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## ROAD MAPS TOWARDS AN INFORMATION SOCIETY

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United Nations

# ECLAC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**T**he new media available for creating and distributing information using digital technologies are producing profound changes in our world and have created a new paradigm with regard to the concept of “information society”.

From Latin America and the Caribbean’s point of view, it is extremely important to determine how this new paradigm can contribute to the achievement of broader deve-

lopment objectives and the region’s full integration in the world information society. With this in mind, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) prepared the report *Road Maps Towards an Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which was presented at the **Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World**

**Summit on the Information Society**, which was held in Bavaro, the Dominican Republic, from 29 to 31 January 2003. This meeting forms part of preparations for the **World Summit on the Information Society**, to be held in two stages: 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, and 2005 in Tunisia.

The ECLAC paper attempts to answer three fundamental questions:

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## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE WORLD ECONOMY 2001-2002

**I**mports into Latin America and the Caribbean fell 9% in 2002 compared to 2001. Exports rose by an estimated 0.8%, because some countries managed to boost volumes to offset the steady decline in prices for most goods. After falling steadily, some improvement in exports became apparent in the third quarter of the year.

In its annual report, *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy 2001-2002*, ECLAC has found that declining trade in goods for 2001-2002 is due to a combination of factors: economic slowdown in the main import markets; falling prices for commodities and manufactured goods; and internal economic problems in some Latin American countries.

ECLAC estimates that 11 of the 18 countries in Latin America experienced declines in their exports by value, while six of

these saw both values per unit and volumes fall. Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay experienced losses for the second year running. Brazil and Peru were the only ones to turn this around during 2001-2002, despite the decline in prices for their products.

In 2001-2002, most of the region’s countries goods exports to the United States, the European Union and Japan plunged. In contrast, developing countries in Asia emerged as strongly performing markets: Chile, Mexico, the countries of Mercosur and the Central American Common Market managed to improve their position there.

In 2002, Latin American countries accumulated surpluses for trade in goods of over US\$24 billion, because of surpluses in

(continued on page 6 ➡)

## OUR DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO

**T**he concept of an “information society” reflects the far-reaching changes that are taking place in the world today, as digital media is introduced and refined. This process has opened up promising opportunities for developing countries, but it has also given rise to new types of exclusion: the “international digital divide,” which threatens to widen the abyss between developed and developing nations even further, and the “domestic digital divide,” which is just as serious a threat in terms of the further expansion of the vast social distances between different groups of citizens within countries. In many ways, given the striking inequalities that mar our society, the domestic digital divide in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is even deeper and poses a more formidable challenge than the international divide.

The impact of the international divide has been declining as our region has seen the fastest growth in Internet use in the world in recent years. In 2002, 8% of the population had Internet access, compared to 9% worldwide. Mobile telephones are used by 18% of our region’s inhabitants, while the global average is 19%.

In contrast, the domestic digital divide has been deepening. Nearly 70% of the richest 15% of the region’s population has access to the Internet, versus the 10% connectivity rate overall. A new form of exclusion is beginning to emerge, one that is reflected in the existence of tiny islands of connectivity amidst an ocean of citizens who are excluded from the benefits of this transformation. This “digital exclusion” makes it imperative

for us to ensure at least a basic minimum of universal access to information infrastructure. This is not simply a matter of hooking up computers; it also entails providing the population with the necessary training to make use of new technologies.


The key question to be answered by developing countries is not whether to attain connectivity or not, but rather when and how to do so. National strategies should be designed in order to take the three dimensions of the information society into account: its technological requirements (infrastructure and generic services), the different e-sectors’ institutional and organizational realities

***“The key question to be answered by developing countries is not whether to attain connectivity or not, but rather when and how to do so”.***

and requirements, and this new society’s requirements in terms of regulatory systems, financial mechanisms, and human capital. In order to break down this domestic digital divide, we have to reduce individual access costs by providing shared-access systems, provide simple, low-cost hardware and design policy strategies for promoting the use of open-source standards and software. Users need to be given “e-literacy” training, and a workforce capable of sustaining the information society has to be trained and maintained.

