



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 May 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session
Agenda item 147
Joint Inspection Unit

Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the comments of the Secretariat on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” (see [A/75/874](#)).



I. Introduction

1. In its report entitled “Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” (see [A/75/874](#)), the Joint Inspection Unit provides an independent assessment of the regulatory frameworks and related practices concerning the management and administration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), highlighting areas of concern and those in need of improvement and the challenges faced, with a view to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional commission.

II. General comments

2. The Secretariat generally welcomes and supports the review and considers it relevant.

III. Comments on specific recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC should monitor and report on the impact and specific results achieved by the Caribbean First strategy as part of regular reporting to the Commission.

3. The Secretariat supports the recommendation. The results achieved and the impact of the Caribbean First strategy are being included in the regular reporting to the Commission.

4. The strategy encompasses several elements, including:

(a) Mainstreaming the Caribbean perspective in the programme of work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental conferences;

(b) Promoting policy recommendations and options for cooperation with Caribbean small island developing States;

(c) Supporting strategic advocacy on financing for development and on derisking;

(d) Providing countries in the subregion with the support necessary to monitor and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the small island developing States agenda, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

5. As part of the strategy, ECLAC has developed and promoted a debt for climate adaptation swap initiative and the establishment of a Caribbean resilience fund to address the challenges that the subregion faces in terms of high indebtedness, access to external financing and vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events.

6. At the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2020, the 2019 report on the activities of the Commission was presented to the member States and associate members.

7. High-level dialogues with national authorities of Caribbean member States were held virtually to discuss the particular needs of the Caribbean small island developing States in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Recommendation 2

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC should prepare, before the end of 2021, an action plan to facilitate coordination and integration of the activities of the national offices in the respective United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks for the countries in which those offices are located.

8. The Secretariat partially supports the recommendation, as it is of the view that the coordination and integration of activities in the Cooperation Frameworks should not be limited to countries in which those offices are located. Rather, in line with the reforms, coordination and integration should be in any country in which ECLAC is undertaking activities.

9. Regarding current activities, ECLAC provides regular support and input for the development of selected areas of common country analyses and Cooperation Frameworks in which it brings added value and/or carries out activities. In addition, through its participation in the Peer Support Group, ECLAC participates in quality assurance reviews of all common country analyses and Cooperation Frameworks. ECLAC subregional headquarters and national offices fully participate in United Nations country team work and provide regular direct support, input and data in relation to selected economic and social development perspectives to resident coordinators and country teams in their respective countries.

Recommendation 3

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in consultation with the Secretariat, should devise a change management plan to address the impact of the current reform process on the regional commission's activities and report the relevant results to the Secretary-General and the Commission as part of regular reporting activities.

10. The Secretariat partially supports the recommendation, which is already being addressed through various means.

11. ECLAC has been engaged in the reform process implemented throughout the Secretariat and has provided strategic insight and input from the regional perspective. In close collaboration with the regional Development Coordination Office and agencies, funds and programmes with a regional presence, progress has been made in the implementation of the regional review of the United Nations development system.

12. In that regard, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean was formally established in 2020. It held two meetings at which a workplan for 2021 was adopted, a joint secretariat, encompassing ECLAC, the regional Development Coordination Office and the United Nations Development Programme, was established and terms of reference were approved.

13. The preparation of the first system-wide results report of the United Nations development system for Latin America and the Caribbean began in 2020 and the report was presented to member countries during the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development. ECLAC is also engaged in the implementation of the management reform of the Secretariat, including the annual budget cycle, the new accountability framework and the provision of common back offices to the Resident Coordinator's Office in Chile and 25 other such offices in the region based on the adopted Business Operations Strategy, among other aspects.

Recommendation 4

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC should ensure that staff performance appraisals are carried out timely, as required for all staff at the end of each performance cycle.

14. The Secretariat supports the recommendation. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC will ensure that programme managers and staff adhere to the requirement to carry out performance appraisals in a timely manner.
