

Distr.  
GENERAL  
LC/G.2531(SES.34/10)  
6 August 2012  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH  
2012-459



2012

*Thirty-fourth  
session of ECLAC*

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*San Salvador,  
27 - 31 August*

ACTIVITIES OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT  
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DURING THE 2010-2011 BIENNIUM



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## I. Introduction

This report is submitted to the Committee on South-South Cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the occasion of the thirty-fourth session of ECLAC (San Salvador, 27-31 August 2012).

Its aim is to inform the Committee of the activities conducted by ECLAC to promote South-South cooperation in the previous biennium and of the progress achieved by the ECLAC secretariat in relation to the mandate of the Committee in the framework of the thirty-third session, held at Brasilia in 2010.

The debate on South-South cooperation in the region continued during the 2010-2011 biennium, with particular emphasis on its specific characteristics, rather than on a role as substitute or complement for traditional North-South cooperation. This relates to developments in discussions on the allocation of technical-cooperation resources for development in a region consisting mostly of middle-income countries. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are aware that the global agenda places greater emphasis on poverty than on closing multidimensional development gaps. Lastly, discussions have extended to the role of the academic world in shaping the thinking on this type of cooperation in the South, since most of the literature comes from the countries of the North.



In 2010, at the thirty-third session, resolution 647(XXXIII) gave the ECLAC secretariat a new mandate, requesting it to:

- (i) continue to analyse, in collaboration with other international and regional intergovernmental agencies, new alternatives for generating the volume of resources necessary for financing the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (ii) develop, in collaboration with other international and regional agencies, a broader set of indicators to reflect the particular realities in the countries and support the identification of their main needs, so that classification as a middle-income country ceases to be an a priori impediment to participation in official development assistance;
- (iii) develop, together with national authorities responsible for cooperation matters, a set of indicators for measuring the social and economic impact of South-South cooperation;
- (iv) subject to available resources, initiate a process aimed at strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for international cooperation in countries that so request, especially as regards the generation of statistics and the establishment of an appropriate information system.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretary was requested “to report on the fulfilment of this resolution at the meeting of the South-South Committee which will be held in the framework of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission”.

Pursuant to this mandate, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled “Middle-income countries: a structural-gap approach. Note by the secretariat”, which analyses the reasons why levels of per capita income are insufficient to assess the complexity and diversity of development challenges facing middle-income countries.<sup>1</sup> As an alternative, it proposes to fine-tune the approach and complement the per-capita income criterion with a new perspective based on the structural gaps which restrict the development of middle-income countries (inequality and poverty, investment and saving, productivity and innovation, infrastructure, education, health care, gender and the environment) and recommends opening a political dialogue between countries to identify priorities among the structural gaps and determine the most appropriate policy mechanisms and strategic areas of work.

This fine-tuned focus also involves reviewing the concept of development used in the field of cooperation to channel resources, adopting a broader and more multifaceted definition which will call not only for improvements to people’s standards of living but also for the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development, taking into account the social and productive inequality which characterizes the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and middle-income countries in general. This also calls for generating the conditions for creating and establishing political, economic and social systems which promote respect for diversity, human dignity and rights-based equality.

The report sets out for member States the results in terms of groups and categories of countries, showing the emphasis placed on the various gaps. With this broadening of the concept of development and recognition of the considerable diversity among middle-income countries and even within them, it becomes clear that attempts to homogenize the great majority of the countries of the region and more than half of the world’s countries, putting them all in a single category in terms of per capita income alone, are baseless.

Progress in the generation of indicators to measure the impact of South-South cooperation, while modest, draws attention to the need to consider their ultimate purpose and the challenges they pose in terms of the diversity of countries’ statistical and information systems.

ECLAC was invited by the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation to provide support for the identification and formulation of indicators designed to measure the impact on the countries of that cooperation, and took part in workshops with representatives of the countries, entitled: *Indicadores para la cooperación Sur-Sur: necesidades, posibilidades y desafíos* (Indicators for South-South cooperation: needs, opportunities and challenges) (Quito, 14-16 September 2011) and *Cuestionario para el informe de la cooperación Sur-Sur en Iberoamérica 2012: revisión, mejora e incorporación de indicadores* (Questionnaire for the report on South-South cooperation in Ibero-America 2012: review, improvement and incorporation of indicators) (Montevideo, 29-30 March 2012).

The purpose of the first workshop was to define common indicators for South-South cooperation and agree stages and means of generating information. In that framework, a number of key working principles were agreed, such as the identification of a clear purpose and the usefulness of indicators for the Programme and for countries, concentration on priority areas for measurement, focusing work on best practices in the measurement of cooperation, and respect for the rate of progress made possible by each country’s capacities. The countries had also been able to agree on the following issues: what is to be measured, why it is to be measured, using what indicators, what each country needs in order to generate the agreed information, and how to move towards the goal.

<sup>1</sup> LC/G.2532(SES.34/11).

The aim of the second workshop was to analyse the progress of work related to calculating indicators which can describe and monitor the structure and evolution of South-South cooperation, and to outline an overall scheme for the monitoring and assessment of its impacts.

Using a participatory method, the organizers reviewed progress achieved in each of the participating countries in the area of indicators and information systems and validated the indicators for the measurement and analysis of South-South cooperation which is considered feasible to prepare. Work also focused on data validation for the new version of the questionnaire (the main tool for collecting and sharing quantitative data of the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation) and on the indicators on which work had been done since the Quito meeting.

In the context of the workshops on indicators to measure the impact of South-South cooperation, statistical and information systems are needed which can both compile and compare the data to be measured.

ECLAC made available to the countries its experience in constructing indicators and in the generation of statistical data. The Commission has a specific subprogramme focused on strengthening national statistical and information systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Much effort has gone into country-level capacity-building in relation to information systems and the development of indicators to monitor the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. One of the basic aims of the subprogramme is to promote coordination between national statistical agencies, ministries responsible for reporting on the Goals and bodies involved in producing data in this area. Efforts were also made to reduce the amount of data missing in terms of measuring progress towards the Goals and discrepancies between national and international sources. Four seminars were held on those subjects: one on health care, in April 2010, with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); another in September 2010, on information and communications technology; a third in February 2011, with the United Nations Statistics Division, on methodology and implementation of recommendations for international merchandise and services trade statistics; and a fourth, in December 2011, with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico.

There has been clear progress in developing a multidimensional measurement of poverty. In May 2010, ECLAC organized a seminar on this subject, jointly with the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation (MIDEPLAN) of Chile, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) of Oxford University and the *Fundación Superación de la Pobreza* of Chile (a foundation devoted to combating poverty). New advisory services were created, regarding the production and use of subjective indicators in social analysis on innovative subjects such as citizens' perception of the State.

As for capacity-building in the countries, the secretariat conducted missions in five countries, relating to technical cooperation on national accounts. Support was provided for activities related to the change of base year in El Salvador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and for the development of multi-year accounting and an input-output table in Guatemala. Work was done in Ecuador in the field of regional accounts and in Uruguay on balance-of-payments statistics. In Chile, work was carried out on constructing a price index, and technical assistance was provided in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Panama for activities related to the change of base year for consumer price indices.



International seminar on the measurement of poverty in Latin America (ECLAC, May 2010).

In the field of statistics on international trade, a regional seminar was held with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations to discuss the implementation of methodological aspects of recommendations for international merchandise and services trade statistics. A number of technical missions took place in the Caribbean to analyse national statistical systems for accounting and prices. In the social field, eight countries (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia) received technical assistance from ECLAC to strengthen the design, implementation and analysis of national household surveys (of regular employment or income and expenditure), while five countries (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala) received support in the measurement of poverty. Support was also given to five countries (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Peru), which are modernizing their national statistical offices and statistical systems. In the area of education statistics, ECLAC assisted the *Instituto Nacional para la Evaluación de la Educación* (national institute for educational assessment) of Mexico.

In the field of environmental statistics, support was provided to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador and horizontal cooperation was facilitated between Brazil, Mexico and Spain. A course was organized in Trinidad and Tobago in December 2010 to strengthen capacities in the production of indicators and statistics.

Activities in the framework of the ECLAC subprogramme on statistics and economic projections during the biennium 2010-2011 showed that, in addition to strengthening existing systems, countries need to produce short-term statistical data and develop early-warning indicators of financial crises, as well as build capacities for monitoring indicators which measure progress towards global development goals. Information systems also face challenges such as the implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the production of statistical data and indicators in new areas such as gender and the environment, and harmonization of statistical data among the countries of the region.

## II. Technical cooperation by ECLAC in 2011: Execution and sources of funding

This report maintains that ECLAC promotes and supports South-South and triangular cooperation in much of its work. This applies to both the ECLAC regular programme of work, financed with resources allocated by the General Assembly, and its technical cooperation programme, which includes projects funded with additional resources that the secretariat receives and administers as trust funds for specific and predetermined purposes.

As stated in the report, ECLAC technical cooperation complements and reinforces the analytical and policy-setting work of its regular work programme.<sup>2</sup> It would be impossible to distinguish activities in support of South-South cooperation from other activities, as virtually all ECLAC work financed from regular and extrabudgetary resources supports and promotes South-South and triangular cooperation to some degree.

<sup>2</sup> Activities of the ECLAC system to promote and support South-South cooperation during the 2008-2009 biennium (LC/G.2439(SES.33/10)).



Expenditure on technical cooperation in the 2010-2011 biennium totalled US\$ 40.3 million, 17% higher than in the previous biennium. More than half of that spending (58%) was funded by multilateral agencies, and bilateral sources contributed 42%.

The United Nations system contributed US\$ 15.1 million or 38% of the ECLAC technical cooperation budget. Almost two thirds of that amount was allocated by the General Assembly, through the regular programme of technical cooperation (US\$ 5.6 million) and Development Account projects (US\$ 3.9 million). The remaining third came from other organizations of the United Nations system. Contributions from multilateral agencies external to the United Nations system represented 20% of the total.

Bilateral sources provided US\$ 17.1 million, funding 42% of total spending; almost two thirds of that amount was contributed by developed countries, mostly in Europe.

■ Table 1 ■  
SOURCES OF FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION  
PROGRAMME IN THE 2008-2009 AND 2010-2011 BIENNIUMS

| Source of financing                            | 2008-2009                                  | 2010-2011 | 2008-2009            | 2010-2011 |
|--|--|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|  | <i>(Millions of United States dollars)</i> |           | <i>(Percentages)</i> |           |
| United Nations                                 | 13.3                                       | 15.1      | 39                   | 38        |
| Other multilateral agencies                    | 4.3  | 7.9       | 12                   | 20        |
| Bilateral donors                               | 16.9                                       | 17.1      | 49                   | 42        |
| Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean | 5.2  | 4.7       | 15                   | 11        |
| Governments of other countries                 | 10.0                                       | 10.6      | 29                   | 26        |
| Non-governmental organizations                 | 1.7  | 1.8       | 5                    | 5         |
| Total expenditure                              | 34.5                                       | 40.3      | 100                  | 100       |

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

## A. Multilateral sources

Most multilateral funds for ECLAC technical cooperation came from the United Nations system.

