



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Council for Integral Development
(CIDI)



**TWENTY-FIRST INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF LABOR (IACML)**

September 22 to 24, 2021
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**GUIDE FOR SPEAKERS AND DELEGATIONS
AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST IACML**

This document contains guidelines for speakers and delegations, as well as a series of guiding questions to steer the presentations and dialogue at the plenary sessions held during the twenty-first IACML.

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

In line with the [draft Work Schedule](#) of the twenty-first IACML, the meeting will have four plenary sessions to discuss substantive issues. Each plenary session will be divided into two consecutive parts: Statements to initiate the dialogue, followed by a ministerial dialogue.

- 1. Interventions to detonate the dialogue:** These remarks will be delivered by Ministers of Labor who have indicated in advance to the Technical Secretariat their desire to speak during a session. In the case of the second plenary session on social dialogue, the Presidents-elect of COSATE and CEATAL have been invited to address the meeting and the members of these consultative bodies may speak during the ensuing dialogue. During the fourth plenary session on intersectoral coordination, Ministers of Education, Finance, and Health are expected to participate as special guests.

Duration: 8 minutes. The Chair and the Secretariat thank the delegations for their comprehension and for adhering to this time limit.

Objective: To share perspectives and the main areas of progress, lessons learned, and policy recommendations on the topic of each session and based on the guiding questions. The statements are intended to prompt further discussion among all the delegations.

Format: Speakers are urged not to use graphic presentations (e.g., PowerPoint). Should they be necessary, they should not exceed 10 slides in length—given the allotted time—and should be sent in advance to the Technical Secretariat.

Delegations whose Minister wishes to offer remarks to initiate the dialogue at one of the plenary sessions are asked to advise the Technical Secretariat as soon as possible.

- 2. Ministerial dialogue:** All the Ministers of Labor of the Americas are expected to participate in these spaces for dialogue.

Duration: Each statement will be a maximum of 5 minutes.

Objective: To respond to the interventions made previously and complement the discussion with opinions, examples of progress, and policy recommendations on the topic of each session consistent with the guiding questions.

Format: Delegations wishing to take the floor may so request on the virtual platform or indicate as much to the Technical Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

Both the initial interventions and the dialogue will revolve around the guiding questions defined for each plenary session.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Discussions at the twenty-first IACML will be based on the [draft Declaration](#) and [draft Plan of Action of Buenos Aires](#). The plenary sessions are arranged according to the different sections of the draft Declaration. The following guiding questions address both drafts and have been developed to facilitate and organize the discussions, support each delegation's preparations for the IACML, and promote a focused and highly fruitful dialogue during the meeting.

Second Plenary Session - Institutionalized social dialogue to recover from the crisis and secure a future of work with social justice and sustainable development

Considering Articles 21 and 22 of the Draft Declaration, and 7(b), 9(a), (b), and (k) of the draft Plan of Action:

1. What actions are being taken in the Americas to institutionalize social dialogue and ensure that it is inclusive, broad-based, and participatory?
2. How have workers' and employers' organizations contributed to the formulation and implementation of policies in response to the crisis? What consensus and solutions have emerged from social dialogue in the region that will enable a sustainable economic recovery and aim to build a new and better world of work, with social justice and sustainable development?

Third Plenary Session - The importance of the world of work to COVID-19 recovery and to the development of more resilient, sustainable, just, and inclusive societies

Considering Articles 7 to 15 of the Draft Declaration and 7(h), (i), (j), (k), and 9(f) of the Plan of Action:

3. What policies and strategies are being developed by the Ministries of Labor of the Americas to achieve an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient recovery? In particular, what measures are being taken to encourage creation and formalization of employment and reduce labor informality and precarious work?
4. What initiatives are Ministries advancing to improve social protection and labor market inclusion of populations worst hit by the crisis, such as women and people in vulnerable situations? How can we take advantage of the current situation to close the large divides, disparities, and structural weaknesses of our societies?

Fourth Plenary Session - Better coordination of economic, education, health, and labor policies to address and overcome the effects of the crisis and achieve the future of work we want

Considering Articles 16 to 20 of the Draft Declaration and 7(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of the Plan of Action:

5. In the context of the pandemic and recovery, how has intersectoral coordination developed, particularly between the Ministries of Labor and their counterparts in the areas of finance, health, and education? What efforts are being made to strengthen that intersectoral coordination and in which areas specifically? (See, in particular, Articles 16, 17, and 18 of the draft Declaration.)
6. What are the keys to greater coordination between labor, education, health, and economic policies? How can that coordination effectively contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, and people-centered future of work?

Fifth Plenary Session - Strengthening Ministries of Labor to address emerging changes in the world of work and the effects of the pandemic

Considering Articles 23 to 27 of the Draft Declaration and 9(c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of the Plan of Action:

7. In retrospect, what have been the strengths and challenges of Ministries of Labor in managing the COVID-19 crisis?
8. What are the main challenges faced by Ministries of Labor in addressing emerging changes in the world of work and the effects of the pandemic? How can regional cooperation contribute to overcoming those challenges?

[All the information and documents related to the twenty-first IACML are available via this link](#)