



Report on the technical cooperation activities  
carried out by the ECLAC system  
during the 2012-2013 biennium



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ECLAC

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BY THE ECLAC SYSTEM DURING THE 2012-2013 BIENNium**



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## I. Introduction

In the past 10 years Latin America and the Caribbean have seen positive trends in economic growth, job creation and formalization, as well as a reduction of extreme poverty and an improvement in the region's high income distribution inequality. Moreover, since the outbreak of the international financial crisis in 2008, the Latin American and Caribbean region has proved more resilient to the adverse international context. After slowing in 2009, the region's growth picked up again, with low rates of inflation and balanced fiscal accounts in most of the countries, but this picture cannot be expected to remain unchanged in the coming years.

At the aggregate level, the region has made great strides in reducing extreme poverty,<sup>1</sup> undernutrition, hunger and undernourishment and child mortality as well as in providing access to safe drinking water. Overall, the region is well on its way to achieving these goals, and many individual countries are on course to achieve them if they keep up the rate of progress seen since 1990.

In contrast, insufficient progress<sup>2</sup> has been made in access to and completion of primary education, in gender parity in employment and in national parliaments, in reducing maternal mortality, in access to reproductive health and sanitation services and in reversing the loss of forests. It is thus very likely that the region will fall short of the respective targets.

The region faces new challenges on top of old ones. They include the demographic transition, the epidemiological transition—in which progress in the treatment of infectious diseases coexists with a higher rate of chronic non-communicable diseases and unhealthy lifestyles and consumption and diet patterns—, dependence on the natural and environmental resources endowment, which raises red flags regarding risks of unsustainable reprimarization of production and growing socioenvironmental conflict, as well as climate change, which calls for changes to production and consumption patterns that will lead to growing costs for the region.

This review of progress and setbacks in the region supports neither an entirely optimistic nor an entirely pessimistic conclusion. The conclusion that can be drawn, however, is that this progress is not enough to narrow the gaps and overcome the lags that have characterized the region. Development over the past two decades has cast light on the region's structural weaknesses, some of which are outlined below:

- (i) Economic growth in the region has failed to incorporate environmental protection and has not been decoupled from the use of polluting energies.
- (ii) While major progress has been made in reducing poverty, the inequalities that persist on the basis of gender, ethnicity and territory make Latin America and the Caribbean the most unequal region in the world.
- (iii) The increases in productivity achieved have failed to create more decent, high value added jobs with full access to core labour rights.
- (iv) Poor quality of education acts a barrier to labour market entry and progression and to greater civic awareness, informed political participation and better integration into society.

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC uses national poverty and extreme poverty lines, rather than the international lines of US\$ 1.25 and US\$ 2.50 per person per day expressed in purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars. The thresholds established by ECLAC are clearly associated with national realities and are, as a rule, higher than the official poverty lines or thresholds. Accordingly, they represent a greater challenge for achievement of the Goals. Estimates for poverty and extreme poverty (or indigence) based on these lines are comparable between countries but may not necessarily coincide with the countries' own official estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Insofar as less progress has been made since 1990, in percentage terms, than the amount of time elapsed, so that the respective country would not meet the target if it continued at the rate of progress seen thus far.

- (v) Although progress has been made in bringing women into the labour market, gender-based discrimination is yet to be addressed, and much remains to be done to empower women and ensure their physical autonomy.
- (vi) Orderly public finances and a low-inflation macroeconomic environment have been insufficient to enable the State to fully play its role in guiding sustainable development over the long run, which requires changing the tax structure and increasing tax revenue.
- (vii) The targeted social assistance policies implemented in many countries in the region have proved to be insufficient because they have not been part of a public policy for universal social protection aimed at reducing the population's vulnerability and dismantling the mechanisms by which social exclusion and inequality are transmitted.

At the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in San Salvador from 27 to 31 August 2012, the member States and associate members welcomed the integrated approach to development contained in the institutional document *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development*.<sup>3</sup>

In this document, ECLAC set before the members its analysis and development proposal to the effect that, to achieve the desired and necessary level of development, the region must continue to work in three directions: structural change to underpin progress towards more knowledge-intensive sectors, convergence to reduce internal and external gaps in income and productivity, and equality of rights.

This entails tackling three major challenges: achieving high and sustained rates of growth so as to close structural gaps and generate quality jobs, changing consumption and production patterns in the context of a genuine technology revolution with environmental sustainability, and guaranteeing equality on the basis of greater convergence in the production structure, with universal social protection and capacity-building.

Such an endeavour requires the return of politics and of the State, which must resume its role in promoting investment and growth, redistribution and regulation with a view to effecting structural change for equality, through industrial, macroeconomic, social and labour policies.

In the San Salvador resolution (666(XXXIV)) the member States called on ECLAC to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals, in close cooperation with policymakers, with a view to building national economic and social development capacities and to responding urgently and appropriately to the strategic challenges arising from the various activities being undertaken to define the development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the needs and priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean region. The member States also expressed support for ECLAC in its work to monitor fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the outcomes of international conferences in economic and social areas, as well as the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Technical cooperation activities carried out during the 2012-2013 biennium focused on these areas, with a particular emphasis on the regional and global issues stressed at the session, such as the regional consultation on the post-2015 development agenda, held as part of Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: follow-up to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20, held in Bogota from 7 to 9 March 2013.

This cooperation took place through a variety of modalities—including technical assistance, capacity-building, learning and knowledge management, exchanges of experiences and network consolidation—and led ECLAC to seek strategic alliances with countries, multilateral and bilateral

<sup>3</sup> LC/G.2524(SES.34/3), Santiago, Chile, 2012.

bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a view to supporting its responsive capacity. Certain traditional partnerships were consolidated, in some cases leading to qualitative leaps forward in implementation arrangements, as was the case with bilateral cooperation with Germany, while new partnerships were also forged around collaboration on issues of regional significance, such as the bilateral work carried out with Norway on issues of equality.

NGOs, such as the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, also made a significant contribution to work to address such issues as social cohesion, vulnerable groups in society and the financing of health care.

There was particularly intensive cooperation between the bodies of the United Nations system. Led by ECLAC, a group of more than 20 organizations from the region and beyond worked together to draw up two documents: *Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean 20 years on from the Earth Summit: progress, gaps and strategic guidelines*,<sup>4</sup> presented for consideration by member States at the third intersessional meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in March 2012 in New York, and *Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Follow-up to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20. Preliminary version*, presented at the conference held in Bogota from 7 to 9 March 2013.<sup>5</sup>

Discussions on the financing of development cooperation in middle-income countries also remained on the agenda. This classification applies to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which is a middle-income and highly urbanized region in the aggregate, but has highly uneven situations between and within countries. The downward trend in flows of official development assistance (ODA) continued (totalling less than US\$ 12 billion), while migrant remittances to the region amounted to some US\$ 60 billion and foreign direct investment (FDI) came to around US\$ 170 billion in 2012. On the whole, funding allocated to development cooperation worldwide was cut as a result of the global crisis, and the region has been hit especially hard by this trend.<sup>6</sup>

ECLAC, meanwhile, was able to maintain a constant number of active projects over the biennium. There was, however, a 17.3% drop in resources earmarked for technical cooperation with countries compared with the 2010-2011 biennium, and the number of technical assistance missions fell by approximately 19% as a result of this shortfall, a knock-on effect of the global financial crisis on traditional donors. Despite this trend, work continues apace, with the same intensity as in previous bienniums, thanks to the confidence that donors (governmental and non-governmental multilateral and bilateral organizations) continue to place in ECLAC.

This report, which ECLAC hereby presents to its member States for their consideration, stresses this relationship of trust and shows how the resources entrusted to it by countries, governmental and non-governmental organizations and bilateral and multilateral donors yield concrete results. The success stories contained in this report are evidence that technical expertise, human and financial resources, political will and national capacity-building can effect meaningful change in policymaking and implementation to build more just, prosperous and sustainable societies.

<sup>4</sup> LC/L.3346/Rev.1, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> LC/L.3590, March 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Sweden, Spain and the European Union have substantially scaled back bilateral cooperation in Latin America, in some cases limiting the scope of their operations to a small number of countries deemed to be in the lower-middle income bracket, while deciding in other cases to concentrate on a few countries which could be used as bases from which to provide technical cooperation services to the region as a whole. Overall funding allocated under the 2010-2013 programme of cooperation between ECLAC and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) was also reduced. A new programme was negotiated in December 2013 that, despite being much less ambitious in nature, testifies to the importance of maintaining the relationship between the two organizations. The gap between the end of the seven-year cycle of cooperation with the European Commission and the start of the new 2014-2020 cycle, that is currently in its planning phase, also affected the flow of development cooperation resources during the biennium.

## II. Sources of funding of ECLAC technical cooperation

### A. Bilateral sources

Table 1, on expenditure on technical cooperation from bilateral sources, shows an overall downtrend in resources provided by countries during the current biennium. The exception is Germany, whose contributions have trended upwards over the past three bienniums through multi-year, cross-cutting programmes both in Latin America and beyond. Contributions from academic institutions, however, have fallen to 38.8% of total technical cooperation funding, down from, respectively, 42% and 49% of inflows in the last two bienniums.

New strategic partnerships have also been forged with NGOs such as the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, which began their work with ECLAC this biennium, with the former helping to generate information for decision-making and policy implementation regarding indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples and the latter cooperating on health financing.

**Table 1**  
**Expenditure on ECLAC technical cooperation financed from bilateral sources,**  
**2008-2009, 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 bienniums**

Source of financing	2008-2009	2010-2011	2012-2013	2008-2009	2010-2011	2012-2013
	(millions of dollars)			(percentages)		
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	5.20	4.70	3.30	15.1	11.6	9.9
Governments of other countries	10.00	10.60	8.98	29.1	26.4	27.0
Australia	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.0	0.0	2.7
Canada	1.70	0.70	0.67	4.9	1.8	2.0
Denmark	0.50	0.20	0.37	1.4	0.5	1.1
France	0.10	0.20	0.43	0.3	0.4	1.3
Germany	2.30	2.90	3.23	6.7	7.2	9.7
Italy	0.60	0.30	0.06	1.7	0.8	0.2
Japan	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.1
Norway	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.0	0.0	0.6
Spain	1.90	3.80	2.63	5.5	9.6	7.9
Republic of Korea	0.30	0.30	0.28	0.9	0.8	0.8
Sweden	1.20	0.60	0.00	3.5	1.5	0.0
United Kingdom	1.30	1.50	0.16	3.8	3.6	0.5
United States	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.3	0.0	0.0
NGOs	1.70	1.80	0.47	4.9	4.4	1.4
Ford Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.0	0.0	0.5
Kellogg Foundation	1.20	1.20	0.03	3.5	3.1	0.1
Fundación Telefónica	0.10	0.00	0.05	0.3	0.0	0.1
International Latin American Foundation for Public Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP)	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.0	0.0	0.2
Rockefeller Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.0	0.0	0.5
Academic organizations	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.0	0.0	0.1
Others	0.40	0.60	0.14	1.2	1.3	0.4
<b>Total from bilateral sources</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>17.10</b>	<b>12.93</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>Total expenditure on cooperation</b>	<b>34.50</b>	<b>40.30</b>	<b>33.31</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## Major bilateral donors in the 2012-2013 biennium

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 pillars 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 both Germany and Europe as a whole, 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. ECLAC and Germany see their cooperation as 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 and Latin America and the Caribbean and promoting sustainability in the region. The partnership pursues common objectives: strengthening the global development agenda, promoting processes of mutual learning and improving the effectiveness of joint development initiatives.



Implementation of the 2012-2014 cooperation programme, entitled “Promoting low-carbon development and social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean”, began in July 2012. It has two main components, namely climate change and opportunities for low-carbon development paths, and the new relationship between State, market and society for equality and environmental sustainability. Cooperation work is currently under way under these two major themes, in such areas as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and promoting low-carbon development paths, green tax reforms, climate change and innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), production chains in Central America, renewable energy and energy efficiency, the economic empowerment of women in Central America and social compacts to promote equality.



For several years now, cooperation with Canada has been carried out through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). ECLAC and IDRC have worked on three issues in the past biennium: population ageing and social protection, green growth indicators and capacity-building for SMEs.

The Republic of Korea became the forty-fourth member of ECLAC on 23 July 2007. Cooperation between that country and ECLAC in this biennium consisted in helping forge closer relations between the regions of Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of public sector management and development economics, as is outlined in the publication “the Korean Economy: Six Decades of Growth and Development”.<sup>7</sup> The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and ECLAC are also working on initiatives to help Governments in the region improve their skills in assessing future trade agreements —thereby fostering closer links with markets in Asia-Pacific— and to promote exchanges of experiences on trade-related issues.