In the biennium 2010-2011, the General Assembly allocated funding of US\$ 9.5 million to the ECLAC technical cooperation programme. The regular technical cooperation programme contributed US\$ 5.6 million, and the remainder came from the Development Account administered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which funded interregional cooperation projects, promoting the sharing of experience and good practices among the regional commissions (a good example of South-South cooperation). This category of funding has grown continuously, from US\$ 2.5 million in the biennium 2008-2009 to some US\$ 3.9 million in 2010-2011.

The United Nations system helped to expand the ECLAC technical cooperation programme through its various funds and programmes, contributing over US\$ 2.7 million. More than half of that amount came from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which works with ECLAC in the implementation of its regional programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. Funding from other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the recently-created United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), totalled US\$ 1.3 million during the biennium.



■ Table 2 ■  
EXPENDITURE ON COOPERATION FINANCED BY MULTILATERAL SOURCES,  
2008-2009 AND 2010-2011

| Source of financing  | 2008-2009                           | 2010-2011 | 2008-2009     | 2010-2011 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
|  | (Millions of United States dollars) |           | (Percentages) |           |
| ECLAC system   | 2.5                                 | 3.1       | 7.2           | 7.7       |
| Voluntary contributions to the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) | 2.0                                 | 2.7       | 5.8           | 6.7       |
| Various contributions  | 0.5                                 | 0.4       | 1.4           | 1.0       |
| Other sources within the United Nations system   | 10.8                                | 12.2      | 31.3          | 30.3      |
| Regular programme of technical cooperation   | 5.6                                 | 5.6       | 16.2          | 13.9      |
| Regular programme on population and development  | 1.7                                 | 1.4       | 4.9           | 3.5       |
| Development Account  | 2.5                                 | 3.9       | 7.2           | 9.7       |
| Agreements with United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies                                      | 1.0                                 | 1.3       | 2.9           | 3.2       |
| Other multilateral sources   | 4.3                                 | 7.9       | 12.5          | 19.7      |
| European Commission  | 3.0                                 | 6.4       | 8.7           | 15.9      |
| Inter-American Development Bank  | 0.1                                 | 0.2       | 0.3           | 0.5       |
| Ibero-American Secretariat   | 0.5                                 | 0.2       | 1.4           | 0.5       |
| Other multilateral agencies (including the World Bank)   | 0.7                                 | 1.1       | 2.0           | 2.8       |
| Total from multilateral sources  | 17.6                                | 23.3      | 51.0          | 57.6      |
| Total expenditure on cooperation   | 34.5                                | 40.3      | 100           | 100       |

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The various entities of the United Nations system funded 38% of the ECLAC technical cooperation programme.

Funding from other multilateral sources external to the United Nations system rose sharply, almost doubling from US\$ 4.3 million in the biennium 2008-2009 to US\$ 7.9 million in the biennium 2010-2011. Much of that growth was due to continuing collaboration with the European Commission, whose contribution in the biennium totalled US\$ 6.4 million, mostly through phase II of the Alliance for the Information Society (@LIS II) project.

The World Bank became a new source of funding for technical cooperation in the region, contributing over US\$ 1 million. It is collaborating with ECLAC in the framework of the International Comparison Programme for the collection of information on world prices and the estimation of purchasing power parities (PPPs).

## B. Bilateral sources

Bilateral sources funded over 42% of ECLAC technical cooperation spending in the biennium 2010-2011. Bilateral funding comes from three sources: Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, other countries and non-governmental organizations.

The countries of the region contributed US\$ 4.7 million during the biennium, equivalent to 11.6% of total expenditure. The ECLAC national offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo channel and implement cooperation projects with country-level entities using national funding. In Buenos Aires, the Commission works with over 10 governmental and four non-governmental bodies. The ECLAC office in Brasilia collaborates mostly with

the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil, on a training programme in the field of innovation and technology, benefiting seven countries in the region. In Chile and Mexico, ECLAC collaborates on its technical cooperation programme with a number of national bodies. Other countries such as Costa Rica have requested and financed a significant number of technical cooperation projects.

International cooperation bodies from outside the region provided sufficient funding to cover US\$ 10.6 million in the biennium, equivalent to over 26% of total ECLAC technical cooperation spending. The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) is the Commission's largest bilateral donor. It maintains a regular, multi-year and multisectoral cooperation programme covering a number of areas of importance for the region, and contributes German experience in these areas. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has created a programme with similar modalities.

Table 3 shows that the private sector funded US\$ 1.8 million in the biennium (4.4% of total spending). Private foundations, universities and associations are the main bodies in this category, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation was the largest donor, contributing US\$ 1.2 million through a project to promote and disseminate good practices in social development, dealing with issues such as health care, education, combating poverty, youth, income generation and rural and agricultural development. ECLAC has also historically collaborated with universities within and outside the region in the areas of research and dissemination.

■ Table 3 ■  
EXPENDITURE ON COOPERATION FINANCED BY BILATERAL SOURCES,  
2008-2009 AND 2010-2011

| Source of financing                            | 2008-2009                                  | 2010-2011 | 2008-2009            | 2010-2011 |
|--|--|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|  | <i>(Millions of United States dollars)</i> |           | <i>(Percentages)</i> |           |
| Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean | 5.2  | 4.7       | 15.1                 | 11.6      |
| Governments of other countries                 | 10.0                                       | 10.6      | 29.1                 | 26.4      |
| Germany  | 2.3  | 2.9       | 6.7                  | 7.2       |
| Canada   | 1.7  | 0.7       | 4.9                  | 1.8       |
| Denmark  | 0.5  | 0.2       | 1.4                  | 0.5       |
| Spain  | 1.9  | 3.8       | 5.5                  | 9.6       |
| United States                                  | 0.1  | 0.0       | 0.3                  | 0.0       |
| France   | ...  | 0.2       | 0.3                  | 0.4       |
| Italy  | 0.6  | 0.3       | 1.7                  | 0.8       |
| Japan  | 0.03                                       | 0.05      | 0.1                  | 0.1       |
| United Kingdom                                 | 1.3  | 1.5       | 3.8                  | 3.6       |
| Republic of Korea                              | 0.3  | 0.3       | 0.9                  | 0.8       |
| Sweden   | 1.2  | 0.6       | 3.5                  | 1.5       |
| Non-governmental organizations                 | 1.7  | 1.8       | 4.9                  | 4.4       |
| W. K. Kellogg Foundation                       | 1.2  | 1.2       | 3.5                  | 3.1       |
| Telefónica Foundation                          | 0.1  | 0         | 0.3                  | 0         |
| Other  | 0.4  | 0.6       | 1.2                  | 1.3       |
| Total from bilateral sources                   | 16.9                                       | 17.1      | 49.1                 | 42.4      |
| Total expenditure on cooperation               | 34.5                                       | 40.3      | 100                  | 100       |

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

### III. Major results and achievements of South-South cooperation in the 2010-2011 biennium

This section lists the main results and achievements of ECLAC in support of South-South cooperation, according to the classification set out in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations prepared for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South cooperation, held at Nairobi in December 2009. The report specified the mandates of the regional commissions in relation to their role in South-South cooperation.

#### A. Role as catalyst

The United Nations' role as a catalyst refers to its work in creating or improving conditions in order to enable countries to intensify cooperation among themselves, particularly in their efforts towards regional integration. Since its inception, ECLAC has contributed to these efforts and to shaping development thinking for the region from within the region, generating information and analyses, setting out visionary ideas and providing warnings of the impacts of world events such as the financial crisis of 2008, the consequences of which are still affecting the region.

The Commission's close awareness of the changes in the international setting is reflected in its social and economic analyses and publications. Trends over the past two years continued to be dominated by the duality of economic growth rates, with slower expansion in the developed economies than in the emerging ones. The main challenge facing the developed economies has been to stabilize their public debt situations in a low-growth context while also, in some cases, dealing with mounting difficulties in honouring their international commitments. The continuous growth of the Chinese and Indian economies are notable examples among the emerging economies, although in late 2011 they were both showing signs of slowing. There are new equilibria in today's world, with the People's Republic of China and the Asia-Pacific region accounting for high shares of world production, trade and foreign direct investment; in fact, growth in the developing economies is increasingly dependent on them. Should current growth trends in the Asia-Pacific region continue, South-South trade may exceed the total flow of North-North trade by 2017.

The situation within the Latin American and Caribbean region has also changed. Although economic growth has slowed in the region, at 3.7% it remains more buoyant than global economic growth overall. From 2010, levels of poverty began to fall again, but less quickly than in 2002-2008. The trend of extreme poverty, or indigence, has been less encouraging in recent years owing to the impact of rising food prices. This negative development was particularly strong in 2009 and in the projected figures for 2011, although the economic recovery following the crisis of 2009 was reflected in poverty indicators. In 2010, the poverty rate in the region was down to 31.4% and the indigence rate stood at 12.3%. In absolute terms, this means that 177 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are considered to be poor, and 70 million of them to be living in absolute poverty.

The trend towards better distribution observed since 2002 continued through the economic crisis (with a Gini coefficient of 0.58). The improvements in distribution in 2002-2010 have followed a definite pattern: in most cases, they originated in the labour market and were brought about by a more equitable distribution of labour income per employed person, and public transfers have made a strong contribution towards making per capita income less concentrated, particularly through cash transfer programmes.

Despite the deteriorating external situation, trade in the region continued to grow during most of 2011, albeit with differences between groups of countries. Trade in hydrocarbons saw a fresh surge, particularly in the cases of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, whereas the MERCOSUR countries have enjoyed robust trade in foodstuffs such as wheat, soybean and meat, and, to a lesser extent in minerals. The price factor played a major role in the growth of the region's exports, which were up by 23.5% in 2011, slightly more than the growth of imports. Intrasubregional trade has been strongest in the Central American Common Market but remains below its historic levels in all the subregions. In 2011, the investment ratio rose to its highest level since 1990, but is still too low to sustain high growth rates in the region.

While this overall picture may be seen as encouraging in light of the world situation, the Latin American and Caribbean region faces a number of challenges if it is to achieve development with equality and sustainability: limited capacity for implementing countercyclical policies to reduce vulnerability, continuing gaps in innovation and productivity for growth with equality, insufficient progress in reducing poverty and inequality, regressive taxation systems, changes in demographic trends, slow progress in the gender equality agenda, and challenges in relation to climate change and the need to develop low-carbon economies, improve energy efficiency and use renewable energy sources.

In response to these challenges, integration initiatives are now higher on the region's economic, political, social and environmental agenda, and ECLAC has supported them in a number of high-level intergovernmental forums.

