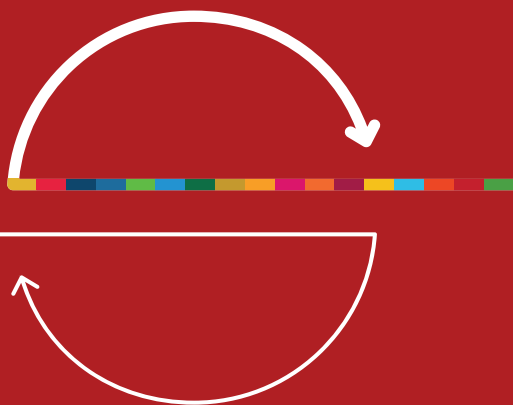


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2018

**THIRTY-SEVENTH
SESSION OF ECLAC**

*Havana
7-11 May*

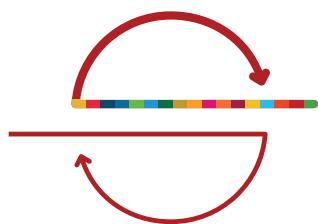
**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION
FROM JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017**



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC





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ABBREVIATIONS

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association
AMDOR	Association for the Promotion and Integration of Older Persons of Martinique
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CAT	Chilean Autonomous Central Union of Workers
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC
CEPLAN	National Centre for Strategic Planning (Peru)
CLAD	Latin American Centre for Development Administration
COMITRAN	Sectoral Council of Ministers of Transport of Central America
COMTRADE	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database
CSA	Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
CUT	United Central Union of Workers
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign direct investment
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILPES	Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEGI	National Institute of Statistics and Geography

IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEA	Institute of Applied Economic Research
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OAS	Organization of American States
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OIJ	Ibero-American Youth Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PARLATINO	Latin American Parliament
REDATAM	Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer
SE4All	Sustainable Energy for All
SEGIB	Ibero-American Secretariat
SENPLADES	National Secretariat of Planning and Development (Ecuador)
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small island developing States
SIECA	Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration
SISCA	Central American Social Integration System
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAM	National Autonomous University of Mexico
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WTO	World Trade Organization



MISSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

“To function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, technical cooperation services, (advisory services) training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination”.

Resolution 553(XXVI) of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, San José, 1996



FOREWORD

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is an organization fully committed to the development of this region. For the Commission, development is a comprehensive process, devised from within the region, taking into consideration the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, as well as their interrelationships.

For the last 70 years, ECLAC has contributed to Latin American and Caribbean thinking on development, and has promoted policy analysis and fostered dialogue in this regard, drawing upon its long experience and recognized capacity to monitor development issues, analyse their impact on the regional and national policy agendas, generate new ideas, proposals and policy recommendations, and provide technical cooperation services and activities that directly benefit the countries of the region.

This report on the activities carried out by the Commission during the period 2016-2017, which highlights its key achievements and contributions, is submitted for the consideration of member States in light of the accountability and transparency framework promoted by the United Nations.

During the biennium 2016-2017, the region's economies started to recover, although significant structural gaps persist and there is a risk of social deterioration. Gaps remain in access to public goods and services in health, education and transport, and efforts must be made to ensure a greater voice for the public in the policy debate. The Commission has applied its substantive capacity and flexible working methods in support of institutional and political reforms to generate a sustained growth path with increasing equality in order to secure the progress achieved during the high-growth years of the first decade of the millennium. ECLAC proposals are framed by the main ideas and policy options contained in the position document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development* adopted by ECLAC member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in May 2016. This document provides an analytical complement to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the regional perspective, and has been widely disseminated in the region and beyond.

The Commission's most recent analyses and public policy proposals have also helped to stimulate discussion on key regional development issues, including financing for development; the need for innovative sources of financing and the situation of middle-income countries; governance of natural resources; challenges in population and development; the knowledge economy, the role of innovation and access to broadband Internet connections; social protection and cohesion; labour markets; climate change; regional infrastructure; and gender issues. ECLAC has also maintained its essential role as a universal and impartial forum for the fostering of public policy debate, the exchange of good practices and the promotion of regional positions in global forums, as well as in regional and interregional summits of heads of State and government and high-level meetings.



Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

ECLAC officers and technical staff have worked to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and to catalyse debate around them through the Commission's flagship publications —*Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, and *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*— and through the organization of seminars, technical workshops, training courses and expert meetings, and the delivery of technical cooperation services to member countries in a wide array of areas, encompassing the broad spectrum of economic, social and environmental sustainability issues on the region's development agenda.

ECLAC has continued to serve as technical secretariat for various intergovernmental initiatives, such as the Committee of the Whole, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Lastly, the Commission would like to thank member States for the ongoing trust and support they have placed in the institution in support of the regional development agenda.



[PART I]

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) —the Spanish acronym is CEPAL— was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 and began to function that same year. By resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change its name to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in order to include the countries of the Caribbean; the Spanish acronym, CEPAL, remained unchanged.

ECLAC is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Headquartered in Santiago, Chile, it was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties between countries and with other nations of the world. The promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives. In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves the needs of the Central American subregion, together with Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; and in December 1966, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was founded in Port of Spain, to serve the Caribbean subregion. In addition, ECLAC maintains country offices in Bogota, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo, as well as a liaison office in Washington, D.C. The 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with several Asian, European and North American countries that have historical, economic and cultural ties with the region, comprise the 46 member States of ECLAC. Thirteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members of the Commission.

Throughout its history, ECLAC has been a fervent supporter of development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission is celebrating its seventieth anniversary in 2018. For 70 years, it has been performing as a think tank on a wide variety of development issues, generating evidence-based knowledge for public policy in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Commission's ongoing concern for topics such as social justice, inequality, and sustained and sustainable growth reflects its integral approach to sustainable development and the legacy of a rich intellectual tradition. Motivated by a constant interest in emerging global issues and by the need to adapt to a changing world, ECLAC is committed to addressing challenges relating to sustainable development, climate change and the governance of natural resources, productivity and innovation, regional integration, and social issues relating to gender, youth, ageing and indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples.

Since its inception, ECLAC has been the main source of information and analysis on economic and social issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Under the early leadership of Raúl Prebisch, and with the contribution of other intellectuals from the region, ECLAC devoted itself to the task of performing a fresh intellectual analysis of the region's development challenges, based on its needs, potential and



distinctive characteristics. ECLAC continues to serve as a regional convener and facilitator in building consensus, supporting public-policy formulation to meet the development challenges facing the region, and conducting and promoting multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking at the regional and subregional levels. In this regard, ECLAC fosters a multisectoral approach to development and provides a voice to countries in special situations including middle-income countries, which constitute the majority of the region, as well as to small island developing States (SIDS).

Equally important is the role played by ECLAC in strengthening national statistical capacities, in development planning and in improving population censuses and their analysis. ECLAC continues to support the countries of the region in the critical evaluation of specific experiences that represent valuable sources of input for updating their national development agendas. ECLAC continues to develop a Latin American and Caribbean line of thought that highlights the region's unique features. One of the organization's most recent achievements is the support given to countries in the region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its means of implementation. ECLAC proposals are framed by the main ideas and policy options contained in the position document "Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development" adopted by ECLAC member States at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in May 2016.

ECLAC also prides itself on providing a prestigious forum for the exchange of experiences and on fostering dialogue between governments in the region, and facilitating South-South cooperation on a large scale. In this regard, special mention should be made of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held in April 2017 in Mexico City. This Forum, convened under the auspices of ECLAC, allowed for the voice of the Latin American and Caribbean region to be heard at the high-level political forum held in July 2017, in New York, where the conclusions agreed upon at the Forum were presented.

ECLAC has continued its collaboration with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and with several other regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and mechanisms, in a wide range of development-related areas. The Commission reinforced its leading role as the convener of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of all the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations common system in the region, which reports to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BIENNIAL RESULTS

The regional context

The global economy and the international trading system face significant challenges marked by a weak recovery following the 2008 global financial crisis, China's low growth in commodity imports, and increasing discontent with globalization. Technological advances and low wage growth, together with the uncertain status of megaregional trade agreements, are reshaping industries and value chains. Collectively, these factors present a unique set of challenges for the region and highlight the importance of strengthening regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2017, after two years of economic contraction, the region posted slight growth of 1.3% accompanied by a higher unemployment rate, with uneven performances among countries and an increase in the regional poverty rate. Significant structural gaps persist and there is a risk of social deterioration, which raises concerns and underscores the need to rethink new policy options, with a rights-based and universal coverage approach. In this context, the 2030 Agenda represents, more than ever, a unique opportunity to bring about profound and lasting change in the prevailing development paradigm.

The region has made significant advances across a wide range of key social variables. Income inequality, while still high compared with other regions, has declined compared to the levels recorded in the last decade of the twentieth century, owing, among other factors, to strong job growth and rising wages during the first decade of the 2000s, coupled with the use of conditional transfer programmes in a number of countries in the region. However, although unequal income distribution began to ease in most countries in 2002, recent levels are not lower than in 2014. This is a difficult juncture that threatens the achievement of further progress towards the overarching objective of ending all forms of poverty everywhere and ensuring that development leaves no one behind.

In order to face the current challenges of the changing international economic order, ECLAC advocates for an indivisible and universal agenda to build a new sustainable development pattern with equality at its core, and also for balancing the equation between the State, the market and society. The region should work towards promoting convergence between different subregional integration mechanisms, creating a single digital market, implementing a regional infrastructure programme, developing regional value chains and speeding up the implementation of a trade facilitation agenda, in a context where almost 90% of the region's countries are middle-income countries, and therefore require differentiated access to the mobilization of external resources, capital markets, concessional financing and trade, and stronger instruments to attract good quality foreign direct investment. The disparities across these countries are seen in a wide range of variables relating not only to size and economic conditions but also to social situations and structural features linked to development potential and productive performance. However, this broad diversity of capacities and needs among middle-income countries is seldom considered by donor countries and multilateral agencies when prioritizing the allocation of official development assistance (ODA). As a consequence, the region's share of ODA flows has fallen substantially in the last twenty years. Hence, the concept of development used to channel cooperation resources must be revised, and there is a need for a broader, multifaceted view that not only entails improving people's standards of living but also achieving sustainable and inclusive growth, whereby the problems of social inequality and productive heterogeneity characteristic of Latin American and Caribbean countries and middle-income countries as a whole can be addressed.

The main achievements of ECLAC in 2016-2017

ECLAC continued to provide timely and relevant analysis and policy recommendations regarding development issues. The Commission worked closely with the governments in the region and other counterpart institutions to safeguard linkages between individual national experiences and regional perspectives, facilitate data comparability and exchange of good practices, and

provide effective technical cooperation services in transboundary issues within its purview. To that end, the Commission placed emphasis on analytical, normative, advocacy and capacity-building work to strengthen the design of sustainable development strategies and public policies and to facilitate the continuous monitoring of their implementation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals represent a crucial step in the building of a new and ambitious consensus among members of the international community. During the biennium, the Commission provided support to countries in the region, effectively contributing to a system-wide effort to implement the 2030 Agenda, including: (a) developing and strengthening regional and national institutions to promote policy coherence and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; (b) mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals into national planning and national fiscal frameworks and budgets, ensuring policy and institutional coherence, consistency and coordination; (c) strengthening the capacity of member States to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data, statistics and indicators; (d) supporting effective leveraging of the means of implementation; and (e) convening the annual Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development as a multi-stakeholder platform for follow up of the 2030 Agenda and promote peer review, exchange of best practices in public policies and knowledge sharing.

In this regard, the first session of this Forum, held in April 2017 in Mexico City, was one important achievement during the biennium. The Forum was convened under the auspices of ECLAC, and open to the participation of member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and representatives of civil society. The objective of the Forum was for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to share experiences and good practices, and it consisted of three segments: (a) the presentation of reports by ECLAC and its subsidiary bodies; (b) a peer review in which countries shared their experiences in voluntary national reviews; and (c) analysis of the three dimensions of development: economic, social and environmental.

The economic dimension

Against a backdrop of moderate but sustained global economic growth, higher commodity prices and greater uncertainty arising from global political risks, the Latin American and Caribbean region returned to growth, albeit modest. The regional performance reflects both external and internal factors. On the external front, growth in the global economy has consolidated at moderate rates thanks to better performances in both developed and developing economies. In this context, the stronger global economy has boosted regional exports. Regarding internal factors, domestic demand is recovering thanks to greater private consumption and government spending, while investment—the most important determinant of aggregate demand in terms of capital formation, creation of productive capacity and long-term growth—has played only a secondary role. However, the region's productivity has remained stagnant, owing largely to the lack of innovation and the slow introduction of new technologies in production processes.

With a view to bringing new elements to the discussion, one of the Commission's flagship publications, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, analyses the characteristics of the current economic cycle in the region (2009-2016) and

draws a comparison with the two preceding cycles (1990-2001 and 2002-2008). It also identifies and attempts to explain some of the determinants of the cycle and outlines possible strategies for regaining growth.

ECLAC continued its long-standing collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In joint reports, the Commission provided an analysis of the increase in unemployment in the region and of the characteristics of immigrants' entry into labour markets, underlining the importance of strengthening mechanisms for labour integration—which requires the incorporation of the gender perspective—and advocating for policies needed to foster migrant workers access to productive jobs and decent employment. In support of activities on topics relating to fiscal policy, ECLAC hosted the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth regional seminars on fiscal policy, and published two editions of *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provided an up-to-date overview of the current trends in public spending, public debt and fiscal space in the region.

With the objective of contributing to the development of the countries in the region, ECLAC presented, at its thirty-sixth session, the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development*. The proposals made in this document stem from the need to achieve progressive structural change in order to incorporate more knowledge into production, ensure social inclusion and combat the negative impacts of climate change. Also at its thirty-sixth session, ECLAC presented the document *The imperative of equality: for a sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which recognizes equality as a fundamental value in the development paradigm of the region.