The partnership between ECLAC and the Government of Spain began with the country's becoming an ECLAC member State in 1979, and cooperation activities between the two parties commenced in 1981. During these 34 years, ECLAC has maintained relationships not only with



<sup>7</sup> Korea Development Institute, November 2010.

the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), but also with government ministries. The cooperation has taken numerous forms over the years, going through different stages from annual activities and work programmes and projects until 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 from ECLAC to facilitate management and accountability for results.

The 2010-2013 programme “Building knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean” is, accordingly, a multi-year, cross-sector programme in areas in which the Government of Spain has consistently supported work in the past, namely gender equality, environmental sustainability strategies, tax policies for economic growth and social cohesion, integration, trade and investment and training for public officials.



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

In the 2012-2013 biennium, ECLAC and the Government of France cooperated in the areas of sustainable development, climate change, sustainable energy and economic development. Work was also carried out with the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME), which, from November 2011, helped implement the BIEE/MERCOSUR project to develop a database of energy efficiency indicators for MERCOSUR countries.



Cooperation between the Italian Republic and ECLAC has encompassed work on issues such as sustainable and equitable development, energy efficiency and innovation policies. Since 2012, ECLAC and the city council of Milan have been working together to hone the professional skills of managerial staff and officials of regional governments, to improve land management with a view to combating climate change, to draw up plans and projects on public security, energy efficiency and climate balance, with an approach grounded in sustainable development, and to promote the implementation of these urban and regional plans and projects in the social, environmental and economic spheres.

Work is currently under way to develop a profile for a new project with the city council of Milan on smart energy and sustainable cities.



On 27 July 2006 Japan became a member of ECLAC, the first Asian country to do so. The Japanese cooperation agency is currently working with ECLAC on projects on national capacity-building, mitigating the socioeconomic and environmental effects of natural disasters and formalizing and maximizing the impact of Japanese cooperation in Paraguay, as outlined in the publication *Study on inclusive development in Paraguay: international cooperation experiences*.<sup>8</sup>



Cooperation between ECLAC and the Government of Norway dates from the late 1980s, with the holding of the regional conference Our Common Future: Towards a Sustainable Environmental Development. Subsequently, a series of specific activities were carried out, such as the collaboration between the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico and the Norwegian Institute of International

<sup>8</sup> LC/L.3711, October 2013.

Affairs on innovation and development in Central America in comparison with some regions of Europe, 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 2012 the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated its aim to work with ECLAC on issues of equality in the region and to establish dialogue and exchanges of experiences between Norway and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In June 2013, the Government of Norway and ECLAC signed an agreement to work together to promote equality in matters of natural resources and the use of royalties from their exploitation, with a view to building more egalitarian societies, achieving gender equality and social protection from a rights-based perspective.

## B. Multilateral sources

Expenditure on technical cooperation financed from multilateral sources followed the same downward trend as that of bilateral cooperation over the biennium, falling from US\$ 23.3 million to US\$ 20.4 million. Resources from development banks, however, spectacularly bucked this trend, increasing almost fivefold, from US\$ 200,000 to US\$ 980,000.

**■ Table 2 ■**  
**Expenditure on ECLAC technical cooperation financed from multilateral sources,**  
**2008-2009, 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 bienniums**

Source of financing	2008-2009	2010-2011	2012-2013	2008-2009	2010-2011	2012-2013
	<i>(millions of dollars)</i>			<i>(percentages)</i>		
ECLAC system	2.50	3.10	3.16	7.2	7.7	9.5
Voluntary contributions to ILPES	2.00	2.70	2.41	5.8	6.7	7.2
Various contributions	0.50	0.40	0.75	1.4	1.0	2.2
United Nations system	10.80	12.20	11.59	31.3	30.3	34.8
Regular programme of technical cooperation (Sec. 23)	5.60	5.60	5.88	16.2	13.9	17.6
Regular programme on population and development (UNFPA)	1.70	1.40	1.10	4.9	3.5	3.3
Development Account (Reality of Aid (RoA) Fund)	2.50	3.90	3.29	7.2	9.7	9.9
Agreements with United Nations agencies and programmes	1.00	1.30	1.32	2.9	3.2	4.0
Other multilateral sources	4.30	7.90	5.65	12.5	19.7	17.0
European Commission	3.00	6.40	4.00	8.7	15.9	12.0
Development banks (Inter-American Development Bank, Corporación Andina de Fomento, World Bank)	0.10	0.20	0.98	0.3	0.5	2.9
Ibero-American Secretariat	0.50	0.20	0.03	1.4	0.5	0.1
Other multilateral agencies	0.70	1.10	0.64	2.0	2.8	1.9
<b>Total from multilateral sources</b>	<b>17.60</b>	<b>23.30</b>	<b>20.40</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>61.2</b>
<b>Total expenditure on cooperation</b>	<b>34.50</b>	<b>40.30</b>	<b>33.31</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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



### The principal multilateral donors of the 2012-2013 biennium are described below.

The European Commission and ECLAC have worked together on issues such as climate change, fiscal policy and the information society. ECLAC has also worked in collaboration with some of the European Commission's partner organizations, such as the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Public Administration and Policies (FIIAPP) and EUROSTAT, and has taken part in events with the European Union in such areas as investment, trade, the environment and energy, social cohesion, e-health, education, migration and statistics.

The 2012-2013 biennium saw the completion of the @LIS (Alliance for the Information Society) projects and of the EUROCLIMA project on awareness-raising and institutional capacity-building in respect of the socioeconomic aspects of climate change. In December 2013, an agreement was signed to implement the second phase of the EUROCLIMA project, scheduled to begin in the first half of 2014.



In 2012, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLAC conducted a study on the economic impact of climate change in the Plurinational State of Bolivia that was subsequently broadened with the holding of regional workshops in Peru and Colombia. Activities in 2013 focused on topics such as growth, employment, heterogeneity between sectors and strengthening the regulation of corporate government for debt issuance, on the basis of experiences in Chile and Peru.



In 2012, cooperation activities between the Andean Development Corporation and ECLAC fed into an overall analysis of public and private investment in economic infrastructure in certain countries or groups of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Two major events were held: a regional workshop on trade and sustainable development and the conference "The Debt Crisis in Latin America: 30 Years Later", that brought together renowned academic and political figures from the region. On that occasion, it was posited that the global financial crisis had been a turning point for the region.



ECLAC and the World Bank worked on statistical capacity-building at the regional and national levels, focusing on greater harmonization of domestic price data with international standards. They also worked together on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) to ascertain the level of inputs consumed by households and provide technical support for price reporting in areas such as construction and machinery, as well as in the drafting of working papers.



In 2013, ECLAC and the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) worked together to organize a workshop on replicating social innovation models, which was attended by government officials from across Latin America. The workshop presented experiences that were selected for their direct replicability in the region and touched on issues such as intrafamily violence, access to schooling for children and adolescents in rural areas and reintegration in education.

In 2012 and 2013, ECLAC and the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted a study to gather information on the economic cost of reducing chronic undernutrition and to analyse the cost of closing this development gap. A methodology was also proposed for applying cost analysis in two countries (Peru and Guatemala) and case studies from these countries were presented.



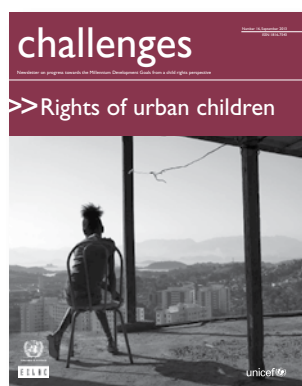
ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worked together to strengthen the institutional capacity of El Salvador's Autonomous Executive Port Commission with a view to helping it draw up and implement policies on national infrastructure and logistics, including ports, airports and logistics services. They are also cooperating on devising specific criteria and arguments to ensure that risk management criteria and arguments are included in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.



ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) carried out a comprehensive programme of work over the biennium. Its main lines of action were following up and supporting the International Plan of Action on Ageing, supporting the Regional Conference on Population and Development, carrying out capacity-building on demographic analysis and population censuses, improving information on, and monitoring of, indicators on maternal mortality, sexual and reproductive health and population—including youth— dynamics. Support was also provided to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.



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. The outcomes may be grouped in three areas of knowledge creation: child poverty, the assessment of conditional transfer programmes and their impact on children, and the analysis of gender and education issues. One of the most emblematic outputs of this cooperation is the bulletin *Challenges*, of which several editions were published in the biennium, on the topics: the rights of urban children, the rights of children and adolescents with disabilities and the rights of indigenous children.





ECLAC and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) worked together to develop capacity at the regional level to plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. More specifically, 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. These activities culminated in the organization of annual regional seminars on the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.



The International Labour Organization (ILO) and ECLAC collaborate to promote social cohesion, employment and decent work and to improve the ILO labour market information system. Superficially, they worked 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.



In the 2012-2013 biennium, ECLAC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) worked together on four lines of action: (i) broadening women's political participation and leadership; (ii) ending violence against women; (iii) women's economic empowerment; and (iv) consolidating gender equality as a priority at the local and national levels. Work undertaken included various studies, sharing of information between agencies and various publications that provided up-to-date information for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.



## FORDFOUNDATION

ECLAC and the Ford Foundation worked together in two key areas in the 2012-2013 biennium: (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, improving census processes and encouraging the use of censuses in policymaking.



Cooperation between the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and ECLAC in the 2012-2013 biennium focused on innovative experiences in reducing inequality and poverty in Haiti, touching upon areas such as primary education, intrafamily violence and health.



The Rockefeller Foundation has been working together 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.



ECLAC and Fundación Telefónica are currently collaborating on a quantitative research study on information and communications technologies (ICT) and equity, and an analysis of the economic impact of ICT.

### III. 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 the region and by the region—by generating information and conducting analyses, positioning visionary ideas and providing warnings both of the impacts of world events—such as the financial crash of 2008, which is still affecting the region—and of the effects of climate change on development strategies, as well as calculating the development cost of natural disasters and their effects on vulnerable populations.

##### 1. Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

At the request of the Pro Tempore Chair of CELAC, ECLAC prepared the following technical documents:

- (i) A document on public policies for equality, which was used as input material at the First CELAC Meeting of Ministers and Authorities in charge of Social Development and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, held in Caracas on 22-23 July 2013.
- (ii) A document on functional illiteracy, that was used as technical input material at the First CELAC Meeting of Education Ministers, held in Havana on 7 February 2013.
- (iii) “Cooperación financiera en el marco de los países de la CELAC: Potenciando la cooperación regional para la provisión de liquidez contra-cíclica de balanza de pagos y el financiamiento del comercio intraregional”, which was used as input material at the Preparatory Meeting for the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 30 November and 1 December 2013.
- (iv) *La Cooperación financiera en el marco de los países de la CELAC: Potenciando la cooperación regional para la provisión de liquidez contra-cíclica de balanza de pagos y para el financiamiento del comercio intraregional y la inversión en infraestructura*, which was used as input material at the preparatory meeting held in Havana on 23-24 October, and the Second Meeting of Ministers of Finance of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Quito on 29 November 2013.

The latter two documents analyse the regional financial architecture, focusing on three areas: (i) promoting a region-wide reserve fund to meet balance-of-payments financing needs and contribute to the financial stability of the region. This involves increasing the geographical coverage and the responsiveness of the Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR) by increasing its capitalization and opening up access to new sources of funding; (ii) making greater use of regional, subregional and national development banks by means of new instruments for financing regional trade and investment, including investment in infrastructure; and (iii) enhancing agreements on settlement systems between central banks, with a view to expediting intraregional trade and fostering cooperation between central banks and financial institutions in the region.

- (v) “Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, 2013”,<sup>9</sup> which will now become an annual publication that will be produced for each Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC.

##### 2. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

In the framework of the cooperation agreement signed between UNASUR and ECLAC in March 2012, it was proposed to work jointly on the promotion of broadband Internet, natural

<sup>9</sup> LC/L.3764, January 2014.

resource governance with a view to building a strategic South American position, regional financial integration and the promotion of intraregional trade and regulatory convergence on energy.

ECLAC accordingly conducted a study entitled “Desarrollo de la conectividad nacional y regional en América Latina”,<sup>10</sup> which was presented at the Third Meeting of UNASUR Ministers of Communications, held on 9 August in Lima. The study analyses connectivity in the region and makes policy recommendations with a view to improving efficiency.

The document *Natural resources within the Union of South American Nations: status and trends for a regional development agenda*<sup>11</sup> identifies the different legal and economic instruments which States invoke in order to assert ownership of and distribute the revenue derived from the exploitation of mineral, water and hydrocarbon resources. This key information is also intended to contribute to much-needed discussion within and between the member countries of UNASUR, including on how to strike the right balance between State, market and society as a basis for a political and fiscal compact, and on South American integration, which is perceived as indispensable for overcoming the pressing problem of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The impact of this paper has been such that CELAC has asked CEPAL to extend the scope of this study to the entire region. The expanded study, entitled *Natural resources: status and trends towards a regional development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*<sup>12</sup> was presented for the consideration of countries at the second CELAC summit in Havana, in January 2014.