## **1. Support for the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**

In 2010, ECLAC took part in the Unity Summit in Cancún (Mexico) and presented the following documents: "Opportunities for Convergence and Regional Cooperation. Summary of proposals",<sup>3</sup> "Opportunities for Convergence and Regional Cooperation"<sup>4</sup> and "Climate change: a regional perspective".<sup>5</sup>

The Declaration of Cancún, which served to prepare the CELAC summit, recognized the contribution of ECLAC "to the formulation of policies that promote development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean [...]" and calls for support for "the holding of its 33rd Session at the end of May in Brazil".

In the 2012 Caracas Action Plan, the Heads of State and Government expressly requested the cooperation of ECLAC in dealing with the impact of the world financial crisis and the new financial architecture, and called for the organization of "a workshop among the integration organizations to discuss and exchange experiences in regional economic policies [...]" to be held in Montevideo in 2012.

Chile, the current chair of the "troika" which also includes the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba, has requested ECLAC to support this integration initiative. The Commission plans to support this group in the requested subject areas.



<sup>3</sup> LC/L.3202.

<sup>4</sup> LC/L.3201.

<sup>5</sup> LC/L.3207.

## 2. Support for the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

Since its inception, UNASUR has received support from ECLAC in analysing the challenges of integration and cooperation in the subregion.

In 2009, ECLAC collaborated through a publication entitled “UNASUR: Un espacio de cooperación por construir”,<sup>6</sup> which provided the countries with analyses of major socioeconomic issues in the South American subregion and of similarities and differences that characterize the situations of the countries and affect initial conditions for fostering intraregional cooperation activities.



At the fifth Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of UNASUR, held at Asunción, a study prepared jointly by UNASUR and ECLAC was submitted to the countries. The study, entitled “UNASUR: un espacio de desarrollo y cooperación por construir”<sup>7</sup> (Spanish only), provides a demographic overview of the region and the trends in terms of the demographic transition. It also presents indicators of development and social inclusion and an analysis of the region’s economy post-crisis and of a number of indicators on trade, regional integration, physical infrastructure, energy and the environment. Lastly, the document discusses opportunities for cooperation within the framework of UNASUR as a fundamental tool for overcoming the impact of the crisis and improving linkages between the countries of the region and the global economy.

The second study prepared by ECLAC and submitted to the countries was “UNASUR: Infraestructura para la integración regional”<sup>8</sup> (Spanish only). The document states that one of the main challenges for South America in terms of infrastructure services is to design new approaches to public policy to ensure development with equity. The document argues that a paradigm shift is needed in the design and oversight of the implementation of public policies, which are currently designed in an unrelated manner for each mode of transport. Progress is therefore needed towards a strategy of integrated and sustainable policy on infrastructure, logistics and mobility in South America. The integration of infrastructure and related policies within UNASUR presents great opportunities for boosting growth and economic and social development in accordance with the aims of its Constitutive Treaty.

## 3. Support for the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government

ECLAC continued in its tradition, which dates back to 2007, of supporting the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. Two studies were presented at the twentieth meeting, held at Mar del Plata (Argentina) in 2010: “Espacios iberoamericanos: vínculos entre universidades y empresas para el desarrollo tecnológico” (Spanish only) and “2021: Metas educativas. La educación que queremos para la generación de los bicentenarios” (Spanish only), prepared jointly with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI).

The first document contributed to the understanding of the connection between businesses and universities and research centres, a factor which is considered vital for innovating, conducting technology transfers and promoting the dissemination of knowledge in society. Progress was also

<sup>6</sup> LC/L.3109.

<sup>7</sup> LC/L.3339.

<sup>8</sup> LC/L.3408.

<sup>9</sup> LC/G.2478.

made in the analysis of the region in terms of scientific, technological and innovative capacities and of opportunities and challenges facing the Ibero-American countries in the area of cooperation among the agents of national innovative systems and identifying spaces and activities which help to strengthen those relations; these are needed for progress to be made in creating more inclusive and integrated societies.

During the twenty-first meeting, held in Asunción in October 2011, ECLAC was invited to present the publications *Latin American Economic Outlook 2012. Transforming the State for development* (produced jointly by ECLAC and OECD) and “*Espacios iberoamericanos: Hacia una nueva arquitectura del Estado para el desarrollo*”<sup>10</sup> (Spanish only).

The meeting included a discussion on the need to re-examine the relationship between the State, the market and society, and to give the State a more central role in ensuring public well-being and in guiding countries’ development. Also discussed was the need for States to regain the capacity to create and provide public goods to benefit the whole of society and to participate in the international community with the responsibility for creating global public goods. The leading role of the State was considered in a context of power-sharing, for which negotiation and the building of national strategic consensus are central.

In the framework of the Summit and the Ibero-American High-level Government Programme of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), ECLAC also helped to organize the session on taxation and development, which was based on a case study of fiscal reform in Uruguay. There were three meetings in all; the bodies in charge of the other two were the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). Fernando Lorenzo, Minister of the Economy of Uruguay, took part in the session, together with Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Dioniso Borda, Minister of Finance of Paraguay and Sonia Montañó, Director of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.



## B. Policy initiatives

### 1. Convening role

The convening role of ECLAC in promoting cooperation among the countries is widely recognized in the region and reflected in the mandates of its subsidiary bodies, the technical-secretariat role it plays for a number of intergovernmental forums and the ad-hoc high-level meetings it convenes.

Table 4 lists the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the meetings which took place during the biennium. These bodies, which are forums for high-level discussions and exchanges among the Governments of the region, consider specific themes of shared interest for the countries, and thereby directly promote South-South cooperation.

In July 2010, the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Brasilia. Its objective was to identify women’s needs at the regional and subregional levels, present public-policy recommendations, assess activities conducted pursuant to regional and international agreements and plans and provide a forum for the discussion of these issues. Participants examined the achievements



<sup>10</sup> LC/G.2507.



and challenges for the countries of the region in terms of gender equality in the light of relations between the State, the market and families. The theme of the session was “What kind of State? What kind of Equality?”.

■ Table 4 ■  
MEETINGS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES WITHIN THE ECLAC SYSTEM,  
2010 TO FIRST QUARTER 2012

|   | Number of<br>countries<br>represented | Number of<br>participants |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Twenty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, New York, March 2012   | 34                                    | 58                        |
| Sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Bávaro, Dominican Republic, November 2011   | 28                                    | 57                        |
| Forty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, November 2011             | 21                                    | 58                        |
| Fifteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Port of Spain, September 2011                | 8                                     | 13                        |
| Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Santiago, September 2011 | 32                                    | 133                       |
| Tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Havana, April 2011                                       | 23                                    | 40                        |
| Forty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, December 2010             | 17                                    | 38                        |
| Third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, September 2010  | 18                                    | 130                       |
| Committee on South-South Cooperation, Brasilia, June 2010   | 30                                    | 199                       |
| ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, Santiago, May 2010  | 13                                    | 44                        |
| Ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, Santiago, April 2010                                     | 22                                    | 49                        |
| Twenty-third session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Saint George's, March 2010  | 12                                    | 23                        |
| Eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Brasilia, July 2010  | 31                                    | 357                       |
| Forty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Brasilia, July 2010                | 21                                    | 34                        |

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Another high-level forum was the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Santiago, May 2010), for which the main document was “Population and health in Latin America and the Caribbean: outstanding matters, new challenges”.<sup>11</sup> The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee is “Analysis of progress in the execution of the diverse components of the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, including the exchange of experiences, agreements among countries and horizontal cooperation”.<sup>12</sup>

The central goal of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is “to promote and strengthen economic and social cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and to promote cooperation between them and the countries and integration processes of Latin America”.<sup>13</sup> The Committee held its twenty-third session in Grenada in March 2010.

<sup>11</sup> LC/L.3216(CEP.2010/3).

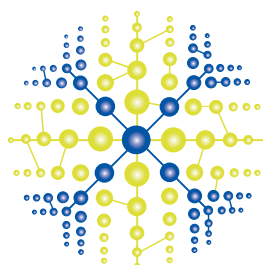
<sup>12</sup> Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/G.1920; LC/DEM/G.159), Santiago, 1996.

<sup>13</sup> Constituent Declaration, Functions and Rules of Procedure of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (LC/CAR/G.780/Rev.1), 2005.



The objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC include promoting “international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies”. The substantive issues discussed at the sixth meeting of the Conference, held in the Dominican Republic, were environmental statistics, the 2010 round of population censuses and current and future challenges for the development of national statistical systems.

In addition to organizing meetings of subsidiary bodies, ECLAC provides technical-secretariat services for a number of conferences. Two such examples are the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Santiago in September 2011, the central theme of which was “a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”, and the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, for which ECLAC served as technical secretariat of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinating work, monitoring progress, publishing information bulletins and exchanging information with relevant multisectoral actors.<sup>14</sup> Diagram 1 provides additional information on the role of ECLAC in this central process for the region.



# eLAC2015

Building inclusive and innovative digital societies

■ Diagram 1 ■  
EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ECLAC, 2010-2011

338 events in 31 countries and territories



| ...ECLAC funded participation by nationals of |                                  |     |  |                                    |     |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|--|------------------------------------|-----|
|   | Antigua and Barbuda              | 19  |  | Haiti                              | 19  |
|   | Argentina                        | 188 |  | Honduras                           | 75  |
|   | Aruba                            | 7   |  | Cayman Islands                     | 3   |
|   | Bahamas                          | 18  |  | British Virgin Islands             | 1   |
|   | Barbados                         | 32  |  | Jamaica                            | 56  |
|   | Belize                           | 35  |  | Mexico                             | 182 |
|   | Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 63  |  | Montserrat                         | 3   |
|   | Brazil                           | 298 |  | Nicaragua                          | 71  |
|   | Chile                            | 219 |  | Panama                             | 59  |
|   | Colombia                         | 160 |  | Paraguay                           | 62  |
|   | Costa Rica                       | 114 |  | Peru                               | 126 |
|   | Cuba                             | 63  |  | Dominican Republic                 | 90  |
|   | Dominica                         | 2   |  | Saint Kitts and Nevis              | 24  |
|   | Ecuador                          | 94  |  | Saint Lucia                        | 43  |
|   | El Salvador                      | 88  |  | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines   | 25  |
|   | Grenada                          | 31  |  | Suriname                           | 23  |
|   | Guatemala                        | 85  |  | Trinidad and Tobago                | 30  |
|   | Guyana                           | 42  |  | Uruguay                            | 117 |
|   |                                  |     |  | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 33  |

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

<sup>14</sup> See [online] <http://www.cepal.org/elac/>.



ECLAC also convenes ad-hoc high-level meetings, meetings of government experts, workshops and symposia. Diagram 1 shows that the Commission organized 338 events within and outside the region in the biennium 2010-2011, on its own behalf or in collaboration with the Governments of the region. Almost 3,000 people of 71 different nationalities were able to attend these events thanks to ECLAC funding, and many others covered their own expenses or were sponsored by third parties.

## 2. Advocacy

Another area where South-South cooperation is promoted is the Commission's approach to conducting research for comparative analysis of the countries and drawing attention to good practices to be transferred subsequently to other countries through the medium of technical assistance.

