

13 January 2016

Dear Mr. di Santo,

I have the honour to refer to the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which will take place at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, in Mexico City, from 23 to 27 May 2016.

The session is the most important intergovernmental conference for steering the work of ECLAC and reviewing the progress of its activities. It serves as a forum for consideration of the most pressing issues for the region and their implications for the public policy agenda. On this occasion, the secretariat has prepared a principal document entitled *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in a context of global paradigm shifts, the document analyses the main economic, social and environmental challenges facing the Latin American and Caribbean region. Consensus is growing within the international community that the current development pattern is unsustainable. This is borne out by a number of indicators: rising inequality within countries, slow and weak recovery of the global economy and trade, and environmentally unsustainable production and consumption patterns that threaten the well-being of future generations.

On the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals and in light of global economic trends, ECLAC considers the policies and partnerships that the region will need in order to move towards a development path capable of ensuring greater equality and environmental sustainability. The document prepared by the secretariat argues that new global public goods are required to guarantee stable growth with inclusion, the creation of good-quality employment and environmental stewardship. It also makes regional and national policy proposals geared towards an environmental big push, in the framework of a renewed relationship between the State, the market and society.

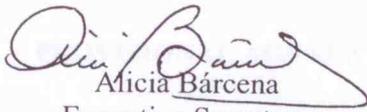
The contents of the document will be analysed and discussed in depth at the high-level seminar *Horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development*, which will take place on Thursday 26 and the morning of Friday 27 May 2016 and will convene Ministers of State, heads of international agencies, leading academics and experts and other prominent figures at the regional and global levels.

Mr. Donato di Santo
Rome, Italy

We are honoured that you will join us at the high-level seminar and the Session of ECLAC.

The provisional agenda and organization of work of the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC are attached for your information. The document Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development will be sent shortly.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.


Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary