include both long and short term goals, as to better monitor progress and examine application and merits of new development programs.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ A/CONF.216/13. *Declaration in the Application of Principal 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. June 2012.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ *Natural Resources within the Union of South American Nations: Status and trends for a regional development agenda*, ECLAC & UNASUR, 2013, <http://www.cepal.org/dnmi/noticias/noticias/8/49938/2013-190-UNASUR-WEB.pdf> (accessed June 16, 2015).

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Emily Sinnott, et al. *Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The World Bank, Washington, D.C. 2010.

¹⁰⁴ *Natural Resources within the Union of South American Nations: Status and trends for a regional development agenda*, ECLAC & UNASUR, 2013, <http://www.cepal.org/dnmi/noticias/noticias/8/49938/2013-190-UNASUR-WEB.pdf> (accessed June 16, 2015).

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Developing Environments that Facilitate Entrepreneurs and Small Business

“Agenda 21 – Article 30: Strengthening the Role of Business and Industry” United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

<http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?DocumentID=52&ArticleID=78&l=en> (Accessed July 20, 2015)

From a vastly impactful sustainable development plan, this document discuss all aspects of business in attaining sustainable development. Article 30 lays out how to have cleaner production, increases in entrepreneurship, as well as methods of implementation and related costs. This resource offers another insight and opportunity for comparison on the implementation of these policies from then to now.

“Central America: Investing in People to Create Better Jobs” World Bank June 2012.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/06/27/Centroamerica-el-rol-del-capital-humano> (Accessed June 5, 2015)

This source addresses a shrinking in the job market as well as a growing number of unemployed youths. Additionally, this article focuses on a need for improving human capital and giving them the tools to excel in their development. Acknowledging that a shift must be made towards education allowing for more skilled employment and higher wages, this resource will paint a suggestion of can be done to create a stronger job market.

“Creating the Environment for Entrepreneurial Success”, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

<http://www.cipe.org/creating-environment-entrepreneurial-success> (Accessed August 30, 2015).

This resource is a compilation of readable and viewing information relating to the Ecosystem of Business and Entrepreneurship. The article breaks down into three pieces what should be considered when pursuing this avenue. Having information such as this resource will be helpful to delegations by giving realistic and clear examples and suggestions of entrepreneurship so that they can in turn create structures for SMEs to thrive in.

“Entrepreneurship Skills for Growth-Orientated Businesses” Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), November 2012 http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/Cooney_entrepreneurship_skills_HGF.pdf (Accessed August 30, 2015).

This document discusses how to grow business in a manner that is easy to implement. Notably, barriers to growth are outlined, as well as critical and crucial variables to factor in during the process and best practices shared from enterprises that have grown. Again, this resource creates a great picture of the climates that must be considered when creating spaces for SMEs.

“Innovation in SMEs should be promoted to improve their contribution to productivity” ECLAC, June 2014.

<http://www.cepal.org/en/notes/innovation-smes-should-be-promoted-improve-their-contribution-productivity> (Accessed June 5, 2015)

This report looks at the production, productivity, and management of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America, as well as the productivity gaps that exist among LAC firms. Mario Cimoli, director of the Division of Development, Productivity and Management of ECLAC stresses that public policies for SMEs are lacking in addition to stressing the importance of driving innovation and development in Latin American and Caribbean countries. This article will be helpful to delegates by providing recent and relevant context and discussion on the realm of small and medium businesses, their impact, and their future.

“Latin America: Entrepreneurs' lack of innovation curbs creation of quality jobs”, World Bank, December 2013.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/12/05/latin-america-many-entrepreneurs-little-innovation-growth> (Accessed August 30, 2015)

An important distinction is made in this article between having small businesses and growing small businesses. Here it is pointed out in Latin American and the Caribbean firms tend to start small and stay small. LAC countries do not have a problem with creating small business, “with over half the work force employed by small businesses.” It is that once these small businesses start, little growth or development occurs and this stunting keeps much of LAC from keeping up with technology and development, as compared to similar industrialized nations states. This distinction will allow for research to have more evidence gathered toward selecting the delegations favor or disfavor of entrepreneurship.

“*Report of the Meeting of Caribbean Small Business Entrepreneurs, Organizations and Agencies*”, ECLAC. June 2002. <http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/9/11739/g0695.pdf> (Accessed June 5, 2015)

The agenda for this meeting was set to look at the policy directives and guidelines that should drive the industry in Latin America and the Caribbean that still remain “underdeveloped, uncoordinated and, in some cases, non-existent.” Further focus was directed towards clearly defined policies on issues such as entrepreneurial promotion, technical and vocational training, credit facilities and industrial development. This report will offer insight and opportunity for comparison on the related committee policies from then to now.