### (a) Cooperation within the region

The founding mandate of ECLAC states that it was created to promote “economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration” and to plan and promote technical cooperation activities and projects at the regional and subregional level.

One example is the technical assistance provided to the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador for the creation of a satellite account relating to unpaid household services. Support was requested for this project from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico. An official from INEGI provided technical assistance in analysing, together with INEC staff, the various alternatives used by Mexico, and methods and procedures for valuing unpaid household work were reviewed.

ECLAC publications contribute to dialogue and support cooperation processes. One case of this is the document “*Espacios de convergencia y de cooperación regional*”<sup>15</sup> (Spanish only), which was submitted at the request of the Government of Mexico for consideration by senior government officials during the twenty-first Summit of the Rio Group and the second Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), held in Mexico on 23 February 2010. That document considers a number of aspects of regional cooperation, particularly in eight areas. Four of these relate to intraregional cooperation (infrastructure investment, trade support, strengthening of the social aspect of integration and reduction of inequalities), and four to cooperation in dealing with global challenges (innovation and competitiveness, closer collective ties with the Asia-Pacific region, reform of the global financial system and climate change). The central message of the document was the need to foster regional cooperation and integration, as the most effective instruments for tackling economic and social challenges in the wake of the crisis.

### (b) Cooperation with Asia

The 2010-2011 edition of the annual publication *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* estimates that South-South trade may surpass North-North trade by 2017.<sup>16</sup> ECLAC helps the Latin American and Caribbean countries in their efforts to expand their knowledge of the Asian economies, helping the region to take a proactive role on the worldwide economic stage

<sup>15</sup> LC/L.3201.

<sup>16</sup> See [online] [http://www.eclac.cl/noticias/paginas/8/33638/110830\\_Paninsal\\_2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.eclac.cl/noticias/paginas/8/33638/110830_Paninsal_2011_FINAL.pdf).

and benefit from the opportunities offered by growing South-South exchanges and cooperation, forming closer ties without losing sight of the resulting challenges.

In light of its role as a catalyst, ECLAC was invited to take part in the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC). The Republic of Korea, currently acting Chair of the “visionary group”, requested assistance from ECLAC in setting out guidelines for strengthening FEALAC, to be presented at the next meeting to be held in Indonesia in 2013. In preparation for the fifth Ministerial Meeting of FEALAC, which was held in August 2011, ECLAC produced the document “New biregional trade and investment relations in a changing world economic environment”,<sup>17</sup> in order to contribute to discussions on the development of biregional relations in a highly dynamic international context.

ECLAC also builds on relations with the Asian countries at the national level. On 3 and 4 November 2011, jointly with the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Commission organized a seminar on economic cooperation between that country and Latin America and the Caribbean. This was undertaken in close cooperation with the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) and with the participation of six chiefs and heads of unit from ECLAC as specialists in their respective areas. Following that meeting, a number of initiatives were launched with the participation of FEALAC, including exchanges of interns and experts and the preparation of a project on innovation and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



ECLAC also worked with India in the area of gender, and experiences were exchanged among women experts and leading women in the academic world in the framework of an international seminar on the political economy of gender equality. To contribute to the promotion of trade and investment and strengthen economic cooperation with India, the Commission produced the document “India and Latin America and the Caribbean. Opportunities and challenges in trade and investment relations”,<sup>18</sup> providing the basis for discussions which took place at the high-level seminar entitled “The New India and the New Latin America – complementarities and synergies” (Buenos Aires, December 2011).

Relations with China have also been strengthened. In June 2011, during an official visit to Chile, Vice-President Xi Jinping of China gave a lecture at ECLAC Headquarters on relations between China and Latin America. The Commission also received a visit from a delegation of senior officials of the Studies Office of the Council of State, who came for two purposes: to learn as much as possible regarding policies to promote agriculture in the region, particularly in Brazil, Chile and Mexico, and to identify niches for cooperation.

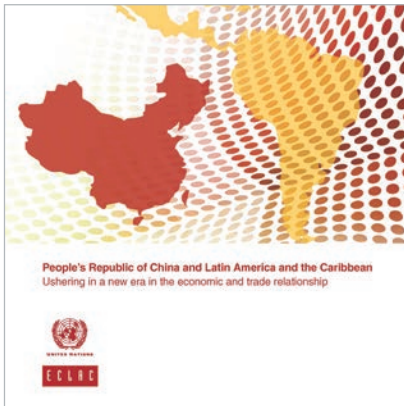
Two publications were produced for the occasion: a translation into Chinese of the document “Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails” and the document “The People’s Republic of China and Latin America and the Caribbean. Towards a new phase in economic and trade links”,<sup>19</sup> which examines recent trends in trade between China and Latin America and the Caribbean



<sup>17</sup> LC/R.2173.

<sup>18</sup> LC/L.3426.

<sup>19</sup> LC/L.3340.



in terms of countries, sectors and products, as well as Chinese foreign direct investment in the region.<sup>20</sup> In recent years, China has been the largest source of growth for Latin American and Caribbean exports. The essentially inter-industry nature of trade between the region and China has been confirmed. As a result, imports from China consisted mostly of manufactured goods, and Latin American and Caribbean exports to that country were mostly of raw materials. Although there is great complementarity, some difficulties have arisen in relation to the “reprimarization” of the Latin American economies; more effective integration of the countries of the region into production chains in Asia-Pacific is becoming harder to achieve.

China is a major source of opportunities for the region, particularly for the economies which benefit most from Chinese demand for natural resources, such as those in South America. In this case, a favourable business cycle may outlast the terms of office of several Governments. The challenge therefore lies in taking advantage of this historic opportunity to make the necessary investments in infrastructure, innovation and human resources, so as to transform income from natural resources into varied forms of human, physical and institutional capital so that levels of productivity and competitiveness can be raised and the risk of reprimarization of the economies of the region can be mitigated.

### 3. Expert guidance and advice

ECLAC provides advice and guidance to its member States to strengthen South-South cooperation by organizing forums for intergovernmental discussion. Notable in 2010-2011 was the support provided for the preparation of the Rio+20 Conference, to be held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 20 to 22 June 2012, 20 years after the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992 in the same city.



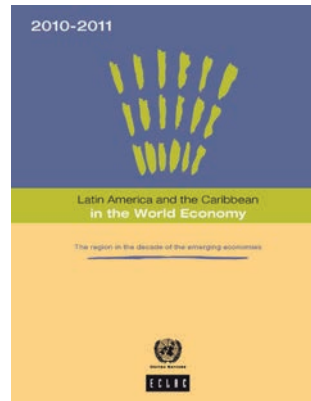
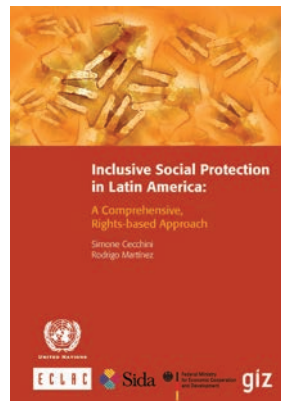
## RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

In December 2010, ECLAC facilitated the Meeting of Government-Designated Experts of Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to Rio+20: A Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.<sup>21</sup> The participants were representatives of 19 countries and of various social groups in the region.

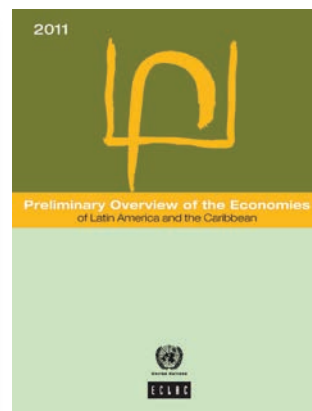
<sup>20</sup> The People’s Republic of China and Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a strategic relationship (LC/L.3224), April 2010.

<sup>21</sup> See [online] <http://www.eclac.org/ddisah/noticias/noticias/4/41684/InformeReunion.ESP.pdf>.

■ Diagram 1 ■  
PUBLICATIONS IN 2010-2011



| 795 documents                                    |     |
|--|-----|
| ECLAC headquarters, Santiago                     | 729 |
| ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico         | 18  |
| ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean | 20  |
| Buenos Aires office                              | 16  |
| Bogotá office                                    | 3   |
| Montevideo office                                | 1   |
| Office in Washington, D.C.                       | 7   |
| Office in Brasilia                               | 1   |

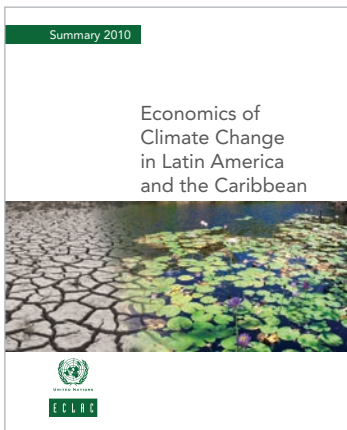


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

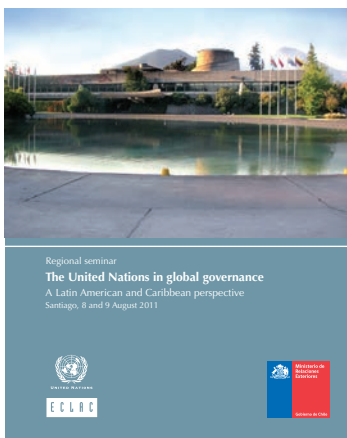


In September 2011 in Santiago, guided by the same mandate, the secretariat organized the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), with the participation of 32 of the countries of the region and representatives of social groups. The meeting ended with the adoption of the Santiago Consensus.

In agreement with 20 organizations of the United Nations system, ECLAC coordinated the inter-agency document *Sustainable Development 20 Years on from the Earth Summit: Progress, gaps and strategic guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean*, which assesses the advances achieved and difficulties encountered in the region in the implementation of the international commitments on sustainable development entered into in 1992 and proposed guidelines for progress towards sustainable development in the region.<sup>22</sup> Numerous missions to countries were conducted in order to lay the foundations for a shared position to prepare the negotiating document for the Rio+20 Conference.<sup>23</sup>



During the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16), held in Cancún (Mexico), ECLAC jointly organized seven side events during which it presented the document “Economics of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Summary 2010”, which offers an overview of the aggregate economic analysis of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean produced on the basis of national and sectoral studies of climate change economics in the region.<sup>24</sup> The conclusions offer important considerations regarding the implications of climate change for the countries of the region, which helped them to define their respective positions.



