

ENMUNC VI



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the
Caribbean**

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Letter from the Chair

Hello delegates!

My name is Armen Bagdassarian and I will be your Committee Director for the ECLAC committee this year at ENMUNC IV. I'm currently a freshman at Emory studying Business Administration and International Studies. I'm originally from Yerevan, Armenia, but moved to a small town in Massachusetts called Watertown when I was little. I found my love for Model UN when I was thrown head first into a conference my freshman year of high school. Outside of MUN I help organize the TEDx conference on Emory's campus, volunteer for the Armenian National Committee of America, and live off of energy drinks.

One of my favorite aspects of ECOSOC committees is the specificity of issues that need to be resolved. Unlike other General Assembly committees where broad issues might not be as applicable to every nation in committee, the issues facing ECLAC in this committee threaten the livelihood of the citizens of almost all of its member states.

As delegates in this committee, you will find yourself grappling with intricate issues that directly impact the livelihoods of citizens in the region, requiring a nuanced understanding of economic disparities, social inequalities, and sustainable development. The committee's agenda will revolve around topics such as indigenous rights, socio-environmental conflicts, and inclusive economic policies. Furthermore, you will need to collaborate closely to formulate targeted solutions that address the region's diverse needs, reflecting the real-world complexities inherent in ECLAC's mission.

I can't wait to see you all in March, but until then feel free to reach out to me about literally anything!

Best,

Armen Bagdassarian

Sensitivity Statement

Dear Delegates,

You are expected to retain decorum throughout the committee and treat these issues with the seriousness they call for. Any appeal to or use of discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. Undiplomatic behavior towards fellow delegates, including bullying, personal insults, and harassment, will also not be tolerated. ENMUNC seeks to maintain a fair and balanced environment that allows delegates to shine and showcase their talents. As such, using pre-writing or similarly deceptive tactics, such as using AI in writing working papers in our committee, will not be tolerated by the dais or ENMUNC as an organization. Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable at ENMUNC. If issues arise with the conduct of a delegation or individual, feel free to reach out to Armen Bagdassarian at armen.bagdassarian@emory.edu or to our Under-Secretary-General at nayan.mallubhotla@emory.edu

Committee Background:

History of ECLAC:

Originally founded as the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) by Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) on February 25th, 1948, the organization would expand to include Caribbean countries, adopting the current name of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) by resolution 1984/67. Headquartered in Santiago, Chile, ECLAC's main objective is furthering the economic development of the region and strengthening economic cooperation and ties within member nations. As one of the five regional councils of the United Nations, worked at first at achieving development in the region through industrialization policies largely in line with the idea of Structural Economics, developed by Argentinian economist Raul Prebisch and extended to what would be Dependency Theory.¹



¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, "About," www.cepal.org, October 17, 2017, <https://www.cepal.org/en/about>.

Dependency Theory and Structural Economics:

To truly understand ECLAC's historic and modern role in Latin America and the Caribbean it is necessary to understand the economic policies that form the backbone of the council. Prebisch originally outlined several issues and inequalities that Latin America faced at the time. Many of



these nations had historically been used to produce primary goods, such as food or raw materials, for industrialized nations which would produce the final products. Despite technical progress income had tended

to also rise more for industrial nations rather than their peripheral countries which produced primary goods. The nations of Latin America and the Caribbean severely lacked the infrastructure for production due to this, and a price disparity was observed between primary goods and manufactured goods as the prices of primary goods fell more than their respective manufactured goods, contrary to what technological and productivity improvements should have caused.