ECLAC provided support to the UNASUR Working Group on Financial Integration in four key areas of interest for the countries: innovative sources of financing for infrastructure, regional settlement systems, a regional reserve system, and the promotion of intraregional trade among the countries of UNASUR.

Progress was made in discussions on how to strengthen the region’s financial safety net, and alternative avenues were explored such as expanding the Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR), launching a new reserve fund or setting up a network for swaps between countries, a question on which the UNASUR countries had pledged to provide information and comments to serve as the basis for the preparation of a subregional report. Advances were also made in discussions on traditional and innovative sources of financing in the region, including infrastructure funding. Two documents were also published in the *Financing for Development* series: “Sistema de pagos transnacionales vigentes en América Latina: ALADI, SML y SUCRE”<sup>13</sup> and “A regional reserve fund for Latin America”.<sup>14</sup>

Documents were also prepared examining intraregional trade in the countries of UNASUR and identifying progress and challenges in that respect. At a meeting of the Working Group on Financial Integration held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in October 2012, three presentations were made: “Sistemas con apoyo público de garantía, seguro y crédito para promover el comercio exterior de la UNASUR: un primer inventario”; “El entorno para el financiamiento al comercio en los países de la UNASUR”; and “Cadenas de valor, empleo y empresas exportadoras en UNASUR”. At the August 2013 meeting in Montevideo, the document “Identificación de la agenda sobre capacidades productivas de pymes” was presented.

### 3. Central American Integration System (SICA)

Over the biennium 2012-2013, ECLAC provided support for efforts to analyse the impact of climate change on food security, coffee-growing and hydroelectric power generation in the subregion. It also put forward a proposal for a subregional power market and provided support in

<sup>10</sup> LC/W.502, 2012.

<sup>11</sup> LC/L.3627, May 2013.

<sup>12</sup> LC/L.3748, December 2013.

<sup>13</sup> No. 245 (LC/L.3692), 2013.

<sup>14</sup> No. 244 (LC/L.3703).

the re-establishment of the Committee for Cooperation on Hydrocarbons and the updating of the Central American Sustainable Energy Strategy 2020. Economic cost assessments were also carried out in respect of the earthquake in San Marcos, Guatemala, and on the Twelve-E cyclone that hit five countries of the Central American Isthmus.

As part of its work with the Secretariat for Central American Social Integration (SISCA) and the regional public goods programme, ECLAC carried out analyses of the Central American labour market, early childhood care policies, policy elements to pave the way for a Central American common market and principles for a Central American policy on early childhood care under the “children-first” approach. The regional integration perspective was included in the draft laws proposed in El Salvador on social protection and planning for development.

In the field of energy, the First Ordinary Meeting of the SICA Energy Ministers Council (held in Managua in 2012) called on members of the inter-agency group that supports the Action Matrix for Central American Energy Integration and Development (of which ECLAC is a member) to continue to foster the establishment and implementation of regional projects aimed at fulfilling the goals of the Central American Sustainable Energy Strategy 2020. Accordingly, a study was begun on the energy efficiency situation and outlook in Central America, and a preliminary analysis undertaken on options for promoting trading in electricity on the grid linking Mexico, Guatemala and Central America.

#### **4. Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

Over the biennium, ECLAC held regular consultations with key partners in the Caribbean, including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), with a view to working more closely on initiatives promoting integration and intraregional cooperation among the Caribbean countries.

Particular emphasis was placed on exploring avenues for promoting cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America, especially Central America. This included the drafting of a document on opportunities for enhancing trade and investment between CARICOM and Central America and the Dominican Republic that was submitted for consideration by member States at the twenty-fourth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in May 2012. Research was also conducted into the development path followed in the Caribbean and tensions between competition and integration in the subregion, which entailed analysing patterns of development with a special focus on sustainable development challenges and opportunities.

ECLAC promoted initiatives to further intraregional and interregional cooperation and integration, such as the initiative for food security and integration between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, which involved growing food in Guyana for subsequent processing in Trinidad. The initiative incorporated a recommendation from ECLAC to diversify and expedite economic structural change so as to promote sector-specific innovation and leverage the comparative advantages of member States.

The second meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable called for a comprehensive review of the high cost of transport, particularly air transport, within the subregion. Trinidad and Tobago and the member States of OECS have, accordingly, discussed streamlining the flight routes of Caribbean Airlines and LIAT with a view to optimizing passenger flows and the efficiency of regional transport.

ECLAC, in close collaboration with CARICOM, provided support for the process of building a consensus and developing a unified Caribbean position on global and hemispheric development issues, in a variety of forums. A meeting of experts was held in April 2012 to establish a framework for cooperation for statistical capacity-building in the Caribbean, involving subregional partners and member countries. In March 2013 the Caribbean position was strengthened on nine lines of work and in 31 priority areas for defining an agenda for post-2015 development at the Caribbean Forum: Shaping a Sustainable Development Agenda to Address the Caribbean Reality in the Twenty-first

Century, held in Bogota. In July 2013, support was provided in the drafting of a negotiated document on the challenges and issues facing small island developing States in the Caribbean, at the Caribbean preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Kingston. At the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development in Georgetown, in July 2013, a road map was drafted for national and subregional activities and for the negotiation of a Caribbean position for the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In August 2013, in Kingston, at the Caribbean preparatory meeting for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, subsequently held in Santo Domingo, priorities were set for inclusion, as a Caribbean position, in the Santo Domingo Consensus. In December 2013, ECLAC supported the CARICOM Secretariat in the organization of the CARICOM High Level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean, with a view to encouraging and promoting cooperation between Caribbean States and providing additional tools with which to address the needs of this vulnerable group. The Pétion-Ville Declaration also outlined strategies for member States and called for the strengthening of their legal frameworks.

## **5. Andean Community**

The countries of the Andean Community called upon ECLAC to lend its support in the process of re-engineering the Andean Integration System, a request that was enshrined in a cooperation agreement signed between the Andean Community Secretariat and ECLAC at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago on 9 November 2012.

This re-engineering of the Andean Integration System comes at a time of far-reaching change in the world economy, particularly in respect of the growing influence of developing countries (especially in Asia) on the different variables of the global economy, and the trend towards the geographical fragmentation of global production into regional or global value chains. This tendency has, in turn, been one of the main triggers for the launch of several wide-ranging “mega-regional” trade negotiation processes, which could have major implications in terms of the positioning of Andean Community countries, and those of Latin America and the Caribbean in general, in the global economy.

The re-engineering is also taking place against a backdrop of significant changes in the map of Latin American and South American economic integration. This is reflected in the fact that four Andean Community member countries also belong to other economic integration schemes, with differing political orientations. This has led to a situation of “cross-membership”, which is likely to persist into the foreseeable future. In recent years two major regional integration players with a broad geographical and thematic scope have also emerged: UNASUR and CELAC. All this poses challenges in terms of both re-engineering the Andean Community (since certain issues will be addressed in various forums, leading to potential duplications of work or inconsistencies) and achieving the objective of convergence between South American integration schemes.

ECLAC has recommended that the re-engineering of the Andean Integration System should be framed in accordance with six overarching and related principles:

- (i) Primacy of political interest: the agenda of the Andean Community should be more closely aligned with the national priorities of Governments of the Andean countries and the needs of the Andean people.
- (ii) Safeguarding the assets of Andean integration: the starting point of the re-engineering must be recognition of the substantial assets already built by the Andean integration process over more than four decades.

- (iii) Pragmatism: the diversity of approaches and views among the four member countries should be respected by focusing the Andean Community agenda on areas of consensus among them.
- (iv) Subsidiarity: the Andean Community agenda should focus on areas and activities where the Andean integration process can add value for its member countries (i.e. where it provides benefits that cannot be achieved by actions at the national or bi-national level or in other integration forums).
- (v) Adequate funding: the thematic priorities defined by the Andean Community members need to be more closely aligned with real commitments of national funds for their realization.
- (vi) Strengthening the Andean Community for convergence: the re-engineering should both strengthen the Andean Community and help achieve (or at least not hinder) the objective of convergence at the South American level.

The specific proposals by ECLAC fall into three main categories:

- (i) Trade integration and economic complementarity
- (ii) Environment, natural resources and energy
- (iii) Social and territorial development

The Andean Community countries are invited to analyse and take decisions regarding these recommendations, with a view to implementing reforms aimed at ensuring the continuity and relevance of this important subregional integration scheme.

## B. Technical cooperation missions

A total of 1,080 technical cooperation missions were carried out across all the countries in the region during the biennium. The comprehensive view of development presented in the paper *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development*<sup>15</sup> was well received by the countries of Central and South America, which requested and received missions in areas covering the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).

The largest components of work addressed the economic pillar of development, accounting for 46% of the missions. This proportion was even higher in the Southern Cone and Central America, where economic missions made up 50% of all missions undertaken. Missions on social protection were also a major growth area. In the area of sustainable development, there was a significant increase in the number of missions relating to transport and the environment.

Capacity-building by means of training courses accounted for a large proportion of technical cooperation missions, chiefly in Chile and Mexico (47% and 40%, respectively). The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) showed clear leadership here, organizing and running 90 training courses over the biennium. This speaks to the importance that countries are attaching to planning, governance and local development.

In the Caribbean, particular emphasis was placed on technical assistance and capacity-building (61% of missions). By area, missions on matters of energy and the environment accounted for 35%, while 42% addressed economic issues. These figures reflect the concerns of Caribbean countries in relation to their small economies, which are highly vulnerable both to external economic shocks and to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

<sup>15</sup> LC/G.2524(SES.34/3).

■ Map 1 ■

# ECLAC technical cooperation missions by type of mission, 2012-2013 biennium <sup>a</sup>



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

<sup>a</sup> 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, 2012-2013 biennium <sup>a</sup>

