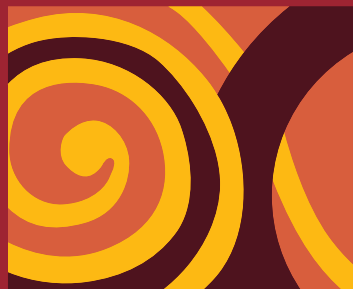


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**Thirty-sixth  
session  
of ECLAC**

Mexico City,  
23-27 May 2016

REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES  
CARRIED OUT BY THE ECLAC SYSTEM  
DURING THE 2014-2015 BIENNIUM



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



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NACTEEN N'RIOMS

**ECLAC**



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## INTRODUCTION

During the biennium 2014-2015, technical cooperation activities in Latin America and the Caribbean were implemented against a regional backdrop of economic deceleration, slow global recovery and a decline in trade. In 2014, the average growth rate of the region's economies was 1.1% —the lowest since 2009— and in 2015 it slowed even further to 0.5% amid a complex external and domestic scenario. The external front was notable for the sluggish performance of the world economy, especially the slowdown in China and other emerging economies, while domestic factors such as falling investment and less buoyant consumption weighed on domestic demand, which has been the main driver of the region's economic growth in recent years.<sup>1</sup>

Despite this complex economic scenario, many cooperation efforts during the biennium focused on constructing the new development agenda and securing a global commitment on climate change. It was a highly dynamic period for multilateralism in general and for the United Nations in particular.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) played an active role in assessing the final outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals and also focused on supporting the regional consultations that led to the effective participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While it is true that the 2030 Agenda differs both in content and structure from the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, the outcomes of the latter process nonetheless provide the starting point for the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are of a more ambitious, comprehensive and universal nature.

In its report *Latin America and the Caribbean: looking ahead after the Millennium Development Goals. Regional monitoring report on the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015*, ECLAC affirmed that the countries of the region had taken large strides between 2000 and 2015 to reduce extreme poverty, hunger and infant mortality, expand the coverage of antiretroviral treatment for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), control preventable infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria, increase the participation of girls in education, secure access to drinking water, reduce the consumption of ozone-depleting substances and expand terrestrial and maritime protected areas. The report also noted that the countries needed to make greater efforts to reduce maternal mortality and adolescent fertility, improve women's labour market situation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among other areas.

Regarding Millennium Development Goal 8 on the development of a global partnership for development, the Latin American and Caribbean share of official

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<sup>1</sup> See *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015 (LC/G.2645-P)*, Santiago, 2015.

development assistance (ODA) inflows diminished from 14% to 7.6% of the world total between 1960 and the current decade. The region's declining share may be explained by donor countries' prioritization of low-income countries over middle-income economies —the majority classification in Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, ODA flows to Latin America and the Caribbean are smaller than flows of foreign direct investment (FDI), remittances and portfolio investment, although they remain significant for several smaller and lower income countries.

The accomplishments and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals formed the basis of the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations at the seventieth session of the General Assembly in September 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals, which embody a universal, integral and indivisible approach to development and renewed collaboration among the international community, were defined through more than two years of public consultations, interactions with civil society and negotiations between countries. While the 2030 Agenda involves a common and universal commitment, it also recognizes that all States face specific challenges in their pursuit of sustainable development and will therefore have to set their own national targets based on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals include ending poverty everywhere; ending hunger and achieving food security; ensuring healthy lives and quality education; achieving gender equality; ensuring access to water and energy; promoting sustained economic growth; taking urgent action to combat climate change; promoting peaceful societies and providing access to justice.

For Latin America and the Caribbean, this new agenda is highly relevant since it addresses various dimensions of inequality, which ECLAC identified as the region's most pressing problem in the position papers it presented at its three most recent sessions: *Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails* (2010); *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* (2012) and *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future* (2014).

The regional consultations held as part of the process of formulating the Sustainable Development Goals and constructing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were crucial to bringing about the active participation of the countries in three fundamental areas: ensuring that the content of the document reflected the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean; establishing a joint position on accountability, considering its universal nature and the fact that new topics require different methods for measuring progress; and reflecting on financing for development from the perspective of middle-income countries. ECLAC supported the entire process through the organization and facilitation of these consultations, and through substantive work and support to devise and implement development strategies for the region's countries.

At the Meeting on the Challenges of Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in August 2014, emphasis was laid on the importance of strengthening regional mechanisms and the existing institutional architecture, such as the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC in which member States may discuss the content and follow-up of the agenda. These subsidiary bodies include the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Committee of High-level Government Experts, the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Financing for Development, which was attended by ministers and officials from several countries in the region, underscored that financing should prioritize the most pressing needs of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those of achieving greater equality, closing development gaps, and securing funding for infrastructure and social inclusion. It also emphasized the importance of including the gender perspective in this process, strengthening national and subregional development banks, and developing innovative financing mechanisms and new forms of cooperation, especially with the private sector, that complement traditional mechanisms and enable stable, predictable financial flows to developing countries.

As regards climate change, the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in 2014 and Paris in December 2015, respectively, paved the way for the Paris Agreement, a global commitment adopted by the countries at the twenty-first session (COP 21).

The Paris Agreement, which will come into effect in 2020, sets out core themes for tackling climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, financing, technology transfer, capacity-building and transparency of information. The Agreement also includes the target of keeping the global average temperature increase to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and of pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. One of the greatest merits of the Conference and the resulting Agreement was that it addressed climate change not as a purely environmental issue, but as a development theme in all its complexity. One of the most important provisions of the Agreement is that the countries must communicate their compliance efforts in the form of specific greenhouse gas reduction targets known as intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). On financing, it was agreed that the Green Climate Fund of US\$ 100 billion would be considered a floor rather than a ceiling,





and countries were urged to contribute to the Fund insofar as their means permitted. The challenge is to ensure that middle-income countries, the group to which most Latin American and Caribbean countries belong, are able to access the Green Climate Fund. In that regard, the Agreement states that financing levels will be reviewed before 2025.

The Paris Agreement sends a long-term signal on the decarbonization of economies and, in that context, repositions the green economy as a priority issue. One area expected to see some of the greatest changes in the wake of the Paris Agreement will be the financial sector, since the Agreement requests accountability in respect of measures to combat climate change and improve climate resilience. Indeed, article 4, paragraph 19 states that parties should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (to 2050). On adaptation, the Agreement establishes a forum for sharing best practices and asks the countries to develop and update adaptation plans.

In the current complex global and regional context, the ECLAC technical cooperation programme has proved vital in increasing the Commission's capacity to respond to the requirements of member countries. Analytical capacity, applied knowledge creation and regional capacity-building have been strengthened during this biennium through the cooperation programme, which provided an important platform for the sharing of knowledge and experience as the Millennium Development Goal cycle drew to a close.

The programme's implementation modalities, such as applied knowledge creation, training, technical assistance, workshops, seminars and forums, and technical and political dialogue, have been effective instruments for regional capacity-building and the creation of spaces for intra- and interregional cooperation and South-South cooperation. Indeed, the evaluations of two major multi-year programmes funded by the Governments of Germany and Spain recognized that the combination of several of these modalities, especially technical assistance, has proven extremely effective in obtaining sustainable capacity-building outcomes.

During the biennium, ECLAC carried out 798 technical cooperation missions,<sup>2</sup> 382 of which responded to requests from the countries for technical advice. In terms of the thematic focus of these missions, 455 dealt with economic issues, 203 with social issues and 140 with environmental issues, thus addressing the three pillars of sustainable development.

In 2014-2015, ECLAC received contributions from partners and donors, including member States, United Nations funds and programmes, development banks, international foundations, academic institutions and civil society organizations, in the framework of 163 technical cooperation projects, of which 128 were implemented with countries (from both inside and outside the region), academic institutions and international foundations and 35 with multilateral organizations. While the trend with traditional donors such as Germany and

<sup>2</sup> Information up to 30 September 2015.

Spain has been to subscribe to multi-year programmes, the vast majority of technical cooperation projects implemented during the biennium were one year in duration.

Despite a discernible downtrend in the amount of resources received from bilateral and multilateral donors in the past two bienniums, and therefore in the amount spent on cooperation activities, the trust placed in ECLAC by partners and donors and the importance that partners have attached to maintaining multilateral support and strengthening the regional dimension of development, meant that the Commission was able to implement expenditure in the amount of US\$ 27.2 million,<sup>3</sup> of which US\$ 12.4 million came from bilateral sources, including countries within the region. However, this sum still represents a reduction in expenditure of US\$ 6.1 million compared with the preceding biennium.

The mobilization of resources was also affected by the end of the Millennium Development Goal cycle, by partners' expectations and pledges in relation to the new issues included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and by the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), reflected in the Paris Agreement, which highlights the urgency of taking steps to mitigate and adapt to climate change, the need to diversify and decarbonize energy matrices through the incorporation of sustainable energies, and the important of risk management and natural disaster management.

Another important factor is that the new financial and administrative management system of the United Nations Secretariat, Umoja, entered into operation on 1 November 2015. The preparation and launch of this system during the final quarter of 2015, coinciding with end of the biennium, had a significant impact on the implementation of technical cooperation projects and programmes, and on spending in this regard. Indeed, the figures included in this report in relation to technical cooperation missions and recorded spending cover the period up to 22 October 2015, rather than 31 December, which was the cut-off date adopted in all previous cooperation reports submitted for consideration by member countries.

Successful experiences have been achieved during the biennium 2014-2015 in the areas of capacity-building and knowledge management, regional integration, technical advice, public policies for equality and sustainability, and South-South and triangular cooperation. One notable experience of interregional cooperation was the technical advice provided to the statistical offices of Bangladesh and Mozambique for the implementation of the REDATAM computer system, intended to enable these countries to perform a detailed analysis of their population census findings. The advisory service provided to Bangladesh was funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), while the Government of Mozambique used its own resources to fund the service that it received.

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<sup>3</sup> Information up to 22 October 2015.

In the sphere of knowledge management, studies were carried out with a view to mitigating the impact of climate change on hydroelectric power generation in El Salvador and Guatemala, funded by the Governments of Denmark and the United Kingdom, while a methodology was developed for measuring the carbon footprint of exports to enhance the international competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean, in a project financed by the Government of France. With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, an analysis was conducted of 30 years of health system reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean, and new inputs were produced for discussions on reforms to achieve universal health coverage in the region. Meanwhile, a contribution by the Government of Spain enabled the proposal, evaluation and discussion of future challenges in global economic governance; and the Government of Ecuador funded the creation of the Labour and Business Dynamics Laboratory (LDLE) on the basis of different models and experiences in other countries.

On the public policy front, major achievements included the direct advice provided to the Governments of Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the development of satellite accounts on culture, funded by the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture; the public policy recommendations to the Ministry of Industry and Productivity of Ecuador for modifying the production matrix of that country; the innovative public policy proposals to address the economic impact of climate change in Ecuador and El Salvador and to protect the environment in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, financed by the European Union; and the strengthening of the system of national accounts and the balance of payments of Uruguay, funded by the Government of that country.

Achievements in regional integration included the programme Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE), supported by the Governments of France and Germany, for the evaluation of comparable national and international policy trends and outcomes in the area of energy efficiency, both at the macro and subsector levels in 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. Another success was the positioning of care policies on the regional agenda, especially in Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and Uruguay, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). Moreover, ECLAC implemented a methodology for strengthening value chains as an industrial policy instrument, in close cooperation with officials from Central American governments and with financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and made progress towards a common regional vision of natural resources governance, with the support of the Governments of Norway and Spain.



This report, which ECLAC submits for the consideration of its member States, emphasizes the trust that has been established with countries, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral partners, and specifically demonstrates that the resources placed at the Commission's disposal are translated into regional development outcomes. The successful experiences described herein testify that the combination of technical knowledge, human and financial resources, political will and national and regional capacity-building can deliver major changes in the design and implementation of public policies for building fairer, more prosperous and more sustainable societies.







## [ 1 ]

### SOURCES OF COOPERATION FUNDING

Every two years at the ECLAC session, the member States adopt the Commission's biennial programme of work, whose direct costs are funded from the regular budget allocated by the United Nations General Assembly. However, these resources are insufficient to implement the substantive mandates of ECLAC in their entirety.

It is thanks to the substantive and financial support of various cooperation entities, whether from member States or other countries, United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations, academic centres, foundations and non-governmental organizations, that the ECLAC secretariat can augment its capacity to respond to member States' technical assistance needs. This includes the implementation of projects with a regional or subregional scope or that target a selected group of countries as their beneficiaries. Such projects make it possible to build on successful experiences, disseminate best practices and take a supranational approach to problems and solutions. Furthermore, many of these projects address issues 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.

#### A. BILATERAL SOURCES

Table 1 shows a general downtrend in technical cooperation expenditure funded from bilateral sources in 2014-2015, compared with resources in the 2012-2013 biennium. While cooperation contributions from Latin American and Caribbean countries almost doubled compared with the previous biennium, and those from Governments of Norway and the Republic of Korea also showed an increase, a downtrend was observed in the resources allocated by countries outside the region.

Developments include the incorporation of the Government of Luxembourg as a new contributor to cooperation activities in Central America, and the consolidation of strategic partnerships with non-governmental organizations such as the Ford Foundation, which commenced work with ECLAC during the biennium 2012-2013 on the generation of information for decision-making and the implementation of policies on indigenous and Afro-descendent groups.