Somewhat attributed to

the effects of cyclical expansions (periods of economic growth and prosperity), Prebisch advocated for the implementation of policies that mitigated the impacts of cyclical expansions and their respective readjustments so as to not shift the price of primary goods drastically. Furthermore,

many member nations of ECLAC had forcibly and hastily industrialized due to global events such as world wars and economic crises that greatly shifted economic reliances that these nations previously had.²

Mandate and Objectives:

ECLAC operates within a mandate and set of objectives aimed to catalyze socio-economic progress and sustainable development for its member nations. At its core, ECLAC is committed to promote inclusive growth, social justice, and equitable development. One of its primary objectives is to conduct rigorous research, comprehensive analysis, and to provide policy recommendations that are tailored to the unique circumstances and development priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. These recommendations encompass a wide array of critical areas, including macroeconomic policies, trade, investment, social development, environmental sustainability, technological innovation, and more.³



² Dale L. Johnson, "Economism and Determinism in Dependency Theory," *Latin American Perspectives* 8, no. 3/4 (1981): 108–17, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2633473>.

³ William I. Robinson, "Global Crisis and Latin America," *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 23, no. 2 (2004): 135–53, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27733633>.

ECLAC's mandate extends beyond economic advancement; it embraces a holistic approach to development, encompassing social, environmental, and gender perspectives. The organization places a strong emphasis on reducing socio-economic disparities and advancing social inclusion,



aiming to ensure that economic growth translates into tangible improvements in the quality of life for all segments of society, particularly those historically marginalized.⁴ Moreover, ECLAC advocates for gender equality and women's

empowerment, recognizing the pivotal role of gender equity in fostering sustainable development.

A more recent example of this has been through the Regional Gender Agenda tool which was jointly created by member ECLAC nations. This tool allows for the search of various member nation initiatives and commitments towards gender equality, and acts as a set of guidelines for social progress in the field. Through its research, advocacy, and policy formulation, ECLAC aims to bridge gaps in income, access to resources, and opportunities among different social groups, striving to create more just and inclusive societies.⁵

⁴ William I. Robinson, "Global Crisis and Latin America," *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 23, no. 2 (2004): 135–53, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27733633>.

⁵ Laura Albornoz Pollmann, "Empowering Women, Enhancing Prosperity," JSTOR, 2017, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep03714.5>.

Furthermore, ECLAC is dedicated to facilitating regional integration and cooperation among its member countries. By fostering dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of best practices, the organization seeks to enhance the collective capabilities of the region to address shared challenges and seize opportunities for sustainable development. It also actively engages in promoting international cooperation, seeking partnerships with other regional bodies, international organizations, and the global community to leverage resources, expertise, and support for the advancement of its objectives.⁶

In alignment with global sustainable development goals, ECLAC plays a pivotal role in guiding the region towards a path of sustainable development. It emphasizes the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability, advocating for policies that promote environmental conservation, climate resilience, and the transition to greener economies. Through its research and recommendations, ECLAC aims to align regional strategies with global efforts to address pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and natural resource management.⁷

⁶ Romina Bandura and Owen Murphy, "Infrastructure Development in the Peruvian Amazon," JSTOR, 2020, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep27033.6>.

⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, "About," www.cepal.org, October 17, 2017, <https://www.cepal.org/en/about>.

Topic 1: Indigenous Rights and Sustainable Tourism Development

While many of ECLAC's member nations rely on the tourism industry in their national economies, the use of land and other landmarks can vary from nation to nation. Furthermore, many member nations have delicate relationships with many indigenous groups that live on land or landmarks that are considered very important to the tourism industry. With proper debate, a middle ground can be found between helping foster the growth of the tourism industry in many member nations while taking into account the rights of the indigenous people on that land.

Indigenous rights encompass a spectrum of rights spanning land, culture, language, and self-determination. Within the sphere of tourism, these rights translate into the preservation of cultural heritage, control over traditional lands, and the right to partake in decision-making processes affecting their communities.⁸ Recognizing and respecting these rights are pivotal in formulating sustainable tourism practices that benefit Indigenous communities without compromising their cultural integrity. Challenges faced by Indigenous communities in the realm of tourism development, such as land dispossession, cultural commodification, loss of autonomy, and unequal power dynamics, underscore the urgency of ensuring legal protections and representation



⁸ Patricia I. Vásquez, "Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resource Development," JSTOR (University of Georgia Press, 2014), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46n84z.7>.