As a region we must take action to facilitate cooperation among national authorities, civil society and the private sector. Policies should be aimed at harmonizing the countries’ legal and regulatory frameworks, setting up financing mechanisms to ensure the continuity of the information society, creating and sharing regional content, and supporting the development of human capital. A regional observatory should be set up, which can be used to monitor progress towards the goals to be defined in 2003 and 2005 at the UN’s World Summit on the Information Society.

The harmonization of existing legislative and regulatory frameworks should help to facilitate and encourage digital communications and transactions, and the formulation of a strategy for successfully positioning the region at the international level will increase our ability to influence this global process. This will give us more bargaining power in areas of such vital importance as software licensing, the production of low-cost hardware and the introduction of third-generation mobile telephony and digital television.

The countries of the region that succeed in moving towards full membership in the global information society will have promising possibilities available to them in the future. But perhaps never before has this window of opportunity been on the verge of closing so rapidly, nor has the risk of missing out entailed such enormous costs for future generations. 

The author is ECLAC’s Executive Secretary.

1. What kind of information society should be built?
2. What are the basic characteristics and peculiarities of the transition toward an information society in Latin America and the Caribbean?
3. What policy measures could drive this transition toward the information society?

To answer the first question, the authors, Jorge Katz and Martin Hilbert, start with several key definitions. The concept of “information society” is very complex and its development still in the early stages. Thus, the conceptual framework used by **ECLAC** is based on the general characteristics of information and communications technologies (ICT) and the resulting digitization process, which form the nucleus of this emerging paradigm.

ICTs are defined as technological systems used to receive, manipulate and process information and they facilitate communication between two or more actors. As a result, ICTs are something more than information technology and computers, because they do not function as isolated systems, but rather connected to others through a network.

In the report, **ECLAC** argues that key elements for developing an information society must include the individual and the community. The priorities set to reach these objectives will clearly influence the development agenda.

Economic development can also be one of the guiding principles of the information society. It is estimated that electronic transactions could eventually account for as much as 20% of the region’s GDP in the near future; combined with evidence of rising productivity in developed countries, this means that the transition to a digital economy offers real opportunities for increasing productivity and competitiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Aside from potential economic objectives, new technologies can also be used to achieve social development targets. The digitisation process can help to raise educational standards and improve teaching mechanisms. It also provides tools for mitigating poverty. With help from appropriate contents and low-cost access to ICTs, basic needs can be covered in several areas.

The effort involved in building an information society can also be guided by the objective of improving participation in the public sphere and the political system. ICTs can be used to generate public goods, make them more efficient, and improve the transparency of government administration.

On the second question that the report attempts to answer, **ECLAC** emphasizes that in Latin America and the Caribbean, the current debate about the transition to the information society and

the digital era is often based on theoretical models from developed countries that are unsatisfactory for grasping the reality of this region. The economies of the region’s countries have not grown enough. Lately foreign direct investment (FDI) flows -which sustain basic telecommunications infrastructure- have fallen considerably, thus raising doubts about the future pace of this transition to the digital era.



## The Digital Divide

An important concept that illustrates this situation is the so-called “digital divide”, which has both international and national dimensions. The international divide is apparent from the figure that 79% of Internet users live in countries that are part of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), while the national divide is apparent in a new form of exclusion within a region with severe economic and social inequalities.

On policy measures that could encourage the transition to an information society, **ECLAC** distinguishes between national and international strategies. The first can start with a small-scale government initiative, but the ultimate objective must be to integrate the whole public sector, national, regional and international institutions, regulatory and technical authorities, academics, private sector service providers and high-technology industry, intermediate institutions and civil society.

International strategies can be of subregional, regional or global scope. International cooperation can be beneficial in any of these spheres. One area where international cooperation is particularly important is in development international legislative standards to facilitate on-line activities.