[ TABLE 1 ]

**EXPENDITURE ON ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION FINANCED FROM BILATERAL SOURCES, BIENNIUMS 2010-2011, 2012-2013 AND 2014-2015***(Millions of dollars and percentages of total financing)*

SOURCE OF FINANCING	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015
	<i>(millions of dollars)</i>			<i>(percentages of total spending on technical cooperation)</i>		
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	4.70	3.30	5.53	11.70	9.90	20.30
Governments of other countries	10.55	8.98	6.32	26.20	27.00	23.20
Australia	-	0.91	-	-	2.73	-
Canada	0.70	0.67	0.20	1.74	2.01	0.74
Denmark	0.20	0.37	-	0.50	1.11	-
France	0.20	0.43	0.26	0.50	1.29	0.96
Germany	2.90	3.23	2.98	7.20	9.70	10.95
Italy	0.30	0.06	-	0.74	0.18	0.02
Japan	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.12	0.15	0.03
Luxembourg	-	-	0.12	-	-	0.46
Mozambique	-	-	0.05	-	-	0.19
Norway	-	0.19	0.96	-	0.57	3.52
Republic of Korea	0.30	0.28	0.78	0.74	0.84	2.88
Spain	3.80	2.63	0.94	9.43	7.90	3.45
Sweden	0.60	-	-	1.49	-	-
United Kingdom	1.50	0.16	-	3.72	0.48	-
Non-governmental organizations	1.80	0.61	0.57	4.47	1.83	2.10
EU-LAC Foundation	-	-	0.01	-	-	0.04
Ford Foundation	-	0.17	0.41	-	0.51	1.49
Kellogg Foundation	1.20	0.03	-	2.98	0.09	-
Fundación Telefónica	-	0.05	-	-	0.15	0.01
Rockefeller Foundation	-	0.16	0.09	-	0.48	0.32
International Latin American Foundation for Public Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP)	-	0.06	0.05	-	0.18	0.19
Others	0.60	0.14	0.01	1.49	0.42	0.04
Academic organizations	-	0.04	0.07	-	0.12	0.30
<b>Total financing from bilateral sources</b>	<b>17.05</b>	<b>12.93</b>	<b>12.49</b>	<b>40.92</b>	<b>37.52</b>	<b>45.89</b>
<b>Total expenditure on technical cooperation (financing from bilateral and multilateral sources)</b>	<b>40.30</b>	<b>33.31</b>	<b>27.22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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

## MAJOR BILATERAL DONORS IN THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015



The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and ECLAC have worked together for more than three decades on regional, national and local capacity-building to address development challenges in the region in respect of the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental development. Some of the success factors of cooperation with Germany, which became a member country of ECLAC in 2005, are the access it brings to experience and institutional and technical know-how from Germany and the rest of Europe; increased capacity to respond to requests for technical assistance from countries; the positioning of relevant, emerging and innovative issues on the development agenda; and the complementarity of work at the regional and local levels to expand the impact of cooperation with the countries of the region. The cooperation between ECLAC and Germany is a strategic partnership underpinned by mutual respect and shared values and focused on supporting efforts towards regional integration, facilitating technical and political dialogue within and between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions, and promoting sustainability in the region. This strategic partnership pursues common objectives: strengthening the global development agenda, promoting processes of mutual learning and improving the effectiveness of joint development initiatives.

The 2014-2016 cooperation programme, entitled “Structural change for a sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, aims to support the countries of the region in designing and developing reforms and instruments to promote sustainable (economic and social) structural change. It also lends continuity to some of the issues addressed by previous programmes and focuses on cooperation in the areas of innovation and sustainable structural change, social protection, green fiscal reform and sustainable energy policy. Work on sustainable energy policy includes technical cooperation activities in the Caribbean subregion.

The Government of Germany also contributes to the implementation of a regional programme to address the sustainable management of mining resources in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The goal of this cooperation programme in the Andean subregion is to promote a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable management of mineral resources, and to that end will concentrate efforts in the areas of natural resources governance, environmental democracy in the exploitation of mineral resources, and production linkages and the promotion of women's economic autonomy in the mining sector in Andean countries.

Another topic of interest to the Government of Germany is the connection between water, energy and food security. During the biennium, it therefore initiated the implementation of the NEXUS programme, aims to explore the connection between these elements from a perspective of sustainable development and human environmental security.



For several years now, cooperation with Canada has been carried out through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In 2014-2015, ECLAC and IDRC worked to promote policies that facilitate the inclusion of green skills, processes and technologies in business, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and analysed current trends in the adoption of these skills, processes and technologies for more sustainable production. Also under development are indicators and methodologies for measuring the degree to which green skills and technologies are embedded in Latin American and Caribbean businesses, so as to promote the generation of harmonized statistics; for building statistical offices' capacity to develop and progressively integrate indicators of green skills, processes and technologies into business surveys; and for informing decision makers about how to measure these components in business with a view to promoting policies for environmentally sustainable production.

The second area of cooperation is that of strengthening the accountability and legitimacy of public institutions in order to improve public services and drive economic growth in the region. Work is being done on research and innovation in relation to open data initiatives, and on sharing knowledge and research on the demand for and use of open data for development with a view to improving policy dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The third area of joint work refers to the use of socioeconomic risk management tools to improve decision-making on water resources, with a view to their adaptation to climate change. Part of this work is related to the mapping of priorities for a public policy agenda and a research agenda on water resources risk management, in consultation with public and private decision makers in Latin America and the Caribbean.



The Republic of Korea became a member of ECLAC on 23 July 2007. The Government of the Republic of Korea and the Commission have worked over the past biennium on two annual programmes in the following areas: trade and cooperation relations between Latin America and Asia; analysis of the impact of volatility in the global economy on growth and of alternative policies aimed at containing that impact; patterns of investment in different sectors and instruments applied to promote greater public and private investment (including means of financing); and the identification of challenges facing national authorities to attain greater and more sustainable levels of investment and better policy options, as a prerequisite for sustainable long-term growth.

As regards long-term development planning, efforts were made to exchange experiences and the Republic of Korea shared with the region its long and positive experience, best practices, lessons learned and outcomes in relation to sustainable development. ECLAC received a contribution by a Korean expert and substantive inputs were prepared for a meeting of experts and academics to explore areas of cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America.



cooperación  
española

The partnership between ECLAC and the Government of Spain began with that country becoming a member State of ECLAC in 1979, and cooperation activities between the two parties commenced in 1981. In these 35 years, ECLAC has maintained relationships not only with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), but also with government ministries. The cooperation has taken numerous forms over the years and has transitioned from annual activities, work programmes and projects to the adoption of a modality that has proved highly efficient and effective for both parties: multi-year programmes on strategic, targeted areas of work with coordination by ECLAC to facilitate management and accountability for results. On 31 July 2014, AECID approved a new grant for the period 2014-2016, with the goal of extending and strengthening cooperation with the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, resuming and extending support in the areas of fiscal policy, natural resources governance and regional capacity-building in public administration. This last line of work is related to the knowledge transfer strategy that the Agency is implementing through its four training centres in the region.







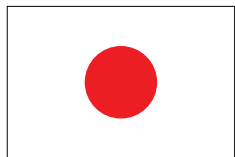
In 2015, a new grant was approved for the 2015-2017 programme of work in three major areas: support for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, this time focused on pension systems and the way in which reforms have affected gender equality; fiscal policy, with a view to studying the relationships between health and social protection and the tax system; and strengthening public administration through capacity-building courses. New training courses focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the challenges of climate change in light of the new agreements reached at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21); and the use of big data in e-government. The scope of the courses will be broadened through the adoption of a distance learning format.



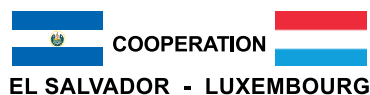
France has been a member of ECLAC since the Commission's inception on 25 February 1948, and has cooperated ever since in the implementation of projects in areas such as sustainable development, agriculture, macroeconomics and public policy.

In the biennium 2014-2015, ECLAC and the Government of France cooperated in the areas of economic development and climate change, notably in the area of carbon footprint measurement, through an initiative on carbon footprinting and food exports; the evaluation of climate change impacts on agriculture and food security; support for the preparation of the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20 and COP 21); preparation for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III); and the debate on mobility and sustainable urban transport in the region, which represents one of the greatest challenges facing the metropolises of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Work was also carried out with the Agency for the Environment and Energy Economy and Efficiency (ADEME) of France, which since November 2011 has helped implement the BIEE/MERCOSUR project to develop a database of energy efficiency indicators for the countries of the Southern Common Market.



Japan became a member of ECLAC on 27 July 2006, the first Asian country to do so. The Japanese cooperation agency worked with ECLAC to systematically set out and disseminate the impact of its efforts in Paraguay, as outlined in the publication *Study on inclusive development in Paraguay: international cooperation experiences*.



ECLAC signed a broad cooperation agreement with the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation (Lux-Dev) in response to the request by the Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President of El Salvador to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the executive branch of government, to monitor the proposed transformation of the State, and to contribute to building a national planning system. During the biennium, work was carried out on the comprehensive assessment, on the design of a road map for the transformation of the State in accordance with the provisions of the Five-Year Development Plan 2014-2019 of the Government of El Salvador, and on the concept paper for the national planning system.



Cooperation between ECLAC and Norway dates from the late 1980s, with the holding of the regional conference *Our Common Future: Towards a Sustainable Environmental Development*. A series of specific initiatives were subsequently carried out, such as the collaboration between the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico and the work with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights on developing rights-based public policies by measuring indicators on economic, social and cultural rights.

In June 2013, the Government of Norway and ECLAC signed a cooperation agreement to promote joint work on natural resources and the use of royalties from their exploitation, with a view to building societies with greater equality, including gender equality, and enhancing social protection from a rights-based perspective. In the framework of this cooperation, ECLAC worked to identify and promote innovative policies for equality, to strengthen institutional capabilities and to promote dialogue and the formulation of intersectoral policies geared

towards greater socioeconomic and gender equality in the region's countries. To that end, knowledge was generated and dialogue and the exchange of ideas promoted between decision makers, government authorities and academics regarding the interrelationships between the production apparatus, universal social protection, natural resources and the focus on gender equality.

In March 2015, the Kingdom of Norway became the forty-fifth member country of ECLAC, and in October 2015 it reaffirmed its interest in regional cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean through a new cooperation programme focused on vocational and technical education for equality. The programme aims to strengthen the links between education, vocational training and employment, as well as generating dialogue and fiscal, social and labour compacts to position this issue as a priority on the regional agenda.

## **B. MULTILATERAL SOURCES**

Expenditure on technical cooperation financed from multilateral sources during the biennium 2014-2015 fell steeply by US\$ 5.7 million compared with 2012-2013 and by US\$ 8.5 million compared with 2010-2011. Total financing from all multilateral sources decreased compared with the previous biennium: the sharpest decline was in resources from other multilateral sources (includes the European Commission), which dropped by US\$ 3.89 million, followed by the ECLAC system, down by US\$ 980,000 and the United Nations system, by US\$ 800,000 (see table 2).

[ TABLE 2 ]

**EXPENDITURE ON ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION FINANCED FROM MULTILATERAL SOURCES, BIENNIUMS 2010-2011, 2012-2013 AND 2014-2015***(Millions of dollars and percentages of total financing)*

SOURCE OF FINANCING	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015
	<i>(millions of dollars)</i>			<i>(percentages of total spending on technical cooperation)</i>		
ECLAC system	3.10	3.16	2.18	7.69	9.49	8.00
Voluntary contributions to ILPES	2.70	2.41	1.44	6.70	7.23	5.29
Various contributions	0.40	0.75	0.74	0.99	2.25	2.71
United Nations system	12.20	11.59	10.79	30.27	34.79	36.23
Regular programme of technical cooperation (Sec. 23)	5.60	5.88	5.59	13.90	17.65	20.53
Regular programme on population and development (UNFPA)	1.40	1.10	0.51	3.47	3.31	1.88
Development Account (Reality of Aid (RoA) Fund)	3.90	3.29	3.29	9.68	9.88	12.08
Agreements with United Nations agencies and programmes	1.30	1.32	1.40	3.23	3.96	5.14
Other multilateral sources	7.90	5.65	1.76	19.60	16.95	9.88
European Commission	6.40	4.00	1.40	15.88	12.00	5.14
Development banks (Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, World Bank)	0.20	0.98	0.13	0.50	2.94	0.47
Ibero-American Secretariat	0.20	0.03	-	0.50	0.09	-
Other multilateral agencies	1.10	0.64	0.23	2.73	1.92	0.86
<b>Total financing from multilateral sources</b>	<b>23.20</b>	<b>20.40</b>	<b>14.73</b>	<b>57.57</b>	<b>61.23</b>	<b>54.11</b>
<b>Total expenditure on technical cooperation (financing from bilateral and multilateral sources)</b>	<b>40.30</b>	<b>33.31</b>	<b>27.22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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



## MAJOR MULTILATERAL DONORS IN THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015



During the biennium 2014-2015, the European Commission and ECLAC continued to collaborate, together with a further four implementing partners, on the second phase of the EUROCLIMA project, designed to build governments' capacities to develop climate change adaptation and mitigation measures with additional benefits.

In 2014, ECLAC became a member of the international consortium implementing the SI-DRIVE project on social innovation, coordinated by the Technical University of Dortmund (Germany), whose objective is to analyse the connection between social innovation and improved living standards in areas of social development such as health, education, youth, poverty and indigence.