to safeguard their rights and interests. Land dispossession stands as a primary challenge, often stemming from historical injustices and contemporary practices. Many Indigenous groups face the encroachment of their ancestral lands for tourism infrastructure, leading to forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, and disruption of their sacred sites. This dispossession not only affects their physical space but also disrupts their spiritual and cultural connections to the land, posing significant threats to their cultural heritage and identity.⁹

Cultural commodification represents another critical challenge. Indigenous cultures and traditions are often commodified for tourism purposes, leading to the commercialization of sacred ceremonies, artifacts, and traditional knowledge. When their cultural practices are



reduced to mere attractions for tourists, it can lead to the distortion or misrepresentation of their heritage, stripping away authenticity and perpetuating stereotypes. This exploitation undermines the integrity of Indigenous cultures and contributes to a loss of cultural autonomy.¹⁰

Loss of autonomy and self-determination is yet another pressing challenge. Indigenous communities frequently face limited autonomy in decision-making processes concerning tourism

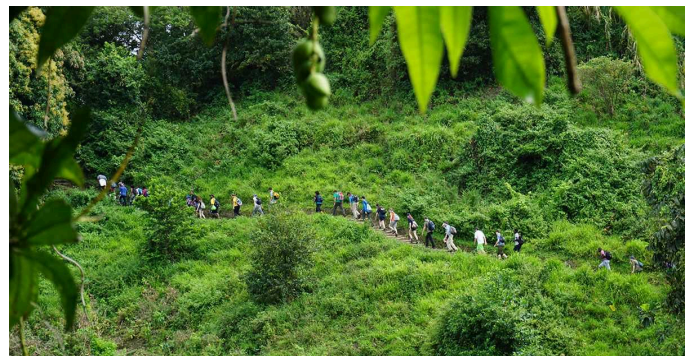
⁹ Paul Edward Montgomery Ramírez, "Indigenous Latino Heritage:: Destruction, Invisibility, Appropriation, Revival, Survivance," ed. Veysel Apaydin, JSTOR (UCL Press, 2020), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv13xpsfp.15>.

¹⁰ Patricia I. Vásquez, "Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resource Development," JSTOR (University of Georgia Press, 2014), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46n84z.7>.

development within their territories. External stakeholders, such as government bodies, corporations, or tourism operators, often dictate the terms of engagement without genuine consultation or meaningful participation from Indigenous representatives. This lack of agency diminishes their ability to shape the trajectory of tourism activities on their lands, exacerbating the risk of cultural erosion and economic exploitation.¹¹

Unequal power dynamics exacerbate these challenges, as Indigenous communities often lack equal footing with more influential and economically powerful entities involved in tourism. This power disparity hampers their ability to negotiate fair and equitable agreements, leaving them susceptible to exploitation, inadequate compensation, and limited access to the economic benefits generated by tourism activities on their lands.¹²

Historically, these issues have been seen all across Latin-America, however, a notable example is of the Mayan people in Guatemala. The Mayan



population, with its rich cultural heritage and historical significance, has been a focal point for Guatemala's tourism industry. During the latter half of the 20th century and into the 21st century, the growth of tourism in Guatemala, particularly around Mayan archaeological sites such

¹¹ Emily J. Hogue and Pilar Rau, "Troubled Water: Ethnodevelopment, Natural Resource Commodification, and Neoliberalism in Andean Peru," *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development* 37, no. 3/4 (2008): 283–327, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40553411>.