On 8 and 9 August 2011, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, ECLAC organized a regional seminar at its headquarters in Santiago, entitled “The United Nations in Global Governance”. Participants analysed the multiplicity of actors present in the international community and the need for them to be coordinated and complement each other on the basis of effective and legitimate mechanisms of governance, so that they are able to respond to current world events such as the financial and economic crisis of 2008 and the challenges of climate change. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, called in particular for a strengthening of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations so that it could become a forum with the authority to convene the Bretton Woods institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. She also emphasized the need to consolidate regional integration processes to achieve greater political and economic convergence and to redefine the equation of State, market and society through inclusive social covenants. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Alfredo Moreno, called for efforts to study the complementarity between various actors in managing the world economy, whether they were global, regional or sectoral actors or groups. He added that there should be further analysis of the relationship between the Group of 20 (G20) and the United Nations,

<sup>22</sup> (LC/L.3346/Rev.1), see [online] <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/7/46097/P46097.xml&xsl=/dmaah/tpl/p9f.xsl&base=/dmaah/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

<sup>23</sup> ECLAC’s Submission to the compilation document to serve as basis for the preparation of the zero draft of the outcome document of Rio+20, See [online] [http://www.cepal.org/rio20/noticias/paginas/6/43766/SE111097-ECLAC\\_inputs\\_to\\_Zero\\_draft.pdf](http://www.cepal.org/rio20/noticias/paginas/6/43766/SE111097-ECLAC_inputs_to_Zero_draft.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> (LC/G.2474), December 2010. See [online] <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/8/41908/P41908.xml&xsl=/dmaah/tpl/p9f.xsl&base=/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

and emphasized the importance of the regional and subregional scene as part of world governance, particularly in the face of the world economic order.

Participants in the seminar included Lourdes Aranda, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico and its representative at the G20; Jomo Kwame Sundaram, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, and Cyrille Pierre, Deputy Director for Global Economy and Development Strategy of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France. Also present were two former Executive Secretaries of ECLAC, José Antonio Ocampo and Gert Rosenthal, the current Permanent Representative of Guatemala at the United Nations.

Other officials taking part included Jorge Valero, the Vice-Minister and Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations; Jorge Argüello, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of 77 and China; Adolfo Carafi, Deputy Director-General of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Special Advisor to the Foreign Policy Unit of the Office of the President of Brazil; and Verónica Legarda, Deputy General Manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador.

This event led to the publication of the book *The United Nations in Global Governance. A Latin American and Caribbean perspective*,<sup>25</sup> which was presented during the thirtieth Ministerial Meeting of the Rio Group in New York.

ECLAC also advised the countries of the region during the preparation of the fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held at United Nations Headquarters on 7 and 8 December 2011. In consultation with the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Rio Group, ECLAC convened the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Financing for Development on 10 and 11 August 2011. The matters considered during that meeting included issues relating to official development assistance, middle-income countries and their integration into the international cooperation system, and innovative mechanisms for development financing. The sessions were organized around the following specific titles:

- (a) middle-income countries in the new global economic setting: needs and strengths;
- (b) innovative financing mechanisms;
- (c) views of regional and subregional banks; and
- (d) towards new arrangements and forms of cooperation for middle-income countries.

Participants emphasized that it was important for middle-income countries to identify areas (for example, institution-building) which would make them more attractive as recipients of official development assistance. They underlined the significance of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as modalities which would go beyond the allocation of financial resources and could help to create capacities and generate mutual benefits for the participating countries. They attached great importance to the sharing of experience, learning and good practices among the countries of the region, and emphasized the need to create relations of trust, transparency and coordination with all actors in relation to cooperation systems.

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<sup>25</sup> LC/L.3372.



#### 4. Mainstreaming South-South cooperation

In its programme of work for 2010-2011, the Commission's strategy emphasized analytical work, promotion activities and the creation and strengthening of national and local capacities to achieve objectives. South-South cooperation has been mainstreamed as a preferred modality in the Commission's technical cooperation strategy.

Attention was focused on the formulation of public policies and on facilitating their implementation and assessment by providing services in the areas of specialized information, technical assistance and training, as well as promoting cooperation, network-building and the sharing of experience at the regional and interregional levels, including South-South cooperation.

At least seven of the 12 subprogrammes include specific areas and modalities to promote South-South cooperation. The first subprogramme, on international integration, has a strong emphasis on regional cooperation. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC has organized meetings and seminars to facilitate horizontal cooperation, the creation of networks and the sharing of successful experiences, especially in the area of retrieval of data for small areas (REDATAM). The goals of the natural resources and infrastructure subprogramme include promoting the coordination of policies and regulatory frameworks and fostering physical integration of infrastructure at the subregional level with UNASUR, the Mesoamerica Project and MERCOSUR.

The subregional headquarters, for their part, are conducting activities specifically designed to promote subregional cooperation. The Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, the Statistics Division and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) are also providing services to intergovernmental bodies, aiming to promote South-South cooperation in their respective thematic areas.



##### (a) The cost of hunger: Social and economic impact of child undernutrition

Undernutrition deprives children of essential nutrients that are required during their most important period of growth, creating permanent and irreversible damage. Besides impeding the development of children's full potential, undernutrition also affects economic progress and increases pressure on health and education systems.

In response to the gravity of this situation, ECLAC and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched a joint effort to collaborate with Governments to develop a methodology for estimating the cost of hunger, which has since been implemented in the Central American countries and the Andean subregion.<sup>26</sup>

Following the interest aroused by the study's findings, it was proposed that the method should be applied in Africa, adapting it to the particularities of the region, and ECLAC was asked to organize a workshop for this purpose in Addis Ababa. The 25 professionals who took part in the workshop, from 10 African countries, analysed the feasibility of the project and its applicability in Africa, and identified modifications which would be needed. Lastly, they agreed to promote the development of the study in 54 African countries, following the methodology developed by ECLAC.

<sup>26</sup> "The cost of hunger: Social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Central America and the Dominican Republic", Project document (LC/W.144/ Rev.1); and "El costo del hambre: impacto social y económico de la desnutrición infantil en el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay y Perú" (The cost of hunger: Social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia) (LC/W.260).

The study is currently being conducted in 12 African countries.<sup>27</sup> An expert who had been a member of the research team in Latin America has been hired to work with the project in Africa. The research team in each country is made up of a national official and another from WFP; this results in local capacity-building and a method well adapted to each country.

Preliminary results in Uganda have shown that:

- In 2009, the incidence of underweight children aged under five years (16%) increased the demand for health services because there were 1.8 million cases of illnesses such as diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria.
- The additional cost of health services in connection with that raised demand is estimated at US\$ 390 million, equivalent to total annual public-health spending in Uganda.

The project was presented at the conference of economy, finance and planning ministers organized in March 2012 by the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa.<sup>28</sup> During the meeting, it was stated that the contribution of ECLAC offered an excellent example of the potential of South-South cooperation.

### **(b) Child poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>29</sup>**

Child poverty is one of the issues investigated by the social development subprogramme. There is a strong consensus regarding the challenge of child poverty for the region, but existing knowledge of the nature of the problem is insufficient for an effective approach to it. This weakens public policies designed to reduce child poverty and limits their scope. They are often based on assumptions which are not evidence-based, they fail to take account of the varying forms of child poverty and they do not take a rights-based approach to ensuring observance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which all the countries of the region are parties.

In order to tackle this challenge, ECLAC conducted a study in coordination with the Regional Office of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim was to prepare an analysis, measure child poverty in the region and produce public-policy recommendations for its elimination. The project was conducted in parallel with a worldwide UNICEF initiative to measure extreme poverty among children in some 40 countries, including five in Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The main objective of the research was to determine levels of child poverty in a broad sample of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, adapting the method developed by UNICEF, the London School of Economics and the University of Bristol. This activity was combined with traditional measurement methods based on household incomes.



<sup>27</sup> Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda.

<sup>28</sup> Fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, E/ECA/CM/45/5/Rev.1AU/CAMEF/EXP/Rpt(VII)/Rev.1.

<sup>29</sup> "Pobreza infantil en América Latina y el Caribe" (LC/R.2168), December 2010. See [online] <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/6/42796/P42796.xml&xsl=/dds/tpl/p9f.xsl&base=/dds/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

The document was presented at national and international seminars which took place in four countries in the region (Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay). Also, a guide was designed to help countries to conduct regular estimates of poverty among children and adolescents. Online training modules have been developed, and will be the basis of workshops for sharing the methodology being used.<sup>30</sup>

**(c) Innovating, gaining market share and fostering social inclusion: success stories in SME development<sup>31</sup>**



This document sets forth a number of success stories in innovation-related areas. It does not attempt a comprehensive list of all such experiences, but offers a collection of lessons which are notable in terms of potential impact, replicability in different socioeconomic and cultural contexts, economic efficiency or capacity to promote sustainable development. The document takes a broad approach, citing not only lessons learned in the countries taking part in the initiative, but also describing replicable practices in member countries of institutions in the region and the rest of the world.

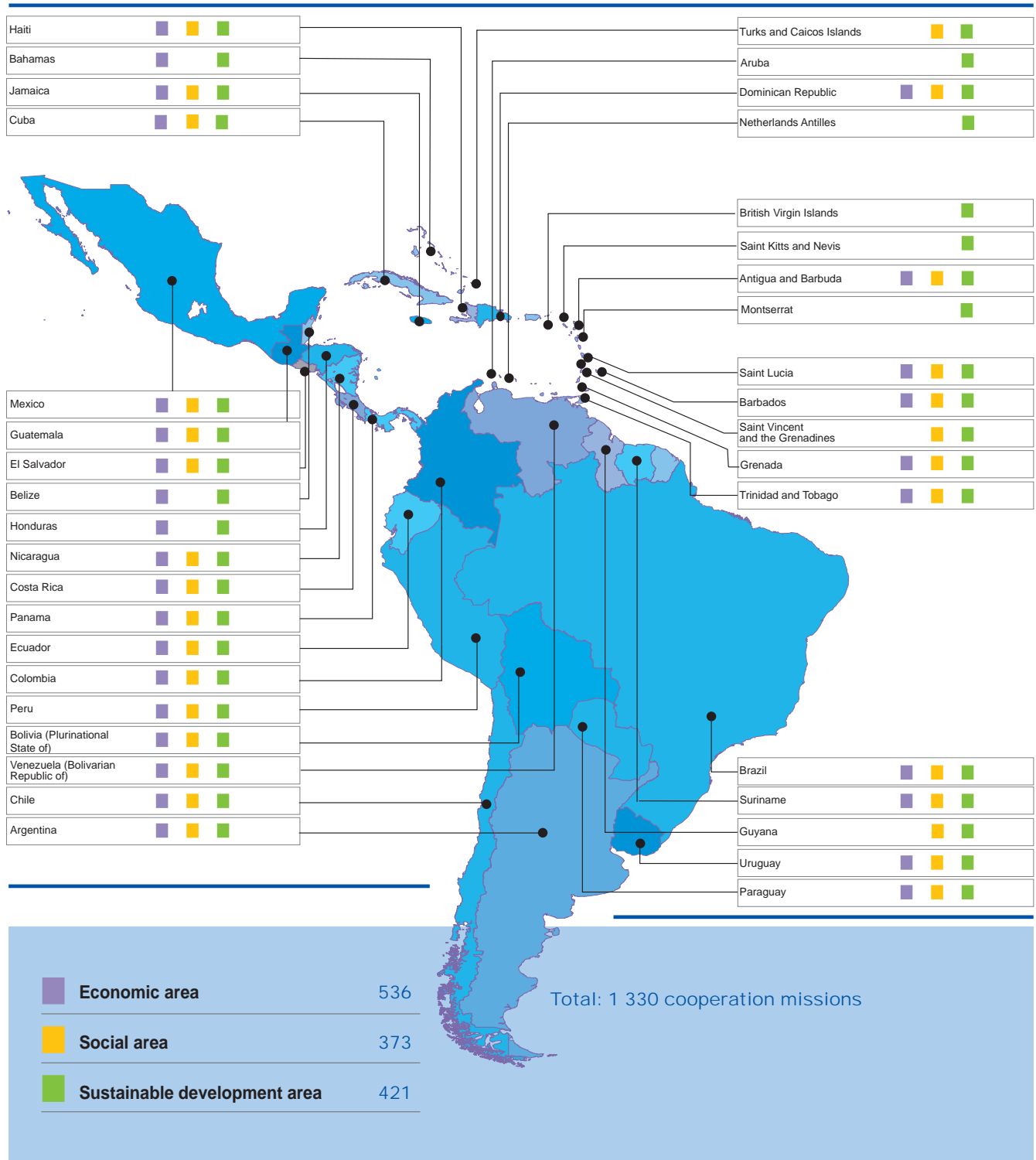
The information contained in the document revolves around SMEs, where most of the best practices it describes were identified. The themes discussed are ordered according to their connection with enterprise development and particular attention is paid to lessons learned in each case. By focusing on SMEs, the document successfully combines information directly related to the areas of production growth, international integration, innovation and social inclusion, four areas in which SMEs are essential agents.