ECLAC also maintained its cooperation with European Commission partner organizations such as the International Latin American Foundation for Public Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) through the Regional Programme for Social Cohesion in Latin America (EUROsociAL), chiefly thanks to the participation and support of officials in events and seminars.

In 2015, negotiations were concluded for the launch of a multi-year programme to improve policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America, in order to promote the creation of quality employment, improve production processes and facilitate access to markets.

The biennium 2014-2015 also saw the first steps in the joint implementation by ECLAC and four global institutions (University College London, University of Barcelona (Spain), the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) and the University of Vienna) of the LEARN project, whose objective is to implement a road map and a set of good practices at the global level for research data management.

During this period, ECLAC and the European Union cooperated and participated in events addressing topics such as corporate social responsibility, education, innovation and social inclusion and cloud computing.





In 2014-2015, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and ECLAC worked together on two projects: “Inclusive growth, rural productive policy and participatory value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which aimed to increase the participation of small producers, businesses and organizations in rural value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean; and “Gestión de información para políticas y proyectos de desarrollo rural y agropecuario y seguridad alimentaria en Centroamérica”, which seeks to improve the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies and projects on rural development with a view to achieving sustainable reductions in poverty.



In 2014 and 2015, ECLAC and the World Food Programme (WFP) continued their joint efforts to finalize the first phase of the project “Closing the gap: costs and benefits of prevention of stunting - an investment case”, which included the publication of a series of documents in which a model is presented for estimating the cost of eradicating chronic undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Work also continued on the preparation of the study entitled “La doble carga: el impacto económico combinado de la desnutrición y la obesidad en América Latina y el Caribe” which aims to analyse the costs of undernutrition and overnutrition in the region throughout the human life cycle.



ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worked together during the biennium on preparations for the Meeting on the challenges of monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose goal was to provide inputs to the intergovernmental process that contributed to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Work was also carried out to produce a study on the socioeconomic impact of disasters in Haiti, focusing on the development of impact evaluation and risk management tools.



The programme of work implemented by ECLAC and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during the 2014-2015 biennium was structured into several action lines, including population dynamics; sexual and reproductive health; the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its links with poverty eradication and sustainable development; gender equality; the needs of women, adolescents and young people; increasing national capacity to provide comprehensive maternal health services; and institutional capacity-building to improve the availability and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and country in national planning and processes.



During the biennium, ECLAC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) worked together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social policymaking in the fight against child poverty and inequality and on expanding access to social protection mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean. This work led to knowledge creation in three areas: child poverty, the assessment of conditional transfer programmes and their impact on children, and the analysis of gender and education issues. In this biennium, cooperation included a new goal: to conduct an analysis of the options for measuring multiple deprivations during childhood with a view to supporting the follow-up to Sustainable Development Goal target 1.2, which seeks to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.



Joint activities by ECLAC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributed to the development of capacity at the regional level to plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. The aim is to lend support to institutions in the region's agricultural sector for policymaking on research and development, with a view to promoting climate-smart agriculture. During the biennium 2014-2015, ECLAC, FAO and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) participated in the design and implementation of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025, which seeks to eradicate poverty, especially extreme poverty, and to ensure food and nutrition security, in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).



During the biennium, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ECLAC jointly organized a workshop at which representatives of the region's countries exchanged best practices and experiences in the implementation of legislation on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).



ECLAC and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) worked together to build capacity among the civil servants of Chile in relation to the evaluation of marine natural resources management policies.



ECLAC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) worked jointly on the formulation of an urban development strategy for the cities of Colombia, and on the design of public policies to consolidate the system of cities and to strengthen the Colombian Association of Capital Cities.



Collaboration between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and ECLAC aims to promote social cohesion, employment and decent work and to improve the ILO labour market information system. During this period, particular efforts were made to build capacities for the development and analysis of indicators on decent work, through national and interregional workshops and technical and institutional reviews of labour market information systems, among other activities.





During the 2014-2015 biennium, ECLAC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), along with another four agencies of the United Nations system, completed the project “Construcción y evaluación de un modelo integral para prevenir la violencia de género en poblaciones indígenas en México desde un enfoque intercultural”, which took an intercultural approach to building and evaluating an integral model to prevent gender violence among indigenous populations in Mexico.



During the biennium, ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) worked together on an analytical study of the fiscal reform processes carried out in the region in the past 15 years. The findings will be reported in a publication that will be widely disseminated in order to promote discussion and learning based on experiences gained in this crucial area. Other issues addressed under a joint approach include fiscal sustainability and development, and the expansion of fiscal reforms in the region.



In 2014-2015, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and ECLAC carried out activities related to management training for development projects and programmes in the countries of the region. In 2015, six courses were delivered in conjunction with Bolivian Private University, six courses with Catholic Pontifical University of Ecuador, and two courses with Santa María La Antigua Catholic University in Panama.





ECLAC and the World Bank maintained their collaboration on international price comparisons. Work was carried out on statistical capacity-building at the regional and national levels, focusing on the greater harmonization of domestic price data with international standards. Cooperation also continued on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) to ascertain the level of inputs consumed by households and to provide technical support for price reporting in areas such as construction, machinery and equipment.



ECLAC and the Ford Foundation worked together in two key areas in the biennium 2014-2015: (i) progress and challenges in ensuring respect for the rights of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples; and (ii) ensuring the statistical visibility of these population groups in Latin American countries, improving census processes and encouraging the use of censuses in policymaking.



The Rockefeller Foundation has been working with ECLAC since May 2013, under an agreement that refers to health-care coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean and focuses on generating improvements in key areas, such as health information systems and the financing of health-care coverage. The outcomes of this collaboration were published in a special edition of *The Lancet* on the political, economic and technical challenges of implementing universal health coverage in the region. Topics addressed included strengthening health-care systems, the political economy of health, rights-based social protection, excluded populations and social determinants for greater equity in health.







## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF COOPERATION

### A. COOPERATION TO FURTHER REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION

Since its inception, ECLAC has contributed to efforts to further regional and subregional integration and to shape development thinking in Latin America and the Caribbean by generating information and developing analytical capacity, positioning visionary ideas and issuing warnings both of the impacts of world events, such as the global economic slowdown and its consequences for commodity prices, and of the effects of climate change on development strategies, as well as calculating the development costs of natural disasters and their effects on vulnerable populations.

In 2014-2015, ECLAC supported the region's various integration agencies through discussions, analytical work and the provision of a platform for political and technical dialogue and experience-sharing to stimulate reflection by member countries on trade, production, logistics and environmental integration. To that end, the Commission prepared thematic papers, delivered presentations and organized working meetings in the framework of the different activities carried out by integration agencies. Some examples of the analytical work carried out during the biennium are described below.

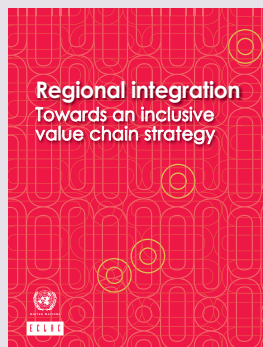
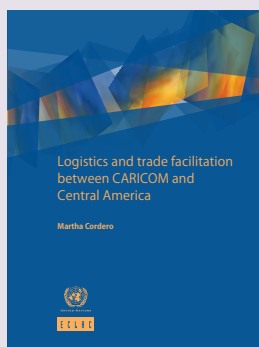
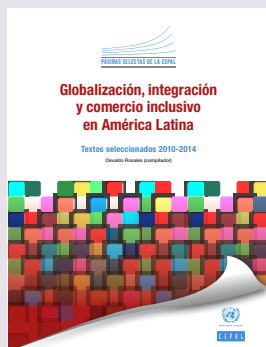
The trade dimension of integration between the countries of the region, and the position that they occupy in global trade, was the focus of the analysis conducted in the publication *Globalización, integración y comercio inclusivo en América Latina: textos seleccionados 2010-2014*. This document examines topics such as the international economic context facing the region, marked by the weaker growth of developed economies compared with the period preceding the crisis of 2008-2009; the negotiations of the three main megaregional agreements (the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)) and the impact that they will have on international trade rules despite their non-multilateral approach; the evolution of trade and investment relations and economic cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and its main extraregional partners, in which China and the Asia-Pacific region are assuming greater prominence; weaknesses in the region's export performance during the 2000s; the need for trade and production integration in Latin America and the Caribbean in response to global shifts towards a world economy that is structured around macro-regions; the links between integration and industrialization; and the contribution of international trade to inclusive growth, increased productivity, export diversification, job creation in the export sector, and the internationalization of enterprises.



The publication *Logistics and trade facilitation between CARICOM and Central America* analyses the progress and challenges in trade relationships between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Central America. First, it highlights the increase in the trade dynamic between the two subregions, their progress in investment, economic complementarities and the establishment of lines of communication between their institutions, as well as in trade negotiations. Second, it emphasizes the elements that inhibit greater trade and investment between CARICOM and Central America, notably high tariff protections between the members of the Caribbean bloc and the low availability and high cost of transport routes.

The document *Regional integration: towards an inclusive value chain strategy* focuses on the productive dimension of integration and the way this can contribute to the strategy of structural change for equality that ECLAC has been advocating since 2010.

The publication *Impacto fiscal de la volatilidad del precio del petróleo en América Latina y el Caribe: estudio sobre las causas y las consecuencias de la caída de los precios del petróleo y análisis de opciones de política para encaminar sus impactos* focuses on taxation and natural resources, describing the drivers of oil supply and demand and the causes of price volatility, and studying the impacts on the fiscal sector. The analysis is divided between countries that are oil producers and/or exporters and those that are consumers and/or importers. Lastly, the study reviews impacts in other economic spheres, including an analysis of the nexuses between oil and other raw materials, and impacts on the external sector, the exchange rate, economic growth, external debt and investment in the oil and renewable energy sectors.



## 1. COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

During the period in which the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC was held by Cuba, Costa Rica and Ecuador, respectively, ECLAC institutionalized the support it provides to the Community through different modalities centred on its capacity for analysis and initiative, which have helped inform and enrich the dialogue surrounding regional integration at each of the meetings of CELAC.

Within that framework, ECLAC has committed itself to the annual submission, at the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of CELAC, of the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States*. This publication summarizes the economic, social and demographic scenario in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the situation in relation to foreign investment, trade and gender equality. When so requested, the Commission also prepared thematic papers as a contribution to the discussions held in forums and working meetings. This was the case with the documents *La matriz insumo-producto regional como instrumento para diseñar políticas industriales: potencial, limitaciones y metodología*, presented to the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC in Costa Rica in January 2015; *First Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): Exploring opportunities for cooperation on trade and investment*, presented in January 2015; *Latin America and the Caribbean and China: towards a new era in economic cooperation*, in May 2015; *The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean in the new economic and social context*, in May 2015; and *Trade and investment relations between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and its strategic extraregional partners*, in November 2015.

In addition to documents on economics and production, which have been identified as key topics for regional integration, a study entitled *Natural resources: status and trends towards a regional development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. Contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States* was presented at the meeting of foreign ministers held in Havana in January 2014. This document underscored the need to promote the sustainable governance of natural resources in order to maximize their contribution to development, as well as to inspire long-term structural change associated with innovation and technological development.

Lastly, as mentioned above, the Commission worked with FAO and ALADI, in the framework of CELAC, on the design and implementation of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025, which aims to eradicate poverty (especially extreme poverty) and to ensure food and nutrition security.

## 2. CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ECLAC and CARICOM are working together on the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. ECLAC has also cooperated with the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and the CARICOM Secretariat to prepare a study on the status of the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and CARIFORUM, and its potential impact on the two blocs in terms of trade, investment and finance.

During the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa, ECLAC and the CARICOM Secretariat organized a high-level side





event to explore the critical factors underlying the vulnerability of Caribbean small island developing States, as a group of small economies with limited capacities in trade, finance, governance, institutions, disaster management and regional integration.

Another contribution of ECLAC during the biennium was the document entitled *An assessment of the performance of CARICOM extraregional trade agreements: an initial scoping exercise*, which analysed the free trade agreements signed by CARICOM with the Dominican Republic (in force since 1998) and with Costa Rica (2004); the partial scope agreements signed with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (1992), with Colombia (1994) and with Cuba (2000); and the Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM and the European Union (2008).

According to the study, in 2012 the largest share of the subregion's goods exports went to the United States (39.1%), while the European Union accounted for 23.5%. Exports to Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 25.7% of the total, but only a small proportion went to the countries with trade agreements in force with CARICOM. The study also indicated that the share of total exports from CARICOM to each of its bilateral trade partners diminished between 2001 and 2013, with the exception of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, due to the PetroCaribe initiative. The study suggests that for the extraregional trade agreements to generate export growth, the countries of CARICOM need to address structural rigidities and transform their production systems, including by improving the business climate and broadening the scope and coverage of existing and future agreements to include a services liberalization regime, so that CARICOM economies may exploit comparative advantages in key sectors in Latin American economies with which they have a high level of trade complementarity.

### 3. UNION OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS (UNASUR)

A cooperation agreement between ECLAC and UNASUR is in place until 2016, outlining a framework for the Commission to provide support in summit processes and special meetings of the bodies and conferences of the 12 member countries of UNASUR. The Union has proposed the development of three agendas: a social agenda centred on inclusion; an economic agenda focused on competitiveness; and a political agenda aimed at deepening democracy and enhancing citizen security.