¹² Emily J. Hogue and Pilar Rau, "Troubled Water: Ethnodevelopment, Natural Resource Commodification, and Neoliberalism in Andean Peru," *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development* 37, no. 3/4 (2008): 283–327, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40553411>.

as Tikal, brought economic opportunities but also posed severe challenges to the local Indigenous communities. Land disputes emerged as the government and private enterprises sought to develop tourist infrastructure, often encroaching on Mayan ancestral lands and territories. The commercialization of Mayan culture for tourism purposes, including traditional crafts, ceremonies, and cultural performances, led to commodification and misrepresentation, undermining the authenticity of their heritage. Moreover, the lack of meaningful inclusion in decision-making processes and inadequate compensation for the use of their lands exacerbated tensions and perpetuated socio-economic disparities within the Mayan communities.¹³

Another key example is of the Embera and Wounaan people in Panama. The construction of the Pan-American Highway through their ancestral territories had a profound impact on these Indigenous groups. While the highway aimed to promote economic development and facilitate transportation, it resulted in significant disruptions to the Emberá and Wounaan communities. The construction process led to deforestation, habitat destruction, and encroachment on their lands, disrupting their traditional ways of life and affecting their cultural practices deeply tied to the forest and rivers. Additionally, the influx of outsiders, including tourists and settlers, brought both opportunities and challenges. The commercialization of their crafts and cultural performances for tourism purposes often occurred without adequate compensation or

¹³ Laura Rodriguez Takeuchi and Chiara Mariotti, "Ethnicity, Poverty and Marginalisation in Guatemala," JSTOR, 2016, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep49881.9>.

recognition of their intellectual property rights, leading to economic exploitation and the dilution of their cultural authenticity.¹⁴

Questions To Consider:

1. How can measures be implemented to ensure that tourism development respects and protects the rights of indigenous communities, including their cultural heritage and land rights?
2. How should the process address issues of cultural appropriation and exploitation in the context of tourism development affecting indigenous peoples?
3. What policies can be put in place to involve indigenous communities in decision-making processes related to tourism development in their territories?
4. How can ECLAC support partnerships between governments, private sectors, and indigenous groups to ensure sustainable tourism practices?
5. What role should education and awareness play in ensuring that tourists respect the cultural norms and values of indigenous communities?
6. What financial mechanisms can be established to support indigenous communities in developing and managing sustainable tourism projects?

¹⁴ Daniel Suman, "Globalization and the Pan-American Highway: Concerns for the Panama-Colombia Border Region of Darién-Chocó and Its Peoples," *The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* 38, no. 3 (2007): 549–614, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40176743>.

Topic 2: Blue Economy and Responsible Coastal Management

Geographically, most member ECLAC nations maintain coastlines, which are used in industries such as fishing and maritime transport. However, in recent times abusive practices like overfishing have threatened the industry as a whole, which puts member nations' economies at risk of potential crisis or collapse due to their reliance on the Blue Economy.

The Blue Economy encapsulates harnessing ocean resources sustainably. It encompasses various sectors including fisheries, renewable energy, and maritime transport, emphasizing conservation and responsible utilization. Within the scope of the Blue Economy, several sectors highlight its sustainable utilization of oceanic resources. Fisheries for many nations are transforming, emphasizing sustainable management through regulatory frameworks and



practices aimed at preventing overfishing, promoting responsible harvesting methods, safeguarding endangered species, and preserving overall marine ecosystem health. This approach seeks an equilibrium between meeting current seafood demands and ensuring the enduring viability of fish populations and their habitats.¹⁵

¹⁵ Andy Thorpe and Elizabeth Bennett, "Globalisation and the Sustainability of World Fisheries: A View from Latin America," *Marine Resource Economics* 16, no. 2 (2001): 143–64, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42628835>.

Additionally, the Blue Economy places a significant emphasis on renewable energy sources derived from the oceans, including offshore wind, tidal, wave, and ocean thermal energy. It advocates for the exploration and development of these clean energy alternatives, fostering technological innovations and infrastructure while addressing the environmental impacts associated with conventional energy production. Moreover, recognizing maritime transport's pivotal role in global trade, the Blue Economy emphasizes optimizing transport efficiency and sustainability. Strategies encompass reducing emissions through cleaner propulsion technologies, optimizing shipping routes to curtail fuel consumption, and implementing waste management and ballast water treatment strategies to preserve marine ecosystems while maintaining the sector's essential contribution to global commerce.¹⁶