With respect to the challenges that the Caribbean subregion faces in accessing external financing, ECLAC presented at the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable held in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, in April 2016, its *Proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps: a strategy for growth and economic transformation of Caribbean economies*, which calls for donors to use pledged resources from the Green Climate Fund to finance a gradual write-down of 100% of the multilateral debt stock of Caribbean SIDS held at various multilateral institutions, as well as the bilateral debt stock of member States. An agreement to contribute a fraction of such funds to resilience-building in the Caribbean based on a debt-for-climate-change swap could help to address the severe Caribbean debt situation. This proposal was well received by Caribbean member States, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and was presented at the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council entitled “Aftermath of recent hurricanes and earthquakes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda”, held in New York on 24 October 2017, and at the high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community” organized by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held on 21 November 2017 in New York. The debt swap task force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 24 November 2017.

During the biennium, ECLAC maintained its role as technical secretariat of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC, consolidating its regional leading role in this area. The second session of the Conference was held in San José, in September 2016. It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers and other senior officials representing national science, technology and innovation institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, who agreed on the need to leap forward





with the use of new technologies in the region's productive processes in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, during the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, in August 2017, countries' representatives evaluated the commitments made in the current digital agenda (eLAC2018), and outlined the areas of work and objectives of the eLAC2020 agenda, which will be submitted for approval at the sixth Ministerial Conference, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2018. The six main pillars of the eLAC2020 will be: digital infrastructure, transformation and the digital economy, digital government, inclusion and digital skills, governance for the information society and emerging technologies for sustainable development, and the regional digital market. In recognition of the work carried out in this area, the Action Plan for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) received the international and regional cooperation prize awarded by the World Summit on the Information Society.

ECLAC continued to produce analysis on industrial and production policies, including macroeconomic policies for development. Jointly with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Commission continued to publish the *Latin American Economic Outlook* and, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), it pursued its activities in the field of rural and agricultural development.

In relation to the increasingly integrated nature of world markets as a result of trade liberalization, regional integration agreements and advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs), among other factors, ECLAC organized "The Transpacific Partnership Agreement: Impacts upon Latin America and the Caribbean", a meeting that brought together experts from around the region, and the first China-CELAC High-level Academic Forum, for Latin American and Chinese academics to debate the objectives and scope of the China-CELAC 2019-2021 cooperation plan, which also generated inputs and thematic proposals for the upcoming second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and China, to be held in Santiago, in January 2018. The Commission also continued to develop research in the field of global value chains and published the 2016 edition of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the world economy*. In 2017 this flagship publication was renamed *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The first edition of this publication includes a review of the region's performance in global trade in services in general, and in modern services, since 2005. It provides an overview of Latin America and the Caribbean's share of global agricultural trade since 2000, offering policy recommendations for increasing the sector's contribution to regional development.

The social dimension

Latin America and the Caribbean faces a complex outlook in both the economic and social spheres, which threatens the achievement of the goal to eradicate poverty in all its forms and ensure that no one is left behind. The region continues to face enormous social gaps and social debts, and the challenge of reducing poverty and inequality in the coming years is inextricably linked to the new development agenda.

At the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, in October 2017, ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: Gaps, pillars and challenges*. This publication reviews the economic and social challenges that the region is facing, and argues that to overcome these challenges and to guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of the entire population, the region must advance towards a virtuous development cycle in which production diversification, progressive structural change and the environmental big push go hand in hand with inclusive social development.

Inequality remains one of the most pressing challenges for the Latin American and the Caribbean region and there is growing recognition that it is a multidimensional phenomenon. Therefore, the ECLAC notion of equality is not constrained to economic or income equality. It also covers equality in the exercise of rights and the development of capacity, the reciprocal recognition of actors, and gender, ethnic and racial equality, among other fundamental aspects. The 2016 edition of *Social Panorama of Latin America* presents an analysis of social inequality, seen as a fundamental challenge and obstacle to sustainable development. Some of the pillars and aspects of social inequality are addressed, drawing attention to how they intersect with and reinforce one another, namely, inequalities in the distribution of income (personal and functional) and property; inequalities over the course of the life cycle; time-use inequalities between men and women; and the situation of Afrodescendent populations as an example of ethnic and racial inequality. This document also analyses recent trends in the amount of public resources available to finance social policies to tackle poverty and inequality and to promote inclusive social development.

The region also continues to face major challenges in relation to women's autonomy. A persistent problem in this regard is distributive equality, which includes overcoming poverty among women (in terms of money and time, and obtaining equal pay), ending discrimination in the labour market and redressing biased or inadequate social protection. Unpaid domestic and care work is also addressed as the root of inequality based on the sexual division of labour. The progress made in this area, however, has been insufficient and slower than in other environmental, economic and social processes, leaving much work to be done to achieve the goal of more equitable and just societies. In this context, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean has been instrumental in generating information about gender relations in the region.

In October 2016, the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo. The main outcome of this meeting was the adoption by countries in the region of the *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*. This Strategy is a regional agreement that ECLAC member States will adapt to their priorities, plans for gender equality and rights, sustainable development plans, and national policies and budgets. It sets out 74 measures for the 10 implementation pillars of the regional gender agenda and encompasses all the commitments undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding women's rights and autonomy, as well as gender equality, from the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America held in 1977 to the present. In addition, the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Santiago, in May 2017, and in Havana, in June 2017, respectively.

ECLAC continued to work on promoting and securing the incorporation of population issues into the development policies and programmes of the countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, particularly with regard to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, in October 2016, to examine a proposal of indicators for the statistical follow-up to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, the principal intergovernmental agreement on population and development issues in the region. In November 2017, a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, Chile, to analyse and adopt the final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, and to present national progress regarding its implementation, as well as to discuss good practices and implementation difficulties. Finally, and as an outcome of this meeting, the proposal of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2018 was approved.

During the biennium, ECLAC also continued to provide timely analyses and to follow up on international agreements regarding demographic issues. The Commission prepared the study *Challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons*, presented at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2017, in Paraguay. The main objective of this meeting was to review progress in the commitments made by the ECLAC member States in the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the Asunción Declaration, member States asked the Commission to strengthen its activities on the matter of ageing and older persons' rights in order to help governments in Latin America and the Caribbean adopt measures that ensure the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the dignity of older persons, with the participation of civil society. ECLAC also organized, jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which was held in Santiago, in August 2017.

ECLAC provided substantial technical support to countries to incorporate population and development objectives into their public agendas, and to produce, analyse and disseminate quality statistical information as a basis for public policy design. As a result of training courses and workshops, a large number of countries benefited from advisory missions on the creation of REDATAM databases and applications, which is a technological tool developed by ECLAC and widely used in the region and beyond. Technical assistance was also provided to help countries in the region to implement good quality censuses. Finally, ECLAC has continued to support the improvement of the technical capacity of countries in the region to monitor and implement the recommendations and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as other relevant international agreements.

The sustainability dimension

During the 2016-2017 biennium, further work was undertaken on the interrelationships between economic policy, environmental protection, urban development, social equality and the economic impacts of climate change. ECLAC continued to contribute to enhancing the capacity of the region's governments to follow up on the implementation of international agreements relating to sustainable development and urban development. A notable example was the ongoing negotiations on a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, taking place among the 24 signatory countries of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2014. The discussions at the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement, held during 2017 in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November), respectively, led to agreement on the wording of the articles on access to information and participation. In the context of this process, ECLAC launched the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, which analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the full enjoyment by all persons of the rights to have access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

ECLAC continued to publish documents contributing to a better understanding of climate change issues in the region and to the design of public policies in the context of sustainable development. Special mention should be made of the publication in 2016 of the environmental performance reviews of Chile and Peru, carried out jointly with OECD, and the joint publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice*, with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Commission also provided methodological support to several countries in the region to calculate public environmental expenditure and initiated the implementation of a line of research on sustainable mining.

ECLAC has provided increased technical assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries to help them honour their commitments regarding nationally determined contributions under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Technical support was provided on climate change adaptation, urban development, sectoral impacts of climate change, environmental taxation and strengthening technical and institutional capacities. The Commission also participated actively in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016. This Conference established the pillars of the New Urban Agenda, and ECLAC made an important contribution to the discussion with the publication *Sustainable and Equitable Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Six key messages*. Finally, in the framework of the Cities Conference jointly organized with UN-Habitat, and held in Santiago in October 2017, the General Assembly of Ministers and High Authorities on Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, thus contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the biennium, ECLAC provided technical assistance and advisory services to support national governments and institutions in the region in the development

of policy frameworks to promote sustainable development in the areas of infrastructure, logistics, mobility, road safety and connectivity, and in public services such as sanitation and the provision of drinking water. In terms of energy and energy efficiency, the Commission's work strengthened national capacities to develop and report on nationally established indicators, through the development of the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE) Programme, which has become a useful tool for informed and evidence-based decision-making for countries in the region. Important activities were also carried out in Haiti to support and strengthen inclusive dialogue on a national logistics and mobility policy initiated by that country's National Commission for the Modernization of Public Transport in September 2015.

One milestone in this area was Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure, organized by ECLAC and held in Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 11 November 2016. This event consisted of 10 meetings and side events on the topics of logistics, infrastructure integration and natural resources. The High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure took place in the framework of Governance Week. This event was attended by Ministers and Vice-Ministers of energy, mining, infrastructure, environment and natural resources from 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as by high authorities of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Mesoamerica Project, Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. During the event, the heads of the delegations shared reflections and experiences regarding the challenges related to the governance of natural resources and infrastructure, and ministerial delegations formulated and agreed upon recommendations to promote a shared vision for better governance of natural resources and infrastructure for Latin America and the Caribbean. This event demonstrated that the link between logistics and sustainable exploitation of natural resources is now an established concept for the region that should be addressed by public policies targeting infrastructure and natural resources.

Some of the documents prepared by the Commission in this area during the biennium deserve a special mention. *Barriers to identification and implementation of energy efficiency mechanisms and enhancing renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean and Energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean* aim to provide an assessment of the subregion's status with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as to guide the discussion on the potential obstacles to the adoption of energy-efficiency policies in the Caribbean. *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe* explains the need for new governance of the region's natural resources that ensures the sustainability of the benefits they provide. *Desafíos de la seguridad hídrica en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the definitions and scope of the term "water security" in the international debate, and *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis*, explores opportunities and challenges in increasing the energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets through electrification.

The public policy dimension

During the 2016-2017 biennium, in response to requests from countries in the region, ECLAC continued to conduct economic and social planning activities at the national and local levels, in support of State and government reform and modernization of public policymaking. The establishment of the Regional Observatory on Planning

for Development, the first of its kind, has produced significant results regarding data collection, validation of relevant information on national planning systems and the creation of planning expert networks. The Observatory will provide a long-term space for regional collective knowledge-creation and sharing, and analysis of national planning and public management systems for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will be maintained and updated with relevant data by a network of planning experts, and thus will help to produce new analytical products and enhance the virtuous circle of collective learning.

At the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, held in Lima, in October 2017, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed the importance of planning for development as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Regional Council for Planning requested that the Commission continue developing applied research and provide technical cooperation and advisory services to support the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans. During this meeting, ECLAC presented PlanBarometer, a new analytical tool developed by the Commission that aims to improve the quality of planning for development in the region.

Throughout the biennium, ECLAC continued to support regional intergovernmental bodies in planning and public management. The Commission helped to promote the Latin American Network of Public Policies for Regional Development, which convenes authorities responsible for planning and territorial development. It also supported the meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN), co-organized meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Public Investment Systems (SNIP) to promote the improvement of the quality of public investment, collaborated with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and established links with various foresight and regional development networks. The Commission also organized seminars and technical meetings. The regional seminar Planning and Public Management in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, held in Santiago, from 26 to 28 September 2016, convened government officials specializing in public policy planning and budgeting at the national or local level, as well as the private sector and civil society, and other United Nations agencies. These conferences, congresses and seminars addressed new approaches and emerging issues in planning. Finally, in the area of capacity-building, ECLAC continued to deliver international and national courses, as well as e-learning courses, on topics including results-based budgeting, evaluation of public policies and programmes, open government, project management, and planning for the 2030 Agenda.

During the biennium, ECLAC maintained its leading role in statistics. One of the focuses of the Commission's work was the strengthening of the role of national statistical offices, as leading institutions of their respective national statistical systems, to tackle the statistical challenges of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. At the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in June 2016, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was created to gather information on national statistical capacities to produce the 230 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and to coordinate horizontal technical cooperation. At its sixteenth meeting, held in April 2017, the Executive Committee reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities in 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference.



As technical secretariat of the Conference, ECLAC supported the organization of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in November 2017. In the meeting's resolutions, adopted by the 39 participating delegations, countries highlighted the importance of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the suitable intergovernmental body to produce a regional indicator framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries, with a view to support the statistical follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. At the meeting, ECLAC presented countries with a proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean that participating countries received with interest. The document seeks to contribute to stimulating and sustaining the intergovernmental dialogue within the Statistical Conference of the Americas in the coming months, to achieve a regional consensus.

Jointly with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the annual meetings (held in June 2016 and April 2017) for the promotion and coordination of national activities on geospatial information, attended by representatives of national statistical offices and the national geographic institutes, with the aim of developing projects to build national geospatial data infrastructure. The Commission also continued to support the region's countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA), by holding seminars and providing technical advisory services. Technical assistance missions, to the countries which are on other instrument for cooperation and the dissemination of methodologies, remained strong in this area, enhancing the quantity and quality of basic economic data, as well as the technical capacities for estimating national accounts. Activities carried out during the biennium included strengthening the national implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 (SEEA 2012), poverty measurements, and integrated household survey systems.

In the compilation, production and dissemination of comparable statistical indicators, CEPALSTAT, the ECLAC statistical portal and entry-point to the Commission's statistical databases, continued to be expanded and updated. This portal contains national and regional profiles that are in line with their corresponding databases, a dashboard to facilitate access to data, special web services for advanced application programming interface (API) developers (OpenData project) and a collection of infographics, among other features.

Finally, and in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, throughout the biennium ECLAC held regional workshops on the statistical perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional, subregional and national levels. In this context, the Latin American Conference: Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, held in Santiago in September 2016, gathered heads of national statistical offices, chief statisticians of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners, and other stakeholders. The aim of this Conference was to take stock of various international, regional, subregional and national initiatives for integrating and modernizing statistical systems, and to adapt the global initiative for a transformative agenda to the Latin American context.