Further to this agreement, ECLAC published the report *UNASUR: Fostering South American integration through development and cooperation*, which deals concisely with a number of topics relating to the region's socioeconomic problems and highlights the similarities and asymmetries that characterize the member countries of UNASUR and condition the possibilities for promoting intraregional cooperation. The study includes a demographic snapshot of the region, its urbanization and recent migration movements; looks at indigenous peoples and advances and challenges in terms of their access to services, the recognition of their rights and their political participation; presents indicators of development and social inclusion, sketching a scenario for creating and consolidating forums of cooperation and discussion; analyses the regional economy and various



indicators of trade, regional integration, physical infrastructure, energy and the environment; and lastly, presents a synthesis of the subregion's progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Another study that has contributed to discussions between the member countries of UNASUR is entitled *Transferencias de ingresos para la erradicación de la pobreza: dos décadas de experiencia en los países de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR)*. This publication documents the experiences of the member countries in implementing income transfer programmes aimed at families living in conditions of poverty, extreme poverty and vulnerability. The study focuses on income transfers in view of the prominence they have acquired in recent discussions on social protection, as well as lessons learned, and on that basis aims to disseminate knowledge on social policies, thus promoting dialogue and cooperation in respect of public policies designed to increase well-being for the whole population of South America.

#### 4. SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR)

ECLAC prepared the document *La Alianza del Pacífico y el MERCOSUR. Hacia la convergencia en la diversidad* as a contribution to the seminar Dialogue on Regional Integration: the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR.

The report revealed that the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR together account for more than 80% of the region's population and its total foreign trade, and more than 90% of its GDP and foreign direct investment flows. Indeed, the two blocs include the seven largest economies of Latin America and the Caribbean in GDP terms: Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile and Peru (listed in decreasing order as of 2013).

In 2013, total trade between the two groups of countries was valued at US\$ 47.4 billion. Considering current levels of trade, ECLAC has suggested that the convergence of the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR would not only bring benefits for their member countries, but would also present a historic opportunity for progress towards genuine regional integration. For that reason, ECLAC has proposed to the countries a work agenda that promotes regional integration centred on several factors, including trade facilitation within the region and with the rest of the world, the movement of people, science, technology and prospective analysis, sustainability, transport, energy, industrial policy and a joint approach to Asia and the Pacific.

The report also proposes that integration schemes and business organizations—especially trans-Latin firms—should improve dialogue with a view to promoting competitive regional and subregional value chains.

#### 5. CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM (SICA)

During the biennium 2014-2015, ECLAC worked with SICA to build the capacity of Central America in key areas for the development of the subregion; notably the social inclusion of youth, the construction of a Central American regional economic integration index, energy integration, infrastructure policies with a regional perspective, and climate change.

ECLAC is working with the Central American Social Integration Secretariat (SISCA) to promote national dialogues within the countries of the subregion on the social inclusion of youth in the context of increasing violence and insecurity. These dialogues aim to bring together social policy experts and to share experiences and technical inputs to improve public actions on youth welfare in the region.

Technical cooperation between the Commission and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) materialized through the construction of the Central American regional economic integration index, which will enable the timely generation of good quality, relevant information in order to explain the current status of the economic integration process, which is one of the region's oldest. The index is also designed to stimulate a process of reflection, based on the analysis and understanding of the results obtained, and to strengthen the monitoring and follow-up of the integration process.

In fulfilment of the mandate handed down by the Deputy Ministers of the Council of Ministers for Economic Integration (COMIECO) to SIECA, ECLAC helped SIECA build capacity in the application of the Commission's value chain methodology and in the joint definition of a work plan to strengthen regional value chains in Central America.

The work undertaken by SIECA and ECLAC seeks to enhance regional integration—a mandate the two institutions share—by identifying and strengthening at least two regional value chains in which two or more Central American countries actively participate, thus contributing towards improving economic and production activities in the subregion. Under an integrative approach, the partners aspire to promote the effective participation of SMEs in value chains selected on the basis of economic, commercial and strategic criteria, thereby invigorating them and enhancing their competitive linkages with the international markets, while also strengthening the Central American intraregional market.

ECLAC also presented an evaluation of the effects of a Central American trade facilitation programme at the first intersectoral meeting of the Council of Ministers for Economic Integration (COMIECO), the Sectoral Council of Ministers of Transport of Central America (COMITRAN) and the Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN), in coordination with SIECA, on 23 October 2015.

In the energy sector, significant inputs were prepared for the formulation of sectoral policies with a subregional focus. The publication *Centroamérica: estadísticas de producción del subsector eléctrico, 2014* presents updated statistical data, as of 2014, on the power industry in six Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). It contains information on the installed capacity, output and demand of each country, disaggregated by technology used, as well as information on wholesale and regulated electricity markets. The study *Energía en Centroamérica: reflexiones para la transición hacia economías bajas en carbono* examines patterns of energy use in the Central American subregion, and their chief environmental, social and economic impacts, including their consequences in relation to the global phenomena that

increased the region's vulnerability between 2003 and 2013. The trend in high oil and petroleum product prices and significant price volatility during most of this period had profound repercussions for the countries and largely explained the principal changes observed in their patterns of energy use. The document *Centroamérica y República Dominicana: estadísticas de hidrocarburos, 2014* gives statistical data from the hydrocarbons subsector in the eight member countries of SICA: Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The Economics of Climate Change in Central America and the Dominican Republic Initiative, initially designed in conjunction with the Technical Committee for Climate Change of the ministries of the environment of Central America, and subsequently reviewed and approved by the ministers, was implemented during the biennium. Its objective was to alert decision makers to the risks of climate change and to support the ministers in their efforts to mainstream the response to this challenge in the fiscal domain and key sectors, by producing and disseminating solid evidence of vulnerabilities, impacts and policy options as quickly as possible.

During 2015, a consultation was carried out on the priorities of national and regional partners, and a plan of work was designed that includes specific technical cooperation actions with national institutions responsible for environment, finance, agriculture and health, as well as with three organs that form part of the SICA institutional framework: COSEFIN, the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA).

In the transport sector, ECLAC worked with Central American countries to configure a logistics and mobility strategy for the subregion, in coordination with ministers for transport and the Mesoamerica Project. This support materialized in the form of different products: the preparation of a concept paper on the situation of mobility and logistics policy; the organization of national workshops with transport authorities to reflect on mobility and logistics requirements; the formulation of proposed indicators to measure the progress of regional integration in transport infrastructure; the provision of inputs for the design of the short-distance sea transport strategy; and the generation of inputs and support for the design of the road safety master plan for Mesoamerica.

In June 2015, SIECA headquarters in Guatemala City hosted the thirty-fourth meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers of Transport of Central America (COMITRAN). On this occasion, ECLAC presented the outcomes of the six national workshops on sustainable integrated logistics and mobility policies, as requested by COMITRAN at its previous meeting in August 2014. The Commission also submitted, for consideration by the ministers, the document *Componentes claves de una política de logística y movilidad en América Central*, which provides a more in-depth analysis of the status of logistics and mobility in the subregion and identifies the key features of a new sustainable and integrated paradigm for the advancement of logistics and mobility that benefits the economic and social development of Central American countries. The publication also presents a basic proposal for national public policies and their coordination at the subregional level.



Lastly, ECLAC also worked with SIECA on the regional course on business intelligence (BI) applied to customs risks and valuation and the World Customs Organization (WCO) data model. Held in Costa Rica in June 2015, the course was attended by officials from all countries of the subregion, and aimed to promote Central American integration through the exchange of data between the countries' customs agencies.

## **B. TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS**

A total of 798 technical cooperation missions were carried out in several of the region's countries during the biennium 2014-2015, addressing an array of topics under the three pillars of sustainable development.

Technical advisory services were the type of cooperation most frequently requested by the countries, accounting for 382 of the 798 missions, followed by training which accounted for 319 missions. These figures refer to the reporting period from 1 January 2014 to 30 September 2015. As mentioned previously, this period was shortened owing to the implementation of the United Nations Secretariat's new administrative and financial management system, Umoja. All areas of ECLAC were involved in preparations for this process, which led to the reprogramming of a large proportion of missions during the last quarter of 2015.

A lot of the Commission's response capacity was concentrated in the thematic area of economic affairs, which accounted for 455 technical cooperation missions, mainly in the spheres of public planning and administration (193 missions) and productive development (113 missions). This reflects the reality that the governments of the region are anxious to minimize the levels of uncertainty caused by the global economic crisis and to develop productive and industrial strategies and policies that are able to counter the effects of a slowing world economy and falling raw material prices.

In the social area, 203 technical cooperation missions were carried out, of which 66 focused on the analysis of censuses and population statistics in 18 of the region's countries, while 42 missions addressed social protection issues in 12 countries.

Of the 140 technical cooperation missions carried out in the area of environmental sustainability, the greatest demand was for those dealing with sustainable energy and energy efficiency (32 missions in 15 countries), transport for regional integration (30 missions in 12 countries) and climate change (26 missions in 10 countries).

Twenty-five member States of ECLAC benefited from training missions addressing a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues, particularly planning and management for development.



[ MAP 1 ]

**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS BY TYPE OF MISSION, BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

Total: 798 technical cooperation missions



**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 BY THEMATIC AREA, BIENNIUM 2014-2015

Total: 798 technical cooperation missions



[ MAP 3 ]

**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

Total: 455 technical cooperation missions



**Legend and total number of technical cooperation missions by economic subcategory**

- 33 ● Trade
- 28 ● Economic growth and financing for development
- 113 ● Productive development
- 68 ● Economic statistics
- 6 ● Labour market
- 193 ● Public planning and administration
- 4 ● Macroeconomic policies
- 10 ● ICTs and innovation

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 ON SOCIAL ISSUES,  
 BIENNIUM 2014-201515**

Total: 203 technical cooperation missions



Legend and total number of technical cooperation missions by social subcategory

- 66 ● Censuses and social statistics
- 21 ● Social cohesion and vulnerable groups
- 22 ● Population dynamics and public policies
- 22 ● Education, health and nutrition
- 4 ● Poverty eradication
- 18 ● Gender, fertility, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- 8 ● Migration
- 42 ● Social protection

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 5 ]

**ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

Total: 140 technical cooperation missions



Legend and total number of technical cooperation missions by sustainable development subcategory

- 6 Water and mining
- 26 Climate change
- 8 Rural development and urban planning
- 12 Natural disasters
- 32 Energy
- 7 Environmental statistics
- 19 Environment
- 30 Transport

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.

## G. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Table 1 depicts the number of framework agreements in force during the biennium (195), as assigned with governmental and non-governmental agencies and institutions in order to establish a working relationship not involving the transfer of financial resources. Of this total, 77.4% took the form of bilateral agreements, roughly half of which (38.9% of agreements) were bilateral agreements signed with Latin American and Caribbean governments. Agreements signed with multilateral organizations represented 22.5% of the total, a figure that includes agreements with United Nations agencies (6.1% of the total).

[ TABLE 1 ]  
ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN FORCE,  
BIENNIUM 2014-2015

<b>BILATERAL AGREEMENTS</b>	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	76
Governments of countries outside the region	6
Non-governmental organizations in the region	6
Non-governmental organizations outside the region	7
Academic institutions in the region	37
Academic institutions outside the region	19
<b>Total bilateral agreements</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS</b>	
Agencies of the United Nations system	12
Development banks <sup>a</sup>	7
European Commission	0
Intergovernmental organizations and others <sup>b</sup>	25
<b>Total multilateral agreements</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total agreements in place</b>	<b>195</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Includes the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, World Bank and Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

<sup>b</sup> Includes the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Andean Community and Organization of American States (OAS).



Table 2 shows the number of technical cooperation projects carried out during the biennium and involving the transfer of funding between signatory institutions. ECLAC had 163 technical cooperation projects that were either implemented or in place during the period, much fewer than in the biennium 2012-2013 (230 projects). This was due to the effects of the global economic crisis on traditional donors, the beginning of a new cycle of cooperation planning marked by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, funding cuts to the development programmes of United Nations agencies and, in general, to the changes in the cooperation modalities for working with middle-income countries.

[ TABLE 2 ]  
ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS IN FORCE,  
BIENNIUM 2014-2015

<b>BILATERAL PROJECTS</b>	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	54
Governments of countries outside the region	57
Non-governmental organizations in the region	2
Non-governmental organizations outside the region	11
Academic institutions in the region	3
Academic institutions outside the region	1
<b>Total bilateral projects</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>CONVENIOS MULTILATERALES</b>	
Agencies of the United Nations system	23
Banca de desarrollo <sup>a</sup>	4
Development banks <sup>b</sup>	4
Intergovernmental organizations and others <sup>c</sup>	4
<b>Total multilateral projects</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total projects in place</b>	<b>163</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and World Bank.

<sup>b</sup> Includes projects financed by the European Commission in which ECLAC forms part of a consortium.

<sup>c</sup> Includes the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF).