Historically, the misuse of the nation's Blue Economy has led to several national issues, with some notable examples being from Latin American nations. The collapse of the northern hake fishery in Chile is a prominent example of overfishing in Latin America. The overexploitation of northern hake stocks due to excessive fishing pressure, coupled with inadequate fisheries management, led to a drastic decline in hake populations. This collapse not only disrupted the marine ecosystem but also severely impacted local fishing communities that were dependent on

¹⁶ Adrian Cashman, Leonard Nurse, and Charlery John, "Climate Change in the Caribbean: The Water Management Implications," *The Journal of Environment & Development* 19, no. 1 (2010): 42–67, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26199347>.

this fishery for their livelihoods. Despite efforts to implement stricter regulations and conservation measures, the northern hake population has struggled to recover fully.

Additionally, Brazil faces significant challenges with coastal pollution, particularly along its vast coastline. Urbanization, industrial activities, and inadequate sewage treatment systems have resulted in pollution along beaches and river mouths. For example, Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro has faced severe pollution issues due to untreated sewage and industrial waste, affecting water quality and harming marine life. Such pollution not only impacts ecosystems but also undermines the country's tourism potential in these areas.¹⁷



Finally, Peru has grappled with illegal fishing activities, particularly in its anchovy fisheries. IUU fishing practices, including unauthorized vessels fishing in prohibited areas or exceeding fishing quotas, have significantly impacted the anchovy population, a critical species in the region's marine food web. These illegal practices have led to economic losses for legal fishing operations, undermined conservation efforts, and disrupted the balance of the marine ecosystem upon which Peru's fishing industry relies.¹⁸ In recent years

¹⁷ Max Agüero and Mauricio Claverí, "A Model for Evaluating the Socioeconomic Performance of Alternative Management Policies in Coastal Zones: Application to Patos Lagoon (Brazil) and the Júcar River Estuary (Spain)," *Journal of Coastal Research*, 2007, 145–52, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25737370>.

¹⁸ Juan M. Barragán, "The Coasts of Latin America at the End of the Century," *Journal of Coastal Research* 17, no. 4 (2001): 885–99, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4300248>.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, presented the organization's efforts to enhance the statistical visibility of indigenous peoples and ensure their participation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Speaking at the United Nations headquarters during the "Moving Forward" event, she emphasized the need to end statistical silence and make indigenous peoples visible through data disaggregation. ECLAC provides technical assistance to include indigenous-related questions in censuses, and collaboration with indigenous organizations produces updated knowledge. Bárcena highlighted the

increase in indigenous population visibility, addressing socio-environmental conflicts and advocating for their territorial rights. Furthermore ECLAC has worked with the United Nations



Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), which is an intergovernmental body that focuses on indigenous peoples' rights and issues. Established in 2000, it provides a platform for dialogue and collaboration between UN member states, indigenous communities, and relevant organizations. The forum plays a crucial role in promoting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and facilitating the inclusion of indigenous

perspectives in global discussions, and advancing indigenous rights and well-being on a global scale.¹⁹

Questions to Consider:

1. How can solutions address potential conflicts between different sectors of the blue economy, such as fisheries, shipping, and tourism, while ensuring sustainability?
2. How should solutions address the impacts of climate change on coastal regions and their economies within the framework of the blue economy?
3. How can the approach address issues of pollution, including plastic waste, in coastal areas as part of responsible coastal management?
4. What role should technology and innovation play in the sustainable development of the blue economy, and how can ECLAC support these initiatives?
5. How can the organization work towards harmonizing national policies to create a unified approach to responsible coastal management in the region?

¹⁹ CEPAL, “ECLAC Supports Statistical Visibility and Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the 2030 Agenda,” www.cepal.org, July 15, 2016, <https://www.cepal.org/en/comunicados/cepal-apoya-visibilidad-estadistica-participacion-pueblos-indigenas-la-agenda-2030>.