The document seeks to draw the attention of policymakers to cases and experiences which merit detailed consideration when designing strategies, policies and instruments in their countries.

<sup>30</sup> “Guía para estimar la pobreza infantil”, see [online] <http://dds.cepal.org/infancia/guia-para-estimar-la-pobreza-infantil/index.php>.

<sup>31</sup> LC/L.3371.

■ Map 1 ■  
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN THE  
 BIENNIUM 2010-2011**



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

**Note:** The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

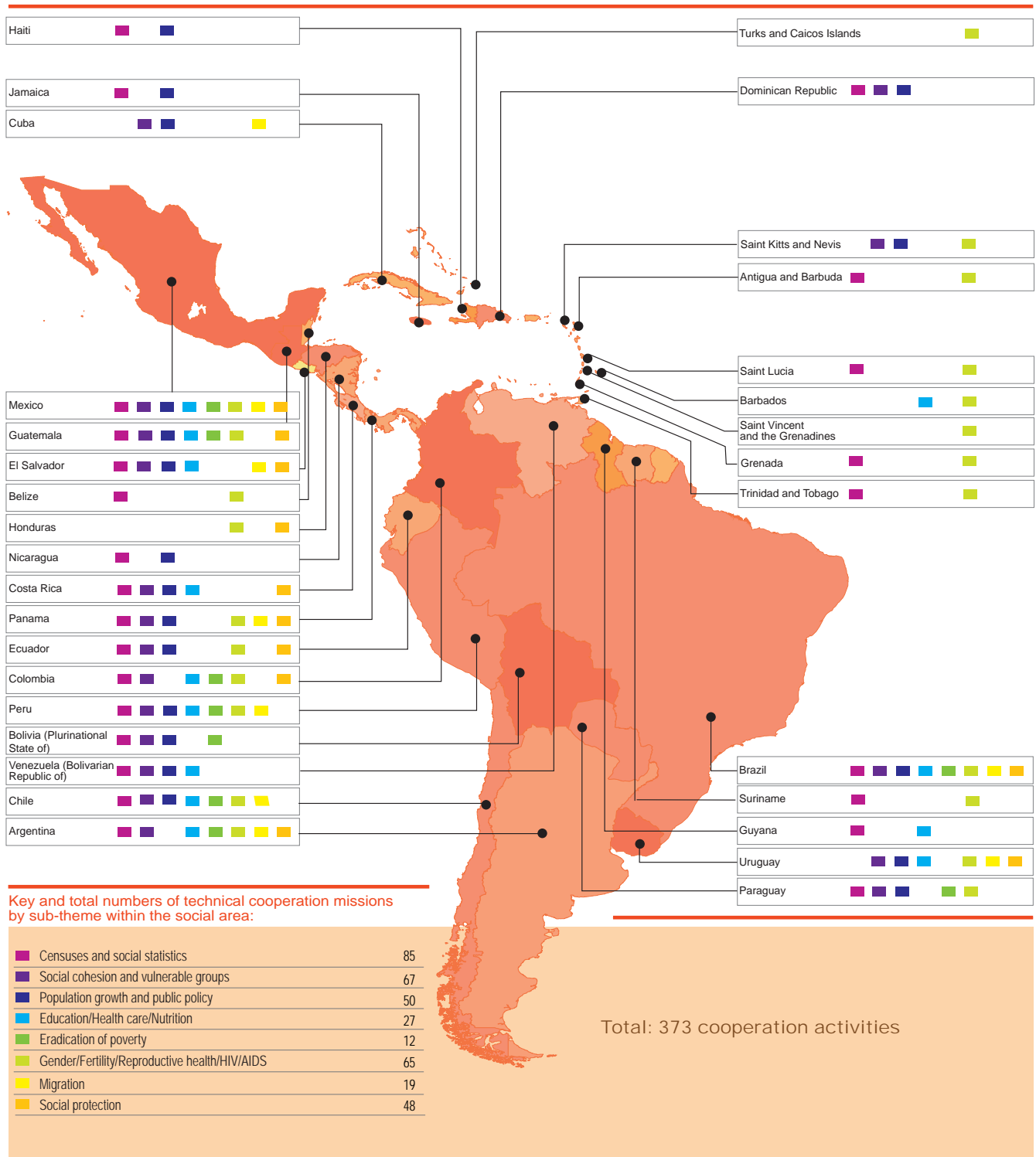
■ Map 2 ■  
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN THE BIENNIUM  
 2010-2011, ECONOMIC AREA**



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

**Note:** The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

■ Map 3 ■  
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011, SOCIAL AREA**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

■ Map 4 ■  
**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN THE BIENNIUM  
 2010-2011, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AREA**



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

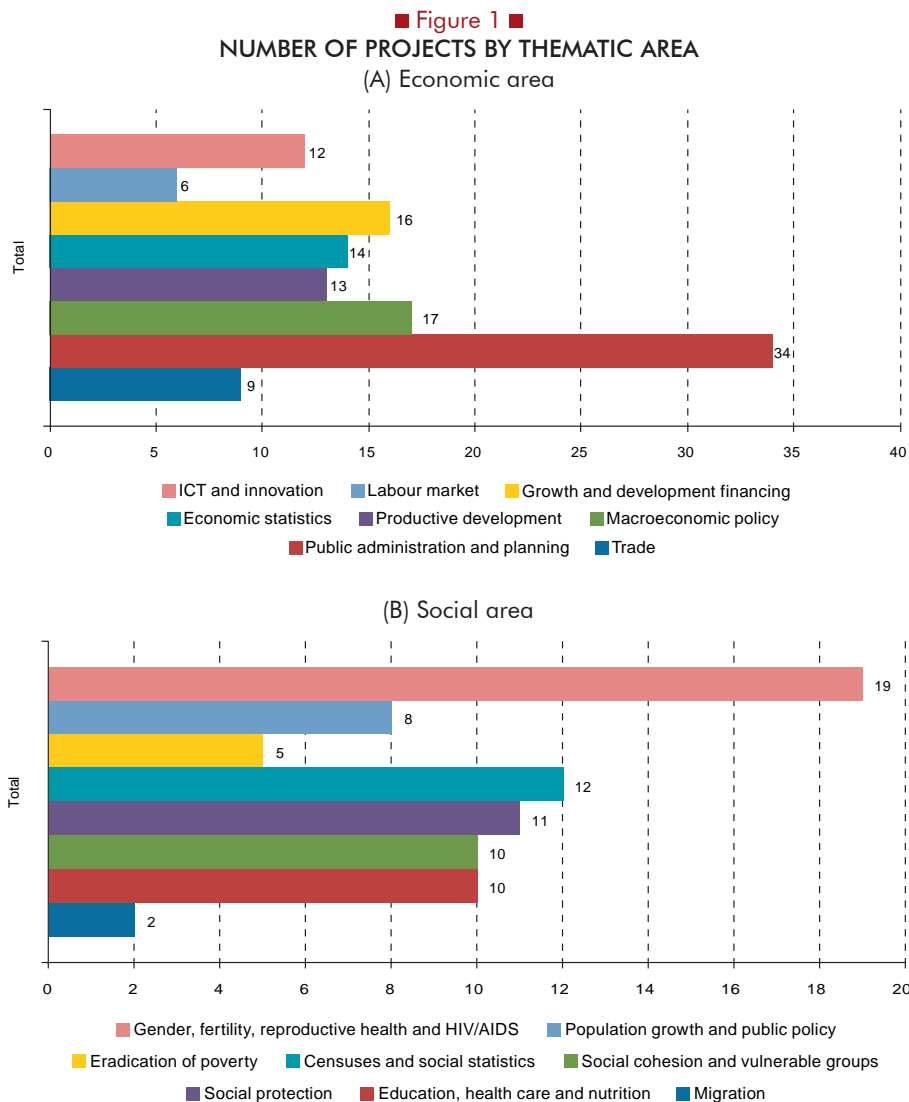


## C. Programming efforts

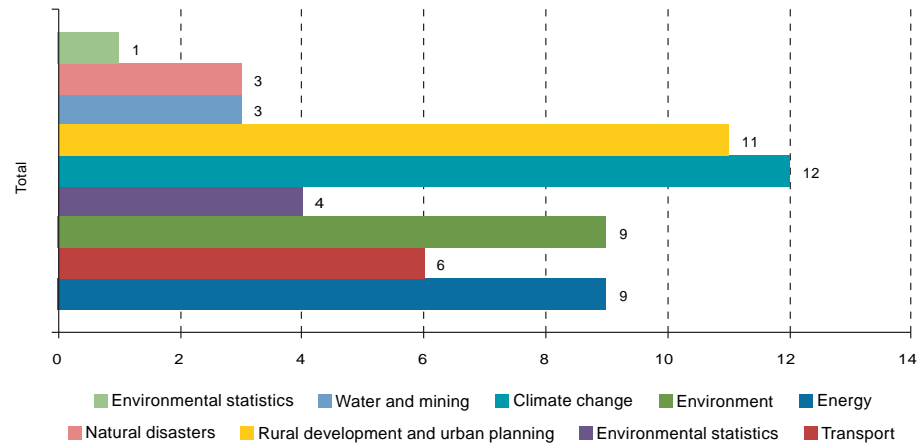
### 1. Projects and agreements

Every two years, the session of the Commission adopts the biennial programme of work of the secretariat, the direct costs of which are funded with ordinary resources allocated by the General Assembly. These are, however, insufficient to implement all the substantive mandates.