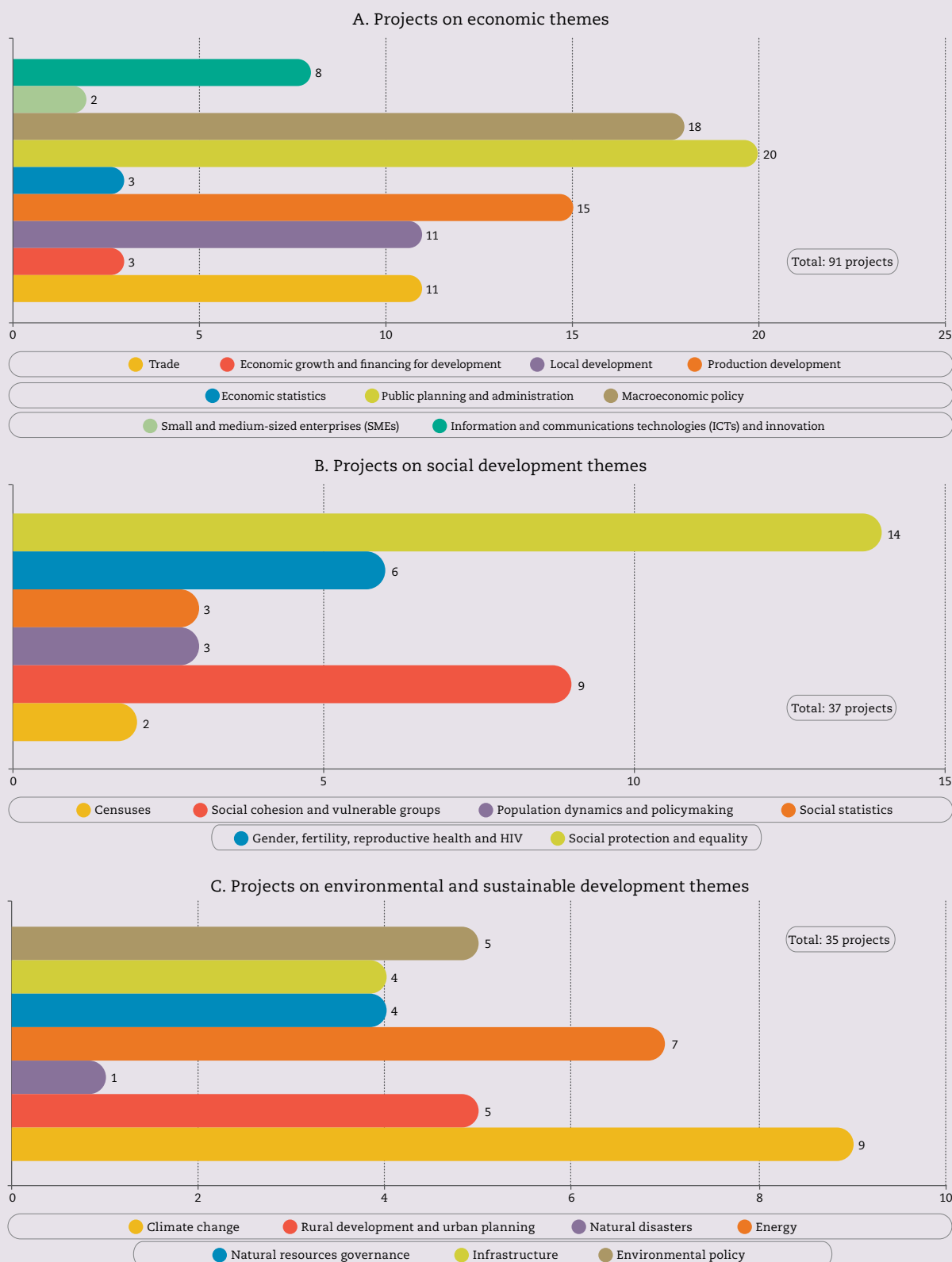
During the biennium 2014-2015, projects on economic themes (91) accounted for 55% of implemented projects, while social and environmental projects (37 and 35 projects, respectively) accounted for 22% and 21% of the total.

Projects implemented under agreements signed with governments within and outside the region were similar in number (54 and 57 projects, respectively). In the first group, technical cooperation projects were funded by the recipient countries themselves, while the projects undertaken with countries outside the region were targeted at the generation of regional public goods. The number of bilateral projects with countries and organizations was more than triple the number of projects in place with multilateral organizations, including those of the United Nations system.

In the economic sphere, public planning and administration and macroeconomic policy were the two salient areas in which technical cooperation projects were carried out, while projects on social development themes prioritized social protection and equality. The most frequent technical cooperation projects in the environmental sphere were those that addressed sustainable energy and climate change (see figure 1).



**[ FIGURE 1 ]**  
**NUMBER OF ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS**  
**BY THEMATIC AREA, BIENNIUM 2014-2015**



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

## D. PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS

ECLAC publications and working documents over the biennium contributed to dialogue, encouraged applied research, systematized experiences in drawing up and implementing public policies that can be replicated elsewhere and supported cooperation processes. Over the biennium, publications were produced by ECLAC headquarters, subregional headquarters and country offices (see table 3).

[ TABLE 3 ]

### ECLAC PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS, BIENNIUM 2014-2015

	2014	2015	2014-2015
ECLAC headquarters in Santiago	90	81	171
Subregional headquarters in Mexico	9	11	20
Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean	11	2	13
Office in Buenos Aires	0	4	4
Office in Bogota	2	7	9
Office in Montevideo	2	1	3
Office in Washington, D.C.	0	3	3
Office in Brasilia	2	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>230</b>

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

Notable publications included:

*Complejos productivos y territorio en la Argentina: aportes para el estudio de la geografía económica del país* (LC/W.673), produced in conjunction with the Undersecretariat for Territorial Planning of Public Investment of the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services of Argentina, financed by the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America.

*Corporate governance in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru: The determinants of risk in corporate debt issuance* (LC/W.654), financed by IDB and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America.

The *Challenges* newsletter, number 18, September 2014, a joint United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ECLAC publication, provides updated information on gaps and progress made with regard to children's and adolescents' rights in the digital age.

*Strengthening value chains as an industrial policy instrument. Methodology and experience of ECLAC in Central America* (LC/G.2606-P) documents and systematizes





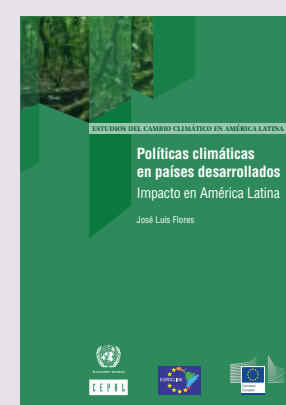
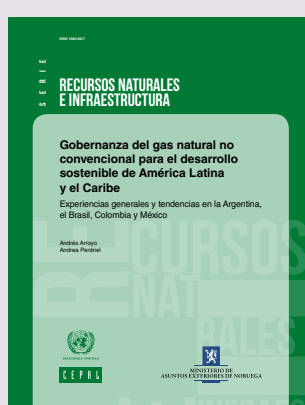
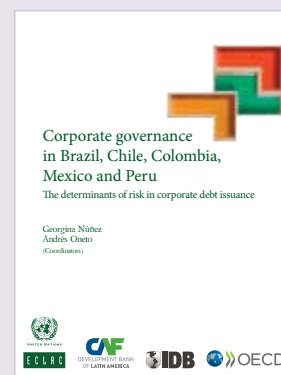
the assistance provided by ECLAC to the private sector and the Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala to study and design strategies for four value chains: shrimp farming and synthetic fibres sportswear in El Salvador and vegetables and fine woods in Guatemala.

*Violencia de género en el transporte público: una regulación pendiente* (LC/L.4047) analyses the characteristics of gender-based violence in the spheres of public transport and access infrastructure, reviews the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, and sets out the policies adopted in each country to tackle the problem.

*Neoestructuralismo y corrientes heterodoxas en América Latina y el Caribe a inicios del siglo XXI* (LC/G.2633-P/Rev.1), financed by the Government of Canada, offers a fresh look at neostructuralism and heterodox ideas in the early twenty-first century.

*Gobernanza del gas natural no convencional para el desarrollo sostenible de América Latina y el Caribe: experiencias generales y tendencias en la Argentina, el Brasil, Colombia y México* (LC/L.3948), financed by the Government of Norway, aims to connect sustainable development issues with the exploitation of unconventional natural gas in the region in general and in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico in particular.

*Políticas climáticas en países desarrollados: impacto en América Latina* (LC/W.646), published with funding from the European Commission, assesses the feasibility and potential consequences for Latin America and the Caribbean of government fiscal policy solutions, such as introducing carbon taxes, establishing a carbon market by creating a system of tradable permits, or adopting specific regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions.



## E. SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES

The Commission's programme of work for 2014-2015 stressed the importance of analytical work, technical advisory services and the building and strengthening of national and local capacities to achieving its objectives.

Technical assistance focused on public policymaking and facilitating the implementation and evaluation of policies by providing applied research, direct assistance and training services, and promoting exchanges of experiences at the regional and interregional levels and regional integration.

The successful experiences presented below provide a good overview of joint work between ECLAC and sectoral, local, academic and civil society institutions from member countries and the results that can be achieved with the right combination of technical expertise, human and financial resources, political will and national capacity-building.

### 1. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

#### (a) Achieving a broader understanding of gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Over the course of the biennium, ECLAC created and strengthened national capacities to understand all aspects of gender relations. To this end, distance learning courses were carried out with the support of AECID.

As part of this initiative, 677 participants from 25 countries attended courses on gender statistics, time-use surveys and the measurement of violence against women, and public policies on care. Compared with the previous biennium, the number of participants increased by 44%, equivalent to 207 additional participants. The scope of the distance learning courses was also expanded in 2015 to include a higher proportion of men, who accounted for 28% of participants in 2015 compared with 15% in 2014.



Thus, ECLAC has helped to build the capacity of countries of the region to produce gender statistics and indicators and the relationships between the producers and users of gender statistics, to improve the measurement of unpaid work and of violence against women, and to promote gender mainstreaming in care policies.

Future challenges will be to extend the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to more countries and to deepen knowledge in related areas to overcome the digital divide and improve the status of women in the region.

**(b) Analysing 30 years of health-care reforms in Latin America: new contributions to the debate on reforms to achieve universal health-care coverage in the region**

Since the 1980s, many Latin American countries have implemented wide-ranging health-care reforms, the stated goals of which were to improve access and financial protection, to increase efficiency and to reduce inequities. The paths chosen have ranged from increasing the State's role to opening the health-care market to competition. These reforms did not always achieve the desired effects and in many cases had unexpected consequences, leading to second and third waves of reform in several countries.

ECLAC, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), produced a series of documents on the political, economic and technical challenges of implementing a universal health-care coverage system in Latin America, which were published in *The Lancet*. The main objective was to analyse the lessons that can be learned from the health-care reforms and new contributions to the regional debate on the financial and operational conditions needed to implement a universal health-care coverage system in the region.



ECLAC coordinated the research of international experts on financing health-care systems, which led to the publication in October 2014 of a special series in *The Lancet*, a journal specializing in health matters, on the challenges of implementing a universal health-care system in Latin America, taking a broad view of health care that extended to political, social and economic issues.

In May 2015, the Spanish-language version of the series, entitled “Cobertura universal de salud en Latinoamérica”, was published in *MEDICC Review*. This series reviews political and technical aspects of the last three decades of health-care reforms in Latin America, in an effort to disseminate, both within and outside the region, lessons learned on the road to universal health-care coverage in the region.

**(c) ECLAC generates and disseminates knowledge on progress and challenges with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples**

ECLAC has assisted in the processes of sociopolitical change led by indigenous peoples for greater recognition of their rights and visibility in public agendas. In 2013, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA) asked ECLAC to help organize the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in September 2014, during the United Nations General Assembly.

To that end, ECLAC, with the support of the Ford Foundation, produced a regional study, based on new and unprecedented empirical evidence, which covers the different areas that underpin indigenous peoples’ well-being, including population survival —both in biological and cultural terms— and land rights and political participation, all in the framework of self-determination.





The study *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: Progress in the past decade and remaining challenges* is a key contribution to consolidating democracy in the region, as it offers a range of policy recommendations for achieving equality in diversity. The highly participatory methodology used to carry out the study was crucial. An indigenous advisory team was set up, comprising representatives from regional and subregional indigenous organizations in Latin America. This contributed to dialogue, the exchange of knowledge and the study's validation and appropriation by indigenous organizations.

The study was launched and widely disseminated at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York, and was covered extensively by the media in the region and around the world. It became the go-to reference text for intergovernmental organizations looking to design policies that enforce the rights of indigenous peoples in countries of the region. It was also the basis for the regional position on including issues relevant to indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the action plan to implement the World Conference outcome document.

#### **(d) Technical capacity-building courses valued for their excellent and relevant subject matter**

In 2014, an independent external assessment was carried out on the ECLAC-AECID technical cooperation programme for the period 2010-2012, which comprised five components, one of which was the training of public officials, implemented by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). The evaluation confirmed the impact and value of the methodology used in the training programme, which involved 13 courses attended by 273 persons from 18 Latin American countries. It found that the training programme had made a tangible contribution to strengthening technical capacities, particularly among civil servants and government representatives from across the region. According to the results of an online survey, 58% of respondents said they were or had been in a position to influence public policy. The courses' content was also well matched to the needs and expectations of the civil servants who were the programme's target audience, responding to real problems in Latin America. Of the participants surveyed, 88% said that they had applied the knowledge and skills acquired on the courses to their work, while 89% said that the quality of the courses was excellent or very good.

The survey revealed that the courses carried out as part of the ECLAC-AECID cooperation programme were highly valued by participants, particularly aspects such as the teaching quality, relevant content, the technical quality of materials, the teaching method which combined theory and practice, the strong regional identity, the weight of the ECLAC brand and, more particularly, the opportunity to exchange with peers in a constructive and intellectually stimulating space.