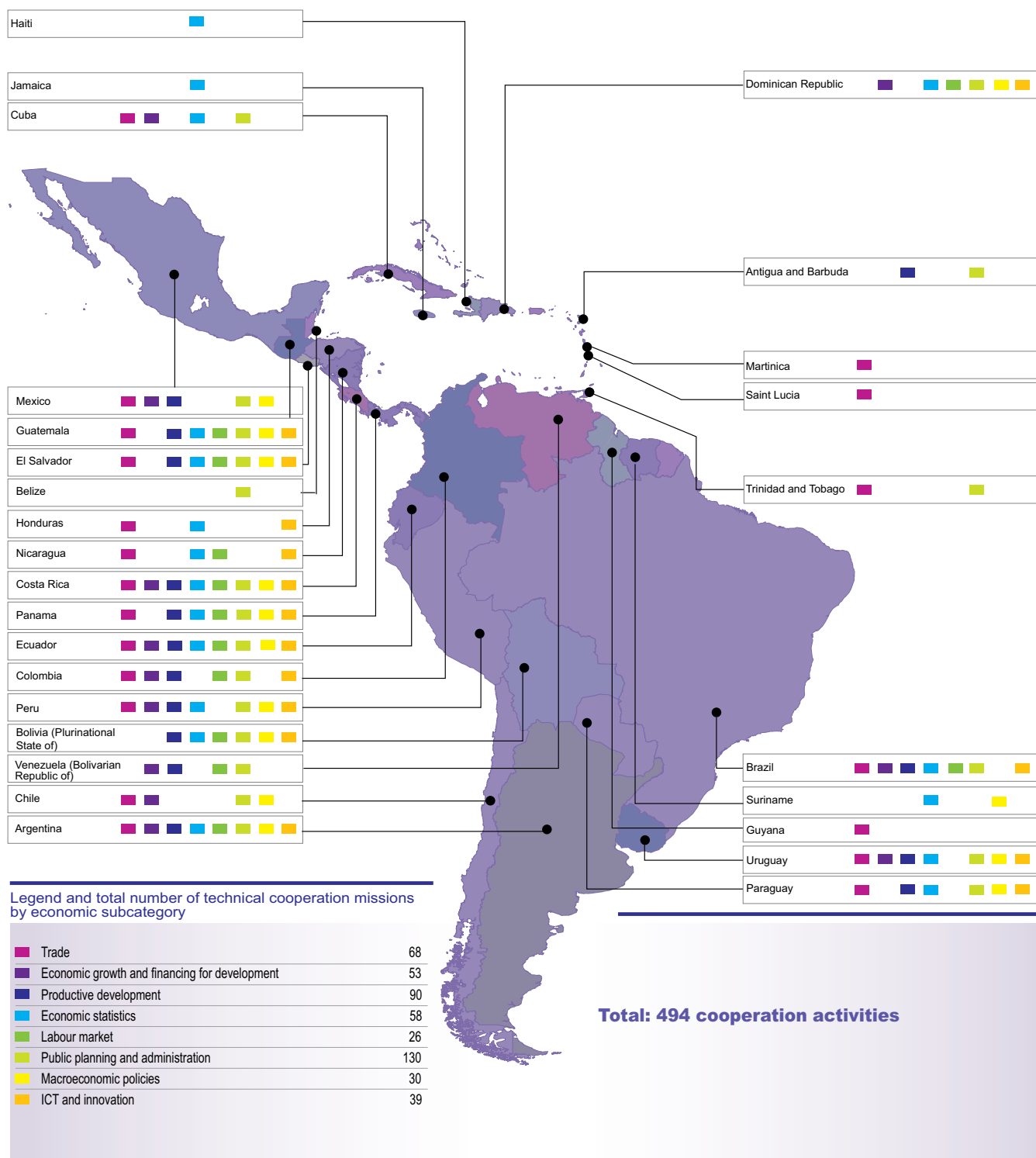


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

<sup>a</sup> The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

■ Map 3 ■

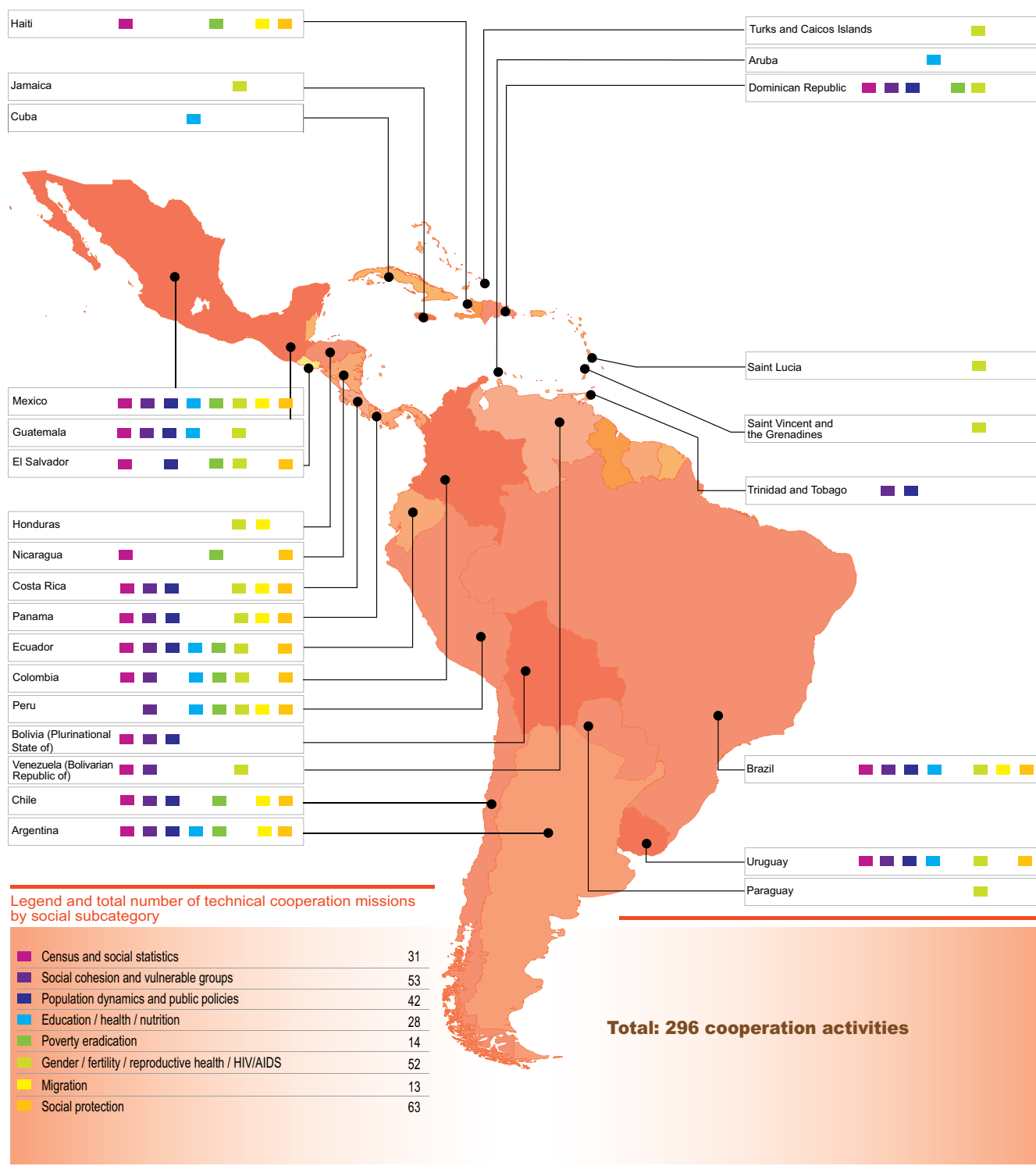
# ECLAC technical cooperation missions on economic issues, 2012-2013 biennium <sup>a</sup>



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

<sup>a</sup> 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, 2012-2013 biennium <sup>a</sup>



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

<sup>a</sup> 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, 2012-2013 biennium <sup>a</sup>**



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

<sup>a</sup> The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## C. Technical cooperation programmes and projects

At the sessions of ECLAC, which are held every two years, the member States adopt the Commission's biennial programme of work, the direct costs of which are funded with ordinary resources allocated by the United Nations General Assembly. These are, however, insufficient to implement all the substantive mandates.

It is thanks to the substantive and financial support of organizations cooperating with ECLAC, whether from member States or other countries, United Nations bodies, multilateral organizations, academic centres, foundations or NGOs, that the ECLAC secretariat can augment its capacity to respond to member States' technical assistance needs. This includes the implementation of projects, which are usually regional or subregional in scope, or may include 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.

The tables and figures below show the number of completed and ongoing projects over the biennium. Economic projects outnumber those on social issues and sustainable development by almost two to one, showing that the focus of the region's efforts on economic development and growth has been reflected in the Commission's work with the countries. Another feature is the large number of projects on climate change, reflecting the countries' concern at the impact of this global phenomenon on their development plans and strategies.

The inclusive growth agenda and focus on closing gaps have given rise to a number of projects concerning social cohesion, vulnerable groups and social protection initiatives. The graphics also reveal the still just emerging importance ascribed to measurement, whether in terms of projects on statistics or measuring the impact of policies, although there were only 13 such projects in the social, economic and environmental fields. One interesting aspect of cooperation in this biennium is the cross-cutting nature of issues and the linkages and synergies between areas that had previously been addressed separately, such as green taxation, the social impact of climate change, fiscal reforms and other economic instruments for tackling issues of social protection and carrying out transfers of technology to bring women into quality jobs.

In addition to the projects, 182 cooperation agreements are in place which involve no transfers of funding between institutions. The emphasis is on bilateral cooperation agreements with governmental bodies, both within the region and from further afield, which account for 72% of agreements. Also of note is the large proportion of agreements with academic institutions both within and outside the region (26%), almost as much as those with multilateral institutions from both within and outside the United Nations system, development banks and intergovernmental organizations (27.4%).

**■ Table 3 ■**  
**ECLAC cooperation agreements in force, 2012-2013 biennium**

<b>Bilateral agreements</b>	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	66
Governments of countries outside the region	12
Non-governmental organizations	6
Academic institutions	48
in the region	27
outside the region	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Multilateral agreements</b>	
Agencies of the United Nations system	19
Development banks <sup>a</sup>	4
European Commission	2
Intergovernmental organizations and others <sup>b</sup>	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total agreements in place</b>	<b>182</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), World Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), among others.

<sup>b</sup> UNASUR, MERCOSUR, Andean Community, OAS, among others.

**■ Figure 1 ■**  
**Number of ECLAC projects by thematic area, 2012-2013 biennium**

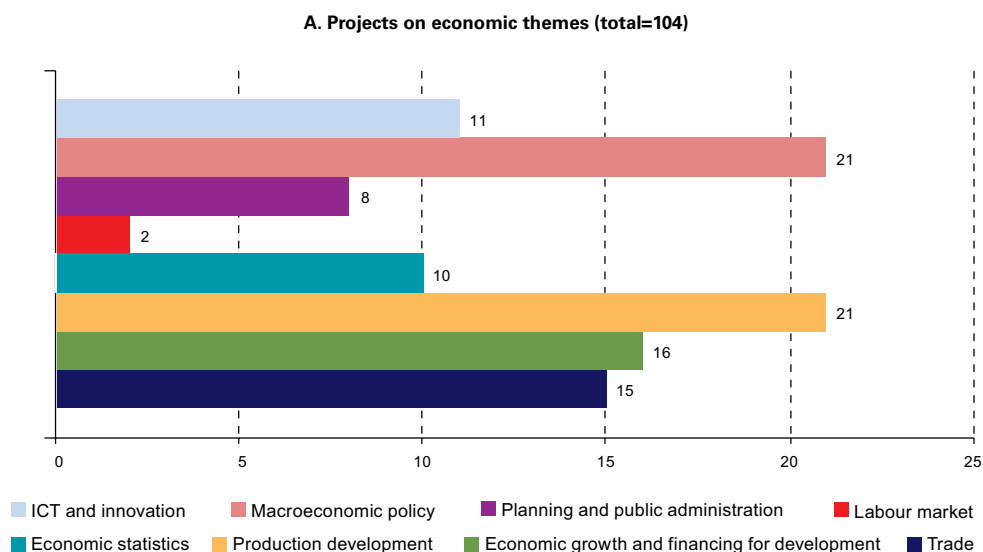
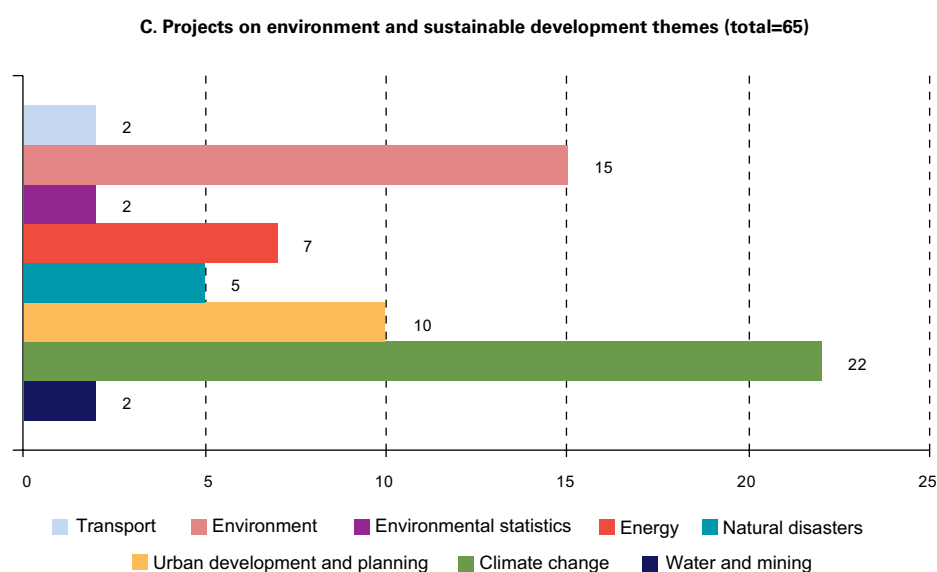
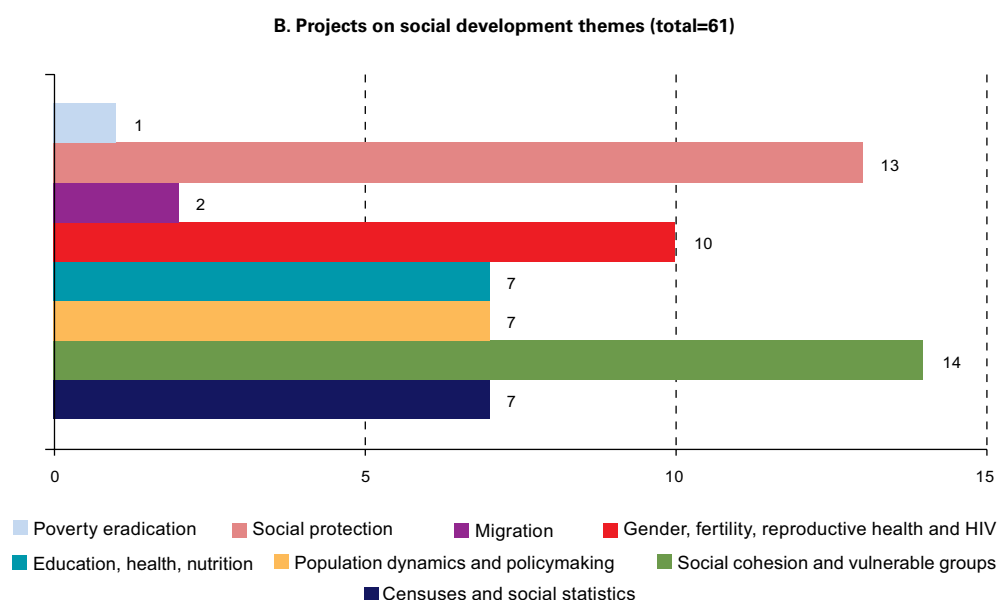