It is also important that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean defend their interests and play an active role in future negotiations with the World Trade Organization on the treatment of electronic commerce. Thus, for the region’s countries to influence the building of a world information society that serves their interests, they must make their voice heard in the international concert. Regional cooperation is vital, as is a common vision and the energetic promotion of this vision in world forums such as the **World Summit On the Information Society 2003-2005**, all key elements to ensure the region progresses in this direction. [www.ict.ac](http://www.ict.ac)

Also available in **ECLAC**’s website is the book *Building an Information Society: a Latin American and Caribbean Perspective*, from the same authors.

# INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES PENDING

JAN HOFFMANN

**T**he countries of Latin America and the Caribbean pay more for transporting their trade than the world average. There are, however, enormous differences within the region. While in Brazil and Mexico average transportation costs are less than 5% of the merchandise value, this figure may reach up to 15% in some Caribbean countries.

In recent years, efforts are once again underway to increase the physical integration of the region's countries and thus improve competitiveness and integration.

The Initiative for Regional Infrastructure Integration in South America (IIRSA), the Puebla-Panama Plan, and activities carried out by the Association of Caribbean States' (ACS) Transportation Committee treat transportation services as a major component in these efforts to improve integration and competitiveness.

For most Latin American and Caribbean trade, the cost of international freight is two or three times that of import tariffs. While tariffs have reached historic lows, there is still significant room to reduce transaction costs in transportation.

The quality of transportation services is crucial to integrating production processes, which require inputs with ever greater reliability, speed and frequency. Empirically, in developing countries a reduction of transport costs by half involves a quadruplication of trade volumes.



## The Virtuous Circle of Subregional Integration

To identify how much governments can influence international transportation quality and costs, ECLAC carried out detailed analyses of land, sea, and air borne trade flows.

In the first place, it is clear that freight charges depend on the mode of transportation used. Shipping by air tends

to be the most expensive, followed by truck, rails and finally the maritime mode. There are also significant differences according to the type of merchandise, trade imbalances and service speed. Because of this, simple national average freight charges should not be used to reach hasty conclusions about differences in transportation system efficiency.

Obviously the distance travelled involves an increase in charges. But its impact should not be over-estimated. It is calculated for example that doubling the distance involves an increase in maritime shipping costs of just 16.5%. In fact, transporting a container from Miami to St. Lucia in the Caribbean is more expensive than transporting it to Buenos Aires. When it comes to trade models, import and export flows are more accurately explained by transportation costs and services than geographic distance alone.

In this context, the importance of economies of scale should be underlined. Because there are large differences between volumes traded between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, economies of scale contribute significantly to a "virtuous cycle" of sub-regional integration: a bigger and better supply of transportation services encourages trade within economic blocs. This also attracts even more and better services, which increase the user's options in terms of alternative modes of transportation, frequencies and speed, as well as stimulating competition, thus reducing freight charges even further.

When it comes to maritime and air routes, an improved supply of regular services reduces freight charges, as do ground transport connections, because these place competitive pressure on maritime and air freights.

This point is particularly relevant to the islands of the Caribbean.



## What Can Governments Do?

Maritime shipping remains the main transportation mode both for interregional trade and for that between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, it accounts for 93.8% by volume and 71.0% by value of South America's trade. Taking into consideration that some determinants of freight rates are beyond the influence of the public sector, efforts should focus on areas where governments, regional organizations and official development aid agencies can really play a positive role.

Major differences persist among the region's ports, which aside from reducing port costs, reduce maritime shipping costs by 25%. Progress has been achieved by increasing the private sector's participation in port operations and investment, although it is clear that the public sector continues to have an important role to play in regulating port activity.

On the maritime side, restrictions on cabotage remain that specifically prohibit liner services connecting, for example, two Colombian ports and two Peruvian ports. Nor are liner services allowed that would, for example, connect a port in Brazil, two in Argentina and one in Chile. These so-called cargo reservations, which seek to protect the respective national shipping lines, pose a serious hurdle to commercial integration and make exports more expensive.

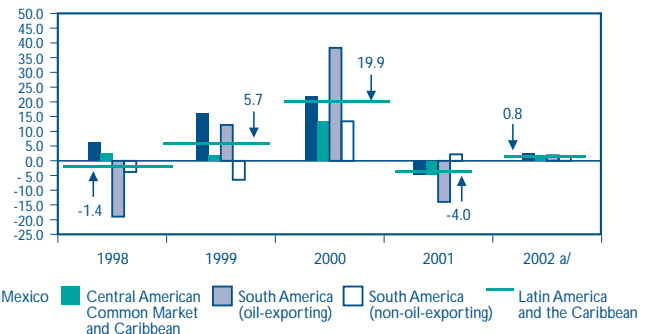
In many cases, improvements to transportation systems depend less on infrastructure investment and more on legal, regulatory or facilitation aspects. For maritime and air borne transport, less infrastructure is necessary than for ground transportation and, while good highways may exist, the need to transfer cargo from the truck of one country to that of another at many borders continues to hobble integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In conclusion, physical integration, trade and transportation policies are all intimately linked. The volume of trade, its cost and mode of transportation simultaneously influence each other and the challenge for analysts and governments is to take these interrelationships into account.

The author works for ECLAC's Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division.

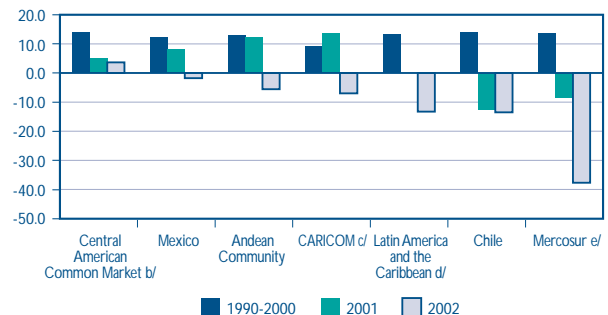
# INDICATORS

**Latin America and the Caribbean:  
Export Growth Rates, 1998-2002**  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, International Trade and Integration Division. a/ Preliminary estimates based on official information.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:  
Intraregional Trade, 1990-2000; 2001 and 2002 a/**  
(Growth rates)



Source: ECLAC, International Trade and Integration Division, on the basis of official information. a/ January-September 2002. b/ January-July 2002. c/ CARICOM: Caribbean Community. d/ For Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, the growth of intraregional trade in the period January-September 2001 was zero (0.0%). e/ MERCOSUR: Southern Common Market.

**Countries from Latin America and the Caribbean that Requested Consultations in the World Trade Organization (WTO)**  
(January 1995-October 2002)

Country	Number of cases	Country	Number of cases
Argentina	7	El Salvador	2
Barbados	2	Guatemala	12
Belize	1	Honduras	11
Bolivia	1	Jamaica	4
Brazil	27	Mexico	19
Chile	12	Nicaragua	4
Colombia	11	Panama	6
Costa Rica	9	Peru	9
Cuba	2	Santa Lucia	4
Dominica	1	Uruguay	1
Dominican Republic	9	Venezuela	3
Ecuador	10		

Source: ECLAC, International Trade and Integration Division, based on figures from official documents in Spanish from the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela (figures to November only). In South America, the surpluses posted by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela contrast with deficits in Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay. In some Central American countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama) and the Caribbean, the deficit in goods traded rose, while in Mexico this fell slightly.

Imports' collapse due to cutbacks made to deal with declining income from abroad touched off contraction in almost every country. The main symptom of this was the decline in intra-regional trade, particularly within Mercosur. Imports by volume and value fell by 7.9% and 7.2% respectively in 2002, after the total value of imports fell 2.4% in 2001, although their volume increased slightly. In Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru did import volumes rise.