“The Role of small entrepreneurs in strengthening the CARICOM Single Market and Economy”, The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) June 2006.

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/speeches/small_business_applewhaite.jsp (Accessed July 20, 2015).

This resource is an address from the Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM to the Annual General Meeting of the Small Business Development Finance Trust. In this meeting, The Deputy Secretary-General calls into review guiding CARICOM documents as well as their revisions in efforts to proposed the creation of a streamlined system for market and economy. This address will give perspective of the topic in question from the angle of Member States who are members of both entities.

Topic II: Improving the Management of Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean

Barma, Naazneen, Kaiser, K et. al. “Rent To Riches: The Political Economy of Natural Resource–Led Development”. The World Bank 2012.

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2013/fiscalpolicy/pdf/rajaram.pdf> (Accessed September 3, 2015).

This article published from the World Bank discusses the connection between natural resources and driving economy. This resource will be helpful to opening up thoughts behind the perspective of Natural Resource-Led Development from other parts of the Global Community.

“Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean” Inter-American Development Bank

<http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/environment/environment-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean,1663.html> (Accessed June 10, 2015).

This website from the Inter-American Development Bank is a compilation of information pertaining to work on the environment in the region. This website includes sections of relevant policies, strategies, and highlights from projects conducted. This resource will be helpful to provide information regarding the environment from the perspective of another financial institution.

“Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change” The European Commission,

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/environmental-sustainability-and-climate-change_en (Accessed June 10, 2015).

The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is purposed with ensuring cooperation for the development needs of partner countries. Under the theme of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, there are a number of collaborative programs implemented to reduce poverty through fostering environmental stability such as EURO-SOLAR (2006-2014), EUROCLIMA II (2014-2016), and WATERCLIMA (2013-2017). This document will be helpful to provide insight on previous programs as well as discussion on the status of current programs.

Fagan, P. “Natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean: National, Regional and Interactions” October 2008. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/3415.pdf> (Accessed August 5, 2015).

This working paper from the Humanitarian Policy Group at Georgetown University looks at the occurrences of natural disasters in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Additionally, case studies on previous disasters, as well as information on national, regional, and international responding bodies is given. As disaster effects the manner in which natural resources can be managed, salvaged, and distributed – understanding the moving parts of disaster will be helpful to forward planning.

“Global Environment Outlook-5 Environment for the future we want: Chapter 12 – Latin America and the Caribbean”, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2012.

http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5_report_C12.pdf (Accessed June 10, 2015).

The Global Environment Outlook assessment from the UNEP is a collaborative document from a number of stakeholders demonstrating trends in the global environment. Chapter 12 focuses directly on Latin America and the Caribbean, and examines topics such as environmental governance structures, water management and case studies, land use, and biodiversity. This resource will be extremely helpful as it can give direct background to trends and changes that have happened in the region in the last few years.

“Management of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean”, The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) <http://www.ifad.org/gender/regional/lac/nrm.htm> (Accessed July 12, 2015).

This article discusses the need for ecological sustainability to attain long-term development with agriculture and in rural areas. In particular, the IFAD has a number of programs that incorporate women and indigenous populations into the overall management process. This resource gives good examples of ways to incentivize and include the community in reclaiming their natural resources, and therefore giving them more ownership over protecting their surrounding villages.

“Integrated Water Resources Management” Organization of American States OAS 2009

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/waterresources.htm> (Accessed September 3, 2015).

This article from the OAS Department of Sustainable Development discusses integrated water resources management in efforts to improve management, conservation, and use of water. A number of projects to increase the effective of water management are listed, including a project in the Amazon and a number of rivers that connect Central American countries. This page will be helpful in providing past examples of water management systems that were either best practices or lessons learned.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. 2012. A/CONF.216/13. *Declaration on the Application of Principal 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*. United Nations conference on Sustainable Development.

<http://www.cepal.org/rio20/noticias/paginas/8/48588/Declaracion-eng-N1244043.pdf> (Accessed September 3, 2015).

This declaration on the reiteration of Principal 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environmental Development, serves to underline the importance of working together with all governing bodies involved in preserving natural resources. To this it is believed that improvement can be made by the spread if information on this issue as well as giving concerned parties a place where their voice may be heard.