The subregional and regional integration dimension

Throughout the biennium, advisory services, training workshops, analytical studies and policy recommendations were provided to help Central American and Caribbean countries address their most pressing development needs. Examples include the outcomes of modelling the impacts of a customs union between Honduras and Guatemala, the analysis of the impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on the textile sector, and the publication of macroeconomic performance reports at the subregional level. In keeping with the Commission's commitment to regional integration, the subregional headquarters in Mexico analysed options for the electrical interconnection of Central American countries with Mexico, drafted harmonized national electricity regulations and established an energy-efficiency database for the entire subregion. Work was also done in the development of regional methodologies for assessing food security, hydroelectric generation, and public investments under climate change scenarios, and on establishing planning frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries of the subregion, using a new methodology to reveal critical linkages and nodes among these Goals. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of ECLAC in Mexico City in April 2017, provided a great opportunity for peer learning and the exchange of best practices among national officers and representatives of government, the private sector and the civil society in the subregion.

In the area of social development, the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico led discussions on the minimum wage in that country, worked on women's labour participation, and examined the structural issues behind chronic violence in the subregion. Relevant work was done to strengthen national capacities to fight poverty and inequality, and contributed to discussions on poverty measurement, new ways to measure income inequality using fiscal and tax data, methods for determining structural gaps, and innovative ways to estimate wealth (not income) inequality in Mexico. More attention was devoted to the specific constraints on the social development of indigenous groups, and the subregional office led discussions on the feasibility of establishing a new social development pillar by promoting a universal basic income in Mexico. ECLAC also studied migration patterns among indigenous groups in Oaxaca and forged an alliance of think tanks from Mexico and three Central American countries to construct a narrative on migration that is closely linked to development models and human security and not just to security and containment concerns.

The Commission contributed to the goal of progressive structural change by updating input-output tables in several countries, and undertook a major initiative to forge value chains and to advance new ideas on industrial policies for rural areas in the subregion. The subregional office also provided support in the development of formulas for fuel pricing, the revision of the electricity tariff structure in Costa Rica, and the drafting of tax models for the customs office in Mexico.

For its part, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean facilitated regional dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration to address development issues of interest to the subregion. ECLAC also sought to respond directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States by offering technical assistance and advisory services for capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and by undertaking necessary research to guide the design and implementation of appropriate public policies. As a result, the capacity of the countries to address their sustainable development challenges



was markedly increased, as evidenced by the acknowledgement of ECLAC policy advice by specific member States on issues such as management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue, design and promotion of strategies for the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, development of the yachting sector, and restructuring of national offices for better assessment and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal implementation. Further, ECLAC remained the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by undertaking assessments in Belize, following Hurricane Earl; in the Bahamas, following Hurricane Matthew; and in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, following Hurricanes Irma and Jose. Damage and loss assessments were also conducted in Ecuador, following the earthquake of April 2016, and in Argentina, following the floods that impacted the country in March 2017.

Member States actively engaged in high-level consultations, exploring ways to strengthen subregional integration and increase trade as an effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean. Moreover, the established mechanisms for consultation and coordination of decision-making at the subregional level were used to undertake comprehensive reviews and assessments to shape subregional strategies in response to specific Caribbean concerns relating to the global development agenda. Examples of these were the twenty-sixth ministerial meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, and the convening of the seminar on Women's Empowerment and Migration in the Caribbean, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which took place on the eve of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo.

In addition, specific high-level consultations were carried out in the context of strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean. Examples include a workshop —jointly organized with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat— on the development of a set of core indicators, from among the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in Caribbean Small SIDS, as well as a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Goals in national development planning. The symposium led to the identification of gaps and institutional capacity constraints in planning for the Goals.

Over the past few years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown conviction in carrying forward and sustaining their processes of regional and subregional cooperation and integration. Despite a complex economic and political context in the region during 2016-2017, this conviction has not changed. During the biennium, ECLAC provided technical and substantive inputs to regional and subregional integration organizations in support of discussions and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues, and facilitated dialogue between the Latin American and Caribbean region and extraregional actors, such as China, Europe, and the Republic of Korea. Consistently supported by ECLAC, several subregional and regional cooperation and integration processes gained in maturity and strength over the biennium.

The cooperation and integration requirements now exceed the scope of trade strategies and policies and are expanding into the spheres of production, energy, infrastructure, environment, poverty, public safety, migration and South-South cooperation, among others.

Disseminating knowledge and policy recommendations

ECLAC disseminates its research findings and institutional positions via an extensive array of publications, which include the flagship publications, series and project documents, as well as institutional books and other interdivisional publications. Its main flagship publications are: *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, and *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Visits by eminent persons to ECLAC headquarters

The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, gave a keynote lecture on 1 February 2016 at ECLAC Headquarters, where he was received by the organization's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena. During his lecture, President Erdoğan called for international collaboration to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis and the challenges to peace in the Middle East.

The President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, together with the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, visited ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 27 February 2016. During their visit, they both discussed the challenges of economic, social and environmental development in Latin America and the Caribbean with the ECLAC Executive Secretary and officials of the Commission.

On 22 November 2016, the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, attended the opening ceremony of the China-Latin America Media Leaders Summit at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. President Michelle Bachelet of Chile was also present.

In her visit to ECLAC on 24 November 2016, the Vice-President of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo, reflected on the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals as a road map to face the two big challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean: growth sustainability and inequality.

The President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, visited ECLAC on 29 November 2016. He delivered a lecture in which he called upon countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to build more egalitarian societies and emphasized the role of multilateralism in facing the challenges posed by globalization.

On 29 May 2017, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Keith Rowley, visited ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, and shared experiences and perspectives on development issues and challenges faced by Caribbean countries with the ECLAC Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretaries and Directors.

During his visit to ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, on 30 August 2017, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, delivered a lecture and advocated for deeper cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin American countries, and recognition of the ECLAC contribution to the economic development of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Implementation of the programme of work

The results achieved by ECLAC in influencing the policy agenda and debate in the region on economic, social and environmental issues were made possible by a high rate of implementation of its programme of work. A total of 97% of the planned outputs were implemented. Furthermore, in response to requests from member States, 20 outputs were carried out in addition to those planned for the biennium.

Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Number of mandated outputs	Implementation rate for mandated outputs (percentages)	Number of total outputs	Implementation rate for total outputs (percentages)
Executive direction and management				
1. Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation	68	96	69	96
2. Production and innovation	51	100	54	100
3. Macroeconomic policies and growth	40	88	42	93
4. Financing for development	19	100	19	100
5. Social development and equality	36	97	40	98
6. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development	39	97	39	97
7. Population and development	72	99	72	99
8. Sustainable development and human settlements	43	98	45	98
9. Natural resources and infrastructure	40	100	40	100
10. Planning of public administration	48	100	48	100
11. Statistics	49	86	53	87
12. Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico	80	99	81	100
13. Subregional activities in the Caribbean	94	100	96	100
14. Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations	21	81	22	82
Total	700	97	720	97

PART II

MAIN RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES BY AREA OF WORK

Executive direction and management



Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation

1

Production and innovation

2

Macroeconomic policies and growth

3

Financing for development

4

Social development and equality

5

Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development

6

Population and development

7

Sustainable development and human settlements

8

Natural resources and infrastructure

9

Planning of public administration

10

Statistics

11

Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico

12

Subregional activities in the Caribbean

13

Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations

14

Country offices



Technical cooperation



Results-based management



EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contribution to key issues on the public policy agenda

During 2016-2017, ECLAC continued to act as a catalyst and leader in highlighting the economic, social and environmental issues on the regional development agenda and in responding to the most urgent needs of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in these areas. The Commission also continued to serve as a regional forum and facilitator in fostering policy dialogue, building regional consensus on development challenges and acting as a provider of related comprehensive analysis. Lastly, it provided support for public-policy formulation, peer learning, sharing and evaluation and implemented operational activities including the provision of technical cooperation and the dissemination of specialized information and training to governments and other stakeholders.

At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Commission presented the institutional document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development*. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in a context of global paradigm shifts, the document analyses the main economic, social and environmental challenges facing the Latin American and Caribbean region. It provides an analytical complement to the 2030 Agenda from a structuralist perspective and emphasizes the specific opportunities and challenges to devise the means of implementation of the agenda from the regional perspective. Based on the Sustainable Development Goals and in light of the global economic context, the document presents policies and partnerships that can enhance the region's capacity to move towards a development path ensuring greater equality and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the need for creation of global and regional public goods to guarantee stable growth with inclusion, good-quality employment with a rights-based approach and environmental stewardship. The main messages of this document and the related policy recommendations have been channelled in other key global, interregional and regional high-level forums and summits including those taking place in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as in meetings of CELAC, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Pacific Alliance and CARICOM, the CELAC-EU and CELAC-China meetings, the Ibero-American Summit, and in the global and regional editions of the World Economic Forum.

ECLAC subsidiary bodies and key meetings

The highlights and main messages of the document *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development* were presented to member States at the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole held in New York on 28 April 2016. The thirty-second session of the Committee of the Whole was convened in New York in January 2017 in preparation for the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

The first session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 April 2017. Convened under the auspices of ECLAC, the Forum was open to the participation



of member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and the academic sector. At the meeting, countries of the region shared their experiences, challenges and good practices on the following topics: institutional arrangements for the national follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, data and statistical challenges for the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals and national policy priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. On this occasion, the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* was presented by ECLAC as the technical secretariat of the Forum as a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2017.

ECLAC raised awareness of issues concerning innovation, science and technology with emphasis on the opportunities provided by the digital economy, at the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC, held in San José, from 12 to 13 September 2016. At this meeting, the Commission presented the document *Science, technology and innovation in the digital economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provides an overview of the main themes related to science, technology and innovation, against the backdrop of the progress of the industrial Internet and advanced manufacture and agriculture. With this report, the Commission expects to contribute to a better understanding of one of the main challenges that the region is facing, and will continue to face in the near future, namely the weak capacity of countries to absorb and create new technology paradigms to influence the entire production system. In this meeting, representatives of 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries agreed on the need to leap forward with the use of new technologies in the region's production processes in the framework of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. From 7 to 9 August 2017, the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, Chile, with the objective of analysing the progress made regarding the agreements established in the context of the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018) and in preparation for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Colombia in 2018.

The twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on 22 April 2016. The Committee welcomed the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Caribbean Development Round Table, and endorsed the creation of an inter-agency task force to elaborate the details of a debt swap initiative in resolution 93(XXVI), "Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean". The eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in Port of Spain, on 19 May 2017, and in this meeting countries discussed the contribution of ECLAC to development in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the seventieth anniversary of the Commission and reviewed the outcomes of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. ECLAC also participated in the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Aftermath of recent hurricanes and earthquakes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda", held in New York on 24 October 2017, and in the CARICOM high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community, held on 21 November 2017, also in New York. Finally, the debt swap task force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain on 24 November 2017.

Establishment and first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

On 27 May 2016, at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC held in Mexico City, resolution 700(XXXVI), Mexico resolution on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, established the Forum as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Forum is State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is convened annually by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission, under the auspices of ECLAC.

The first meeting of the Forum was held in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mexico, and was attended by close to 800 participants from 31 member States, 27 United Nations entities, 12 intergovernmental entities, 198 NGOs, and the private sector. Its programme was divided into three segments: (1) the presentation by ECLAC of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the presentation of reports by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and by other stakeholders; (2) a peer learning session on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities among member States; and (3) an analysis with multiple stakeholders of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the regional context, and of the related policy integration challenges. Two special sessions were held on artificial intelligence and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the peer learning session, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico, having presented voluntary national reviews at the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development, shared their experiences. Meanwhile, the 11 countries that presented voluntary national reviews in 2017 reported on the progress made, thus shedding more light on the regional dimension of development, and also conveying the relevance of the development agenda emerging in the global South.

For this occasion ECLAC prepared the first *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* as a contribution to the discussions. The Commission also prepared and presented the document *Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: the challenges of resource mobilization*. The conclusions and recommendations of the first meeting of the Forum, the summary of the Chair and the report, as well as the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, were submitted as regional inputs to the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development.



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Mexico City
26 - 28 April **2017**

The ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the subsidiary body of the Commission that contributes to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities in the countries of the region, and promotes cooperation among national statistical systems and international and regional agencies, was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017. At this Conference, which was attended by heads of national statistical institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean and experts from the United Nations and other international agencies, regional authorities urged governments of the region to bolster their commitment to sustainability and to strengthening national statistics systems, to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, specialists underscored the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information to track progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to address increasingly frequent natural disaster events, as well as to discuss priorities for a regional strategic plan in this area. During this meeting, countries welcomed the proposal of a regional indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda prepared by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda with the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat, and requested that the Group propose the framework of indicators for regional monitoring at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference to be held in 2018.

The sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ECLAC was held in Lima, from 11 to 13 October 2017. At this meeting, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed the importance of planning for development as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and PlanBarometer, developed by ECLAC and presented on this occasion.

The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago in October 2016. At this meeting, countries of the region examined a proposal of indicators for statistical follow-up to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. In November 2017, a special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, to analyse and adopt the final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus.

The Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons was held in Asunción, from 27 to 30 June 2017. During this Conference, organized by ECLAC and the Government of Paraguay, participating countries unanimously adopted the Asunción Declaration “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”, in which they ratified States’ responsibility to ensure ageing with dignity and rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to promote, protect and respect the human rights, dignity and fundamental liberties of older persons.

In October 2016, the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo. The main outcome of this meeting was the adoption by countries in the region of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. This Strategy sets out 74 measures for the 10 implementation pillars of the Regional Gender Agenda and encompasses all the commitments undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the

Caribbean regarding women's rights and autonomy, as well as gender equality. In addition, the fifty-fifth and the fifty-six meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Santiago, in May 2017, and in Havana, in June 2017, respectively.

Further, during the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, in October 2017, ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: Gaps, pillars and challenges*. This session, convened by ECLAC, the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was attended by social development authorities from the region.

Finally, the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean were held during 2017 in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November).

Academic research and debate

ECLAC has been recognized as a regional think tank which has focused on economic, social and environmental development issues since its establishment, and was ranked by the University of Pennsylvania as the second-best think tank in Central and South America in 2015, according to the 2016 Global Go-To Think Tank Index.¹ The Commission's integrated body of work in the field of applied research, policy advocacy, and data and statistics, enriches the global debate on sustainable development issues and contributes further to institution-building among governments and other stakeholders of the region.

ECLAC has published the *CEPAL Review* three times a year since 1976, thus contributing to the discussion of socioeconomic development issues in the region by offering analytical and policy approaches, pioneering ideas and academic articles by economists and other experts and scientists in the field of sustainable development working both within and outside the United Nations. The *CEPAL Review* has full editorial independence and follows the usual academic procedures and criteria, including the review of articles by independent external referees. It is listed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), published by Thomson Reuters, and in the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL), published by the American Economic Association.

Throughout the biennium, ECLAC and ILO published four issues of their joint report *Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, addressing the increase in unemployment and immigrants' entry into labour markets. In conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Commission continued to publish *Challenges*, the newsletter on childhood and adolescence. The 2016 issue, "The right to free time in childhood and adolescence" is focused on the right to leisure, which is explicitly cited in article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), while the 2017 issue, "Children and disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean", analyses the social protection provided to children at times of disaster, highlighting their particular vulnerability to these phenomena and the increase in the occurrence of these events in recent times.

¹ The Global Go-To Think Tank Index is the result of an international survey of over 1,950 scholars, public and private donors, policymakers and journalists who helped rank more than 6,600 think tanks using a set of 18 criteria developed by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP).

Knowledge management and strategic communications

During the biennium, the Publications and Web Services Division disseminated publications and technical documents in support of the analysis of regional trends in sustainable development, knowledge creation and capacity-building: a crucial effort that remains at the core the Commission's work. Over 250 publications were published by the Commission, including ECLAC flagship publications, ECLAC Books, ECLAC series, *CEPAL Review*, *Notas de Población*, and several co-editions with different partners. The Division also lent support to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which generated more than 500 parliamentary documents.

During this period, the ECLAC website was revamped and updated as part of an ambitious initiative to comprehensively overhaul and modernize its structure, technology and content, in order to strengthen its strategic communication and dissemination functions. As a result, improvements have been made in terms of the site's accessibility, quality, security, topicality, relevance and consistency and the external positioning of its content, and it now has a more efficient search engine. The new website was also fully integrated with the ECLAC Digital Repository and other tools that facilitate a comprehensive approach and access to knowledge management.

This effort reflects a strategic dissemination and marketing vision that hinges on the use of online tools and services. All ECLAC publications are available as complete and unabridged texts on the Commission's website and in its Digital Repository. A wider range of platforms is being used for the electronic distribution of ECLAC documents, such as the electronic catalogue of publications, weekly and quarterly e-newsletters, applications for mobile devices and the ECLAC Publications page on social media. Publications are also being produced in e-book format and are available for purchase from online retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble and iTunes. Further achievements can be seen in the creation of thematic catalogues and new promotional materials. ECLAC has also improved its dissemination and marketing mechanisms by creating a modern system of subscribers and email marketing management (using a customer relationship management platform), which has been very successful and has in two years generated a list of more than 100,000 subscribers, segmented by thematic area, who receive monthly news about ECLAC publications.

In addition, the web services team launched a new system (using the Google analytics tool) to measure the metrics and statistics of website use, generating monthly reports that allow very precise geographic, thematic and temporal tracking and analysis. During the biennium, the site had more than 18 million visits and more than 5 million publications were downloaded. The Commission's public information strategy uses both traditional mass media and online social networks to communicate diverse activities and products targeting varied audiences at the local, regional and international levels. Produced in English, Spanish and Portuguese, ECLAC outreach materials provide newsworthy information, which is printed, broadcasted and tweeted every day, thus promoting the ECLAC brand and mission as a substantive think tank that addresses development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ECLAC Public Information Unit, which is responsible for the design and implementation of this strategy, covered all the Commission's main meetings and disseminated ECLAC publications. The increased coverage of ECLAC activities can be measured through the number of references in the mass media, including leading global financial newspapers and magazines, and global television networks, such as The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Cable News Network (CNN), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and CCTV of China.

During 2016-2017, more than 66,500 media clippings on the Commission's work were recorded, helping to position the organization as one of the leading think tanks in the region. The implementation of a robust new social media strategy proved to be a challenging and time-consuming task. ECLAC has kept abreast of technological change and its social media accounts reach a community of hundreds of thousand followers, that have been critical in enhancing the Commission's influence and positioning in the region. At the end of the period, 627,201 followers had joined ECLAC conversations on Twitter and Facebook, both in Spanish and English, while ECLAC videos and photos on YouTube and Flickr had accumulated almost 2,340,000 views.

Digital Repository

The ECLAC Digital Repository was officially launched on 6 May 2014 by the Hernán Santa Cruz Library. More than 39,000 ECLAC publications—from the first one released in 1948 to the most recent— can be consulted and downloaded from the repository. The repository significantly increases the visibility and impact of the Commission's work. Between December 2016 and November 2017, more than 2,200,000 documents were downloaded by users from all over the world. The repository also guarantees the preservation of the Commission's intellectual heritage in the long term. With the work of more than 9,000 authors in five languages, it is open to all users, and may be of particular interest to policymakers, researchers, scholars and students. In total, the official documents on file exceed 2.5 million pages.

As a result of this effort by the Hernán Santa Cruz Library, it is now possible to search and download the full text of all ECLAC publications and official documents, which include institutional books, annual reports, joint publications, series, magazines, bulletins, and documents from conferences and meetings, as well as multimedia resources.

CEPAL Review

The *CEPAL Review* was founded in 1976 as the Commission's academic journal. It is published three times a year and has full editorial independence, following the usual academic procedures and criteria, including the review of articles by independent external referees. The *CEPAL Review* focuses on the economic, social and environmental development of Latin America and the Caribbean, presenting both theoretical analysis and policy recommendations.

During 2016-2017, over 60 articles were published in issue Nos. 118 to 123 of the Spanish version of the *CEPAL Review* (corresponding to issue Nos. 117 to 122 of the English version). These articles were written by prestigious professors and researchers from key universities and research centres in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by renowned researchers from outside the region. The main topics covered in 2016-2017 were macroeconomics for development, inequality, education, trade, multidimensional time use, multidimensional poverty, agricultural productivity, connectivity, innovation and productivity, disasters, and foreign direct investment. A total of 56,010 article downloads from the ECLAC website were recorded over the biennium. Since 2011, the *CEPAL Review* has been the top ranked journal produced in the region, according to the Journal Citation Reports of Thomson Reuters.



SUBPROGRAMME 1**LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMY,
INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION****[1]****MARIO CIMOLI**Officer in Charge of the Division of International
Trade and Integration**INTRODUCTION**

During the biennium, work under this subprogramme focused on analysing trade relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and its main trade partners, global trade negotiations, regional and global supply chains, regional integration, intraregional trade, agricultural trade, trade in services, trade facilitation, dispute settlement, international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building, and the intersection between trade and climate change.

ECLAC continued to publish the flagship report *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean* (formerly known as *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* until 2017) on an annual basis. The 2016 edition focused on the slowdown of global economic growth, the backlash against globalization, mega-regional negotiations, the role of China in the global economy, and intraregional trade. In 2017, the publication focused on the recovery of the current international context and of trade in the region, the increasingly important role of trade with China, challenges to developing countries, trade in services, and trade in agriculture.

Several noteworthy events were organized under the subprogramme throughout the biennium, including a seminar on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and its impacts on Latin America and the Caribbean, which brought together experts from around the region to examine the economic and legal impacts of the agreement, and the first China-CELAC high-level academic forum, in which Latin American and Chinese academics debated the objectives and scope of the China-CELAC 2019-2021 cooperation plan. The Division was also instrumental in the creation of a new multiannual biregional fund with the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

Additionally, several important studies were published including *Opciones para la convergencia entre la Alianza del Pacífico y el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR): la regulación de la inversión extranjera directa*, *La irrupción de China y su impacto sobre la estructura productiva y comercial en América Latina y el Caribe*, “Posibles efectos económicos y sociales de la profundización de la Unión Aduanera entre Guatemala y Honduras”, *The Pacific Alliance and its economic impact on regional trade and investment: Evaluation and perspectives*, *Trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report 2017*, and *Crisis y debates sobre globalización crisis en Europa y los Estados Unidos: implicaciones para América Latina*. In addition to an extensive number of publications, the Division carried out several technical

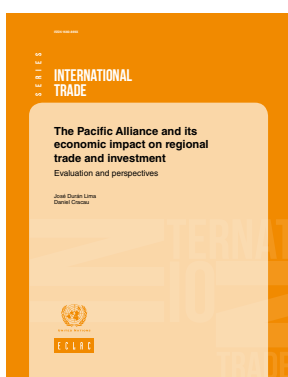
assistance and capacity-building activities that benefited numerous countries in the region including Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the activities carried out under this subprogramme strengthened the capacities of public institutions and organizations in the region by providing technical assistance and advisory services. Institutions in member States of the Pacific Alliance have begun analysing the feasibility of developing and adopting policies to support fisheries trade based on advisory services delivered by the subprogramme to Ministries of Foreign Trade. A public-private dialogue was established in Ecuador to analyse the environmental footprint of tuna exports, and Costa Rica strengthened its capacities to design policies that promote production linkages between the export sectors and the rest of the economy, through increased employment. Capacity-building workshops were also held in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to increase the capacity of national officers in addressing novel global trade challenges such as the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), improving customs valuation methods and creating authorized economic operator programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the technical assistance and cooperation provided for the study on the energizing potential of the Costa Rican export sector, entitled "El potencial dinamizador del sector exportador costarricense: encadenamientos productivos, valor agregado y empleo". This study is an invaluable input for this Ministry's efforts in developing public policy on foreign trade and investment.

Alexander Mora Delgado, Minister of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica, December 2016



THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT: EVALUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

The entry into force of the Additional Protocol to the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance in May 2016 marked an important step towards the regional integration efforts of its four members: Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. A core objective of the Pacific Alliance is to serve as a platform for economic and trade integration between Latin America and Asia-Pacific. It is, therefore, particularly important to evaluate current economic developments in Latin America and their impact on these integration efforts. Data on bilateral goods trade flows at the product and sector level, together with the study of services trade and of foreign direct investment, reflect the strong links within the Pacific Alliance. They also reveal the potential to increase members' participation in regional and global value chains.

Within the framework of the Development Account project entitled "Enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade", national workshops were held in Colombia, Ecuador, and Jamaica on the

evaluation and negotiation of inclusive free trade agreements. National workshops with a specific focus on the Caribbean were held in Jamaica in June 2016 and in December 2017; two workshops were organized in Ecuador—one in Quito and one in Guayaquil—in April 2017; and a workshop was held in Bogotá, Colombia in May 2017. These workshops covered the use of quantitative methods to evaluate the effects of preferential trade agreements (PTAs), the negotiation steps of a PTA, and the presentation of case studies. Technical assistance was also provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, and a specific study on the evaluation of the economic and social impact of a possible trade agreement between Jamaica and Central America, Mexico and the countries of the northern Caribbean was prepared by ECLAC, serving as the basis for national authorities to consider adopting policies for more inclusive and equitable trade. Finally, Guatemala and Honduras implemented a trade facilitation programme to deepen their customs union; Ecuador signed a multiparty trade agreement with the European Union (which includes Peru and Colombia); and Jamaica is considering changes to its trade policy. In general, the project trained over two hundred government officials, from beneficiary countries as well as Chile, Honduras, Guatemala and Peru, among others. The project concluded with a regional workshop in Lima, in November 2017, and an interregional symposium on PTAs and inclusiveness in Bangkok, in December 2017.

The following studies supported the implementation of these activities: (i) *Manual on foreign trade and trade policy: Basics, classifications and indicators of trade patterns and trade dynamics*; (ii) “Evaluation of the possible impacts of a free trade agreement between Ecuador and the European Union”; (iii) “Possible economic and social effects of the deepening of the Guatemala-Honduras customs union”; (iv) “Effects of the endogenous shock of trade on employment and wages of Colombia manufacturing firms”; and (v) “Evaluation of the economic and social impacts of possible trade negotiations between Jamaica and Central America, Mexico and the countries of the Northern Caribbean”.

On behalf of the Director General of DANE, Mauricio Perfetti del Corral, and of the entire team, I would like to thank you for your organization and running of the workshop on trade policy, value chains and social indicators, held last week in Bogotá. For the DANE technical team and the entities assisting the national government, it was a great forum for learning which allowed an active exchange of knowledge and experience among all the participants.

Angélica María Palma Robayo, Coordinator, Technical Cooperation and International Relations, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia, 24 May 2017

Throughout 2016-2017, the Division, jointly with the ECLAC national office in Buenos Aires and the subregional office in Mexico City, also implemented the Development Account project entitled “Input-output tables for trade and industrial policy in Central and South America”. As a first important step in the enhancement of the use of input-output tables (IOT) for industrial and trade policies, *The South American input-output table: Key assumptions and methodological considerations*, a manual on the compilation and harmonization of national IOTs for Latin American countries, was published. In the framework of this project, several regional workshops took place for the MERCOSUR, the Andean Community of Nations and Central America subregions. In March 2017, a seminar on the analysis of value chains with input-output matrices in the case of Uruguay and MERCOSUR was held in Montevideo, and in August 2017 the Division organized

a workshop held in Buenos Aires, for officers from the central banks, national statistical institutes and ministries of economy of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Finally, in August 2017, ECLAC presented the South American input-output matrix for the year 2005 and the Andean subregional input-output matrix for 2005 and 2011 in a workshop held in Quito, Ecuador. This workshop reviewed fundamental methods in the analysis of IOT and integrated practical examples to support the work of public officials. Participants included national officers from central banks and national statistical institutes of the countries of the Andean Community, as well as officials from the Central Bank, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Tourism, National Secretariat of Planning, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Industry and Productivity, Banking and Internal Revenue Service of Ecuador. Officials from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), UNASUR, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also participated. A complementary review of the availability of relevant statistical data in the remaining countries of the region has shown that the data required for the compilation of the subregional and regional IOTs appear to be accessible. Thus, a preliminary subregional IOT for the Andean Community comprising Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, has been created and will serve as a methodological model for the development of the subregional and regional IOT.

I am grateful for the support provided by ECLAC [...] for the seminar on the launch of the input-output matrix for South America and the Andean Community [...] which was attended by more than 500 people. [...] we realized the importance of taking advantage of the process of developing these instruments to collaborate on the preparation of an analysis document that optimizes the Andean input-output model, particularly for the analysis of subregional integration.

Walker San Miguel Rodríguez, Secretary General of the Andean Community of Nations, 5 September 2017

Finally, and in the context of a Development Account project jointly implemented by the five regional commissions entitled “Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration”, advisory services delivered to Costa Rica provided national authorities with elements on how to improve the transfer of data flows and implement electronic invoicing to reduce the time and costs associated with international transactions and foster trade in the subregion. In addition, a workshop on the experience of national trade facilitation committees in South America was held in June 2016 in Santiago, Chile, and brought together government representatives to discuss progress and challenges in developing the institutional obligations of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Another important area of work during the biennium was sustainable development. The Division explored the link between sustainable development and job creation at the sixth Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research on Services (REDLAS), held in Costa Rica in September 2017, which highlighted the potential impact of automatization on services production, trade and the labour markets in Latin America and the Caribbean, and provided different policy options for stakeholders in Costa Rica on addressing challenges and strengthening country responses.

With respect to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the activities carried out under the subprogramme have placed export innovation at the centre of support programmes offered by various trade promotion organizations (TPOs)

throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In collaboration with TPOs and the regional SME promotion agency (CENPROMYPE), the Division organized activities that could support SMEs in accessing new international markets through increased innovation and competitiveness. ECLAC has developed a methodology that coordinates support for SME exports. This tool, Export Innovation for SMEs, includes six steps: (i) an innovation diagnostic survey, (ii) the identification of gaps in this field, (iii) the search for solutions (through studies, training and recommendations), (iv) the creation of an innovation plan, (v) the exploration of financing, and finally, (vi) implementation. This methodology was presented in March 2017 during a subregional workshop in Honduras, to the professionals of the SME centres of eight countries of the region and was coordinated by CENPROMYPE. The Division was also able to identify gaps between the supply of export promotion and financial assistance products and demand from SMEs. In addition, it prepared and disseminated a document entitled *El aporte del comercio justo al desarrollo sostenible*, on the contribution of fair trade to shaping policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

In broad terms, the activities undertaken in environmental sustainability helped small- and medium-sized producers to measure and mitigate the carbon and environmental footprint of their exports. This translates into more globally competitive exports and helps to meet sustainability requirements in markets that impose high import standards such as the European Union. Achievements in this area include the training of technical experts and the publication of the document *Defining product environmental standards in international trade*, a guide that explains the methodology created by the European Union to measure the environmental footprint of coffee production. Honduras is an example of a successful country experience, where the Division has coordinated public, private and academic institutions to develop a pilot programme to collect data and calculate the environmental footprint of coffee using the European Union methodology; and the experiences of experts from Colombia and Costa Rica, with whom the Division has collaborated closely, represent best practices in the region.

DEFINING PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Latin American and Caribbean Network on the Environmental Footprint of Coffee is a unique case of participation by public and private sector stakeholders from developing countries in the definition of environmental standards in the European Union. The purpose of this initiative is to involve stakeholders in defining standards that will affect their trade and competitiveness in the European market, rather than simply adapting and obliging coffee suppliers to adjust once standards are implemented. Although this process was interrupted in 2016 owing to a dispute among European industry stakeholders, the broader Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) programme of the European Union for 10 other food products and 14 industrial products is still ongoing. Final results of this process are expected in 2017 and 2018. This document originates from a concern about the environmental sustainability and competitiveness of Latin American food exports to the European market. Its purpose is also to contribute to the trade-related Sustainable Development Goals.



ECLAC organized several noteworthy events during the biennium. A seminar on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its impacts on Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 5 April 2016 in Santiago, in collaboration with the General Directorate of International Economic Relations (DIRECON) of Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goal of the meeting was to help the region evaluate the impacts of the TPP not only in terms of access to new markets but also by weighting its contribution to countries' diversification of production and exports, to the processes of regional integration, and to the transition towards a digital economy. The TPP meeting brought together chief negotiators from Chile, Mexico and Peru to discuss challenges and opportunities arising from the trade agreement. Representatives of civil society and other experts were also present to engage in a dialogue about the economic and social impact.

In Santiago in April 2016, the Republic of Korea and CELAC explored new forms of cooperation in a seminar held at the request of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC. In addition, the first China-CELAC High-Level Academic Forum, held in Santiago, in October 2017, generated inputs and thematic proposals for the second meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and China in Santiago, in January 2018. The Forum addressed issues relevant to the bilateral relationship, considering trends in the international arena, with an aim to deepen ties between China and the region.

Relevant ECLAC publications covering economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and China and, jointly with ILO, the labour situation in the region, provided countries in the region with valuable information on regional integration and value chains. About 93% of the readers of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* acknowledged having benefited from its analysis and policy recommendations on trade and export development. In addition, *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, launched in October 2017, highlights some key global uncertainties for the region in the short and medium term, in order to help the region's governments to formulate effective public policies to cope with the continued economic slowdown, lagging global trade, technological progress and the need for regional integration. The flagship provides a detailed account of the region's performance and policies in trade in agricultural products and services.

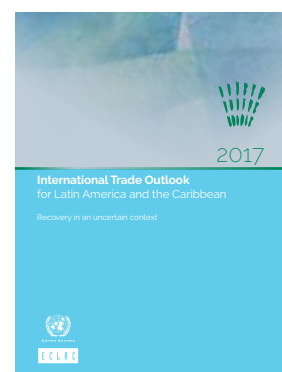
The Division also published the following documents: *Economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and China: Opportunities and Challenges*, which presents an overview of the dynamic trade relations between China and the region, policy recommendations on how the region can improve the benefits of Chinese cooperation funds, diversify trade and boost investment flows. The report *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean* provides an analysis of South American countries' participation in value chains, including employment related to exports, benefiting national authorities and other stakeholders. Finally, the document *Evaluation of the possible impacts of a free trade agreement between Ecuador and the European Union* analyses the macroeconomic, sectoral, and social impacts of such an agreement, providing quantitative support to the policymaking process and the country's negotiations with the European Union.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

In 2016-2017, cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea focused on international trade and sustainable development. With regard to the internationalization of SMEs and innovation, the Division published two

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OUTLOOK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RECOVERY IN AN UNCERTAIN CONTEXT

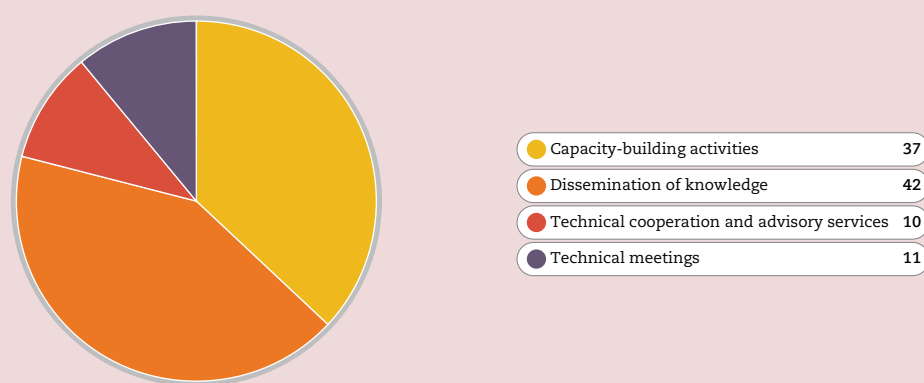
This first edition of *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, which is the continuation of *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* with a new title, contains three chapters. The first chapter describes the current international context and the recovery of trade in the region. Despite the recent upturn in global growth, the medium-term international context remains uncertain, with unanswered questions regarding the sustainability of the recovery of the world economy, challenges to traditional trade posed by the digital revolution and the emergence of political movements in developed countries. In turn, these factors could impact policies to promote investment and productive diversification. Chapter II reviews the region's performance in global trade in services in general and in modern services in particular, since 2005. Modern services are those traded mainly over the Internet, such as telecoms, computer and information services; financial services; insurance and pension services; royalties; and other business services. Latin America and the Caribbean is still a marginal player in global modern services trade, accounting for just 2% of exports in this category, although it is the fastest-growing segment of global trade. The chapter examines the experience of the region's larger economies with respect to services exported indirectly through incorporation into manufacturing exports, in whose competitiveness they are crucial. Chapter III provides an overview of Latin America and the Caribbean's share of global agricultural trade since 2000 and offers some policy recommendations for increasing the sector's contribution to regional development. It highlights the specificities of various subregions and countries through a range of indicators (net exporters and importers, the weight of the agricultural sector in total exports and imports, composition of the export basket, main destination markets and suppliers, and the evolution of product and market concentration). It notes that although the region is a significant global supplier of a range of agricultural products, most of them are primary goods, with a very low presence of agro-industrial products.



reports, one entitled *Exploring cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in the areas of innovation and SME internationalization strategies*, and another on how to promote export innovation through support instruments for SMEs. The Division also co-organized an academic seminar with CELAC and the government of the Republic of Korea on exploring strategies for economic cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in April 2016. This meeting was followed by a workshop on the internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean in December 2016 for CELAC member States. ECLAC also presented the results of a survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade in a second workshop on internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in December 2017. Moreover, a workshop on export innovation for the internationalization of SMEs was organized in collaboration with CENPROMYPE in March 2017 for managers of capacity-building centres for SMEs throughout Central America. A second component of the project with the Republic of Korea focused on mitigating the environmental impact of regional exports. In this context, the Division produced: *Defining*

product environmental standards in international trade: The participation of Latin American stakeholders in the European Union environmental footprint programme; a review of Latin America in terms of environmental sustainability in agro-food exports; and a report on environmental sustainability in agro-food exports in the cases of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay. The Division also organized the seventh international seminar on international trade and climate change focused on the environmental sustainability of exports, which was held in December 2016, and published a report on regional cooperation initiatives in the area of gender and export firms.

[FIGURE 1]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During the biennium, one of the lessons learned was that capacity-building activities are most effective when coupled with regional integration schemes. In the case of Central America, working with SIECA has been highly beneficial in delivering advisory services in a speedy and effective manner. Additionally, it is essential that decision-makers or those who can influence decision-makers participate in capacity-building in order to ensure a smooth flow of information.

A best practice in the Division is the promotion of alliances between the public, private and academic sectors within countries, for example to promote environmental or carbon-footprint standards and global services exports. These types of alliances could also be promoted in other areas of work to improve the formulation and long-run sustainability of policies related to trade and sustainable development. Another best practice is the promotion of cooperation among countries in the region to develop common and effective strategies for increased competitiveness and entry into international markets, for example in the development of a common environmental standard for coffee exports and tools to measure and promote export innovation in Central America.

For the next biennium, new technical assistance projects are scheduled in the areas of trade facilitation, prospective analysis of trade agreements, and impact assessments. In addition, the subprogramme will deepen its analysis of the role of trade in the Sustainable Development Goals.

SUBPROGRAMME 2**PRODUCTION AND INNOVATION****[2]****MARIO GIMOLI**

Chief of the Division of Production,
Productivity and Management

INTRODUCTION

Against a backdrop of moderate global economic growth and following the contraction of the region's economy in 2016, Latin America and the Caribbean moved onto a positive growth path in 2017. However, in the context of a change in the perception of globalization and its social and economic effects, and the changes owing to the acceleration of the technological revolution, the implementation of industrial and technology policies to diversify the export basket and increase productivity is imperative. The Division contributed to this objective during the biennium through research on industrial and technological policies and through the provision of technical assistance to several countries in the design and execution of these policies.

With a view to strengthening national institutional knowledge and capacities, the Division promoted the incorporation of technologies into production processes and product diversification through its publications and capacity-building events, namely the flagship *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2016 and 2017 editions) and *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018*. More than 10 new publications were also launched, helping to build institutional knowledge in sustainable innovation, ICTs, SMEs and rural development. These documents were disseminated at conferences, seminars and high-level political forums organized under the subprogramme, including two ministerial conferences.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The Latin American and the Caribbean region is at a difficult juncture: inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) declined by 7.8% in 2016, representing a cumulative fall of 17% since the peak in 2011 and, notwithstanding the recovery in commodity prices registered in 2016-2017, they are still below the levels reached in 2008. Lower commodity prices continue to affect investment in natural resources, and sluggish economic growth has slowed the flow of market-seeking capital. Moreover, the global backdrop of technological sophistication and expansion of the digital economy has concentrated transnational investments in developed economies.

Latin America and the Caribbean as a region lags behind in its insertion in the global economy. Its share in world exports of goods and services remains stagnant and its share in modern high-tech goods and services is decreasing. While regional participation in global FDI flows has increased, specialization in low-tech activities has been reinforced. The region's share in global value chains remains below the world average and consists mainly in the supply of raw materials. Limited digital

connectivity also undermines regional insertion into new dynamic sectors. The region's loss of momentum occurs within a framework of technological and productivity lags. The world is undergoing a disruptive process of technological and economic change that will affect the productive transformations necessary to accelerate long-term growth, sustain progress in poverty reduction and in the improvement of income distribution, and promote the transition towards low-carbon growth. In this context, industrial policy has been absent in almost all the countries of the region or has been exclusively defensive, unable to adapt to the new technological and competitive patterns.

The activities of the Division allowed ECLAC to consolidate itself as a reference in the formulation of strategies for sustainable structural change through events and training courses in the areas of innovation and digital technologies, micro and small enterprises, foreign direct investment, and agricultural, industrial and technological policies. Throughout the biennium, the Division supported national governments' efforts to design structural change, agricultural and industrial policies. Building on the collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador established since 2013 in support of the government's productive policies, ECLAC was asked to analyse and present policy proposals for new productive chains (coffee, dairy products, plastics and rubber); support the Ministry of the Environment in the chain of integral recycling of solid waste; perform an analysis of the potentialities of agro-industry in Ecuador; and prepare specific studies for three areas of particular government interest: the competitiveness of domestic production, policy coherence and import substitution. In parallel to the collaboration with the Office of the Vice-President, and in the context of the development of the National Strategy for the Change of the Productive Matrix, other institutions requested the support of ECLAC. As a result of a long collaboration between ECLAC and the Ministry of Industry and Productivity, in October 2016 the Production Council approved an industrial policy plan for 2016-2025. Also, with the support of meetings convened and documents prepared by the Commission, a national agricultural policy was launched in 2016.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in developing industrial policy under the specific agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Productivity (MIPRO). The inputs, contributions and discussions during the development process contributed greatly to the final product.

Juan Carlos Parra Fonseca, Vice Minister of Industries and Productivity, Ecuador, letter dated 9 January 2017

In the context of the project on moving towards a set of indicators for greener production for companies—which was jointly implemented with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC)—the Division provided technical assistance to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Brazil. In Brazil, ECLAC provided technical support to the Brazilian Institute of Statistics and Geography (IBGE) with the objective of producing indicators and statistics on companies' environmental practices. As a result, IBGE carried out a pilot survey of 450 companies in order to generate indicators on green production in companies, using the reference questionnaire created in the framework of the above-mentioned project. In the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, advisory services were provided to the National Institute of Statistics (INE) to present the manual for the production of green indicators for companies, and to support the incorporation of a module on green production into the quarterly industrial survey carried out by INE.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention the project on green indicators carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, which is of great significance to this institution.

Raul Pacheco Salazar, President, National Institute of Statistics, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In Chile, ECLAC supported the design and implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategic Programmes of the Production Development Corporation (CORFO), and provided technical assistance to InvestChile to develop an investment strategy for the Exportable Technology Services Sector. ECLAC also collaborated with the Secretariat of Entrepreneurs and SMEs (SEPYME) in Argentina in the design and implementation of SME policies supporting the country's productive development, and collaborated with the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico to design a fiscal-incentives policy for innovation. Advisory services were also provided to the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (Indotel) of the Dominican Republic on the development of the digital industry, contributing to the country's digital agenda for 2016-2020. This technical assistance consisted of a visit of experts from ECLAC to Santo Domingo, who met with representatives of the public and private sector, to carry out a survey as an input to the workshop on the digital ecosystem and public policies for its development, held on 10 August 2016. Participants in this workshop discussed the development of the software industry in the Dominican Republic and ECLAC presented the global and regional contexts relating to this field, along with a proposal to strengthen the country's software industry. ECLAC also provided technical assistance to the Office of Planning and the Budget (OPP) of Uruguay with a view to identifying and implementing national strategic programmes to advance the country's productive transformation, aiming for better insertion in the digital and technological revolution.

Finally, the preparatory meeting for the sixth Ministerial conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, in August 2017, was attended by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. It resulted in the first proposal for the new digital agenda, eLAC2020, and in the identification of the seven pillars on which this agenda will be based: digital infrastructure; transformation and the digital economy; digital government; culture, inclusion and digital skills; emerging technologies for sustainable development; the regional digital market; and governance for the information society.

In the framework of the implementation of the Development Account project entitled "Big data for measuring and fostering the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean", research conducted by the Division showed that digital technologies have spread to every sector, and the firms that are part of the digital economy are, on average, growing faster than those that are not. The study *Science, technology and innovation in the digital economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, demonstrated that the size of this sector is largely underestimated by traditional metrics and classifications. In Brazil, ECLAC is supporting a pilot initiative to analyse the adoption of ICTs in business through web scraping, and activities have been carried out to collect data from company websites to develop a prediction model for selected ICT indicators based on web information, using a web crawler (data collection) and a semantic data analysis tool (data analysis). The aim is to evaluate the accuracy of data modelling from big data sources in order to estimate some ICT enterprise indicators, develop a

tool for automatic collection of data on the web and develop a dictionary of key words. The Division has also strengthened its relationship with organizations such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT), Eurostat, United Nations Global Pulse and Data-Pop Alliance, and other international organizations specialized in big data, to promote the creation of regional capacities in this area. In this context, the seminars “Think Big: Data innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean” were organized by ECLAC in March 2017 in Santiago, and in October 2017 in Mexico City, respectively. These seminars discussed the potential of big data analytics as a tool for evidence-based policy development and design, as well as its role as a promoter of innovation and technological progress, and were attended by mid-level professionals and national officers interested in the application of big data as a tool for development.

ECLAC also strengthened its position in supporting the formulation of agricultural policies, which was reflected in the organization of high-level meetings such as the seventh regional seminar on agriculture and climate change, held in San José, in September 2016, jointly organized by ECLAC and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CGIAR-CCAFS), FAO and the French Development Agency. This meeting provided a forum for two high-level policy dialogues on agricultural and forestry issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. About 96.7% of the representatives of Latin American and Caribbean governments that participated in this seminar rated the event as good or excellent and 90% considered that the topics covered were useful or very useful for the work of their institutions.

During the biennium, the Division organized the 2016 and 2017 editions of the summer school programme on development and digital innovation in Latin America, an initiative of ECLAC, the Barcelona Institute of International Studies and CAF with the goal to study the impact of new digital technologies on development. It was attended by mid-level public officials from regulatory agencies and ministries in the area of telecommunications and ICT from eight Latin American countries. Around 93% of the participants indicated that the contents presented were useful for their professional tasks. Another activity carried out under the subprogramme in the biennium was the ECLAC Summer School on Latin American Economies, which was created in 2000. It is held annually in Santiago, and combines the specialized contributions of the different divisions of ECLAC and advances in academic research, and is designed for young researchers interested in studying the Latin American development process. The 2016 and 2017 editions were attended by 28 and 34 participants, respectively. Both editions increased knowledge of the region’s economy of the region among young researchers and promoted the generation and exchange of ideas on policies.

ECLAC also organized the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, held in September 2016, in San José. As a result of this Conference, an action plan for the use of new technologies in productive processes was agreed within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, public-private regional dialogue initiatives were carried out on the regional digital market, industry 4.0 and policies for micro and small enterprises. During the session, ECLAC presented the document *Science, Technology and Innovation in the Digital Economy: The state of the art in Latin America and the Caribbean*, in which it is revealed that, with the exception of Brazil, the region’s expenditure on research and development (R&D) is minimal, not exceeding 0.5% of countries’ gross domestic product (GDP).

Finally, the 2016 and 2017 editions of the flagship publication *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which sets out and analyses the main FDI trends in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, were very well received. There was widespread media coverage and interest from stakeholders for the report to be used further as a reference document. The 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Latin American Economic Outlook*, a joint publication of ECLAC, OECD and CAF, were also published during the biennium. The 2017 edition explores youth, skills and entrepreneurship and identifies potential strategies and policy responses to help Latin America and the Caribbean revive economic growth. While development can stem from different sources, skills and entrepreneurship can empower youth to develop knowledge-intensive economic activities, boost productivity and transform the region's politics as they transition successfully from the world of school to the world of productive work and create the future they seek. The report highlights valuable experiences and best practices in these fields and proposes strategies to allow Latin America to consolidate long-term growth while assuring continuity in the social agenda. In addition, the Division also published studies such as *Estado de la banda ancha en América Latina y el Caribe*, which presents a synthetic vision of the state of broadband in Latin America and the Caribbean, and *Chinese Investments in Latin America: Opportunities for growth and diversification*, a publication that assesses the role of China in the region. Finally, the book *Rural industrial policy and strengthening value chains* underscored the need for a rural industrial policy that promotes a structural change based on innovation, greater value added and better employment and living conditions, all in harmony with the environment.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2017

This publication sets out and analyses the main FDI trends in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The 2017 edition shows that the region is at a difficult juncture. FDI inflows declined by 7.8% in 2016, to US\$ 167.180 billion, representing a cumulative fall of 16.9% since the peak in 2011. The fall in commodity prices continues to affect investments in natural resources, sluggish economic growth in several countries has slowed the flow of market-seeking capital, and the global backdrop of technological sophistication and expansion of the digital economy has concentrated transnational investments in developed economies. The perception of globalization and its economic and social effects reached a turning point in 2016. Political events, such as the referendum in the United Kingdom which resulted in the vote to leave the European Union (Brexit) and the presidential election in the United States, reflected trends that had developed over time in global production and trade. Developed economies have been more interested in repatriating production, which together with the rapid technological transition and greater competitive pressure, has redirected businesses towards more technology-intensive markets. In 2016, global FDI inflows amounted to US\$ 1.7 trillion, higher than any of the annual figures between 2008 and 2014, but 2% lower than in 2015. Developed economies regained the lead, receiving 59% of FDI flows, with their inflows climbing by 5%. Developing economies received 37% of the total and their FDI inflows fell by 14%. All the developing subregions received less investment, with Asia seeing decreases of 15% and Africa, 3%. In this scenario, the Latin American and Caribbean region is losing ground as a recipient of FDI, with inflows decreasing for the second year in a row to levels similar to those seen six years ago.





POLÍTICAS INDUSTRIALES Y TECNOLÓGICAS EN AMÉRICA LATINA

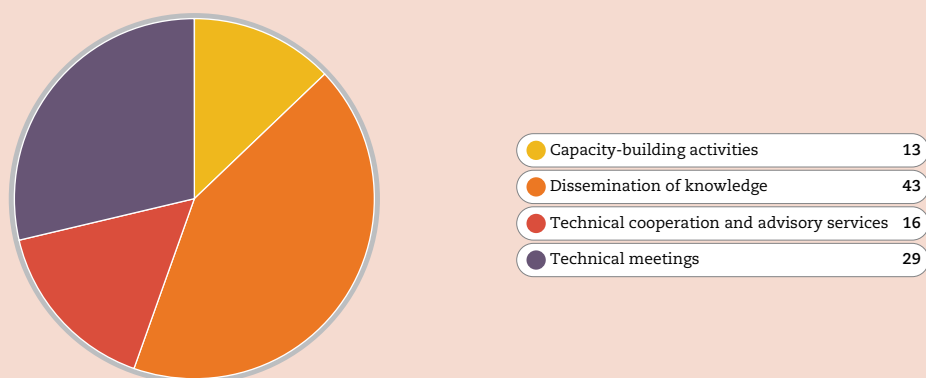
The international economy is undergoing a period of deep imbalances that jeopardize the continuity of growth and generate considerable political tensions, both in the developed world and in developing countries. It is vital to change these patterns and advance towards a new model that promotes productivity and is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. This means achieving progress in terms of productivity and technological capabilities that resolves the problems of low growth and low education levels. It requires coordinated investments in several areas, which overcome the harmonization problems that hinder the diversification and absorption of technology. The challenge of technological change is particularly great in Latin America and the Caribbean. The rise in natural resource prices was not accompanied by a strategic vision that incorporated science, technology and innovation as key factors of development. This document, prepared with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), is an important contribution to the discussion and design of the new generation of policies required by the countries of the region, and seeks to contribute in two ways. First, on a conceptual level, through a new discussion of the theories that explain the role of industrial policy in development in an era of technological revolution, and second, through a diagnosis of the region's achievements, successes and failures in this field.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

During the biennium, ECLAC consolidated a partnership with the European Commission in the field of small and medium enterprise development policy in the region, with seven national studies being carried out and a long-term collaborative project being developed under the AL-Invest 5.0 programme. In the framework of the project “Mejores políticas para las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas en América Latina” (EUROMIPYME) financed by the European Union, the Division provided technical assistance to Argentina, Chile, Colombia and El Salvador. Technical cooperation was provided to the Ministry of Production in Argentina to select strategic value chains and to assist in the implementation of a new framework law designed to foster small and medium enterprises. In Chile, Colombia and El Salvador, technical assistance was provided to the Secretaries for Small and Medium Enterprises to evaluate the results of public programmes on business development centres. As part of the same project, the Division also organized an international seminar in Mexico with representatives of business chambers and public development institutions of Latin America and the European Union to facilitate the interchange of experiences related to policies and programmes to foster small and medium enterprises.

In the context of a project on inclusive and sustainable industrialization in Latin America sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Division provided assistance to the Governments of Chile and Ecuador. Diagnostic studies on the adoption of advanced technologies and identification of gaps were conducted in Chile and Colombia. Also, technical cooperation was provided to the Government of Chile in order to develop the bidding rules to set up a technological centre of advanced manufacturing and intelligent industry.

[FIGURE 2]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned during the biennium was that political stability and trust are vital for the success of technical assistance provided. In order to optimize this assistance, government officials working on projects with ECLAC must have the authority, time and resources to do the work required, not only in the design process but also in the implementation and evaluation phases. It is important to consider and involve not only governments, but also the academic and private sectors, in this process to design and implement successful policies.

Results of capacity-building processes are difficult to measure, accumulative and span over the long term, but are significant. Some lessons from the evaluations of the seminars carried out are: (a) it is important to develop this type of activity outside ECLAC headquarters, despite the additional effort that this entails; (b) conducting a thematic series of seminars on one topic of relevance for the countries (for example agriculture and climate change), which can also be considered a capacity-building activity, enhances networking and collaboration at the regional level; and (c) capacity-building activities are highly valued by officials from government agencies, while participants from the private sector do not consider them as useful, especially in terms of networking.

Another lesson learnt was that to remain a credible focal point in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, ECLAC should continue its strong analytical work in the areas where capacity-building is required by government officials. Finally, it is important to consider that technical training courses have a greater impact when they target government officials such as mid-level managers or heads of units. In 2018-2019, priorities will include analysing the impact of the technological revolution on jobs and labour markets, providing technical assistance to countries to incorporate SMEs into the new technological landscape, and developing policies for rural development, focusing on inequalities, gender, and youth.

SUBPROGRAMME 3**MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND GROWTH****[3]****DANIEL TITELMAN**

Chief of the Economic Development Division

INTRODUCTION

The 2016-2017 biennium was marked by a change in the trajectory of economic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean. After a particularly sharp decline in output in 2016, economic activity began to rebound in 2017, though at modest rates. Nevertheless, the region continues to face significant challenges—both in the short term and in the medium and long term—to achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth. In this context, the Division strove to increase the awareness and understanding among policymakers and other key stakeholders with the aim of increasing their capacity to analyse and formulate policy solutions. To that end, the Division's strategy was to provide high-quality analysis and policy suggestions, to facilitate dialogue and South-South cooperation, and to generate tangible results in the area of policymaking.

During the biennium, the Division leveraged its annual flagship publications, the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, to provide timely cutting-edge analysis, as well as key policy recommendations. The utility of these publications was reaffirmed by reader surveys that found that 86% of respondents had benefited from the analysis of macroeconomic issues in these publications. Additionally, these reports—as well as the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*—were cited in national legislation or generated national debate that led to the adoption of policy measures, especially in the areas of illicit financial flows and tax evasion and avoidance.