Figure 1 (concluded)



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

## D. Publications and working documents

ECLAC publications contribute to dialogue, encourage applied research, systematize experiences in drawing up and implementing public policies that can be replicated elsewhere and support cooperation processes. Over the biennium, the ECLAC headquarters, various subregional headquarters and national offices produced a total of 633 publications and working documents. Notable publications included *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold*,<sup>16</sup> which ECLAC presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. This document was a systematic examination of the various factors that shape the way the region's women participate in the labour market and the way in which they access and use the different elements of the digital economy. Another example,

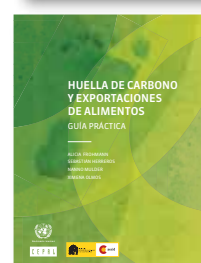
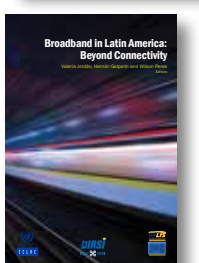
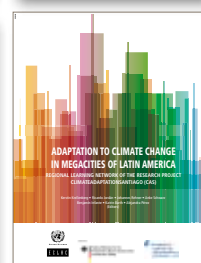
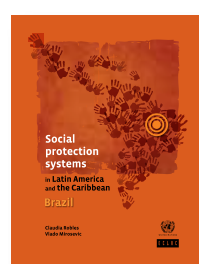
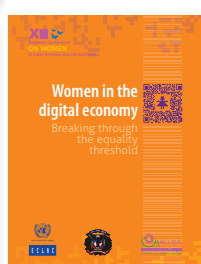
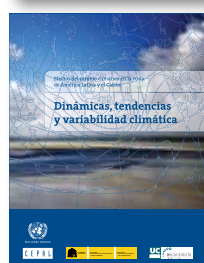
<sup>16</sup> LC/L.3666(CRM.12/3), October 2013.

the guide “Huella de carbono y exportaciones de alimentos”<sup>17</sup> outlined the phenomenon of climate change, describing its causes and effects as well as recent trends and responses in policymaking, including international negotiations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, setting out the main conceptual and policy links between climate change and international trade as well as some common methodologies for the measurement of the carbon footprint of products traded internationally, principally agricultural and food products. The document *Panorama del Desarrollo Territorial en América Latina y el Caribe 2012*<sup>18</sup> argued that social and economic inequalities were also expressed in geographical aspects of development and in the region’s growing disinterest in exploring national territorial equality policies and in fostering local skills development and strengthening mechanisms for planning and coordination.

■ Table 4 ■  
ECLAC publications, 2012-2013 biennium

	2012	2013	2012-2013
ECLAC headquarters in Santiago	276	238	514
Subregional headquarters in Mexico	30	35	65
Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean	12	2	14
Office in Buenos Aires	5	2	7
Office in Bogotá	1	5	6
Office in Montevideo	0	1	1
Office in Washington, D.C.	6	7	13
Office in Brasilia	5	8	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>633</b>

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



<sup>17</sup> Project documents, No. 503 (LC/W.503), November 2012.

<sup>18</sup> LC/W.543, December 2012.

## E. Success stories

The strategy set out in the Commission's programme of work for 2012-2013 stressed the importance of analytical work, advocacy activities and the building and strengthening of national and local capacities to achieve its objectives.

The focus was placed on public policymaking and facilitating the implementation and evaluation of policies by providing specialized information, direct technical assistance and training services, and by promoting cooperation, networking and exchanges of experiences at the regional and interregional levels.

The success stories presented below provide a good overview of joint work between ECLAC and sectoral, local, academic and civil society institutions from its member countries and beyond 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) Sustainable energy in the Caribbean: reducing the Caribbean's carbon footprint by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy

With the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), ECLAC has lent support for Caribbean countries in addressing certain energy gaps. Given the importance of policy in informing strategies and programmes, this involved the provision of support in the formulation of national energy policies. One such case was Aruba, whose policy, approved by the Prime Minister, led to a target date of 2030 for meeting 100% of the island's energy requirements from renewable sources. Suriname, in its national assessment report on implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, also noted the development of its national energy policy as progress in the thematic area of energy. This report was used to prepare the Caribbean regional synthesis report, which will be used as input material for the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa, in August 2014.

ECLAC also provided support in the identification of fiscal and regulatory barriers to the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives in six Caribbean countries. This took the form of stakeholder consultations (with the public and private sectors and civil society) in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of the specific barriers and to seek feedback on mechanisms, strategies and measures for their removal. Grenada has indicated that it will be using this report to update its energy policy with a view to increasing the percentage of renewable energy sources in its energy mix. Antigua and Barbuda will use information from the report at ministerial level to develop a wind power/hydroelectric<sup>19</sup> facility in the north of the island. Saint Lucia intends to update its national energy policy using the information in the report and to request assistance from ECLAC in implementing it. The national reports were discussed with stakeholders at the national level and, in the case of Antigua and Barbuda, with the relevant minister, who set up a task force to implement the recommendations.

ECLAC helped organize two training workshops (in Guyana and Jamaica) on how to remove the barriers identified. According to evaluations of both workshops, which entailed assessments both before and after the events, technical capacities were strengthened and country representatives received effective training in policy formulation, renewable energy technologies and techniques to promote energy efficiency. The representatives receiving training would, in turn, train others

<sup>19</sup> A wind farm which can be powered by sea water when wind speed is too low to drive the turbines.

in their respective countries. The training workshop also helped establish a network of energy experts from the countries, who undertook to stay in contact and share information. It had particular relevance for Caribbean islands wishing to develop a geothermal energy sector, since many islands face the same challenges and exchanges of information could be beneficial.

The work carried out on energy indicators in Latin America is of particular interest. Caribbean participants in the Fourth Energy Dialogue in Mexico City in November expressed the desire to benefit from the approach taken, especially with a view to meeting their commitments under the Mauritius Strategy.

### **(b) The rights of indigenous peoples: identifying progress and challenges in Latin America**

The countries of Latin America must take up the challenge of drawing up and implementing policies to close gaps in guaranteeing free exercise of the rights of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples as fully fledged stakeholders in the region. In this context, there is an increasing need for information on the living conditions of these groups, as a key technical tool for public policymaking and for their empowerment.

In this connection, attractive, innovative sociodemographic atlases and analyses with new information on the living conditions of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru were prepared with financing from the Ford Foundation. These materials have been widely distributed to State agencies and indigenous and Afro-descendent organizations throughout the countries of the region.

An innovative and participatory methodology has also been developed for the use and analysis of ethnically disaggregated data and to ensure due consideration for the concerns of indigenous and Afro-descendent people in policymaking. Training was provided to over 160 indigenous and Afro-descendent leaders and officials from public agencies—more, in fact, than had been expected to attend. Participants expressed themselves very satisfied with the training, especially with the working methodology, and they stressed the importance of continuing and further developing these activities.

Indigenous organizations were more involved in the processes relating to the 2010 census round and in other data collection methods. This has led to the establishment of participatory mechanisms such as Peru's Technical Committee on Ethnic Statistics, run by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics and made up of State agencies and indigenous and Afro-Peruvian organizations.

In sum, this work has contributed significantly to providing more comprehensive information and boosting knowledge on ethnic groups and to building national capacities—within both State agencies and indigenous and Afro-descendent organizations—for the purposes of drawing up and implementing policies that respect and protect human rights. This can be seen, for example, in the great demand for the information produced as part of the project. For example, the CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC System of Sociodemographic Indicators for Indigenous Peoples and Populations of Latin America (SISPPI), which was updated and broadened during the project, received 8,400 visits from users who downloaded over 5,500 tables of indicators specifically on ethnic groups and geographical inequalities.

### (c) The ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean: regional benchmark regarding the human rights of women and gender equality

Over the biennium, the ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean continued to work to gain more accurate knowledge on gender relations in the region in the areas of physical, economic and decision-making autonomy.

The Observatory's work in these three fields helped to strengthen national capacities for the production of statistics and gender indicators, forge closer links between producers and users of gender statistics, create innovative, more comprehensive approaches to addressing poverty, improve methods of measuring violence against women, examine and develop proposals on time use and unpaid labour, encourage gender mainstreaming in national policies and propose measures to increase women's involvement in politics and decision-making.

These efforts, carried forward with the invaluable support of donors such as AECID, the Government of Norway, UN-Women and UNFPA, also included providing technical assistance to 14 countries, holding meetings of experts on various issues (such as time use, fair gender equality policies and ICT) and running e-learning courses for 450 participants, chiefly civil servants. In addition, as of late 2013, 16 countries in the region had also incorporated additional indicators proposed by ECLAC into their policies and legislative frameworks. The current challenge is to deepen the analysis in the area of women's economic autonomy, by developing new indicators and expanding analysis to include new sources, in response to the need for gender policies capable of bringing together the social and economic spheres and including ICT.

The Observatory has become well-established as a reference source for anyone working to safeguard the human rights of women and make gender equality a reality in the region. Between its creation in April 2009 and December 2013, the website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean counted more than 620,000 users. Since 2010, it has clocked a monthly average of 16,000 visits.



### (d) ECLAC provides Latin American policymakers with science, technology and innovation training

The School for Policymakers in Science, Technology and Innovation is an initiative of ECLAC, with support from the German Cooperation BMZ and GIZ, as part of the Mechanism for Regional Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation agreed between the science and technology ministries and agencies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay (Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia have since become members, as well).

One of the main objectives of the School since its inception in 2008 has been to encourage scientific, technological and productive capacity-building for countries in the region, by means of transfers and exchanges of knowledge between policymakers in the fields of science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. A further goal is promote cooperation between the countries of the region.



The School for Policymakers in Science, Technology and Innovation has run a total of four sessions. At the end of each session the participants expressed their willingness to support various cooperation projects.

The School's fourth session took place in 2013, run jointly by ECLAC, GIZ and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCYT) of Argentina, and provided training for 30 officials from 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants subsequently signed a cooperation agreement expressing their intent to lend their support in the implementation and follow-up of various cooperation projects in the following areas:

- Incentives for production innovation.
- Forging closer links between universities and production sectors.
- Innovation for social and local inclusion.
- Intellectual property and spaces for innovation.
- The development of talented human capital.
- Innovation management.
- The bank of assessors and regional experiences.
- The assessment of science, technology and innovation policies.
- The platform or regional repository of plans, policies and tools to promote science, technology and innovation.

**(e) New information and communication technologies in the countries of the region: improving access and increasing use**

Since 2008, ECLAC has been cooperating with the European Commission on the second phase of @LIS, an ambitious programme to increase the use of ICT in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Work carried out at the political level has secured commitments from the governments of the region to implement three successive ICT development plans.

Since the operational phase of the programme began in 2009, 10 countries have defined or revised their agenda in this sector.

The use of ICT has become institutionalized in the education sector through the adoption of specific policies in 13 countries of the region. Twelve out of 17 countries have also changed the focus of their policies—which had hitherto been limited to opening up access to hardware and the Internet—to include teacher training on ICT.

The project has also led to more widespread access to the Internet for people in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which has democratized the use of ICT. Between 2009 and 2011, 14 national broadband plans were drawn up, which helped boost the penetration rate of fixed broadband by 36% and that of mobile broadband by 400% over that period.

The project also helped to secure an agreement between the governments of Latin America and the European Union to build a new underwater cable linking the two regions to improve

and reduce the cost of connectivity between them, and help Latin America to become more independent in its Internet use.

#### **(f) Promoting decent work in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The “Strengthening the capacity to devise and analyse decent work” (RECAP) project, run by the International Labour Organization (ILO) International Training Centre with the collaboration of ECLAC, aimed to improve labour market information systems (LMIS) in four Central American countries: El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. Work by these countries enabled a preliminary assessment of their labour markets to be conducted, focusing on the quality of employment, especially in relation to the ILO conceptual framework for the measurement of decent work.

ECLAC and the ILO Labour Analysis and Information System (SIALC) reviewed the questionnaires that countries had used to measure employment so as to identify strengths and areas for improvement with a view to suggesting ways to improve procedures for collecting data on workers’ labour rights.

On the basis of the recommendations in the analysis prepared by ECLAC, the four countries undertook to make changes to their questionnaires to improve the capture of several indicators relating to decent work. This will also enable further analysis of the various forms of inequality in labour markets, particularly gender inequalities.

Following training provided by ECLAC on the use of survey information, the countries committed to creating a minimum set of indicators—which were previously not calculated—to turn a spotlight on employment quality and worker protection, particularly in relation to workers’ rights, protection at work, access to social security and health care and freedom of association. A methodology for the calculation of the gender wage gap was also adopted.

#### **(g) Social innovation fosters greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean**

With the valuable support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ECLAC has researched the mechanics of social innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has sought to identify and promote the replication of experiences that have been most successful and have had the highest impact in terms of reducing poverty and inequality. This is accomplished by running regional competitions to select social innovation projects, publications, and workshops in different countries, including Peru and Haiti.

The experience has shown that social innovation can offer creative and effective solutions to poverty and inequality that can be replicated in other countries or regions.

The award-winning schemes are now being replicated elsewhere and have frequently achieved a significant impact in specific social areas, as witnessed by the examples below:

- The “Four-leaf Clover” programme, run by the State Ministry of Health of Sobral, State of Ceará, Brazil, to address maternal and infant mortality, which is now being implemented on a state-wide basis and being introduced throughout Brazil’s North-East, leading to a significant reduction in the rate of maternal and infant mortality. The key to the programme’s success is understanding and tackling the underlying socioeconomic reasons for this mortality.
- The “Community Defenders” programme, run by the Legal Defence Institute of Peru in the department of Cusco, is a community-based response to domestic violence that is now being replicated elsewhere in Peru, in the Ucayali and Pucallpa departments, for example. The programme has succeeded in reducing the rate of femicide in Cusco (previously above

the national average) and in raising awareness of violence and ensuring that the scourge of domestic violence is being adequately addressed by the judiciary.

- The Maringá Social Observatory (Brazil), a civil society initiative to tackle corruption, has been replicated across practically the entire country, as the Social Observatory of Brazil, and was recently replicated in Pereira, Colombia. The Observatory closely monitors all public procurement in the municipalities where it operates, from the preparation of invitations to tender to final delivery of the goods or services in question. It has succeeded in achieving savings of almost 20% of total public resources.
- The “Storytelling Grandmothers” programme, run by the Mempo Giardinelli Foundation in Resistencia, Argentina, involves retired people volunteering to read to school pupils, and is being replicated in Costa Rica and Brazil. The programme has succeeded in improving educational attainment and literacy in the participating schools, both in Brazil and in the other countries. Replication of these innovative approaches is helping to improve the living conditions of large swathes of the region’s population.

#### **(h) Latin America and the Caribbean progressing towards regional financial integration**

Work is under way in Latin America in various spheres, such as within UNASUR and CELAC, on a major political process to step up levels of regional financial cooperation and integration.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC has drawn up proposals for the establishment of a financial safety net in the region, particularly on the design of a regional foreign reserves fund to support the liquidity needs of most of the countries in the region. The aim is to set up an expanded fund, which could be achieved by broadening the Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR) and endowing it with the capacity to mobilize around US\$ 15 billion.

A fund with that volume of resources would meet the combined balance-of-payments financing needs of some 10 (small and medium-sized) countries and help ensure the financial stability of the region in the event of a widespread or systemic external crisis. A proposal was submitted for the consideration of countries at the seminar on Financial Regionalism and Macroeconomic Stability, held by FLAR and the Andean Development Corporation, and at the XXXVI Meeting of the Network of Central Banks and Finance Ministries, organized by the Regional Policy Dialogue of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The proposal contained an analysis of the financial viability and an examination of various funding mechanisms, and discussed ways of addressing the key governance challenges of setting up such a fund at the regional level.

UNASUR, CELAC and the region’s central banks have committed to continuing discussions on the possible expansion of FLAR or the establishment of a new regional fund.

#### **(i) ECLAC supports capacity-building in planning and public administration for inclusive and sustainable development**

The P2P (“peer-to-peer”) Programme is a peer learning initiative developed by ILPES<sup>20</sup> with the support of BMZ and GIZ. It aims to foster and facilitate technical cooperation between government bodies in the region for the purposes of strengthening their capacities in planning and governance

<sup>20</sup> ILPES has been promoting and coordinating peer learning projects in Latin America since 2009. The experience of ILPES in the field began with the World Bank’s “LAC Middle Income Governance and Public Management Partnership Facility” project from 2009 to 2012. Over these three years, ILPES supported seven projects in the areas of planning and performance-based management, annual and multi-annual budget management, public investment and tax administration and the assessment of public policies, with the collaboration of public bodies such as the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico, the Treasury Board of Canada, the National Planning Department of Colombia, HM Treasury (United Kingdom), the Directorate General of Public Investment of the Dominican Republic, the Institute for Technical Development of Public Finances of Mexico and the Autonomous Community of Murcia, Spain.

for inclusive and sustainable development, as well as to provide them with first-hand access to best practices in the field in the region.

P2P activities include a technical cooperation project,<sup>21</sup> involving a specific learning process on planning and public management between two public bodies, selected in an open invitation to tender.

In practice, the peers (i) hold virtual meetings and remote exchanges; (ii) organize missions by the representatives of the recipient and donor agencies; (iii) review and analyse laws or rules, processes of reform and management, institutions, methodologies, procedures and mechanisms, among other aspects; and (iv) develop and implement new techniques for planning, budgeting, management and implementation, monitoring and evaluation or accountability in inclusive and sustainable development. ILPES supports, facilitates and oversees the implementation of projects and runs the invitations to tender for the programme.

In 2013 four initiatives selected by public invitations to tender were approved and began to operate.

The four P2P Programme initiatives implemented in 2013 (involving collaborations between Argentina and Mexico, Chile and Peru, Chile and El Salvador, and Peru and Uruguay) began to move forward in October and November.

- (i) Cooperation project between Chile and El Salvador on technical capacity-building for the Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (OPAMSS) in urban planning to reduce the impact of climate change. This project is being implemented by OPAMSS in conjunction with the Office of the Under-Secretary for Regional and Administrative Development of Chile's Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

Under the project, the best practices and experiences of the Santiago Metropolitan Region regarding climate change will be incorporated into arrangements for land-use management practices in the metropolitan area of San Salvador.



- (ii) Cooperation project between Uruguay and Peru on policies to promote green growth. This initiative entails using experience gained in Uruguay in the development and coordination of green growth policies as input material to draw up a green growth agenda for Peru.
- (iii) Cooperation project between Chile and Peru on expressions of interest in the technical cooperation project between Chile and Peru for sustainable public procurement in both countries. This project aims to identify key elements for the implementation of sustainable public procurement in Peru. It draws on the experience of ChileCompra, the government agency responsible for preparing and running invitations to tender for goods and services in the public sector.
- (iv) Technical collaboration between the Permanent Forum of Budget and Finance Directorates of the Republic of Argentina and the Institute for the Technical Development of Public Finances of Mexico. This project aims to draw up an institution-building plan and a proposal for the budgetary accounting of environmental issues and climate change.

<sup>21</sup> The average contribution from peers in P2P Programme cooperation projects is US\$ 15,000. Government bodies cooperating in projects provide additional funds (about US\$ 5,000) to the programme.

Over the first few months of the project, participants have welcomed this opportunity to hold exchanges of experiences and know-how between civil servants, to strengthen networks linking practitioners and to benefit from the specialized support of ILPES and ECLAC. This has also proved to be invaluable input material for ongoing processes of reform of planning and governance systems for inclusive and sustainable development.

## **2. Strengthening networks of experts**

### **(a) ECLAC contributes to finding solutions to climate change**

As part of its mandate, ECLAC provides the Governments of the region with support in generating expertise on assessing the impact of climate change and implementing public policies, with a particular emphasis on fiscal policy and policies on low-carbon growth with social inclusion, for adapting to new climate conditions and helping mitigate climate change.

The EUROCLIMA programme, funded by the European Commission and implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and ECLAC, with the support of the technical assistance body (TA), aims to raise the awareness of decision-makers and the scientific community in Latin America so as to ensure that sustainable development strategies pay due attention to climate change. The member countries of EUROCLIMA are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

Activities carried out as part of the programme include studies of the correlation between economic aspects and fiscal policies, and transfers of information and knowledge on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change and public policy alternatives for addressing them.

“EUROCLIMA has managed to promote alliances and networks as well as the exchange of know-how and ideas in a way that allows for those countries more experienced in certain topics to inform others on the ground covered and on lessons learned on recommendable best practices, and this will be strengthened further in the second phase,” explained Ericka Lucero del Águila of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala.

The aforementioned studies, supplemented by courses, workshops and technical assistance, have helped the countries of the region to broaden their knowledge of the causes and effects of climate change and on how to draw up public policies to mitigate and adapt to its effects. Notable activities included the support provided to Costa Rica for including green taxation issues in its proposed tax reform, discussions held with the authorities of Ecuador on the use of specific taxes (a tax on non-returnable plastic bottles and other general taxes on private cars) and work to pave the way for insurance against extreme weather events in Central America.

### **(b) Countries of the region support the creation of the Latin American Regional Development Network**

The phenomenon of economic and social segregation and sharp disparity in levels of development between areas within the same country cannot be overlooked in national public policy agendas and the Governments of many countries of the region have drawn up and implemented strategies promoting a more geographically balanced pattern of development.

ILPES held a seminar on territorial development policies for national authorities in Santiago, in October 2012. Seven countries —Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador and Guatemala— took part and expressed their interest in forming a network to strengthen strategies to reduce regional imbalances in Latin America by means of public management.

The Latin American Regional Development Network was established in two meetings, held in Brasilia in March and December 2013, in which ILPES drew up technical studies on political and territorial indicators, in collaboration with the EUROsociAL programme. The Network is made up of 14 Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. Brazil, El Salvador and Mexico were nominated as coordinators of the Network's activities for 2014.

As Francisco Teixeira, the Minister of National Integration of Brazil, stated, the launch of the Network is the first step in building a fairer, more balanced territory, not only in terms of public resources, but also in terms of the production chains that create employment and income: "we need to work in an integrated manner to outline strategies to promote development of the regions and put an end to poverty and inequality."

The Network is assisted by a support group made up of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Centre, ILPES, the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, which provides consultancy services, conducts studies and lends technical assistance to the countries covered by the work plan, which also receive financial and technical support from EUROsociAL.

### **(c) ECLAC supports capacity-building and the creation of networks and communities of practice between the region's civil servants**

Technical training was provided for government officials in Latin America with a view to contributing to building institutional capacities in the countries of the region and drawing attention to the importance of planning as a far-reaching sociopolitical process.

The overarching objective of the programme was to train government officials by imparting methodologies, tools and best practices for the preparing, planning and evaluation of public policies and programmes.

To this end, one- or two-week courses were structured around a mixture of classroom teaching and workshops. This modality served to convey the conceptual framework, develop criteria and pass on expertise on techniques and tools by means of the systematic use of group workshops and case studies.

This programme followed the guidelines of the AECID Master Plan, whose objectives are very much aligned with those of ILPES, as seen in the convergence of objectives and the synergies arising from joint work between the two bodies on both the 2010-2013 ECLAC-AECID programme "Building knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean" and the Ibero-American Specialized Technical Training Programme (PIFTE) to build capacities for development planning and good governance. This convergence boded well for the pursuit of a common outcome: strengthened capacities for development planning and better public management.

The programme is structured around three core training courses:

- (i) Leadership and management for development (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 9-13 September 2013), which provided participants from 14 countries with the opportunity to discuss strategic problems involving Latin American integration, enter into dialogue with political leaders in the region and hone their skills in drawing up strategic agendas and styles of leadership for their implementation. One major achievement was establishing a network of alumni working to build a Latin American gender agenda.

- (ii) Planning, governance and development (third edition, Antigua, Guatemala, 16-27 September 2013), which contributed to redeeming planning within this new rationale, in view of the current context, and provided opportunities for practical and theoretical analysis and debates among decision- and policy-makers.
- (iii) e-Government in the open government era (Antigua, Guatemala, 30 September-4 October 2013), which succeeded in strengthening a network of e-government experts via the inclusion of 29 professionals representing 14 Latin American countries.

These courses addressed specialized issues that are commonly overlooked in the curricula of educational establishments in Latin America and the Caribbean and had the advantage of combining theory with practice and enabling the systematization of lessons learned in the countries of the region and exchanges of know-how between participants. They also provided opportunities for meetings and dialogue between experts from governments in Latin America, thereby enabling exchanges of experiences and best practices on procedures, techniques and activities, and fostering the creation of networks and communities of practice linking officials from ministries of planning and other public bodies such as technical secretariats and sector-specific ministries.

The programme succeeded in positioning this new approach to planning on the regional agenda. The approach reflects national development agendas, and is, in a break from past practices, increasingly being drawn up in a collegiate manner, mirroring the democratic progress of the countries of the region. One of the learning objectives of the course was capacity-building with a view to including a set of public policy priorities on government agendas. As a result, these priorities have been included in various national development programmes and sectoral and regional plans in countries such as Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and El Salvador.

### **3. Direct technical assistance**

#### **(a) ECLAC contributes to the discussion on middle-income countries with its new structural gap approach**

A key element of the current debate on the post-2015 development agenda and the international cooperation system is the selection of criteria for allocating cooperation resources, including official development assistance, which are currently based primarily on per capita income.

At the thirty-third session of ECLAC, held in Brasilia in 2010, the member countries gave the secretariat of the Commission a new mandate for further work to analyse, in collaboration with other international and regional intergovernmental agencies, fresh alternatives for generating the volume of resources necessary for financing the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop, together with other international and regional agencies, a broader set of indicators to reflect the particular realities in the countries and support the identification of their main needs, so that classification as a middle-income country would cease to be an a priori impediment to participation in official development assistance.

ECLAC has been an active participant in this debate, proposing new criteria for the allocation of international aid resources. It has suggested, for example, that the criterion of per capita income should be supplemented with a new approach based on addressing the structural gaps (in terms of inequality and poverty, investment and savings, productivity and innovation, infrastructure, education, health, taxation, gender and the environment) that hinder the development of middle-income countries.

This proposal has been presented in various international forums, such as the meeting on the European Parliament's new perspective on the European Union's development relationship with Latin America and the regional conference on prospects for triangular cooperation in Latin America and the impact of triangular cooperation, held by the Mexican Agency for International Development (AMEXCID) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Numerous countries in the region, including Costa Rica and El Salvador, have therefore asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance in measuring and analysing structural development gaps, and national working groups have subsequently been established to gather data and establish indicators in preparation for the process of analysis.

#### **(b) Promoting high-quality employment for women**

ECLAC, with support from BMZ and GIZ, has helped develop public policy proposals to increase quality employment for women, particularly in dynamic, highly innovative technology sectors. It has also succeeded in positioning and promoting the gender-equality agenda with ministries directly responsible for economic and production development at the national level (ministries of employment, industry and economy, agriculture and innovation and technology), and in facilitating coordination by using machineries for the advancement of women.

In Costa Rica, the inter-agency and intersectoral strategy to empower productive women was drawn up in a series of workshops held with the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Institute for Women (INAMU) and various agencies with experience of supporting production projects run by women. A participatory methodology engaging the private sector was also adopted and is now being used to draw up the operational plan for implementing the strategy. A similar process was carried out in El Salvador, whose achievements include the publishing of a report on measures taken by various State agencies to improve the economic situation of Salvadoran women and the drafting of a national agreement with recommendations for women's economic empowerment.



These results were presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, 14-18 October 2013). Other countries are expected to benefit from these experiences and best practices, and the project is already being replicated in Panama and Peru for example. In Peru, the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Trade, Production, Labour, Finance and Foreign Affairs have made a formal commitment to work together to foster the economic empowerment of women. These activities are also expected to give rise to regional synergies.

#### **(c) Four countries undertake tax policy reform on the basis of recommendations from ECLAC**

In recent years ECLAC has worked, with the support of AECID, to promote discussion on the need for tax reform in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to promoting greater economic growth and higher levels of social inclusion and equality, reducing exposure to the impact of external volatility and creating more high-quality jobs.

ECLAC provided Governments with guidelines and recommendations on how to modernize fiscal instruments (in respect of such issues as social inequality, tax policy and climate change)



through case studies, exchanges of experiences and seminars with senior government officials (ministers and vice-ministers). Following consideration of these recommendations, the Governments of the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala asked ECLAC for technical assistance in undertaking tax policy reforms.

In El Salvador, the national climate change strategy implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources took account of the recommendation to apply a methodology to identify the revenues and expenses associated with climate change in the country's budget, on the basis of international standards and previous studies. In Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala authorities have committed to undertaking tax reforms to make State income redistribution measures more effective by, for example, increasing progressiveness within the tax system and tax brackets, improving the rate structure and increasing collection levels with a view, ultimately, to improving key equity indicators.

In the medium term, these reforms are expected to reduce tax evasion and macroeconomic volatility, and improve tax equity and social cohesion in these countries.

#### **(d) El Salvador draws up draft law on development and social protection**

Over the first few months of 2013 ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Government of El Salvador, via the Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President, in drawing up the draft law on development and social protection which President Mauricio Funes submitted to the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2013, marking the beginning of a parliamentary process of discussion and approval that is expected to be completed in early 2014.



The draft law is far-reaching, innovative in the context of the subregion and underpinned by a rights-based approach and the objective of institutionalizing the country's social policy. The law's three main pillars are the pursuit of equality, respect for diversity and the promotion of citizen participation. It also represents a step forward in terms of more comprehensive and integrated social policy and includes key concepts for the multidimensional measurement of poverty and inequality.

Work with the Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President on the draft law was intensive and highly collaborative. In the course of 14 meetings with the Chief of the Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, a proposal was jointly drawn up to strengthen the Government's institutional, conceptual and technical capacities for preparing social legislation and for developing and evaluating public policies.

Before being put to the Legislative Assembly, the draft law was subjected to a detailed process of analysis with the Office of the President's Legal Affairs Department and submitted for consideration to El Salvador's Economic and Social Council and to various academic institutions and civil society organizations.

"What we are looking to do is to institutionalize the universal system of social protection that my government began setting up on 1 June 2009. Our country needs this system to safeguard and uphold the rights of the people, since the State is the custodian of their right to equality, fairness and the recognition of their diversity under our gender policy."

*Mauricio Funes, President of El Salvador*

#### **(e) Helping to strengthen value chains in El Salvador and Guatemala as an instrument of industrial policy**

In response to requests from the Governments of El Salvador and Guatemala, ECLAC provided support in drawing up strategies to encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen value chains. The value chains selected were shrimp farming and synthetic fibres (dry fit sportswear) in El Salvador and non-traditional vegetable and timber products from forest concessions in the department of Petén in Guatemala.

The methodology devised by ECLAC focuses on using diagnostic analysis to identify production constraints and best practices and to develop strategies. It is participatory in nature, and relies on roundtables to discuss and validate the diagnoses made and the strategies put forward, thereby helping build consensus for implementing these strategies.

The project strengthened local capacities by holding workshops to pass on the methodology to government officials and representatives of private-sector organizations.

The initial results are already evident. In El Salvador, the Ministry of the Economy has already adopted, as part of its industrial policy plan, the strategies put forward and announced specific measures to support the two value chains. For the shrimp-farming chain, the Technical Committee on Aquaculture was re-established, an inter-agency group was set up to combat smuggling, funding was provided to four projects run by shrimp farmers' cooperatives and a workshop on food quality and safety was organized. For the synthetic fibre chain, an agenda was put in place to establish and run an innovation and technological development centre for textiles and garments, and to take steps to deal with high electricity prices. In Guatemala, the Government will use a portion of a loan from the World Bank to implement some of the strategies put forward, to fine-tune production processes, with a particular focus on quality and value added in timber products and adopting agricultural best practices concerning non-traditional vegetables, research into new products and improving certification laboratories.

#### **(f) ECLAC promotes universal social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean and supports processes of reform, assessment and social dialogue**

The ECLAC project on a social compact for more inclusive social protection, implemented with support from BMZ and GIZ, aims primarily to support governments in processes of reform, assessment and social dialogue aimed at securing compacts and consensus in line with the principal recommendations and assessments made by ECLAC. The aim is for these compacts to translate into more inclusive, rights-based social protection systems. In the following cases, ECLAC support was particularly successful in helping develop new laws or regulatory frameworks paving the way for universal social protection systems:

- Colombia: a high-level dialogue took place between the Minister of Health and Social Protection and representatives from the judiciary and civil society on the judicialization of the right to health, as part of the process of reform of the health system (Statutory Law (PL Senate 209/13) and Ordinary Law (PL Senate 210/13)). ECLAC contributed to ensuring meaningful and balanced high-level dialogue by acting as a conduit for discussion on judicialization of the right to health amid a diverse political climate.<sup>22</sup>
- Costa Rica: substantive and institutional support was provided to the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Family in promoting and tabling the Child Care and Development Act.

<sup>22</sup> For information on subject matter and attendees at the seminar, see [online] <http://dds.cepal.org/proteccionsocial/pacto-social/actividades-2013-07-taller-judicializacion-salud-colombia>.

This law is currently being debated in Congress. Fernando Marín, Minister of Social Welfare and the Family, has stated that the aim is for the law to be the basis of the country's fourth universal programme, after those on health, education and pensions (see the official announcement [online] <http://www.asamblea.go.cr/Lists/Noticias/DispForm.aspx?ID=4287>). The Minister added that this draft framework act aimed to meet the changing needs of the population.

- Ecuador: (i) substantive advisory services were provided and active participation in the debate on the National Policy for Equality and Eradication of Extreme Poverty was facilitated. The public sector (representatives from the social and economic spheres) and non-State actors (civil society and the private sector) were successfully engaged in the discussion. This strategy was also combined with the ongoing shift in the production matrix, as an innovative example of cooperation. (ii) Substantive support was lent to the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) in systematizing the process of building care facilities as a public policy objective, thereby setting a precedent that will be useful in subsequent phases of similar processes in other countries.
- El Salvador: the system of universal social protection was consolidated and institutionalized with the submission of the Development and Social Protection Act. According to the Technical Secretariat of the President's Office, the Act should progressively ensure full enjoyment of social, cultural and environmental rights, and build the strategic foundations for a national social policy, thus providing short- and long-term stability. The draft law is currently being debated in the Legislative Assembly.<sup>23</sup>

"The universal social protection system provides that the State must offer all Salvadorans, whether rich or poor, a minimum set of social services by virtue of their being Salvadoran. This Act seeks to give institutional effect to the system of protection that the Government of President Mauricio Funes began creating on the first day of his mandate to ensure the fulfilment of the rights of all persons with equality, equity and respect for diversity, and adopting a gender perspective and approach."

*Alexander Segovia, Technical Secretary of the Presidency of El Salvador*

- Uruguay: support and reporting was provided on the process of setting up the Ministry of Social Development's care system.<sup>24</sup> This system is designed to cater for four main groups of the population: (i) young children (particularly up to three years of age); (ii) persons who are dependent as a result of a disability; (iii) older adults who are dependent; and (iv) caregivers. Since it is intended to be universal, the system should ultimately reach all members of these groups, but the criteria for the initial stages are intended to ensure that efforts will target the most vulnerable.

**(g) ECLAC and Mexico working together to study commercial bank financing determinants and barriers for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises**

Mexico's National Banking and Securities Commission (CNBV) formally requested ECLAC technical cooperation to conduct a study on commercial bank financing for micro-enterprises and SMEs in Mexico, and the determining factors and barriers in this regard. This request was one of a raft of measures CNBV has taken to increase financing for production capacity in Mexico, which is currently severely underfunded.

<sup>23</sup> Official announcement [online]: <http://tecnica.presidencia.gob.sv/component/k2/item/888-stp-presenta-el-anteproyecto-de-ley-de-desarrollo-y-proteccion-social-y-promueve-el-diagnostico-con-importantes-sectores-de-la-sociedad-salvadorena>.

<sup>24</sup> The initial draft law has been approved by the social cabinet and is currently being debated, for further details see [online]: [http://www.mides.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/23302/1/12.11\\_zsnc\\_hacia\\_un\\_modelo\\_solidario\\_de\\_cuidados.pdf](http://www.mides.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/23302/1/12.11_zsnc_hacia_un_modelo_solidario_de_cuidados.pdf).

ECLAC officials worked in close cooperation with staff from the CNBV Directorate of Economic Studies at every stage the process. The first step was a detailed review of the theoretical and empirical literature on funding of micro-enterprises and SMEs. The study carried out by ECLAC focused on the supply side (commercial banks), since the CNBV and the Bank of Mexico were conducting an analysis of the demand side (companies). This review was taken as a basis on which to identify eight factors potentially related to the supply of financing to micro-enterprises and SMEs. The second step consisted of interviews with commercial banks which provide credit to this segment in Mexico. The third and final stage was the presentation and validation of the results with representatives of banks, companies and academic institutions.

The study showed that commercial banks were increasingly willing to provide credit to micro-enterprises and SMEs, although such loans still represented only a small proportion of their total portfolio (11%). Three different business models were identified (for large banks, regional or niche banks and banks with no special department for micro-enterprises and SMEs). The three models showed major differences in strategy towards SMEs. The obstacles to more widely available credit are poor or non-existent information on companies, flaws in the creditor protection system, the informality of the companies themselves and the changes and turbulence that Mexico's commercial banking sector has gone through in the past three decades. However, the system of guarantees, transaction costs and the origin of capital did not appear to be obstacles to the granting of credit.

