



Sociaal Economische Raad
Social Economic Council

SER visit to the second meeting of CESALC in Buenos Aires,

April 9-11th 2014.

REPORT

A delegation of the Sint Maarten Social Economic Council (SER) attended the second meeting of the network CESALC in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 9-11, 2014.

The SER Sint Maarten delegation consisted of:

- Arthur Bute, chairman SER
- Eveline Dijkhoffz-Henriquez, 2nd vice-Chairlady SER
- Bas Peters, policy advisor SER



1. The program of the visit

Wednesday 9th of April 2014 Hotel Caesar Park

20.00 Cocktails en welcoming dinner
Inaugural remarks by the head of government of Buenos Aires, Mr. Mauricio Macri

Thursday 10th of April 2014 Hotel Caesar Park

09.00 Opening of the meeting

- Evgeniy VELIKHOV: President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) and of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.
- Council of Economic and Social Development - CDES Brazil.
- Sergio Abrevaya: President of the Economic and Social Council of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.
- Economic and Social Council of Mexico City.

09:15 First Panel Discussion: "Social Policies and Democratic Strategies to Tackle Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean".

"Social Policies and Democratic Strategies to Battle Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.





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- Ricardo Rapallo – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL)
- Bernardo Kliksberg, economic consultant



11:00 Second Panel Discussion: “From Multidimensional Measurement of Poverty to a New Conceptualization of Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

- Stefano Pettinato – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Agustín Salvia –Researcher and Coordinator of the “Observatory of the Argentine Social Debt” Program. Catholic University of Argentina.
- Juan Moreno Preciado- Representative of the EUROsociAL Program.

13:00 Lunch Break

15:00 Press Conference

Address by the Governor of the Province of Salta, Dr. Juan Manuel Urtubey, and by the Former Governor of the Province of Santa Fe, Dr. Hermes Binner.

15:30 Roundtable debate on the experiences of economic and social councils in poverty-related issues.

21.00 Dinner

Thursday, 12th of September 2013

09:00 Analysis of economic and social councils around the world

- Economic and Social Council of El Salvador
- Di Tella University, Buenos Aires
- EUROsociAL

09:45 Debate on the document that will be presented to the heads of government about the position of civil society in the face of poverty.

11:15 Proposal for the governing of the CESALC Network. The Economic and Social Council of El Salvador will lead the debate to find consensus for its approval.

14:30 Election of the Management Committee (and host of the next two CESALC network meetings).

15:30 Debate on the work plan for the next two years.

17:00 Closing of the CESALC meeting



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2. Written account of the CESALC Meeting

General

The CESALC (Economic and Social Councils Network of Latin America and the Caribbean) meeting was hosted by the Social and Economic Council of the city of Buenos Aires. CESALC consists of 22 Social and Economic Councils and similar institutions (ESC's) from 9 different countries in Latin-America and the Caribbean. Especially Argentina (8) and Brazil (3) have several regional ESC's that represent civil society for social and economic matters that concern the regional government. The meeting in Buenos Aires was the second meeting of the network. This meeting established the governing principles of CESALC, the work plan for the next two years, and the managing committee for the next two years. The network requires no financial commitment, and aims to be a flexible network that shares information and best practices for those institutions that also share its objectives and fulfill similar institutional roles in their respective countries.

Thursday, 10th of April, 2014

After the opening words the emphasis was placed on poverty in the region, and how to measure all the dimensions of poverty, and how to reduce poverty. Especially the contribution of the UNDP representative about the poverty reduction program in El Salvador was very interesting (and successful). Representatives of different international institutions (UNDP, EU, ECLAC/CEPAL, FAO, EuroSocial, Universities) shared their views on topics related to poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

After lunch the press conference related more to the role of civil society towards government and how ESC's could fill that need. The rest of the discussion was more about the role of ESC's towards other institutions and which role ESC's could play to reduce poverty. The different themes of poverty (health, income, education, housing, youth, and inequality) were debated in small groups. Each groups presented its findings to the general meeting.

Friday, 11th of April, 2014

The day started with a study about several ESC's. This study entailed different aspects of ESC, such as legal position, policy subjects, make-up of the board, relation to society and government, etc.. Next, the ESC's debated a text document drafted after the CESALC meeting in Brazil, which will be represented to the heads of government of ESC's members.

The most important discussion was about the governance and principles of the CESALC. These principles state the objectives and commitments of the network. Furthermore, it was established that there will be a managing committee installed every two years, which consists of up to 5 members of CESALC. One of the ESC's in the managing committee will be the leader of the network. The network holds one general meeting per year. The work of the network is defined in a two-year 'work-plan' document. All ESC's will mobilize their own financial resources to enable to participate in the activities. The host of the annual meeting will settle the resource needed for the event.

The meeting also established the work-plan document for the next two years.

For the next two years the managing committee consists of ESC's from the province of Chaco (Argentina, host of 2015), El Salvador (host of 2016), Guatemala, City of Buenos Aires and Brazil.

CESALC has a website: <http://www.cesalc.org/>