The Division had great success in fostering South-South dialogue and debate in the region through its seminars and expert meetings. The twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth editions of the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy brought together a wide range of policymakers, including seven ministers and vice-ministers of finance, and experts from the region to discuss policy options for confronting the current economic situation. Survey results indicate that 98% of respondents considered the work of these forums and their policy recommendations on macroeconomic issues “useful” or “very useful” for their work.

Building on the analysis and dialogue pillars of the Division's work, a significant number of policies, measures or actions were undertaken by governments in the region in line with ECLAC recommendations. Additionally, technical assistance provided by the Division strengthened the capacities of policymakers in Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Panama. The technical assistance provided to the Dominican Republic was key to the formulation of a new unemployment protection instrument, as part of a wider reform of the social security system.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the Division's analysis and policy advocacy was embodied in its main flagship reports: the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*. These publications provided in-depth analysis of current macroeconomic trends, placing them in a regional and international context and tackling key emerging issues of considerable relevance for policymakers in the region. The 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* explored in detail the challenges for financing the 2030 Agenda in the region and included regional estimates for illicit financial flows, which the Division produced in line with the mandate stemming from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. For its part, the 2017 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* examined the characteristics and determinants of the current economic cycle and outlined possible policy strategies for regaining strong and sustained economic growth in region.

References to the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* in official, academic and specialized publications reaffirmed the strong interest of policymakers and other stakeholders in the region in ECLAC GDP forecasts and analysis of current macroeconomic trends. During the biennium, these ECLAC flagship reports, along with the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, were cited at least 13 times in official government documents. Furthermore, results from readers' surveys suggest that stakeholders value the comparative analysis between countries that these flagship publications provide. Reader surveys for these publications found that 86% of respondents reported that they had benefited from the analysis of macroeconomic issues in the publications. The flagship reports also generated significant regional and global press coverage, especially the illicit financial flows estimates included in the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

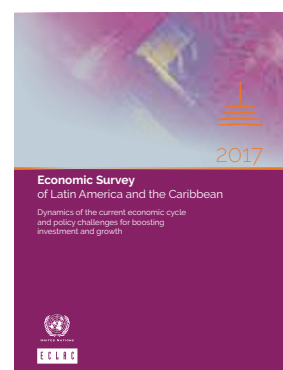
During the biennium, the Division published 22 research documents through the *Macroeconomía del Desarrollo* working paper series, and five reports under the *Project documents* series. The topics covered include: tax evasion, subnational fiscal policies, agricultural employment trends, unemployment protection challenges, technical and vocational education and training, the transformation of the world of work, the extension of social protection to own-account workers, economic growth and illicit financial flows. The Division also continued its collaboration with the ILO Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America, publishing the *Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This report, published four times during the biennium, focused on the recent improvements and persistent gaps in rural employment (May 2016), global supply chains and decent work (October 2016), labour immigration in Latin America (May 2017) and the transition of young people from school to the labour market (October 2017).

The Division also published three books during the biennium, touching on themes related to fiscal policies and labour market trends and policies: *Consensos y conflictos en la política tributaria de América Latina*, *Brechas y transformaciones: la evolución del empleo agropecuario en América Latina*, and *Protection and training: Institutions for improving workforce integration in Latin America and Asia*. The Division's extensive work on tax reform was exemplified in the publication *Sostenibilidad fiscal y reformas tributarias en América Latina*, which analysed recent tax reforms in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay, and the contributions made to the proposed tax reform in Costa Rica.

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2017: DYNAMICS OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CYCLE AND POLICY CHALLENGES FOR BOOSTING INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

The 2017 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* outlines the region's economic performance in 2016 and analyses trends in the early months of 2017, as well as the outlook for the rest of the year. It examines the external and domestic factors that have influenced the region's economic performance and draws attention to some of the macroeconomic policy challenges of the prevailing external conditions, with a modest uptick in global economic growth and trade amid persistent uncertainty, especially in relation to political factors.

The thematic section of this edition analyses the characteristics of the current economic cycle in the region (2009-2016) and finds that the dynamics of the current cycle have been driven principally by private consumption and government spending, whereas investment and exports—which are the most important determinants of aggregate demand from the point of view of capital formation, creation of productive capacities and long-term growth—have played only a minor role in economic growth. The report argues that returning to growth in the medium and long term will require changing the dynamics of the cycle. The fiscal countercyclical framework needs to be made more robust and public investment afforded a stronger role. It must be accompanied by a financial policy geared towards stabilizing credit and a monetary policy that supports investment growth.



CONSENSOS Y CONFLICTOS EN LA POLÍTICA TRIBUTARIA DE AMÉRICA LATINA

This book builds on a decade of fruitful cooperation between ECLAC and AECID in the area of fiscal policies in Latin America, highlighting the importance of tax policy as an instrument of development in the region, and exploring a series of consensuses and conflicts that coexist in the design and implementation of different taxes in each country. Although consensuses—like the need to ensure fiscal pacts that guarantee a stable level of tax revenues that produce minimal distortions in the allocation of resources—seem to be widespread achievements in the region, much work is needed to reconcile tax policy with other objectives that are no less important, such as ensuring the redistributive capacity of tax systems, defining the role of personal income tax and tax incentives or allocating taxes between levels of government.

The book was presented in 2017 at the fiftieth International Public Finance Conference (Córdoba, Argentina), the tenth Conference on Tax Law in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the tenth Conference on Taxes organized by the Tax Administration Department of Uruguay. Authorities in the region commented on the findings of this book during these events, including the Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay, as well as the Executive Directors of the tax administration departments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. In May 2017, this book was also chosen as book of the month by the VOX blog of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA).



Expert meetings and seminars played a key role in complementing the Division's analytical work and policy advocacy. The Division's principal forum for generating South-South discussion continued to be the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy. The twenty-eighth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy which was held in Santiago, on 16 and 17 March 2016 brought together representatives from national ministries, central banks, universities and civil society. Sessions covered a variety of pressing policy issues including: macroeconomic challenges for fiscal policies, an evaluation of recent tax reforms, improving the quality of public expenditures, and decentralization and fiscal consolidation. The twenty-ninth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy was held in Santiago, on 23 and 24 March 2017. The event was marked by a high-level panel whose participants included ministers and vice-ministers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay. The seminar's four sessions covered: fiscal policy challenges in the current national, regional and global economic climate; consensus and conflict in tax policy, lessons from Latin America and the Republic of Korea; allocation of public resources and education financing; and territorial disparities, supply of public goods and financing.

The work of the Division was further enriched by expert meetings tailored to specific topics of interest. A workshop on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the challenges of financing for development was held in Mexico City on 10 and 11 October 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness among policymakers in Central America of the issues addressed in the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey for Latin America and the Caribbean*. A workshop on how to stimulate economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 3 and 4 October 2017 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. The event included discussions on export strategies, fiscal policies for growth, and macroeconomic perspectives for the region, and was attended by representatives from the governments of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as well as experts from ECLAC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the academic sector.

During the joint CARICOM and United Nations high-level donor conference on building a more climate-resilient community, held in New York in November 2017, ECLAC presented the debt relief proposal for the hurricane-stricken Caribbean, specifically a debt for climate adaptation swap initiative based on the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF), which is expected to provide financing for investment in climate resilience, green growth and structural transformation in the economies of the region.

The effectiveness of the Division's analytical work, policy advocacy and technical assistance in response to the needs of policymakers in the region is evidenced by the measures adopted during the biennium in line with ECLAC suggestions. ECLAC policy recommendations, included in the 2016 and 2017 editions of the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and on the 2016 edition of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, related to strengthening direct taxation and limiting tax evasion and avoidance. These recommendations were quickly picked up in policy measures adopted in the region: the Government of Ecuador pointed to ECLAC policy recommendations in April 2016 during the debate on a new fiscal package to bolster its argument to reinforce progressive direct taxation; in September 2016, the Mexican Congress began to consider a measure that would modify the law that regulates the tax administration to

strengthen the legal requirement for the publication of estimates of tax evasion and measures to combat this phenomenon; and the Tax Administration Service of Mexico (SAT) announced that it was intensifying its efforts to stamp out tax evasion and avoidance by multinational enterprises. Likewise, in the area of labour policies, technical cooperation provided by the Division resulted in countries in the region taking measures to improve the coordination of employment policies, public employment programmes, unemployment protection and the labour inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Division implemented several extra-budgetary projects related to fiscal policies and labour market policies. The main donors during this cycle were the Governments of Germany (BMZ), Spain (AECID) and Norway. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also sponsored a project. In the framework of these projects, technical assistance was provided to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Panama.

Regarding fiscal issues, technical assistance was provided to the Undersecretariat for Regional Development (SUBDERE) of Chile. The Division participated in a workshop held on 6 September 2016 in which it provided a comparative view of the different mechanisms of subnational indebtedness of Latin American countries. Based on this cooperation, *El endeudamiento de los gobiernos subnacionales en América Latina: evolución, institucionalidad y desafíos*, a document on the evolution, institutionality and challenges of subnational government debt, was published. It provided policy analysis that was used to inform policy making in this area.

In a similar vein, at the request of the Federal Council for Fiscal Responsibility of Argentina, the Division made a presentation on fiscal rules in decentralized countries at a meeting of the Council's governing board held on 22 March 2017. After this meeting, provincial ministers and the Ministries of Finance and of the Interior of the central government agreed to guidelines for a new federal regime of fiscal responsibility and good governance practices, which incorporated the Division's policy advocacy as an input. These were subsequently incorporated into the proposed Federal Regime of Fiscal Responsibility and Good Practices of Government Law that is currently under discussion in the Argentine Congress. Finally, the Division provided technical assistance to Panama in international tax policy, and at the request of the Office of the President of the Republic of Panama, the Division, jointly with the ECLAC subregional office in Mexico, prepared a report on policy options related to international taxation issues, which served to guide policy measures adopted by the government. The Division also provided substantial assistance to Panama on fiscal incentives for investment, including participating in a side event organized by the country at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in May 2017. Based on this cooperation, Panama has requested continued collaboration with ECLAC to improve the use of fiscal incentives in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Within the framework of the Development Account project entitled "Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment", the Division provided advisory services to increase the capacity of policymakers to evaluate, design and implement macroeconomic policies on the basis of comparative policy analysis

that strengthen long-term economic growth and reduce economic and social vulnerability. Technical assistance provided to Chile and Colombia helped the Ministries of Labour of both countries to take steps to strengthen their labour policy frameworks. The Division also facilitated South-South collaboration between countries in this area, including a trip of a Colombian delegation to Chile, and of a Mexican delegation to Colombia, to facilitate the exchange of experiences between peers. Technical assistance was also provided to the Dominican Republic within the framework of this project, leading to concrete policy proposals that the country is considering in order to advance towards the goals embodied in its 2030 National Development Strategy and outlined in the National Pact for Education Reform. Technical assistance was also provided to this country in the formulation of a reform of the social security system, specifically in the design of a new unemployment protection scheme.

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your assistance with the activities of the project “Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment”; the participation of our staff was undoubtedly a great opportunity to strengthen knowledge of the coordination of policies relating to employment, the entry into the labour market of persons with disabilities, unemployment protection and public employment programmes. [...] It is important to note that these experiences will allow us to strengthen the development of our public policies and to improve the processes targeting the most vulnerable population segments, given that the exchange of knowledge helps us to consolidate work teams and to visualize new scenarios in an increasingly globalized world.

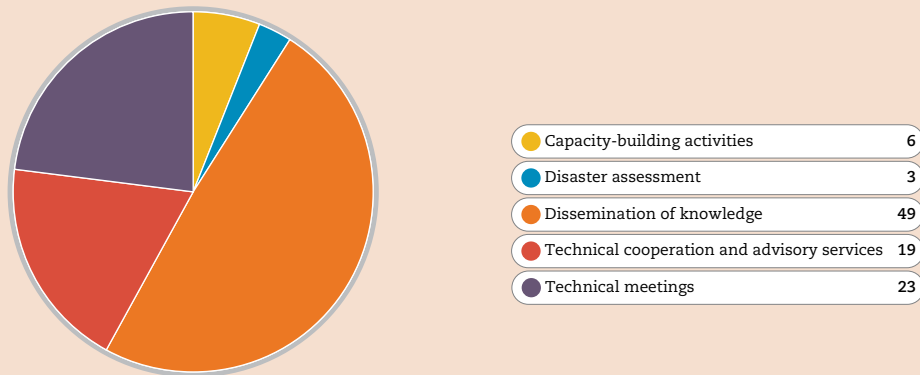
Clara López Obregón, Minister of Labour, Colombia, letter dated 9 February 2017

The project “Strengthening the capacities of Latin America and Asia to develop and improve labour training systems and to protect workers against unemployment” has contributed to a proposal to strengthen unemployment protection through a general unemployment assistance fund. This proposal represents an important input to design and reform the social protection system that the Government of the Republic has committed to.

Juan Ariel Jimenez Nuñez, Vice-Minister of Development Policies, Ministry of the Presidency, Dominican Republic, 20 January 2017

As part of the project entitled “Vocational education and training for greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean” sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Division provided technical assistance to Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Technical cooperation was provided to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic to assist in the institutionalization of a permanent mechanism for the identification and anticipation of training and training needs in the country. In Colombia, the Division assisted the Ministry of Labour in the improvement of coordination between the different agencies involved in training in the country. The Division also organized virtual meetings between representatives of the Governments of Chile, Costa Rica and Ecuador to facilitate the interchange of experiences related to the use of enterprise surveys to identify labour needs.

[FIGURE 3]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
 (Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The Division has strengthened its cooperation with the subregional offices of Mexico and Port of Spain and with the ECLAC national offices to leverage their extensive knowledge in order to identify emerging macroeconomic issues across the region. Video conferences with the subregional offices have been especially useful, establishing contact between country-level experts and regional experts in Santiago, which has enriched the analysis presented in the Division's publications and activities.

The Division also collaborated closely with outside stakeholders to disseminate its analysis and policy messages to a larger audience. Examples are the report *Time to tax for inclusive growth* jointly produced with Oxfam International, which generated interest in the region and beyond, and the annual report *Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean* jointly produced with OECD, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), contributing not only to statistical peer review but also to analytical chapters covering specific topics. Collaboration with ILO contributed to the harmonization of labour statistics between the two organizations.