In fulfilment of the recommendations issued by the external evaluation, ILPES initiated a process to take better advantage of the social capital generated at courses and fostered work using networks and collaborative platforms. New spaces for interacting were created using social networks, especially the ILPES Facebook account. In the area of capacity-building and competency development, ILPES repeated its course Digital Government in the Era of Open Government in the 2014-2015 biennium, which was rated highly by participants who took the course in Montevideo in 2014 and in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2015. The main objective of that course was to provide an overview of the concepts and tools of e-government and open government, and the impact they have had on efforts to modernize public administration and on their direct beneficiaries, namely citizens, businesses and the public sector itself. As the only course in Latin America to combine e-government with open government components, this innovative course stands out as one of kind.

#### **(e) ECLAC puts strengthening social protection at the centre of the debate in Haiti**

Over the course of the 2014-2015 biennium, ECLAC undertook an intensive technical cooperation programme to strengthen social protection in Haiti, which was implemented thanks to the cooperation programme with the Government of Norway on promoting equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the support of UNDP and UNICEF.

In response to a request for technical assistance from the Prime Minister of Haiti, efforts focused on analysing, discussing and developing recommendations for the national social welfare strategy and its sustainable funding over time.



Three studies were undertaken to analyse social protection in Haiti: *Promoción y protección social de la infancia y adolescencia en Haití* (2014); *Protección y promoción social en Haití: desafíos estratégicos e institucionales de la estrategia nacional de asistencia social* (2015); and *Evaluación del financiamiento público de la política de protección social: una lectura especial del programa Ede Pèp* (2015).

Lastly, ECLAC and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti organized an international conference on “Social protection in Haiti: towards the development of a new policy?” in Port-au-Prince in May 2015. The conference, opened by the then Prime Minister of Haiti, brought together senior officials and technical staff from various ministries, civil society representatives—including trade union members and employers—and representatives of international organizations, such as UNDP, ILO and the World Bank, to discuss options for strengthening social protection in the country. In addition to providing a comprehensive, rights-based social protection vision and specific studies on the situation in Haiti, ECLAC invited various government representatives from Latin America (Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic and Mexico) to share lessons learned from extending social protection in their countries. The outcomes of the conference were widely reported in the Haitian press.

#### **(f) Norway and ECLAC put equality at the centre of development policies**

The cooperation programme between ECLAC and the Government of Norway on promoting equality in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on developing knowledge and skills to promote equality policies in the areas of rights-based natural resources governance, gender equality, employment and social protection.

The programme helped to deepen understanding of equality by generating and disseminating innovative research and facilitated political dialogue to establish a regional position on the importance of equality. As part of this programme, ECLAC prepared 12 analytical papers and public policy recommendations for

achieving equality, which were instrumental in developing the regional position reflected in the ECLAC document *Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future*, presented to member States at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, held in Lima in 2014.

That cooperation also acted as a catalyst in setting the regional agenda for a natural resources governance agreement. The high-level round table, “Towards a vision on natural resources governance for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in January 2015, enabled regional intergovernmental dialogue at the ministerial level for the first time in 15 years, representing an important policy dialogue milestone.

The programme also stimulated regional debate on the role of women’s economic autonomy in public policies for equality. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a positive backdrop against which to advance women’s economic autonomy on the regional agenda on gender equality. That regional position was reflected in the agreements adopted by the ministers and senior officials from the national machineries for the advancement of women of the region, at the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in November 2014.

The importance of equality for the region’s development was highlighted at the high-level seminar “Paths towards equality and development: dialogue between Latin America and Norway”, held in Santiago in March 2015, which summarized the results of the cooperation programme. The seminar participants discussed the programme’s four priority areas, as well as education challenges, which will be the leitmotif of the second phase of the cooperation programme from 2015 to 2018.





### **(g) Mitigating the impact of climate change on hydropower generation in El Salvador and Guatemala.**

Hydropower has always been an important component in the Central American subregion's energy matrix. However, this energy source is particularly vulnerable to drought and floods caused by the effects of climate change.

In order to help mitigate the effects of climate change on the subregion's energy matrix, ECLAC, with financial support from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), coordinated a multidisciplinary team that analysed available data on greenhouse gas emissions under the main scenarios of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These scenarios are based on different demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental developments, and changes in energy supply and demand and land use. The team also modelled the potential change in rainfall patterns in 2020, 2030, 2050 and 2070. This methodology involving analysis of the IPCC scenarios, together with models of the potential changes in rainfall patterns, has enabled greater understanding of the impact of climate change on the main sources of renewable energy.

The analysis was conducted in the two largest river basins in Central America where the main hydroelectric plants of El Salvador and Guatemala are located. The results of this study also included recommendations to mitigate the effects of climate change and to take the first steps towards climate change adaptation, which were submitted to the authorities of both countries. In the light of their greater vulnerability, the countries adopted measures, including specific monitoring of the El Niño weather phenomenon, reassessing contingency plans to deal with extreme droughts and reviewing operational criteria and reservoir levels.



Thus, the Central American countries were able to meet the demand for electricity without having to resort to power cuts, despite the prolonged drought between 2013 and 2015, mitigating the effects of climate change and taking the first steps towards climate change adaptation.

**(h) A new methodology to assess the impact of climate change on coastal areas is made available to the countries of the region**

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a highly urbanized region with extensive coastal areas, analysis of the risks posed by climate change to its coasts is central to the design of adaptation measures, to understanding its economic implications and, ultimately, to supporting more sustainable development.

In response to this challenge, ECLAC, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain and the Environmental Hydraulics Institute of the University of Cantabria, has developed a methodology to assess the impact of climate change on coastal areas of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This methodology includes analysis of variables, such as changes in wind direction or in ocean swell, and of impacts, such as erosion, floods or changes in sediment transport. This allows the potential effects of rising sea levels on the region's coasts to be measured.

As a result it is a key tool for forecasting the different possible scenarios that the region's coastal areas might face and, thus, offers the possibility of developing public policies to help mitigate or adapt to their effects.

ECLAC worked with the Government of Brazil to develop a test case in the state of Santa Catarina to analyse the impact of climate change on its coast using the proposed methodology. In 2015, work began to create databases of historical dynamics and climate change projections and to develop and apply a methodology for high-resolution studies of the impact of flooding on a stretch of the coast.

Once this pilot phase is completed, ECLAC will provide countries of the region not only with the necessary methodological means to carry out such studies, but also with accumulated experience of applying it in a specific, practical context. The overall aim of the project is to support decision makers in the design and implementation of public policies that facilitate the adoption of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation measures in Latin America and the Caribbean.



(i) **Measuring and reducing the carbon footprint of exports to make Latin America and the Caribbean more internationally competitive**

Consumers' growing concern and the development of carbon footprint standards in the major export markets reinforce the need to introduce environmental sustainability measures in the export sector.

In this context, ECLAC, with the support of the Government of France, launched an initiative focused on carbon footprints and food exports in five countries of the region, whose main objective was to inform companies about the advantages of making exports more environmentally sustainable in order to improve efficiency and, at the same time, enhance international competitiveness.

Public-private partnerships have been crucial to putting the issue of carbon footprints on the agenda of the export sector. Public-private round tables were set up to guide the project in several countries, to support the dissemination and awareness-raising processes, and even, in some cases, to define an action plan to improve companies' environmental performance and to incorporate sustainability into their export strategies.



Of particular interest to the countries were the studies measuring the carbon footprint of seven food products exported by 44 companies from five countries in the region. These studies allowed companies' carbon footprints for those exports to be compared, using the same methodology, and showed that a product's carbon footprint is specific to each company. The purpose of the case studies was to teach companies to calculate their emissions, to act as a sectoral reference point for other companies and business associations, and, lastly, to generate information that would enable governments to identify structural problems affecting exports' environmental sustainability that should be addressed by public policies on improving land and soil management, the energy matrix and the road network, and by incentives to use clean technology, among other things.

Companies also became aware that calculating and reducing their carbon footprint could, in addition to being a differentiating, value added factor for products and a response to requirements in export markets, be a powerful analytical tool for their own production processes, energy efficiency and cost controls.

**(j) ECLAC promotes interregional trade dialogue with Asia, with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea**

For the past eight years, ECLAC and the Government of the Republic of Korea have worked to promote dialogue and trade between Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, and to analyse their contribution to inclusive development.

The series of lessons drawn from this cooperation has underpinned awareness-raising efforts in countries in the region, and promoted biregional dialogue and the development of public policies with a view to encouraging investment and trade flows with Asia.



These lessons highlighted the importance of countries reaching agreement on a strategic medium- and long-term vision in which the State plays a key role, and coordinating the design and implementation of public policies on economic, social and environmental issues. They have also underlined that increasing trade relations and investment between Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean should be undertaken in conjunction with active industrial policies that promote production chains, especially those integrating SMEs into networks of multinational providers that sell products to Asia with higher added value, based on knowledge, innovation and technology. This could mitigate the effect of the reprimarization of the region's exports, which has high environmental costs and concentrates trade in the hands of a small number of economic actors.

Analysis of these lessons has promoted regional debate on possible strategies to tackle the aforementioned challenges and to make better use of dynamic trade flows and investments for inclusive development. Assuming that the regional export basket to Asia will continue to be dominated by natural resources in the coming decades, the real challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean is to promote the export of high-value natural resources that incorporate knowledge at both the extraction and processing stages. In this connection, it is important to draw on regional knowledge of natural resources' potential, encouraging the export of services related to agriculture, agribusiness, mining, energy, forestry and fishing. All these initiatives require active public policies to support the development of links between natural resources, manufacturing and services, by applying knowledge, innovation and new technologies.

## **2. DIRECT TECHNICAL ADVICE**

### **(a) Contributing to knowledge of the new economic geography of Argentina**

The technical assistance offered by the ECLAC office in Buenos Aires to the Undersecretariat for Territorial Planning of Public Investment of the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services of Argentina, financed by contributions from the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, has helped to map out Argentina's vast and complex production and territorial framework.

This cooperation project, a study on economic dynamics in the configuration of a desirable model of national territory, led to the development of a novel analytical approach to the relationship between different regions and production structures of the main economic centres of Argentina, as it evolved between 2004 and 2012.

As part of the project, a matrix was created, dividing the country up into more than 50 microregions and outlining a set of variables that describe the structural configuration of each of the 29 selected production centres. Thus, for the first time the production and territorial framework of Argentina was analysed and represented graphically on the basis of the economic



and production changes observed since the beginning of the twenty-first century. The project findings were synthesized and published by ECLAC in the document *Complejos productivos y territorio en la Argentina: aportes para el estudio de la geografía económica del país*.



The results provided the Undersecretariat for Territorial Planning of Public Investment with the relevant and up-to-date information needed to define its strategy for allocating resources from public investment to infrastructure (road, energy and telecommunications, for example) in support of the production framework.

On the basis of that information, a new phase of the project between ECLAC and the Undersecretariat will involve analysing limitations on the growth of various economic activities from a territorial perspective.

#### **(b) ECLAC and the Government of Antioquia (Colombia) work together to assess public policies on food and nutritional security**

ECLAC and the Government of Antioquia (Colombia) signed an agreement to provide technical assistance and training for the programme “Antioquia con seguridad alimentaria y nutricional – MANÁ”, with the aim of assessing the impact of innovations in food and nutritional security in that department, in addition to national policies and strategies that sought to reduce levels of child undernutrition and the child mortality rate from undernutrition.

The assessment revealed that the model used in Antioquia helped to reduce mortality from undernutrition in the department by at least 30% more than in the rest of the country. It also concluded that the decline in the prevalence of underweight children (weight/age) was steeper in the municipalities in Antioquia where the programme had wider coverage and greater capacity to keep children enrolled in the programme for a prolonged period of time. These results can

be attributed to just two of its strategies: food supplements for children aged under six years and the recovery of children with acute undernutrition (severe and moderate).



Among other measures, it was recommended that food supplements for children should be distributed more widely, particularly to children aged under two years, with a view to making access to such supplements universal, where possible. The assessment also stressed the importance of strengthening the mechanism used to detect children with acute undernutrition in order to meet care targets. Lastly, it called for better coordination among intersectoral policies and programmes, particularly the mandatory programme of health screenings (“Control y desarrollo”), which would help the child health-care system of Antioquia to have a greater impact.

#### **(c) ECLAC supports the introduction of integrated care policies in five countries of the region**

The work done by ECLAC has helped to raise the issue of care, with a gender equality and rights-based perspective and as an integral part of social protection, at regional public policy discussions, by consolidating a methodology for supporting the countries of the region in the discussions, building national capacities and contributing to processes that have institutionalized the issue.

ECLAC has been working since 2010 to support efforts undertaken by Latin American countries in national debates on care policies and to develop assessments of the design of integrated public policies in this area. Such policies should consider the situation of both care receivers and care providers, incorporating the principle of shared responsibility for care with a view to redressing the unequal gender distribution of care work, which is currently largely undertaken by women. In that connection, since 2012, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ)-German Agency

for International Cooperation (GIZ) has provided valuable support through two projects, “Promover un pacto social para una protección social más inclusiva” and “Protección social, enfoque de derechos y desigualdad en América Latina”, which consider care policies to be a pillar of social protection.