Current Situation

As of today, ECLAC faces a few prominent issues in regards to sustainable tourism and the blue economy. For one, the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil has become a focal point of global attention, raising ongoing concerns within the ECLAC committee about the repercussions of tourism and other industries on indigenous communities. The region faces the dual challenges of



deforestation and encroachment on indigenous territories, prompting concerted efforts to mitigate these impacts. Stakeholders are actively engaged in addressing the complex interplay

between economic development through tourism and the preservation of indigenous cultures and ecosystems. Initiatives are underway to establish sustainable tourism practices that prioritize the well-being of local communities and protect their territories. Crucially, there is a growing emphasis on involving indigenous communities in decision-making processes, recognizing their unique perspectives and rights in shaping the trajectory of tourism development. This situation underscores the need for comprehensive policies within this committee to navigate the balance

between economic interests and the protection of indigenous rights and the Amazon Rainforest's ecological integrity.²⁰

Concerns with ecotourism in the Amazon Rainforest also arise in this context. While ecotourism is often seen as a potential solution for sustainable development, there are worries about its unintended consequences. Increased tourism can contribute to habitat disruption and cultural commodification if not managed responsibly. Striking a balance that harnesses the economic benefits of ecotourism while safeguarding the environment and respecting indigenous communities is a paramount consideration. The ECLAC committee must address these concerns to ensure that ecotourism initiatives in the Amazon Rainforest align with principles of sustainability, environmental conservation, and the protection of indigenous rights.²¹

Additionally, Haiti's enduring commitment to post-earthquake reconstruction remains a critical focus for examination within this committee.

Following the devastating earthquake in 2021, Haiti faced substantial challenges in rebuilding its

infrastructure and recovering economically. The

ongoing efforts in this reconstruction process call for a thorough examination of strategies that



²⁰ Marieke Riethof, "Brazil and the International Politics of Climate Change: Leading by Example?," ed. Michela Coletta and Malayna Raftopoulos, JSTOR (University of London Press, 2016), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv13nb6g6.12>.

²¹ Romina Bandura and Owen Murphy, "Infrastructure Development in the Peruvian Amazon," JSTOR, 2020, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep27033.6>.

prioritize resilience, sustainable infrastructure, and economic recovery. Achieving resilience involves not only rebuilding physical structures but also enhancing the capacity of communities to withstand future shocks and disasters. Sustainable infrastructure development must take into account environmental considerations, urban planning, and the long-term needs of the population.²²

Finally, the challenge of safeguarding indigenous rights in the context of extractive industries in Peru is a critical issue for this committee. Peru, endowed with rich natural resources, faces the complexities of balancing economic development with the preservation of indigenous cultures and territories. Extractive industries, including mining and oil exploration, often intersect with indigenous lands, raising concerns about environmental degradation and the impact on local communities. Delving into this issue necessitates an exploration of strategies for sustainable resource management that mitigates adverse environmental effects and ensures the equitable distribution of benefits.²³

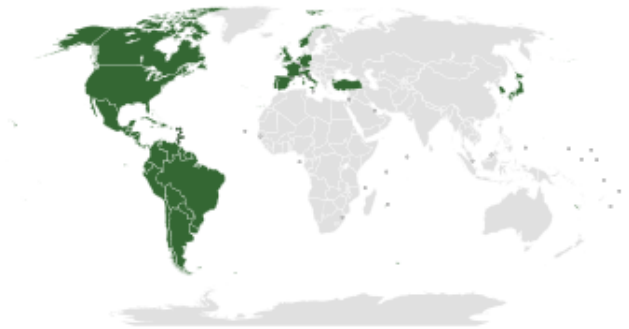
²² Richard L. Bernal, "Haiti's Reconstruction and Redevelopment: The Potential Contribution of Regional Integration," *Social and Economic Studies* 60, no. 2 (2011): 199–210, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41635308>.

²³ Sylvia Schmelkes, "Adult Education and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America," *International Review of Education / Internationale Zeitschrift Für Erziehungswissenschaft / Revue Internationale de L'Education* 57, no. 1/2 (2011): 89–105, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41480686>.

Positions

The following are the member nations of ECLAC

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



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