The slump in Argentine imports of almost 20% in 2001 and over 57% in 2002, the result of the powerful crisis gripping the country, combined with the 14% decline in Brazilian imports caused internal flows within Mercosur to decline by over 37%. The two-year period once again presented difficulties in the regional integration process.

In 2001, service export values fell 2.5%. This slowdown was led by Mexico (-7.7%); Mercosur (-4.6%); the CARICOM economies (-3.8%), and the Dominican Republic (-4.3%).

The ECLAC report indicates that during the past decade, the region posted one of the highest rates of growth in world trade in merchandise, as well as profound changes in export composition. However, "Trade flows have nonetheless failed to consolidate a virtuous circle of investment and growth. It seems that the region's two

**Latin America and the Caribbean:  
Imports, Indices by Volume, Value and Unit Value 2000-2002**  
(Growth Rates)

Subregion/country	Volume	2000 Unit Value	Value	Volume	2001 Unit Value	Value	Volume	2002 a/ Unit Value	Value
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-7.2</b>
<b>Mercosur Countries</b>									
Argentina	-1.0	0.0	1.0	-17.3	-3.0	-19.7	-57.1	-2.0	-58.0
Brazil	7.8	5.0	13.2	2.5	-2.9	-0.4	-12.7	-1.5	-14.0
Paraguay	2.4	3.0	5.5	2.8	-3.3	-0.7	-10.7	-1.5	-12.0
Uruguay	-2.8	7.0	3.9	-8.3	-4.0	-12.0	-28.2	-2.5	-30.0
<b>Chile</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>Andean Community</b>									
Bolivia	1.0	2.0	3.0	-2.5	-3.4	-5.8	5.1	-2.0	3.0
Colombia	7.0	1.0	8.1	14.0	-3.0	10.6	-0.5	-2.0	-2.5
Ecuador	20.0	3.0	23.6	47.0	-3.2	42.3	23.1	-1.8	20.6
Peru	4.0	5.1	9.2	2.0	-4.0	-2.1	4.8	-1.5	3.2
Venezuela	17.2	0.0	17.2	14.8	-2.8	11.6	-29.3	-1.0	-30.0
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Central America and the Caribbean</b>									
Costa Rica	-1.5	2.0	0.5	-0.9	-3.8	-4.7	16.6	-2.0	14.3
Dominican Republic	14.8	2.7	17.9	-4.3	-3.5	-7.6	1.5	-1.8	-0.3
El Salvador	16.2	4.0	20.9	5.5	-3.0	2.4	0.7	-1.4	-0.7
Guatemala	9.1	4.0	13.4	13.0	-4.0	8.4	8.6	-1.2	7.3
Honduras	1.3	5.0	6.4	9.5	-3.7	5.4	-1.9	-2.3	-4.1
Nicaragua	-9.3	7.0	-3.0	2.0	-3.0	-1.1	-2.2	-1.0	-3.2
Panama	0.3	5.1	5.3	-1.0	-3.5	-4.4	-1.9	-0.4	-2.3

Source: ECLAC, International Trade and Integration Division, based on information from the Statistics and Economic Projections Division. a/ Preliminary figures.

characteristic patterns of integration -through the intensive use of labour (maquila) and the exploitation of natural resources- have not yet produced the expected results...".

The report repeats that the existence of a positive link between trade and economic growth does not arise from the mere integration of national economies into the world's, but rather depends on the quality of this integration. Similarly, an export-based growth strategy requires open and expanding markets, along with policies to encourage export diversification and the creation of competitive companies.

The market access enjoyed by products, services and people continues to be managed by national governments, despite the tendency for economies to function more openly. By managing tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as negotiating preferential access, the governments of the wealthiest countries directly influence

trade flows and, as a result, the international trade specialization of developing countries.


In recent decades, the United States has been relatively consistent in providing preferential access to its market through bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements. The most important in this sense have been the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), with Canada and Mexico, and negotiations are well underway to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Negotiations to sign free trade agreements (FTAs) with the United States have also reached different stages. Chile just signed a FTA with the United States, while Central American countries have a schedule for formal negotiations.