The support of BMZ and GIZ ensured that five countries in the region (Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and Uruguay) received technical assistance on knowledge production, organizing national and international seminars, and supporting intersectoral and inter-institutional dialogue.



The technical assistance provided fed into the process of examining and adopting Law No. 9220 on the National Network for Child Care and Development in Costa Rica. It also allowed ECLAC to provide input into the process of formulating the Integrated National Care System Act in Uruguay, which was promulgated on 4 December 2015, including the assessment phase, public implementation and the establishment of social and political agreements. Lastly, in 2014, ECLAC launched a joint project with El Salvador, which is considering developing a national care policy.

**(d) ECLAC promotes the rights-based approach and policies on ageing with dignity and equality**

The project carried out by ECLAC and the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico City (SEDESO) was one of the most successful to have been implemented on the issue of ageing and social protection in the 2014-2015 biennium. It resulted in the development and dissemination of knowledge, helped to put new issues on the national public agenda (which had a knock-on effect on other

countries in the region) and on the international agenda, promoted national capacity-building, and contributed to the design and implementation of social programmes with a human rights-based approach, thus ensuring the enjoyment of those rights by thousands of older persons.

Between 1 April and 31 July 2015, 706 older persons in Mexico City were able to access a social credit offered by the Government of Mexico City, as part of the credit programme for social pension recipients. Most of the beneficiaries were aged between 71 and 80 (77%), many were older women (43%) and a large proportion lived in areas of Mexico City with high rates of social marginalization.

Social credits (small amounts of money provided by a financial institution to beneficiaries) are paid using social pension resources and can be accessed by any of the 500,000 social pension recipients.

Another of the noteworthy initiatives developed over the course of the last biennium was the establishment of older persons' right to care as a matter of public policy. Several press meetings, conferences and training workshops were held, in which more than 400 social stakeholders and 1,200 SEDES0 employees participated. A survey of 23,699 social pension beneficiaries laid the groundwork for a report published by ECLAC, which includes the premise for a citizen's wage programme for caregivers in Mexico City.

In parallel, ECLAC and SEDES0 organized the second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons in June 2014, with the aim of providing conceptual input and stimulating international debate on the subject among all the countries of the region and all stakeholders. The Forum offered an opportunity to explore further the conceptual insights and possible interventions that underpin the positions of the countries of the region in the spheres of the inter-American institutions and the United Nations, and helped to build the consensus that facilitated the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons on 15 June 2015.





**(e) Inclusive growth, rural industrial policies and participatory value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean**

With funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ECLAC implemented a methodology to strengthen value chains as an industrial policy instrument in several Central American countries. This methodology involves selecting value chains that have the greatest potential to contribute to the achievement of the meta-objectives defined by the government and designing strategies to implement them. It was rolled out by staff from the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, in close collaboration with government officials from El Salvador and Guatemala.

As a result, support was extended to the shrimp cultivation value chain in El Salvador to establish a storage centre and a processing plant, while the Government of Guatemala used a loan from the World Bank to apply some of the strategies to the vegetable export and rural tourism chains in the department of Sacatepéquez.

It should be noted that Guatemala is using this methodology in eight other agricultural chains and plans to apply it to four tourist chains. In Mexico, the methodology has been officially adopted by the Production Chain Committee, comprising the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the private sector, and interest has been expressed in applying the methodology to different value chains in the production of cured pork products. In response to interest shown by academics, presentations were given at universities in Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico and the United States. The methodology has also caught the attention of FAO, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of El Salvador (PROESA), the Mexican Network of Family and Smallholder Farming, and the National Exporter's Association (ANALDEX) of Colombia.



One of the most important steps in the methodology is holding round tables with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. As a result of applying the methodology, the nature of these round tables has transitioned from being consultative to being cooperative, as evidenced by the fact that—despite being set up to support specific production chains— they have continued to be held after the completion of the project. Another positive side effect of this methodology has been greater coordination between different government agencies in the design and implementation of industrial policies.

**(f) Working with Ecuador on a proposal to change its production matrix**

In March 2015, the Government of Ecuador adopted the National Strategy to Change the Production Matrix. This was the culmination of a process in which the political and technical authorities had pushed for a change in the production structure and in which ECLAC had supported the Government, on the one hand, by providing technical advice on the strategy and, on the other hand, by managing the concerns and demands of relevant public and private stakeholders.

After nearly two years of intense collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President of Ecuador, during which six specific production chains (cacao, mariculture, capital goods, pharmaceuticals, software and tourism) were identified and mapped, diagnostic assessments were carried out to collect stakeholders' views, helping to forge a general consensus among all parties involved.

ECLAC identified critical aspects of each of the production chains analysed, made recommendations and developed a road map for the implementation of different public policy options.

Among the more general structural change policies, the contribution of ECLAC focused on actions to stimulate private investment and on creating conditions for the development of a national business innovation system.



Building upon this initiative, the Government of Ecuador extended and expanded the project with ECLAC, requesting analysis and the submission of public policy proposals for three new production chains: coffee, dairy products, and plastics and rubber.

In addition to the aforementioned efforts and in the context of developing the strategy to change the production matrix, the Ministry of Industry and Productivity of Ecuador adopted a 10-year industrial and production chain policy in August 2015. This policy is the fruit of the technical cooperation between the Ministry and ECLAC to define strategic guidelines for an industrial policy, establish public procurement as an industrial policy tool and put forward management model proposals to develop technological centres.

### **(g) Innovative public policies to address climate change: a challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of ECLAC, the European Union, through the EUROCLIMA programme, BMZ and GIZ, continue to work on public policy responses to the challenges posed by climate change.

Over the past five years, ECLAC has worked with the countries of the region to consolidate a large collection of technical studies and knowledge to support the design, implementation and evaluation of economic and environmental public policies with a view to addressing climate change as a comprehensive development challenge.

In the economic sphere, Ecuador received support to develop a fiscal instrument to identify environmental spending and expenditure on climate change, thus making it possible to track the amount spent in these areas by various public sector entities. This environmental spending identifier is already included in the national budget for 2016 and is an important step forward in identifying and evaluating public policies relating to the environment and climate change.



A joint study was also conducted with and published by the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, which analysed the determinants of and subtleties of the response to the demand for gasoline by income group. That analysis is crucial to identifying the potential impact of using various fiscal instruments on gasoline consumption and is currently being replicated in other countries, such as the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

In the environmental sphere, ECLAC provided technical assistance to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic for the preparation of their intended nationally determined contributions (INDC), which were presented at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), held in Paris. The countries were provided with support to identify different scenarios, possible public policy options and the consequences that could result from each public policy decision.

### 3. REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL INTEGRATION

#### (a) Fostering regional cooperation in the measurement and design of energy efficiency policies

ECLAC worked together with BMZ, GIZ, the Agency for the Environment and Energy Economy and Efficiency (ADEME) of the Government of France, United Nations agencies and development banks to establish the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE), which now covers 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

The Database is a common information tool for evaluating the trends and results of national energy efficiency policies, at both the macro and sectoral levels. The countries participating in this initiative, led by ECLAC in partnership with BMZ and GIZ, can now evaluate their national achievements systematically and compare them with other participating countries and with countries outside the region.

Since its launch in 2011, under the auspices of MERCOSUR, the BIEE project has focused on building the technical capacity of national energy efficiency agencies—or related institutions—to use analytical and evaluation tools based on detailed indicators, as a prerequisite for designing and implementing new sustainable energy policies. Regional consensus has been crucial to creating a methodology and developing that common methodology to calculate national energy efficiency indicators, which not only allows the results to be compared intraregionally, but also enables countries to define policies and programmes based on historical quantitative data.

The project's success to date is evident both in the progressive incorporation of new participants and in the consensus that exists around a common methodology for measuring energy efficiency policies. However, considerable challenges must



be overcome if the database is to continue to be a dynamic and innovative tool for regional cooperation in this field. Issues looming on the horizon include the expansion of the project to include new members from the English-speaking Caribbean, its increasing use in the design of public policies for energy efficiency (beyond measuring it), and its potentially essential contribution to monitoring and measuring national and regional progress towards achieving target 7.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (by 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency).

In response to these and other challenges, ECLAC will continue to work with the countries of the region in close cooperation with its main strategic partners on this project.



**(b) ECLAC and the Ibero-American Youth Organization highlight for the first time the levels of social investment in youth in the region**

The long-standing cooperation between ECLAC and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) has produced various studies and publications and encouraged experts to participate in workshops, seminars, conferences and similar activities. The most notable publications include the various editions of the *Informe Iberoamericano de Juventud*, which have been presented at different sessions of the Ibero-American Conference of Youth Ministers.

The third edition of the *Informe Iberoamericano de Juventud*, which was drafted by specialists from the Mexican Youth Institute and the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with input from AECID and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, presents a novel research angle, namely a regional estimate of social investment levels (social public spending) aimed directly or indirectly at young people (including programmes where the beneficiaries are young people, programmes where young people are among the beneficiaries, programmes where they are indirect beneficiaries —through their families— and general or territorial programmes that involve entire communities). In addition to the new approach to classifying programmes and using the ECLAC social spending database and other secondary sources, a macro-estimation methodology (for major items of expenditure) was developed to calculate spending on population subgroups based on age and sex.

This estimate, the first of its kind, was endorsed in the official declaration of the seventeenth Ibero-American Conference of Youth Ministers, which recognized that the preparation of the third edition of the report, on “Investing for change”, in conjunction with ECLAC and other partners, was a significant step forward and the General Secretariat was therefore instructed to deepen this research on investment in youth further, by encouraging members of the organization to see this line of work as an ongoing, long-term exercise.

In addition to the acknowledgement it received, the report supported a UNFPA initiative, launched in late 2014, to conduct detailed studies in five countries on levels of social investment in youth, by examining disaggregated budget lines. The report provided a firm, regional basis for arguing that a greater amount and proportion of public resources must be mobilized for youth if the benefits of the demographic dividend are to be reaped and if young people are to be considered a strategic actor for development in the countries of the region.



### (c) Promoting a common regional vision on natural resources governance

In January 2015, the high-level round table “Towards a vision on natural resource governance for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean” was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, an event that was financed and attended by senior officials from the Governments of Norway, Germany (BMZ/GIZ), Spain (AECID) and Norway, and was attended by the Ministers of Mining of Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. It was also attended by representatives from multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, IDB, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the World Economic Forum. This event was significant as it was the first time that senior officials, at the ministerial level, from the region had discussed natural resources governance and the importance of adopting a common regional position. This round table, organized in conjunction with

two regional bodies —UNASUR and CELAC— was a significant qualitative leap towards putting natural resources at the centre of the discussion on the development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

As a result of the exchanges held in the framework of the high-level round table, the Coordinating Ministry for Strategic Sectors of Ecuador asked ECLAC for support in designing and implementing new public policies on energy, mining and water. ECLAC and the Coordinating Ministry are currently working together to prepare a new national energy agenda, a national water agenda and a white paper on responsible mining, using natural resources governance methodologies and concepts proposed by ECLAC.

In the same vein, and following numerous requests from the countries of the region for a regional guide on the subject, ECLAC is in the final stages of producing a document on the governance of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will help to consolidate a common regional vision on this topic, with concrete recommendations for the design and implementation of public policies.



**(d) Towards a regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

As part of the work undertaken with the countries of the region, the cooperation and collaboration with strategic partners such as ADEME, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

(OECS), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean launched negotiations for a regional agreement in November 2014, by creating a negotiating committee, with a view to concluding negotiations by December 2016 at the latest.

This is a decisive step, not only as a sign of regional political will to forge an agreement on this issue, but also as a clear commitment to reach a shared regional consensus within a certain time frame. By the end of 2015, the Rio Declaration had been signed by 20 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.



The negotiating committee, made up of signatory countries, with significant input from the public, has met twice. The first meeting was held in Santiago in May 2015, where the committee adopted its organization and work plan, and agreed to continue internal consultations on the preliminary document of the regional instrument prepared by ECLAC at the countries' request and to submit language proposals to the secretariat by 31 August 2015. The committee met for a second time in Panama City in October 2015, where the substantive negotiations began on the text compiled by the Presiding Officers incorporating the language proposals received from the countries on the preliminary document. At the Panama meeting, significant progress was made in the negotiations on the



preamble and articles 1 and 2 of the text compiled by the Presiding Officers, while negotiations will continue on the other articles at the third meeting, to be held in Montevideo in April 2016.

The success of the process can be seen in the increase in the number of signatory countries (from 10 to 20 in two years) and in the growing public interest, exemplified by fact that the number of participants in the regional public mechanism had increased from 200 in 2013 to 1,600 by the end of 2015. Moreover, the process has six elected public representatives to facilitate dialogue with the signatory countries.

Beyond the tangible progress made, both in the negotiation process and in the increasing number of stakeholders, the indirect impact of these regional dynamics on decision-making and the adoption of public policies for sustainable development in various Latin American and Caribbean countries is noteworthy. Some recent examples of the advances that have directly contributed to the implementation of Principle 10 are: the establishment of the Ministry of Environment in Panama, the creation of the National Council for Environmental Sustainability and Vulnerability in El Salvador, the adoption of the Environmental Protection and Management Act in Antigua and Barbuda, the regulation of strategic environmental evaluations in Chile and the adoption of legislation on access to information in Colombia and Paraguay, which contains important provisions on access to environmental information.