The ECLAC secretariat is able to increase its capacity to respond to member States' technical assistance needs thanks to substantive and financial support from various entities. These may be member countries or other countries cooperating with the Commission, United Nations bodies, multilateral organizations, academic centres, foundations or non-governmental organizations. Cooperation includes the implementation of projects which generally have a regional or subregional scope, or may include a selected group of countries as their beneficiaries. This makes it possible to build on successful experiences, disseminate good practices and take a supranational approach to problems and solutions. Furthermore, many of these projects deal with areas whose characteristics make them regional public goods; that is, their benefits or costs affect a particular group of countries and fall into an intermediate position between the national and global spheres.



(C) Sustainable development area



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In addition to the projects, some 177 cooperation agreements are in place which involve no funding transfers between institutions. The emphasis is on bilateral cooperation agreements with governmental bodies in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (59 agreements). Also of note is the large number of agreements with academic institutions both within and outside the region (40). Coordination and collaboration is also ongoing with entities of the United Nations system (18) and other multilateral bodies, both official and non-governmental.

■ Table 5 ■  
AGREEMENTS IN FORCE

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Multilateral agreements</b>               | <b>46</b>  |
| United Nations                               | 18         |
| Other multilateral government agencies       | 20         |
| Non-governmental multilateral organizations  | 8          |
| <b>Bilateral agreements</b>                  | <b>131</b> |
| Government agencies                          | 75         |
| Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean | 59         |
| Other countries                              | 16         |
| Non-governmental organizations               | 16         |
| Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean | 7          |
| Other countries                              | 9          |
| Academic institutions                        | 40         |
| Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean | 21         |
| Other countries                              | 19         |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>177</b> |

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

## 2. Research and training

### (a) In-depth research with an equality perspective

At its thirty-third session, ECLAC presented the document *Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails*, which reflects its position on the development agenda for the region.<sup>32</sup> Following

<sup>32</sup> See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/0/39710/P39710.xml&xsl=/ps33/tpl/p9f.xsl&base=/ps33/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

a detailed analysis of the current situation and of various recent historical events affecting aspects of development in the region, the document proposes a wide range of State policies designed to promote growth, raise productivity, enhance the geographical distribution of development, improve working conditions and labour-market institutions and provide public goods and social protection with a clearly universal and redistributive purpose.

### **(b) 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme**

The International Comparison Programme is a worldwide initiative created to obtain statistics on purchasing power parities, in order to facilitate international comparisons of GDP and its components in real terms, free of the distortions often found in both prices and official and market exchange rates. ECLAC took on the role of regional coordinating body for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2011 round of the Programme. Unlike in the 2005 round, in which only the countries of South America took part, on this occasion the Central American and Caribbean countries were also involved.

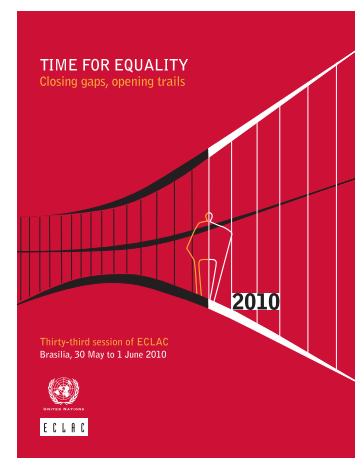
As part of its regional coordination activities, ECLAC has sought the support of various institutions which promote the development of statistical capacities in the region. Contacts have been established with a number of subregional integration bodies which have welcomed the opportunity to cooperate in the project. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has become a strategic ally in the case of the Caribbean subregion, and activities are being closely coordinated between the two organizations.

ECLAC has promoted the creation of advisory committees for the 2011 round for both Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean, comprising representatives of the countries of the two subregions. Their tasks are to supervise the implementation in the region of the work programme of the 2011 round and to make recommendations, support ECLAC in seeking funding for the countries' participation and promote the dissemination and use of the project outcomes. The composition of the advisory committee for Latin America was agreed during the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, in April 2010, and in November 2010 the advisory committee for the Caribbean subregion was established in the framework of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

### **(c) Funding of social protection: towards universal coverage**

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), a study was undertaken on the funding of pension and health-care systems with a view to improving their coverage and quality. This contributed to discussions in the region on reform initiatives to strengthen the non-contributory component of social security. Case studies were carried out in Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica to stimulate discussion among the countries of the region. Those three countries have implemented or will shortly implement reforms of their social protection systems, by incorporating explicit solidarity mechanisms targeting those whose lack the resources needed to access to the benefits of the social security system.

The Chilean experience is a pioneering one in respect of structural reforms to health-care and pension systems, and many of the countries of the region are watching the results closely. Costa Rica, which was selected because of its good health indicators, has successfully implemented a reform which helped to counteract a trend towards segmentation in access to health care. The country has also reached an advanced stage of demographic transition, which makes its experience vital for the discussions in the region. Lastly, Colombia was included in the case studies because it is currently considering structural reforms with an emphasis on equity and solidarity. As a result



of this initiative, a number of publications were produced and technical assistance was provided to Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay to disseminate the knowledge acquired.

#### **(d) Training organized by ILPES**

In all the subprogrammes, considerable emphasis has been placed on training. Almost a third of missions carried out as part of technical cooperation activities were training missions (over 300 courses in 32 countries in the region).

In the biennium 2010-2011, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the training arm of ECLAC, organized a variety of innovative training activities on the subject of planning and public administration, as well as new international courses on e-government, development planning and municipalization of the Millennium Development Goals. The proportion of distance-learning courses among the activities of ILPES has grown.

In 2010-2011, ILPES organized 21 international courses, 36 national courses and 44 workshops, involving over 5,000 teaching hours and providing training for 4,587 professionals. The Institute also ran 13 online courses with 1,197 participants. Course evaluation surveys showed very high levels of participant satisfaction (92%). Twelve of the countries of the region benefited from these activities, which covered results-based management, fiscal policy, local and regional development and e-government.

#### **(e) Training organized by CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC**

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC collaborated closely with national universities, government bodies and regional organizations in organizing its courses and workshops. Capacity-building took place in a number of areas related to population and development —such as cross-border migration, ageing, housing shortages, indigenous population and the use of population and housing censuses— for which REDATAM, a computer program for processing and mapping census and survey data for local and regional analysis, is particularly useful. In 2010-2011, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC continued to organize thematic workshops in order to strengthen national capacities, promote the sharing of experiences and foster various forms of cooperation designed for the census enumerators of the 2010 round. It also initiated a variety of capacity-building activities in the assessment, processing, analysis and dissemination of census data. Ten workshop-seminars were held, with a total of 312 participants from all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

There has been growing demand from the Governments of the region, and from a number of universities and non-governmental organizations, for training for their staff in population-related areas. This is reflected both in the agreements concluded at the 2010 meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which welcomed the Commission's initiative to counteract the shortage of experts in census data management by holding intensive regional courses in demographic analysis for development, and urged international bodies and organizations to give all their support to securing funding for that purpose. CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC gladly accepted an invitation from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Panama and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to hold an intensive course in demographic analysis in Panama (6 June-30 July 2011).



### **3. Technical advice**

#### **(a) Support for national productive development plans**

The creation of national sectoral development plans is a useful instrument for coordinating various actors at the national level and promoting a shared strategic view with goals and processes agreed at the sectoral and national levels. ECLAC is helping the countries of the region to draw up production development plans, by preparing technical content and promoting the necessary national dialogue for constructing a shared vision.

Through its technical cooperation activities, ECLAC has helped the Government of Costa Rica to prepare its State Policy for the Agricultural Sector and Rural Development 2010-2021, which is based on four central themes: (a) competitiveness, (b) technological development and innovation, (c) rural land management and family farming, and (d) climate change and agri-environmental management. The policy defines instruments for its implementation, with participation by public institutions, the production sector, the academic world and international cooperation.

ECLAC has also assisted the Government of Argentina to prepare and implement its Strategic Industrial Plan 2020, analysing value chains in 10 industries (motor vehicles, footwear, medicines, capital goods, agricultural machinery, building materials, processing of meat from pigs and poultry, dairy products, textiles and software). On the basis of those analyses, the Ministry of Industry of Argentina organized a series of meetings with the main public and private actors from each sector, with technical advice from ECLAC, and the outcomes formed the basis for the preparation of the Strategic Industrial Plan presented by the country's President on 4 October 2011.

ECLAC provided similar support to Nicaragua for the design of its National Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation 2010-2013, to the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the development of its Bolivian Digital Agenda, to Ecuador for the presentation of its "Digital Plan 2.0", and to Uruguay for quality assessment in national infrastructure.

#### **(b) Support for the preparation of national social development plans**

The region successfully weathered the impact of the international crisis which originated in the countries of the North, maintaining significant levels of economic growth and job creation, which helped to reduce poverty. Nonetheless, social vulnerability is high and social gaps large. ECLAC is taking action in this area by enhancing the capacities of the region's Governments to implement public policies in the area of social protection and care delivery.

Thirteen countries of the region adopted new institutional frameworks for social development in 2010-2011, with collaboration and support from ECLAC. Through its Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay adopted the main guidelines for the development of a national care system, in accordance with the Commission's proposed principles of equality, universality and solidarity. The plan covers areas related to unpaid work and responds to the needs of different groups of dependants such as children and older persons.

Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay implemented studies on the cost of achieving the educational targets for 2021, using the methodology developed by ECLAC.

In the area of social development, the Commission continued to provide technical cooperation services to the countries of the region for the development of methods to measure social spending, improve the management of social programmes and estimate the cost of hunger. ECLAC also held workshops for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on poverty reduction in El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

#### **4. Documentation of best practices**

##### **(a) Women's unpaid work**

Seventeen years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and five years after the adoption of the Quito Consensus of 2007, the Latin American and Caribbean region has seen significant progress in improving the economic, social and political rights of women. There has not, however, been any improvement in terms of their incomes or quality of employment. Women's economic activity is still characterized by inequity, discrimination and excessive numbers of hours of unpaid work.

ECLAC is therefore promoting the mainstreaming of the issue of unpaid work in public policy design in the region. In 2010-2011, with the support of the Commission, a number of countries in the region conducted data collection activities to measure women's unpaid work. Several countries have adopted policies recognizing the contribution of unpaid work through pension reform schemes or cash transfer programmes.

In the past 10 years and in 12 of the countries of the region, there have been 18 surveys, survey modules or questionnaires on time use. The Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), developed by Mexico, has made a major contribution towards harmonizing time-use surveys, statistics and indicators. This effort was recognized by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC in 2011.