The European Union has also negotiated preferential trade agreements with several of the region's countries. It has already signed agreements with Mexico and Chile and negotiations with Mercosur and the Caribbean countries are underway. [www.eclac.org](http://www.eclac.org)


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The symbols used in this newsletter represent the various indigenous cultures of the Americas and some of the milestones in the region's history. The symbols are engraved on the outside of the conference rooms at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.




Kukulcan Temple




University of Saint Marcos



Alberto Santos Dumont, Airplane



Brasilia



Nahua Glyphs



# STUDY EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF REDISTRIBUTING INCOME TO REDUCE POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA

**J**ust seven of the 18 countries in Latin America could reach the goal of cutting extreme poverty in half by 2015, which is one of the Millennium Poverty Reduction Targets, established in 2000 by 189 countries belonging to the United Nations.

Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay should all achieve this target (as Argentina would have, were it not for the recent crisis) provided economic growth and trends toward reducing inequality perform as they did in the 1990s.

The report, **Meeting the Millennium Poverty Reduction Targets in Latin America and the Caribbean**, carried out by ECLAC, the UNDP and Brazil's Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) provides "grounds for both concern and optimism". The study developed an innovative methodology for evaluating progress toward compliance with the target of reducing the percentage of the population living on less than a dollar a day.

Using this methodology, the authors evaluated the likelihood of these 18 countries meeting their target and studied the impact of applying different policy mechanisms to this end.

Of concern was their finding that extreme poverty should continue to decline, but slowly, in Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua. Moreover, in the five remaining countries, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela, poverty levels seem likely to increase, due to a rise in

inequality, a decline in per capita income, or a combination of the two. This would be the case if countries continue to perform as they did during the 1990s.

More encouraging results arise from simulations of an alternative scenario not based on past trends, as the above, but rather on income redistribution. According to the report, "even very small reductions in inequality can have very large positive impacts in terms of poverty reduction.

For most of the countries that were considered, a one- or two-point reduction in the Gini coefficient would achieve the same reduction in the incidence of poverty as many years of positive economic growth would."

The report simulates combinations of economic growth and poverty reduction that would allow each Latin American country to reach its own Millennium target for poverty reduction.

In terms of the international poverty line (living on less than a dollar a day), this alternative scenario reveals that 16 countries would be able to reach the target by combining average annual per capita GDP growth rates of 3% or less with accumulative reductions in inequality of under 4%. The two exceptions are Bolivia and El Salvador.

Using each country's own definition of the extreme poverty line, the alternative simulation found that to reach their goal, just two countries (Bolivia and Nicaragua) would need both an average annual per capita GDP of over 2% and a reduction in inequality of more than 5%.




## Medicine Hard to Dispense

The report concludes that "A little inequality reduction would go a long way towards reducing extreme deprivation in this region."

Additionally, the main problem is that if economic growth does not affect distribution it does not really improve the standard of living of those in extreme poverty. For those who are indigents, for example, a proportional improvement in income on its own, without improved distribution, does not make a great difference. For example, 10% of 50 cents a day is only five cents. This amount may be somewhat useful, but not extraordinarily so.

All this does not mean that the authors consider growth to be bad or irrelevant. "It is fundamental to improving the living conditions of all members of society, including many who are poor." But in the case of extreme forms of income deprivation, "redistribution is considerably more powerful than growth." They state that some level of redistribution implemented effectively and efficiently, could contribute to more economic growth, by liberating poor sectors' potential for human and material investment.

The report argues that the main obstacle to the success of efforts to reduce indigence in Latin America and the Caribbean lies in the fact that "the medicine which is most effective in treating the poverty that afflicts the region -inequality reduction- is one that the region seems to find very difficult to dispense." 

