

Draft Agenda



Intra-Regional Relations

Seminar: Prospective vision of Latin American and Caribbean integration
Mexico, Mexico City
6 and 7 March 2018
SP/SVPILC/DT N° 1-18

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INTRODUCTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) share the interest in supporting regional integration processes as relevant mechanisms for the economic and political development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA and ECLAC have promoted research to increase knowledge about the advances made in different subregional integration mechanisms in various fields of interest to the region. Therefore, they are organizing a seminar for reflection and discussion on the future of integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the “Seminar: Prospective vision of Latin American and Caribbean integration”, both institutions will present the main results of some research studies on the status of integration processes, as well as the main challenges and opportunities for the region. In 2016, SELA worked on the design of an integration index for Latin America and the Caribbean (INTALC) to measure the degree of integration of the countries in the region and monitor its evolution. New topics were incorporated into this index with the inclusion of dimensions that are not traditional in this type of indicators, such as social, migration, labour and cultural matters. Furthermore, ECLAC has worked on various documents related to regional integration, including the analysis of intra-regional trade, its typology according to its technological contents and regional value added.

This seminar aims to discuss the status and future of integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. To that end, participants will be able to analyse recent studies on integration schemes and challenges posed by the international environment, intra-regional trade and future scenarios, with the participation of experts in the various integration mechanisms, as well as international organizations.

The event will feature round tables on regional and subregional integration schemes that contribute to the strengthening of integrationist ties of the countries in the region. The contents of this activity are based on the following four topics: regional and subregional integration mechanisms and organizations; SELA’s follow-up report on integration mechanisms; tools for monitoring, analyzing and measuring regional integration; challenges posed by the international environment; and prospects for Latin American and Caribbean integration processes.

1. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION MECHANISMS

The first session will focus on the analysis of the different subregional integration mechanisms from the view of a representative of each mechanism. In fact, this session will offer an overview of the integration mechanisms and delve into the status of the integration schemes individually and the evolution of their member countries in their efforts to fulfil their objectives. Representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Secretariat for the Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Andean Community (CAN), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Pacific Alliance (AP) are expected to attend the seminar.

2. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT INTEGRATION

This session will focus on the discussion of the role of integration organizations whose main purpose is to promote and boost integration and cooperation among the countries in the region. In this connection, representatives of different organizations, such as ALADI, SEGIB, ECLAC and

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SELA, will make a brief presentation of the evolution of their work through the collaboration with countries and other institutions to promote regional integration.

SELA will offer a brief overview on the status of the integration mechanisms through the presentation of the Report on subregional integration mechanisms.

3. MEASURING REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The third session deals with some ways of measuring regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and other regions of the world with similar integration processes. Participants will discuss how regional asymmetries and convergence are conceived on the basis of the results obtained in studies that aim to standardize the fundamentals of measurement within the conceptual framework of integration.

Emphasis will be made on a tool for measuring integration in LAC (INTALC), which offers the possibility of quantitatively evaluating the degree and the stage of the integration process in which every integration mechanism under review stands. It is used to analyze regular events within the economic situation of countries, following up on the integration mechanisms and assessing their status. Case studies put forward different experiences submitted by both regional and extra-regional blocs, which draw useful lessons for the countries in the region.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION

The globalization process and the multilateral system built after World War II have reached a new stage in which noticeable wear of the global regulatory system and institutions created around it is observed. While international trade, economic integration processes and the resulting globalization have created wealth and productive efficiency, costs for groups or countries lagging behind have emerged and an unprecedented concentration of wealth is evident. At present, options for policy and rapprochement in international relations have arisen, questioning values such as cooperation, primacy of the multilateral system, and respect for the set of global standards and conventions in the field of trade and investment, environment, among others. Integration processes should consider their future, the validity of their assumptions and how to upgrade their development proposals.

5. PROSPECTS AND LONG-TERM VISION OF INTEGRATION

As a result of the analysis of asymmetries, the integration index and the evaluation of convergence, the Permanent Secretariat proposed the creation of a tool to generate reference scenarios on medium- and long-term prospects for the different integration schemes.

In addition, cooperation actions of ECLAC with different regional integration mechanisms and organizations provide information on the integration agenda in the future, as well as its main objectives.

6. BASE DOCUMENTS

The following documents will serve as the basis for discussions at the seminar:

- a) Reports on economic integration: Latin America and the Caribbean. SELA. N° 2. July, SELA, 2017.

- b) Defining asymmetries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The case of the Pacific Alliance, SELA.
- c) Integration Index for Latin America and the Caribbean (INTALC), SELA.
- d) Prospective vision of Latin American and Caribbean integration: A document that quantitatively explores prospects and offers a long-term vision of integration, SELA.
- e) Trade in goods and services in Central America, ECLAC, 2017.
- f) The Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR: Towards convergence in diversity, ECLAC, 2017.
- g) International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, 2017.