#### **(e) The region agrees on a new Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018)**

At the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Mexico City, from 5 to 7 August 2015, the countries of the region agreed to implement a new digital agenda by 2018 (eLAC2018). This agreement is the result of a political dialogue that began more than 10 years ago, as part of the regional process in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which led to the adoption of the Plans of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) in Rio de Janeiro in 2005, San Salvador in 2008, Lima in 2010 and Montevideo in 2013.

The new digital agenda (eLAC2018) seeks to strengthen the regional digital integration and cooperation process, affording particular attention to trends emerging as a result of the ubiquity of the Internet, technological convergence, high-speed networks, the digital economy, e-government, and big data analytics. This agenda sets out 23 regional objectives, mapped into five areas of action: (i) access and infrastructure; (ii) digital economy, innovation and competitiveness; (iii) e-government and citizenship; (iv) sustainable development and inclusion; and (v) governance for the information society. ECLAC is the technical secretariat of the process, which has Presiding Officers, national focal points and working groups on various areas of action related to the adoption of ICTs.



eLAC has proven to be a successful platform for political dialogue and cooperation, promoting the exchange of experiences of implementing strategies for adopting digital technology, capacity-building, statistical production, research and discussion of the importance of ICT policies in social fields. In 2015, eLAC won a WSIS prize in the category of international and regional cooperation, which recognizes excellence in honouring the commitments and values of the Summit.

Since its inception, the eLAC process has received support from the European Commission, as part of the @LIS (Alliance for the Information Society) project, and later from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The @LIS project helped to coordinate a range of political dialogue activities that facilitated the establishment of the follow-up and monitoring mechanism and activities. The support of the European Commission was instrumental in consolidating the eLAC process, as has been recognized on several occasions by the countries of the region. eLAC is therefore a clear example of a long-term undertaking that has been developed with the support of international cooperation.

#### **(f) Facilitating regional agreements within the framework of global negotiations on climate change**

The 33 CELAC member countries presented 21 common position points for the global negotiations at COP 21, held in Paris in December 2015. That represented an important step with respect to building regional consensus to defend common positions in international negotiations on climate change.

To contribute to the process of exchange, debate and consensus-building, ECLAC, together with UNEP and with financial support from the European Commission, under the EUROCLIMA programme, and the Governments of France and Germany, has helped to organize five meetings of chief climate change negotiators from Latin America and the Caribbean since October 2013. These meetings gathered together chief negotiators from the region in a less

formal environment. Over the course of the biennium 2014-2015, four of these meetings were held in Lima (May 2014), Santiago (October 2014 and May 2015) and Quito (November 2015).



Bearing in mind the different positions that exist on many issues among the countries of the region, for example, on financing, responsibility for mitigation, the importance of adaptation and repairing damaged infrastructure, ECLAC has proposed various technical and methodological inputs to facilitate discussions among negotiators, focusing on those aspects where it may be possible to forge common positions.

#### 4. SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

##### (a) Support for the social protection reform processes in countries of the region

With assistance from BMZ and GIZ, ECLAC has supported the reform and social dialogue processes on issues linked to the advancement of social protection in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Uruguay.

The Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay requested support to systematize discussion and design processes, and to identify milestones and stakeholders when creating public care networks. ECLAC supported this process through missions, seminars and studies, during the term of office of the government which ended in March 2015. The national care system bill was adopted in August 2015. To implement the system a National Secretariat for Care was created within the Ministry of Social Development. This system caters for children aged 0-3 years, persons who are dependent as a result of a disability, older adults who are dependent, and caregivers.

ECLAC is monitoring the development of the system and supporting a South-South cooperation initiative to promote the exchange of experiences among El Salvador, Paraguay and Uruguay, allowing El Salvador and Paraguay to learn directly from Uruguay about how it has implemented the system.

As part of the work undertaken with Costa Rica, ECLAC provided substantive and institutional support to the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Family for the discussion, promotion and presentation of the Child Care and Development Act (adopted in 2014). Activities included technical cooperation missions, analytical studies, and meetings and seminars attended by specialists from research centres, representatives of international organizations, legislators, government officials from several countries and the then President of Costa Rica. ECLAC is now following up on the implementation of that Act.



In El Salvador, ECLAC provided technical assistance and support to the Government to consolidate and roll out a universal social protection system, which included holding discussion forums and workshops, and technical meetings in person and online. ECLAC is now providing technical assistance on site and remotely to support the efforts of the Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President to implement the system, improve coordination among its different elements and build the capacities of the institutions responsible for it. ECLAC is also helping the country to design a care system, which is part of the South-South cooperation process with Paraguay and Uruguay on the issue of care.

Common to these successes is the unceasing work carried out over four years, with a medium-term approach to analytical processes and technical cooperation. This has strengthened the work undertaken, deepened inter-agency cooperation and given continuity to national processes in all three countries by influencing public policies in the medium term, that is, beyond one government term.



A second success factor was the identification of processes that had strong political support, which allowed project contributions to be combined with the efforts of various national and international stakeholders. In addition to this was the agreement reached by national institutions participating in the programme, which were not only the recipients of assistance, but also real partners, providing teams and financial resources to carry out together the activities, seminars and workshops, with their own resources or those of other partners.

**(b) ECLAC and the World Food Programme developed an innovative methodology to measure the cost of malnutrition in Africa**

ECLAC and the World Food Programme (WFP) have been working together for more than 12 years on studies and methodologies to analyse food and nutrition security and poverty. As part of this joint programme, the study on the cost of hunger is particularly noteworthy. It stresses the economic imperative to take urgent measures to eradicate child undernutrition, a scourge that affects not only those who suffer from it but society and the economy as a whole. Following that experience, which began with a study of 11 Latin American countries, new requests for collaborative support to improve food and nutrition security have been received.

In the light of the changes to the region’s nutritional profile and their impact on national public policies, ECLAC and WFP have been working to improve analysis of malnutrition since 2013. As part of the project, “The double burden: the combined economic impact of undernutrition and obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean”, an innovative methodology was developed to analyse nutritional problems and the social impact and economic costs of both undernutrition and excess weight. This project, which was the fruit of the work and lessons learned while carrying out the study on the cost of hunger, has generated a lot of interest from various countries of the region, which have applied to participate, even using their own resources, and is expected to produce results that can be used to design public policies during the next biennium.



The methodology developed with WFP in the region has led to several positive South-South cooperation experiences outside the region. In partnership with the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and WFP (Liaison Office in Ethiopia), ECLAC launched a project to adapt the analysis and implementation model used in the study on the cost of hunger in Africa, which in recent years benefitted from ongoing technical assistance on site and remotely from the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The study was carried out in seven African countries (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda) and some of its results were presented at the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014. This study is ongoing and, in September 2015, the Deputy Executive Director of WFP formally requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to continue to provide support for carrying out cost of hunger studies in other African countries and finding alternative methodologies to adapt these studies to the situation in Africa.

**(c) ECLAC supports countries of the region and of Africa, Asia and the Pacific with its methodology for analysing and processing statistical information**

During the biennium 2014-2015, ECLAC worked closely with Latin American and Caribbean countries and countries from other regions of the world to build capacities in different areas related to population and development issues, including the use of REDATAM (software that processes, analyses and disseminates microdata from censuses, surveys and other statistics for local and regional analysis).

Over the course of the biennium, 22 courses on using REDATAM were carried out in the region, in which 355 persons from all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean participated. These training activities, which were financed mainly by the UNFPA country offices, sought to transfer knowledge to and build the capacities of national offices for statistics and planning and other institutions that are part of the national statistical system, in order to generate sociodemographic databases and indicators, to process and analyse data, and to develop Internet-based applications using the REDATAM WebServer platform to disseminate the data.



ECLAC continued to provide technical assistance and training on modernizing systems for processing and disseminating population and housing censuses in African countries, where REDATAM has been widely consolidated through the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) - REDATAM platform, which is used primarily in Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda. Support was also provided to Asian and Pacific countries, which use the software to update web applications and to process population

and housing censuses online. In Bangladesh, as part of a technical cooperation agreement between the UNFPA country office, ECLAC and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, an application was developed and implemented to disseminate the 2011 national population and housing census, using the REDATAM WebServer platform to process online the data of 144 million people and 32 million households. As a result of the ECLAC technical assistance, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has an online census database that can be consulted directly by the end user, thus supporting decision-making for public policies based on up-to-date, good-quality sociodemographic information, particularly at the subnational level.

#### **(d) South-South cooperation as a key modality in the development of new price indicators in Cuba**

In 2014, ECLAC signed a cooperation agreement with the UNDP office in Havana to provide technical assistance to strengthen the statistical capacity of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba. This agreement carries forward the cooperation that ECLAC has been providing to ONEI for the last six years to improve technical capacities on pricing and economic statistics.

This long-standing cooperation has allowed ECLAC to assess the evolution of the capacities of technical staff who are applying methods for developing new price indicators to analyse the situation, such as the producer price index, the wholesale price index and the import price index, and to stabilize the consumer price index, as well as their ability to conduct time series analysis and produce more robust basic economic information than is currently generated by ONEI.



Since this new phase of collaboration began, horizontal cooperation with ONEI technical staff on pricing, national accounts and computer systems for the national accounts has been carried out successfully. It was made possible, thanks to the liaison efforts of ECLAC with the National Statistics and Census Institutes (INEC) of Costa Rica and Ecuador, the Central Bank of Chile, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, the Central Bank of Nicaragua and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru.

The ONEI technical staff undertook training placements at the various aforementioned institutions. Likewise, representatives from these institutions held seminars and workshops at ONEI in Havana. ECLAC technical assistance activities on pricing and economic indicators, including quarterly accounts, have been carried out every three months during visits to ONEI and in the form of conference calls.





### [ III ]

## CONCLUSIONS

The biennium 2014-2015 was a period of very intense multilateral activity in general, and for the United Nations in particular. Countries took the lead in regional and global consultations to establish a development agenda that will guide global, regional and national efforts for the next 15 years and to agree on new goals centred on sustainable development. Latin America and the Caribbean managed to ensure that tackling inequality was identified as one of the 17 equally important Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose universal and comprehensive nature represents a qualitative leap forward from the Millennium Development Goals.

The countries also reached a global agreement on climate change, set out in the Paris Agreement, which includes concrete commitments on greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation and adaptation actions, and financing to cope with the effects of climate change. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, for its part, contains important global agreements on financing for development, an issue that poses specific challenges to a region largely made up of middle-income countries. The Action Agenda recognizes this and urges the international community to ensure that middle-income countries' development achievements to date are sustained and that cooperation modalities are tailored to their specific characteristics and development needs.

During the biennium under review and against this turbulent global backdrop, ECLAC regional cooperation has produced results, met the expectations of its partners and donors, and provided support and technical assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries as part of their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Examples of these achievements are contained in the evaluations of two multi-year programmes carried out during the biennium 2014-2015, which found that cooperation had helped to strengthen technical capacities and to promote openness to new ideas, attitudes and approaches among public officials and State representatives. Cooperation activities helped to transform, strengthen and improve public oversight in the programme's areas of intervention, particularly gender equality, trade, fiscal policy and training on public administration and environmental sustainability. They have also helped to change public policies by, for example, ensuring the inclusion of certain issues on national and regional agendas, making substantial inputs to policy and influencing decision-making forums and processes.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC, "Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) y la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) 2010-2012. Informe de evaluación. Diciembre de 2014" [online] [http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38219/S1500204\\_es.pdf;jsessionid=5433A70CF166E0CC36A30601C28DBC16?sequence=1](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38219/S1500204_es.pdf;jsessionid=5433A70CF166E0CC36A30601C28DBC16?sequence=1).





These evaluations also revealed that cooperation had been effective in thematic areas for action, such as sustainable development and climate change, by means of advocacy and knowledge dissemination; energy efficiency and sustainable energy by promoting the issues, raising awareness and institution- and capacity-building in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Caribbean countries; fiscal policy and macroeconomic stability by promoting fiscal reforms with social goals; inclusive social development by promoting care and social protection systems; and productive development and innovation by developing methodologies and tools to promote structural policies that focus on innovation and production value chains in particular.<sup>2</sup>

The financial resources provided to carry out the considerable amount of the work undertaken during the biennium under review fell short of the level provided in previous bienniums. Nevertheless, ECLAC continued its work to support countries' final efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals, emphasizing the positive nature of the achievements made, while highlighting those areas where national and regional efforts were still needed. A combination of external factors led to the decrease in the availability of resources, including, on the one hand, the economic downturn and the slow recovery of traditional donor countries, and on the other hand, the conclusion of one development agenda and the mapping out of a new, more ambitious path that better reflects the current global situation and the very different development challenges that the regions of the world face.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development renews expectations, while at the same time challenging stakeholders to make a qualitative leap in cooperation, in terms of both substance and implementation modalities, in response to the Agenda's universal nature and levels of ambition, coverage, inclusivity and comprehensiveness. In this regard, ECLAC will continue to support the efforts of its member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as it did for the Millennium Development Goals, by refocusing on thematic priorities and strengthening technical and political dialogue, the exchange of experiences within the region and with other regions, analytical and statistical work, and capacity-building.

To do this, ECLAC will use the existing regional intergovernmental architecture, including the session of the Commission, the Committee of the Whole and the meetings of the ECLAC subsidiary bodies, to facilitate regional political dialogue and coordination among member countries.

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<sup>2</sup> ECLAC, "Final Assessment Report. Review of the German Bilateral Technical Cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)", forthcoming.



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