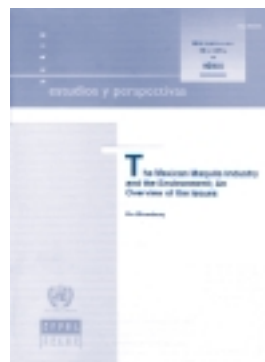
**1** *Capital Social y Reducción de la Pobreza en América Latina y el Caribe: En Busca de un Nuevo Paradigma* (Social Capital and Poverty Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean: In Search of a New Paradigm), by Raúl Atria and Marcelo Siles, editors. **ECLAC** books No. 71, January 2003 (LC/G.2194-P, Spanish). Co-published with Michigan State University, United States, 19 articles by well-known



specialists analyse social capital and its relationship to development, public policies, urban poverty, gender, rural life and environmental sustainability. [WWW](#)

**2** *Evolución de Políticas Hídricas en América Latina y el Caribe* (Trends in Water Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean), by Axel Dourojeanni and Andrei Jouravlev. Recursos Naturales e Infraestructura series No. 51, December 2002 (LC/L.1826-P, Spanish). This study highlights the main dilemmas facing those responsible for managing water resources in the region's countries, in terms of both integrated water management and public utilities, particularly drinking water and sewage treatment. [WWW](#)

**3** *Las Prácticas de Herencia de Tierras Agrícolas: ¿Una Razón Más para el Éxodo de la Juventud?* (Agricultural Land Inheritance Practices:



*One More Reason for Young People's Exodus?*), by Martine Dirven. Desarrollo Productivo series No. 135, December 2002 (LC/L.1837-P, Spanish). The report seeks to encourage debate about the aging profile of the rural population and the fact that those responsible for managing most agriculture lands are senior citizens. This seems unfavourable to a more dynamic development of forestry, farming and rural areas generally. [WWW](#)

**4** *The Mexican Maquila Industry and the Environment; An Overview of the Issues*, by Per Stromberg. Estudios and Perspectivas series No. 12 from **ECLAC**'s sub-regional office in Mexico, December 2002 (LC/L.1811-P; LC/MEX/L.548, English). Given that maquila industry activities are key to economic development in Mexico, this study examines the different environmental aspects of this activity. [WWW](#)

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MONTH	EVENT	VENUE
<b>MARCH</b>		
5	International Women's Day. United Nations System in Chile/ United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/ <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b> headquarters, Santiago, Chile
10 - 11	Meeting of experts the Impact of Gender on Pension Reform in Latin America. <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
11	Executive Meeting <b>ECLAC</b> - GTZ. German Technical Cooperation in Chile GTZ/ <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
12 - 13	Regional preparatory meeting for the "International Ministerial Meeting of developing countries with no coastline and used in transit and donating countries, international development and financial institutions involved in cooperation in the area of transit transportation." Government of Paraguay/ <b>ECLAC</b>	Asunción, Paraguay
13	Visit from an economic and scientific delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by the Minister President of the Baden-Whurttennberg Federated State, Erwin Teufel. Government of the Federal Republic of Germany / <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
19	Third academic dialogue "Feasibility of implementing the Johannesburg energy-related in Chile." Chile's National Environmental Commission (CONAMA)/ Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo (Resources and research for development, RIDES) / <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
20	Presentation of the book "El capital social y campesino en la gestión del desarrollo rural. Diadas, equipos, puentes y escaleras", by John Durston. <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
20	Magisterial lecture by Mohammed El-Ashry, Executive Director of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF). UNDP / <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
<b>ABRIL</b>		
7 - 9	Meeting of experts in developing social statistics. Network of Institutions and Experts in Social Statistics and the Environment (Red de Instituciones y Expertos en Estadísticas Sociales y de Medio Ambiente, REDESA)/ <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
9 - 11	Meeting of experts in environmental development. Network of Institutions and Experts in Social Statistics and the Environment (Red de Instituciones y Expertos en Estadísticas Sociales y de Medio Ambiente, REDESA)/ <b>ECLAC</b>	<b>ECLAC</b>
10	Presentation of the "Report on Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2001-2002." <b>ECLAC</b> .	<b>ECLAC</b>