VENUE FOR THE SEMINAR

The seminar will be held in the Prebisch Room of ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters in Mexico. Av. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra 193, Floor 14, Col. Granada C.P. 11520, Mexico City, Mexico.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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AGENDA
Tuesday, 6 March

Morning	
8:30 – 9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00 – 9:10	OPENING SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Cartaya, Director of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. • Hugo Beteta, Director of ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters in Mexico.
9:10 – 10:45	SESSION I: REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRACIÓN MECHANISMS Moderator: Jorge Mario Martínez , Chief of the International Trade and Industry Unit of ECLAC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desiree Field-Ridley, Adviser, Single Market and Economy, Secretary of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). • Eduardo Espinoza, Director of the Centre for Studies on Economic Integration, Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA). • César Montaña, Director-General, Andean Community (CAN). • Esteban Rogel, Technical Adviser of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR). • Santiago Mateos, Director for the Pacific Alliance, General Directorate of American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. <p>Questions and answers Objective: Present strengths, relevant actions that are under way and future challenges.</p>
10:45 – 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11: 15– 12:00	SESSION II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT INTEGRATION Moderator: Virginia Cartaya , Director of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Javier Rodríguez, Analyst of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. • Christian Leroux, Head of the Trade Negotiations and Agreements Department of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). • Jorge Mario Martínez, Chief of the International Trade and Industry Unit of ECLAC. • Roberto Carlos Gutiérrez Martínez, Manager of Programs and Initiatives, Subregional Office in Mexico, SEGIB. <p>Questions and answers Objective: Present actions for monitoring regional integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>

Afternoon	
12:00 – 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00	<p>SESSION III: MEASURING REGIONAL INTEGRATION</p> <p>Moderator: Ramón Padilla, Chief of the Economic Development Unit of ECLAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humberto Soto. Official in charge of the Social Development Unit, ECLAC. The need to measure asymmetries and convergence in LAC. • Larissa Plachinda. Eurasian Economic Commission. Tools for measuring regional integration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. • Wafa Aidi, Official of Economic Affairs, Economic Commission for Africa. Tools for measuring regional integration in Africa. • José Durán. Chief of the Economic Integration Unit, ECLAC. Potential analysis of regional input-output matrices. • Javier Rodríguez. Analyst of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. Integration index, a proposal for measuring the progress of integration processes in LAC. <p>Questions and answers</p> <p>Objective: Present methodologies, proposed measurement and monitoring of regional integration processes.</p>
3:00 – 3:30	COFFEE BREAK
3:30 – 5:00	<p>SESSION IV: THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION</p> <p>Moderator: Emilio Urquillas, Country Representative in Mexico, CAF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rommanee Kananurak, Excm. Ambassador of Thailand in Mexico and Chairman of ASEAN Working Group. • Jose Antonio Ardavin, Head Latin America and Caribbean Unit Strategic Partnerships and New Initiatives (OECD), The role of Latin America in global governance and the redefinition of multilateralism. • Luz María de la Mora, Researcher at CIDE. Renegotiation of NAFTA and lessons for the Americas. • Pedro Caldentey, Director of the Department of Economics at University Loyola Andalusia. The European project and its challenges. • Rosario Santa Gadea, Director of the Centre for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of the Pacific. The Pacific Basin as a space for economic integration in the 21st century. <p>Questions and answers</p> <p>Objective: Discuss the major changes in the international environment that affect integration processes and the challenges they pose.</p>

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Wednesday, 07 March

Morning	
9:30 –11:00	<p>SESSION V: PROSPECTS AND LONG-TERM VISION OF INTEGRATION</p> <p>Moderator: Olaf de Groot, International Trade and Industry Unit of ECLAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepción Olavarrieta, Secretary of the Ibero-American Prospective Network. Prospective and Future Situation Index. • Virginia Cartaya, Director of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. Prospective vision of integration. • Alejandro Ramos, Senior Specialist in Integration, INTAL-IDB. • Ana Sanjuán, Director for Regional Initiatives, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America. <p>Questions and answers</p> <p>Objective: Reflect on the potential development of integration processes and the main lines of action suggested to achieve them.</p>
11:00 –11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 12:00	<p>CONCLUDING SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jorge Mario Martínez, Chief of the International Trade and Industry Unit of ECLAC. • Concepción Olavarrieta, Secretary of the Ibero-American Prospective Network. • José Durán, Chief of the Economic Integration Unit, ECLAC. <p>Detonating questions: What advances have been achieved in integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean? What advances have been achieved in tools for measuring integration processes? What challenges do regional integration processes face?</p>
12:00 – 12:10	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Cartaya, Director of Studies and Proposals of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. • Hugo Beteta, Director of ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters in Mexico.