#### **(h) Brazil incorporates recommendations from ECLAC, GIZ and the Institute of Applied Economic Research into its new Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Legal Amazon Deforestation**

Deforestation in Brazil has fallen significantly, from 27,772 km<sup>2</sup> (an area almost the size of Belgium) in 2004 to 4,571 km<sup>2</sup> in 2012. This is lowest recorded figure since 1988. The implementation of Brazil's Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Legal Amazon Deforestation (PPCDAm) has been a crucial reason for this.

In 2010, the Government of Brazil asked ECLAC for support in evaluating the results of the second phase of the plan (2007-2010) and in proposing recommendations on how to devise its third phase (2012-2015).

This evaluation was carried out in conjunction with GIZ Brazil and the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) as part of the BMZ-GIZ-supported project "Sustainable development and social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean". Many of the recommendations of this evaluation were included in the third phase of PPCDAm, including: (i) a revised governance structure for the plan, strengthening the participation of other federal entities and civil society, (ii) a revised role for the Amazon Fund<sup>25</sup> in the financing of public policy for the control of deforestation; and (iii) the prioritization of the municipalities with the highest rates of deforestation to focus actions. The evaluation's recommendations, which are already being implemented, include according priority attention to the regularization of land tenure.

Brazil's success in designing and implementing public policies to combat deforestation has led to a growing awareness of the need to share the results of this technical assistance work with other countries facing similar challenges. The results were presented at a meeting in October 2011 to which, under the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), other Amazonian countries were invited.

<sup>25</sup> The Amazon Fund aims to attract non-refundable investment grants to be used to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, and to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome, in accordance with Decree No. 6527 of 1 August 2008. The major donors are the Governments of Norway and Germany and the Brazilian State-owned company Petrobras.

Other Amazonian countries are expected to take account of Brazil's lessons learned and best practices in their own national plans.

"The evaluation of PPCDAm from 2007 to 2010 is for us, the Executive Committee of the Plan, an invaluable working tool. First, because it provided a insight into the intricate socioeconomic relationship that leads to deforestation in the Amazon. Second, because, in assessing the role of public policy in environmental issues, it provided an overview of perspectives that are already being incorporated into the process of revising the Plan itself. Third, because this was not a theoretical or academic exercise, but rather a process that obtained results that can be directly applied in policymaking. And the tried and tested ECLAC-developed methodology, based on of dialogue among peers, meant that the study would lead to an in-depth reflection."

*Johaness Eck and Mauro Oliveira Pires, PPCDAm Executive Committee*

#### **(i) Thirty-nine countries in the region take part in the International Comparison Programme**

The International Comparison Programme is a global statistical partnership, funded by various trust funds administered by the World Bank, to collect comparative macroeconomic data and compile detailed expenditure values of countries' GDP, and to estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's economies.

PPPs make it possible to compare GDP figures from economies around the world and overcome the problems inherent in the use of market exchange rates, which are generally subject to financial or speculative fluctuations that can skew results and comparative analyses. PPPs are used by government agencies, universities, research institutes, public companies, private companies, banks and the media to analyse competitiveness and productivity, and by international agencies to calculate the poverty line.



ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) made a contribution of US\$ 600,000 to ensure implementation of the latest round of the International Comparison Programme, which began in 2011 and whose results will be published in the first half of 2014. Almost 190 countries took part in the project, including 39 from the Latin American and Caribbean region—an unprecedented number. Twenty-two of those 39 countries were from the Caribbean, a region that participated in the programme for the first time in the more than 50 years since its inception.

#### **(j) Methodology for measuring the cost of hunger in Latin America used in Africa**

ECLAC and the World Food Programme (WFP) have been working together for more than 10 years to draw up studies and methodologies to analyse food and nutritional security and poverty. One such study, on the cost of hunger, aimed to stress the economic need to take urgent measures to eradicate child malnutrition.

From 2004 to 2009 studies were conducted for five countries in South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru) and seven in Central American and the Caribbean (Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama).

The studies provided a different perspective on undernutrition and other social problems, and linked their social impact with their economic cost for society at large. The proposal therefore gives countries insights into the impact on long-run economic growth of failing to eradicate undernutrition, and the savings that can be achieved if the requisite action is taken. This therefore illustrates the cost of inaction, not only on undernutrition but also on other social problems.

As a result of the success and the innovative methodology applied in the cost of hunger study, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union decided to work together with ECLAC and WFP to adapt it for implementation and replication in Africa.

This process began with exchanges of experiences and technical assistance assignments, together with an estimation of the cost of hunger in a pilot project in four countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda). The methodology was successfully adapted and a second phase was carried out with the participation of 12 countries.

#### **4. Regional integration**

##### **(a) ECLAC positions energy efficiency on the regional agenda**

One of the strategic objectives of ECLAC over the past 10 years has been to place energy efficiency higher up on the region's political agenda. ECLAC considers energy efficiency to be an important vector for social and environmental improvement, since it reduces environmental costs, thereby freeing up fiscal resources for use in other areas (investment in education, poverty eradication efforts and training, among others) and helping mitigate the effects of climate change.

To this end, since 2010 ECLAC has been working in cooperation with the Government of Germany to open up a forum for political discussion on the subject by holding annual events to establish a regional dialogue on energy efficiency policies.

The operational objective of the Political Dialogue on Energy Efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean (held in Santiago, Santo Domingo, Panama City and Mexico City over the past four years) has been to consolidate horizontal and international cooperation on energy efficiency by identifying best practices in policymaking on the rational and sustainable use of energy and promoting new energy efficiency policies in the region.

Paying testimony to the success of the events and the commitment of the countries, on the occasion of the third Dialogue, the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), issued a statement urging ECLAC to continue organizing these meetings and to identify new areas of collaboration and dialogue on energy efficiency. The fourth dialogue was the best attended ever, with its participants including the representatives of 20 Governments in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Panama, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay) and, for the first time, nine multilateral organizations (Andean Development Corporation, IDB, OAS, the Association of Ibero-American Regulators (ARIAE), the French Development Agency (AFD), PARLATINO, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the German development bank KfW).

In the four editions of the Dialogue, participating governments expressed their interest in continuing to work on this initiative to plan new public policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure energy efficiency at national and regional level.

## **(b) ECLAC promotes a new regional agenda on population and development**

One of the main achievements of cooperation between ECLAC and UNFPA has been the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, August 2013), at which the 38 participating national delegations agreed upon principles, priority areas and frameworks for the implementation of the regional agenda presented in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.



The Montevideo Consensus contains over 120 measures concerning the eight priority areas to follow up on the Programme of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. National delegates stated that full integration of population dynamics in sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights must be the guiding framework for strengthening public policies and actions needed to eradicate poverty, exclusion and inequality. In this connection, they also agreed to apply a human rights approach with a gender and intercultural perspective when dealing with population and development matters, as well as ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns, in order to avoid exacerbating the undesirable climate change phenomena.

The participants in the meeting numbered over 800, making it one of the largest intergovernmental conferences in recent years in the region.

ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat, was also responsible for organizing, in coordination with the Government of Costa Rica, the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean (San José, May 2012), at which the San Jose Charter on the Rights of Older Persons was adopted. In the Charter, the countries reaffirm their commitment to spare no effort to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons, to work to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence and to create networks for the protection of older persons with a view to ensuring the effective exercise of their rights. To date, more than 18,000 copies of the Charter have been distributed, and a first regional follow-up meeting was held in San José in 2013.

“Through this conference, we are not only honouring the legacy of older persons but also working for the future of our region. The moment to be farsighted, the moment to be socially committed, the moment to do things right is now.”

*Laura Chinchilla, President of Costa Rica*

## **(c) Natural resource governance positioned on the political agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean**

In response to a request from the countries of UNASUR and as the continuation of sustained work on natural resource governance, ECLAC prepared the document *Natural resources within the Union of South American Nations: status and trends for a regional development agenda*,<sup>26</sup> which was presented at the Conference of the Union of South American Nations on Natural Resources and Integral Development in the Region, held in May 2013.

The countries of UNASUR welcomed the document and showed a keen interest in the issue, which was thus positioned on their political agenda.

The document had such an instant, wide-ranging impact that CELAC called on ECLAC to draft another such document<sup>27</sup> this time referring to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>26</sup> LC/L.3627, May 2013.

<sup>27</sup> Natural resources: status and trends towards a regional development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3748, December 2013).

This was subsequently presented at the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Havana in January 2014.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway has pledged to help improve natural resource governance through its work in cooperation with ECLAC on the project to promote equality in the region, a new initiative for exchanges of relevant experiences that will aim to create the necessary know-how to align regulatory frameworks and arrangements for the use of royalties from natural resources and thereby pave the way for more egalitarian societies.

This initiative could have a significant impact on the global development agenda in respect of climate change, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and, particularly, on the post-2015 development agenda.

#### **(d) ECLAC helps establish interregional dialogue on equality**

The programme to promote equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, implemented in cooperation between ECLAC and the Government of Norway, aims to develop know-how and skills for the promotion of equality policies (social protection and production structure, natural resources and gender equality) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To this end, a process of interregional dialogue has begun on public policies for equality between experts, researchers and decision-makers from Latin America and the Caribbean, Norway and some European countries.

This dialogue has led to, for example, exchanges of best practices on social protection from Brazil, Ecuador, Norway and Uruguay. The programme also provides a forum for dialogue on other crucial issues concerning equality, such as the use of revenues from natural resources and the promotion of gender equality policies.

The projects has made some significant achievements in its first few months, one of which has been to position on the regional development agenda the need for more inclusive, rights-based social protection systems providing universal coverage with solidarity-based financing arrangements.

The importance of this issue was stressed at the International Seminar on Public Policy for Equality: Towards universal social protection systems, which was attended by some 100 representatives of ministries of social affairs and other agencies responsible for social protection policies, as well as academics and representatives of international organizations in 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and experts from Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

#### **(e) Implementation of single energy agenda now under way**

An entire decade of work on sustainable energy was outlined in the study of the region entitled *Energía: una visión sobre los retos y oportunidades en América Latina y el Caribe*, which was prepared by ECLAC in cooperation with various regional agencies working in the areas of social integration or energy (the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Andean Development Corporation, the Regional Association of Oil, Gas and Biofuels Sector Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARPEL), the Commission of Regional Electrical Integration (CIER), OAS, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the World Energy Council (WEC)). The study was made possible by independent funding from ECLAC and the support of BMZ and GIZ, and was presented in October 2013 at the headquarters of LAIA as the first paper on a possible single energy agenda for the region, bringing together the visions of all these multilateral agencies with links to the energy sector.



Thorstein Wangen, Adviser, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Martin Hopenhayn, Chief, Social Development Division, ECLAC and Daniel Olesker, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay.

The proposals made in the paper were so well received by the countries of the region that ECLAC will continue working to develop the concept of a single energy agenda in a second phase in collaboration with the Andean Development Corporation and other agencies, and with the support of BMZ of Germany.

**(f) Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean progressing towards a regional instrument to strengthen access rights on environmental matters**

“We are aware that the environmental challenges we face on a national, regional and global level require far more concerted proactive and effective action from the international community and organizations. We are thus willing to explore in detail various ways to enhance the exercise of those rights with the active involvement of the key stakeholders and society as a whole.”

*Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 on of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012, and at the proposal of Chile, the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was signed. The signatory countries, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, undertook to draft and implement a plan of action to 2014, with the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat, to advance towards a regional agreement or other instrument to ensure full implementation of the rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Three meetings of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 have thus far been held, at which the Road Map, the Plan of Action to 2014 and the vision for a regional instrument on access rights relating to the environment were approved.

- (i) Road Map (Santiago, November 2012): delegates pledged to move towards a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.
- (ii) Plan of Action to 2014 (Guadalajara, Mexico, April 2013): this meeting was primarily concerned with promoting the Declaration, building on progress made in the region in terms of access rights, encouraging the active participation of civil society and setting up working groups to progress towards establishing a regional instrument.
- (iii) Lima vision for a regional instrument on access rights relating to the environment (Lima, October 2013): the signatory countries agreed upon the values and guiding principles for the regional instrument, namely equality, inclusion, transparency, proactivity, collaboration, progressivity and non-regression.

Thus far, 17 countries in the region have signed the Declaration, which is open to all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brazil acceded to the Declaration at the first meeting of the focal points, in Santiago in November 2012. Trinidad and Tobago signed at the Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the development agenda beyond 2015 and Rio+20, held on 7-9 March 2013 in Bogota. Colombia and Honduras, signed at the meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico in April 2013. Argentina became a party to the Declaration in May 2013 by an official note sent to ECLAC. Lastly, Guatemala and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became parties in Lima, in October 2013.



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