##### **(b) Support for the design, implementation and assessment of the 2010 census round**

Reliable demographic data are vital for the analysis of the trends and results of the development process. ECLAC is therefore supporting the countries of the region in the organization of censuses, and in 13 countries in the region, the Commission has provided technical assistance for their preparation and implementation and for the assessment of results.

Thanks to the Commission's work on indigenous population groups and ethnic minorities, 14 countries in the region included the identification of ethnicity in the 2010 census round. Also, 17 countries have improved their capacities to analyse and explore population profiles for use in public-policy programming.

In June 2010, ECLAC held a workshop on the 2010 census round and living conditions, to improve the capacities of national statistical offices in preparing the questionnaire for that census round. It also organized four workshops on a number of census-related subjects: (i) exchanging experiences on classifications and nomenclatures, (ii) training of supervisors and enumerators, (iii) analysis of data consistency, quality and coverage, and (iv) potential uses and applications of census data.

### (c) Support for fiscal policy in the region

ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Government of El Salvador in the form of analysis and recommendations in relation to fiscal policy. A delegation from the Ministry of Finance of Ecuador received technical assistance on taxation policy, the impact of fiscal reform, countercyclical fiscal policies and the management of public debt.



The Commission also contributed to discussions on the role of fiscal policy in the region by organizing a number of international workshops. In April 2010, a symposium on fiscal policy for the strengthening of democracy in Latin America was organized in Santiago, and a document was published in collaboration with UNDP in order to contribute to the State reforms needed to give greater legitimacy to the region's democracies.<sup>33</sup> Another prominent workshop during the biennium was on macro volatility and fiscal space, held in August 2010 to promote in-depth analysis and discussion of the structural, organizational and institutional factors operating in Latin America in relation to constraints on fiscal space and fiscal-policy responses designed to promote macroeconomic stability.

The inputs for the detailed analysis conducted in the workshop consisted of case studies for four countries in the region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and El Salvador. Fiscal policy experts and policymakers shared their experiences in relation to those little-explored dimensions of fiscal space. Motivating questions guided the discussions towards the most significant restrictions on the public sector's freedom of decision-making in combating volatility and the main factors involved in creating a coordinated set of policies and securing the cooperation of the various segments of the public sector apparatus.

### (d) Energy efficiency

In November 2010, the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division of ECLAC organized the first policy dialogue on energy efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of representatives of 11 countries and cooperation bodies.<sup>34</sup> The central theme was "Towards sustainable institutionalities" and the goal was to strengthen institutional, technical and regulatory frameworks in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean so that energy-efficiency policies could be implemented at the national level through dialogue and cooperation within the region and with other regions in the world. The main outcome of the event was the creation of a database of performance indicators to assess the results of the policies and programmes to be applied.



Continuing the process, a second policy dialogue on energy efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in the Dominican Republic. The objective on that occasion was to establish a forum for discussion at the policy level to strengthen international horizontal cooperation in that field and identify best practices in policy design for rational and sustainable energy use in the countries of the region.

Also, 12 workshops were held, with the participation of 307 representatives of 77 countries, on the preparation of energy scenarios using the Less Developed Country Energy Alternatives

<sup>33</sup> Project document, No. 409 (LC/W.409).

<sup>34</sup> See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/drni/noticias/noticias/5/41685/P41685.xml&xsl=/drni/tpl/p1f.xsl&base=/drni/tpl/top-bottom.xslt>.



Planning System (LEAP) model (a system for long-range alternative energy planning). Each scenario includes a homogenous module for processing data on the output of renewable forms of energy.

## 5. Networking

### (a) Latin American and Caribbean Network of Social Institutions

The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Social Institutions (RISALC) —a virtual community specializing in social issues, involving 1,446 public, academic and civil-society bodies from 33 countries— was greatly strengthened during the biennium. This powerful knowledge-transfer tool for social policy discussions led to the creation of 37 strategic alliances or virtual corridors for the online sharing, integration and dissemination of information on social development. Some 35 electronic newsletters have been distributed to over 800 people in 29 countries, and two online databases have been created, one on social indicators and one containing videos on innovative social experiences.

### (b) Statistical network

Through CEPALSTAT, its website of statistical publications and databases, ECLAC disseminates statistical data on a variety of subjects (including social issues, national accounts, the environment, gender affairs and productive and commercial activities). In 2010-2011, new series were added to CEPALSTAT and data accessibility was enhanced.

### (c) Fiscal Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Fiscal Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (OFILAC) was established during the biennium 2010-2011 to contribute to improving fiscal policy by disseminating studies and generating discussions among a variety of actors. The idea is for bodies taking part in this initiative to join forces; they include the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), AECID, OECD and the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT).

OFILAC is a forum for analysis, discussion and monitoring of fiscal policy in the countries of the region. It fosters exchanges on fiscal matters among officials of international organizations, fiscal authorities and other experts in the field.

### (d) Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

At the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Quito in 2007, the ECLAC member States requested the creation of a gender equality observatory. This was achieved in the biennium 2010-2011 and the website has already received over 200,000 hits. The Governments taking part in the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, held at Brasilia in 2010, considered that the Observatory was particularly useful in providing an overview of progress towards achieving the rights of women in the region.



## 6. Technology transfers

### (a) Promoting energy efficiency

The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean are dependent on fossil fuels, and one of the major challenges for the region in the twenty-first century will therefore be to achieve

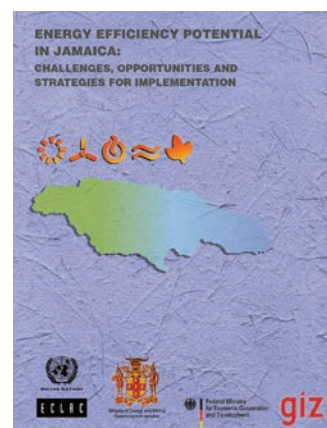
low-carbon growth with strong emphasis on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Sustainable development must achieve a decoupling of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the countries' economic growth.

It is internationally agreed that renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are effective and viable means of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In recent years, ECLAC has been involved in analysing the economic impact of climate change and identifying appropriate energy policy responses and mitigation strategies from the viewpoint of the region.

ECLAC has also promoted awareness-raising on the economic and political challenges associated with low-carbon growth, with strong emphasis on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, urging the countries to include these goals in the design and implementation of public policies, programmes and instruments to promote technological innovation in the field of energy, in close coordination with other development partners (including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, social actors and the academic world).

In response to a request from the Ministry of Energy and Mining of Jamaica, ECLAC provided support for the preparation of a study on energy efficiency policies in the country.<sup>35</sup> As a result, the Government of Jamaica decided to implement a national programme to include 10% of ethanol in commercially sold petrol.

The secretariat also provided technical assistance to the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the use of geothermal resources and to the Government of Uruguay regarding its National Energy Efficiency Programme and the diversification of its energy mix. Support was also given to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the design of its National Hydrocarbons Policy.



### **(b) School for policymakers in science, technology and innovation**

ECLAC organized the School for policymakers in science, technology and innovation, helping to strengthen scientific, technological and productive capacities in the countries of the region and acting as an intermediary in knowledge transfer and learning for officials responsible for formulating and managing science and technology policies. It was also proposed that training should be provided on current issues and new management challenges in science, technology and innovation, to help ensure suitable institutional conditions for making the field of innovation more dynamic, sustainable and inclusive. The second course took place in Germany in 2011, and the Government of Uruguay has offered to host the third one in 2012. An example of the results achieved thanks to the South-South cooperation brought about by that initiative was the signing of a cooperation agreement on nanotechnology and space technology between Brazil and Costa Rica.



### **(c) Promotion of the use and analysis of population data**

A central area in the work of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC to promote sociodemographic analysis is the development and use of tools for processing census data (REDATAM), together with the development of information systems.

<sup>35</sup> Project document, N° 394 (LC/W.394).

To that end, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC provides training and technical assistance to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world. During the biennium, 19 regional, subregional and national workshops were held in Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Japan, Peru, Saint Lucia, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of these activities, funded mostly by UNFPA, was to build human capacity in national statistical and planning offices for the generation of sociodemographic indicators and databases, the processing, use and analysis of census data and the development of applications for online dissemination of information using the REDATAM WebServer platform.

Almost 250 statistical and demographic technicians from Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions, mostly Asia, had the opportunity to strengthen their capacities in the use of REDATAM, with emphasis on the processing and analysis of population and housing census data.

In 2010-2011, representatives of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC took part in a number of meetings organized by other bodies, in order to promote the use of REDATAM. Two examples of this were the second Needs Assessment Conference for Census Analysis (NACCA) for Africa, held in Dakar, and the third NACCA, for Asia, held in Indonesia in November 2011. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on REDATAM during the meeting of Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)-International in the framework of the fourth Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP) in 2010.

Training and technical assistance were also provided to:

- Asian countries, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), through the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).
- Countries of the Asia-Pacific region, in collaboration with UNFPA, by holding REDATAM workshops in the framework of South-South cooperation for the strengthening of national capacities in the management and dissemination of census data with REDATAM.
- Indonesia, in the migration of its 2010 census to REDATAM, to improve the speed of processing and analysis (for a population of approximately 250 million).
- African countries where REDATAM is in use (Angola, Cameroon, Kenya and Rwanda).

To maintain constant communication with all REDATAM users, a website was set up ([www.redatam.org](http://www.redatam.org)) with access to all applications for dissemination of census- and survey-related information used by the REDATAM WebServer platform (including censuses, household surveys, vital statistics and systems of indicators).

ECLAC also contributes to South-South cooperation by hosting REDATAM applications for online census processing on the server of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, for countries which have limited Internet technology or wish to have a mirror server. The countries served in this way include Belize, Cambodia, Chile (Ministry of Social Development and National Institute for Youth), the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and UNFPA-El Salvador (System of Youth Indicators).

ECLAC is promoting the use of social networks, and is doing so itself, in order to tap the permanent communication capabilities offered by new technology, and has created a Facebook



page ([www.facebook.org/redatam/](http://www.facebook.org/redatam/)) and a Twitter account ([twitter.com/@redatam](https://twitter.com/@redatam)) for REDATAM. As is reflected in the compendium of activities carried out during the biennium 2010-2011, ECLAC remains a natural platform for South-South cooperation. In its various roles as a catalyst, convener, promoter, guide and adviser on policy matters, as well as in mainstreaming the concept of South-South cooperation, ECLAC has been a major ally to the countries in the design and implementation of their development policies.

The South-South cooperation modality is of strategic significance for national and local capacity-building in the countries and for strengthening integration initiatives which can position the region's challenges and opportunities in the international community.

The secretariat has achieved considerable progress in the fulfilment of the mandate from the Committee on South-South Cooperation in the framework of the thirty-third session, particularly regarding the proposal on using indicators not based on per capita income in the allocation of development assistance to middle-income countries. The purpose of this is to make cooperation policy more inclusive and to fine-tune the focus in order, on the one hand, to take account of the diversity of problems in the countries of the region, and on the other, to recognize the structural gaps restricting the development of those countries classified as "middle-income".



**ECLAC**

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