Finally, a key lesson learned during the biennium was the importance of packaging long-term structural concerns within policies that are relevant to tackling short-term cyclical concerns. The Division's advocacy of investment-centred fiscal rules proved to be timely and was well received among the region's policymakers.

SUBPROGRAMME 4**FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT****[4]****DANIEL TITELMAN**

Chief of the Economic Development Division

INTRODUCTION

The financial system plays a key role in boosting savings and channelling funds for investment and technological innovation, and to facilitate access to financing for and financial insertion of the different production agents, including SMEs. Access to finance by SMEs is an important policy issue since these firms are critical for sustainable growth and development, particularly in developing regions. Yet, most developing regions, including in Latin America have still not adopted policies for financial inclusion.

During the biennium, the subprogramme activities improved the capacity of policymakers and institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to formulate and implement financial policies and instruments to generate and allocate domestic resources.

In an effort to foster the financial inclusion of SMEs, the Division implemented the Development Account project entitled “Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change with a particular focus on SMEs in Latin American countries”. During the biennium, this project focused on seven Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru), as part of which 11 studies were produced and five national seminars and four regional seminars were held, attended by a total of more than 300 participants from the financial sector and government agencies. The project helped to improve existing financial instruments and introduced new ones for financial inclusion (Ecuador), to review the strategic framework and policies for financial inclusion (Peru) and to evaluate the functioning of development banks (Costa Rica). In the light of the results achieved, a number of requests have been received for technical assistance to develop financial inclusion instruments for specific institutions.

Like other middle-income regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has seen a decline in its share of ODA inflows. The trends in total regional ODA reflect the logic of the international cooperation system, which uses per capita income to calculate countries’ development levels and thus allocate official assistance flows. Based on this logic, countries are divided into low-income, middle-income (lower middle and upper middle) and high-income. ECLAC has questioned the use of income per capita to assess countries’ level of development, leading the Division to develop an alternative methodology that identifies and measures the

structural constraints on development. This methodology —the structural gap approach— was implemented very successfully as a part of technical assistance requested by the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. The results of applying the structural gap approach in Costa Rica were presented in a document produced by the ministries, with technical support from ECLAC.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

As part of the Development Account project entitled “Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change with a particular focus on SMEs in Latin American countries”, the Division sought to improve the financial inclusion of SMEs in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. National studies were undertaken for each of the seven participating countries, as were case studies on financial instruments that could be used by development banks to promote financial inclusion in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, and lastly, a comparative regional study was prepared on the basis of the national studies’ findings.

The national studies on Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico were presented at workshops held in these respective countries in July (Mexico) and October (Colombia and Ecuador) 2016. The studies examine the state of financial inclusion in each country, based on indicators that measure aspects of financial inclusion including access (ability to use formal financial services and products), usage (how often those products and services are used) and quality (measured on the basis of available data from surveys). The studies then identify, describe and analyse the instruments and processes that the national development banks have at their disposal to promote financial inclusion of SMEs and how those instruments and processes could be improved. The studies also provide evidence on the instruments use and reach. Lastly, possible avenues for complementarity with commercial banking and the development of new financial instruments (such as guarantee schemes, venture capital, securitization and factoring) are explored and policy recommendations made to strengthen the capacity of development banks.

Given the continent-wide importance and relevance of [ECLAC] with regard to the financing and economic aspects of productive development, [...] [the Commission’s] support and experience will allow us to acquire the necessary know-how to improve excluded sectors’ access to the financial system, as well as that of stakeholders who are already part of it.

Hugo Campidoglio, Undersecretary for Financing Production, Ministry of Production, Argentina

A seminar on the financial inclusion of SMEs, attended by representatives from the seven countries, was held on 6 and 7 April 2017, at which the national studies for Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru were presented. In addition, studies on instruments for the financial inclusion of SMEs in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico were carried out. Following that, another seminar on development banks and financial innovation in products, processes and institutional structure for the financial inclusion of SMEs was held in Peru (16-17 August 2017 organized in partnership with the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE)); a workshop on SMEs access to finance and the role of

development banks in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America was held in Thailand (27-28 September 2017, organized in partnership with ESCAP, and attended by representatives of the Centre for Financial International Cooperation (CFIC) of the Korean Institute of Finance, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)); a regional seminar to promote financial inclusion of SMEs took place in Chile (18-19 October 2017) where the comparative regional study was presented; and a seminar on promoting financial inclusion through innovative development bank policies was held in Costa Rica (13-14 November 2017), organized by the development banking system of Costa Rica.

As a result of the work of the Division, several measures have been considered by development banks' policymakers, as well as academia and the private sector in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, including measures to: (i) improve collaboration between development banks and commercial banks; (ii) improve and extend financial education; (iii) expand the toolkit of instruments to promote the financial inclusion of SMEs, and (iv) improve development banks' processes to promote the financial inclusion of SMEs (including greater streamlining and automation of internal processes, new methodologies for assessing clients' ability and willingness to pay, etc.). The association of private banks of Ecuador (ASOBANCA) has indicated that the Division's work has helped to enhance existing instruments for financial inclusion and to develop new ones. The Peruvian bank, Agrobanco, stated that the results of the project were very useful for the revision of the strategic framework and policies for financial inclusion. The project has also proven useful for the evaluation of the development banking system of Costa Rica from an international perspective.

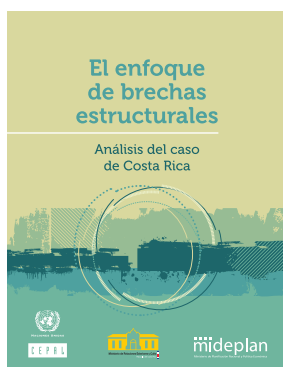
The document on the financial inclusion of SMEs in Ecuador, presented by ECLAC [...], provided input for establishing the work agenda of the Risk Committee of the association of private banks of Ecuador. Based on the analysis carried out and the aforementioned document, the Committee's agenda for the rest of 2017 and the next will focus on enhancing existing products that promote the financial inclusion of SMEs, such as guarantee schemes, factoring and rediscounting, in coordination with the productive sectors we will analyse the implementation of new financial products and services designed with the needs of clients of these sectors in mind, an important factor that is highlighted in the aforementioned document.

Julio José Prado, Executive Director, Association of Private Banks of Ecuador (ASOBANCA)

Analysis of ODA trends reveals the limits of the income per capita approach, as the evidence indicates that countries with similar income levels are characterized by very different situations as regards economic and social development, such as different levels of access to social protection mechanisms, education and health-care quality, and financial participation and inclusion, as well as different levels of resilience in the face of economic and social shocks. To overcome the shortcomings of the income per capita as a criteria for allocating ODA, ECLAC proposes a new, complementary approach, the structural gap approach, which identifies key structural obstacles that are hindering sustained, equitable and inclusive growth for middle-income countries. The approach includes 12 indicators to measure inequality and poverty, the debt ratio, investment and saving, productivity and innovation, infrastructure, education, health, taxation, gender

and the environment. During the biennium several national or regional institutions have formally embraced the structural gap approach, including the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica.

The Division provided technical assistance to Costa Rica and worked the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs to coordinate the report *El enfoque de brechas estructurales: análisis del caso de Costa Rica*, that was presented at a formal launch with key government officials in San José in December 2016. Input was provided by the aforementioned ministries and others. The report examines six structural gaps: (i) poverty and inequality; (ii) education; (iii) gender; (iv) productivity and innovation; (v) infrastructure; and (vi) taxation. The methodology to identify structural gaps developed by ECLAC is described in the first chapter of the report and forms the basis for the other chapters.



EL ENFOQUE DE BRECHAS ESTRUCTURALES. ANÁLISIS DEL CASO DE COSTA RICA

This document sets out the results of the applying of the structural gap approach in Costa Rica. The structural gap approach advocates incorporating into the development cooperation agenda an evaluation of needs and shortcomings that are not covered by the income per capita indicator, but are evident from other gaps.

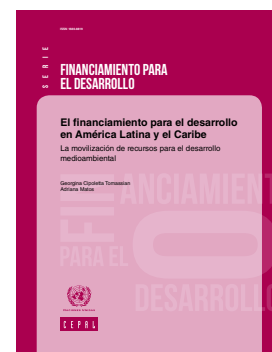
This approach sheds light on the areas that require immediate attention from public policymakers, and serves as a guide to channel resources from the international cooperation system. The gaps-based approach allows middle income-countries to secure development cooperation more effectively and design policies that are able to address the most significant national gaps.

The ministries are using the results of the structural gap analysis to promote a national and regional dialogue on ODA as part of the international financial architecture. The analysis also helps to identify development priorities for funding and donor assistance. The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs of Costa Rica are using the results of the analysis as the basis for their international cooperation discussions.

Through its publications, the Division raised awareness of issues related to financing for development. The document *El financiamiento para el desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe. La movilización de recursos para el desarrollo medioambiental* presents a general overview of how external sources of financing have evolved in Latin America and the Caribbean, differentiating between private and official financial flows, focusing in particular on climate change finance at the regional and global level. The paper, *Investment in renewable energy, fossil fuel prices and policy implications for Latin America and the Caribbean*, examines whether recent sharp declines in the price of oil and other fossil fuels will discourage private investment in renewable energy, which is key for climate change mitigation.

EL FINANCIAMIENTO PARA EL DESARROLLO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: LA MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS PARA EL DESARROLLO MEDIOAMBIENTAL

Latin American and Caribbean countries need information on the mobilization of funds to finance efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including those Goals that address climate change, in order to assess their ability to respond to the challenges facing the region and to improve the design of development policies. The study analyses the latest data on financing sources in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing in particular on the financing needed to prepare for and combat the effects of climate change.



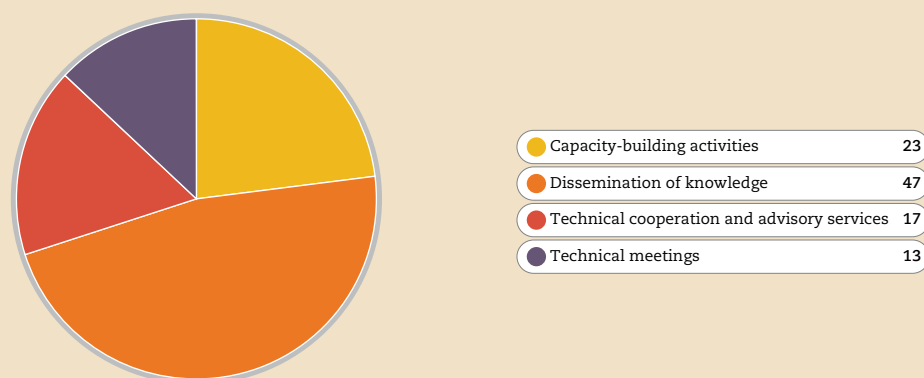
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Governments of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance, which took the form of a report on cross-border trade between the two countries analysing price differentials and exchange rates, and presenting a proposal for further dialogue. The report was presented to both governments in July 2016.

A seminar on establishing public-private partnerships for infrastructure and financing for development was held on 27 April 2016, organized by the International Affairs Secretariat (SEAIN) of the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management of Brazil, in collaboration with ECLAC and IDB, and with the support of the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). Participants examined the integration of physical infrastructure in Latin America from the perspective of the challenges related to investment in and the regulation and financing of regional transport infrastructure. The Division presented a publication on infrastructure financing and suggested that alternative and innovative models, sources and instruments for financing transport infrastructure should be explored to promote integration in South America.

The Division also provided Colombia with technical assistance on financing infrastructure for productive development, during a workshop on mining and infrastructure resources governance, focusing in particular on coal mining in Colombia, which took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 5 and 6 April 2016. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Colombian public and private sector and civil society, who analysed the lack of adequate infrastructure in the mining sector.

[FIGURE 4]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The main lesson learned was that all the different stakeholders, involved including governments, commercial banks, development banks and SMEs, must be involved to improve financial inclusion. Another lesson learned was that the Division's analysis and knowledge products must be disseminated among policymakers, especially those from national development banks, in order to enhance the impact of ECLAC policy recommendations. This should be done through personal meetings and small-scale workshops with the national development banks to discuss the recommendations and share views and experiences.

Lastly, a lesson learned as a result of the technical assistance and advisory services provided to Costa Rica was the importance of assembling an inter-institutional team to support the work and facilitating regular communication between ECLAC and the ministry focal points. National authorities should therefore make the structural gap approach a political priority in order to achieve durable results.

SUBPROGRAMME 5**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY****[5]****LAÍS ABRAMO**

Chief of the Social Development Division

INTRODUCTION

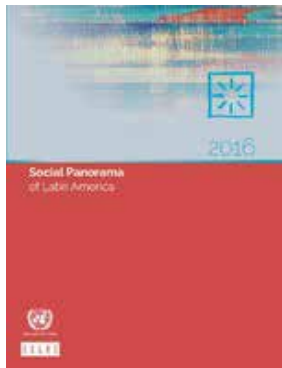
The objective of ECLAC in the area of social development was to achieve greater social and economic equality in Latin America and the Caribbean and contribute to the overall well-being of the people of the region in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a rights-based approach. To achieve that objective, the Social Development Division provided technical assistance, promoted policy dialogue and conducted and disseminated analysis of the social situation in the region with regard to particular issues and population groups, in order to inform national decision-making processes and strengthen the technical capacity of social institutions.

Economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean throughout 2016-2017 indicated an ever more complex scenario for social development and equality in the region. Negative economic growth and political turbulence in key countries frustrated the fight against poverty and led to less social investment. Despite advances in the region, social policy analysis and design still need to be improved to understand how welfare, poverty and multiple dimensions of inequality affect employment and decent work opportunities, and economic productivity and distribution. More needs to be done to effectively analyse and tackle problems resulting from the relationship between national productive structure and social development; to improve social policies, adopting a life cycle approach, for children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, Afrodescendants; and to strengthen analysis of institutional aspects of social policies and new challenges related to migration and technological change. In the light of this increasingly complex scenario, the Division gave careful consideration to inequality as a structural feature of the region and obstacle to sustainable development.

In response to the mandate conferred by the member countries on ECLAC at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division worked tirelessly throughout the biennium to make progress towards meeting its objectives. Notably, it carried out over 150 missions, including exploratory missions, consultative meetings, expert meetings and technical assistance, in addition to the publication of two editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America*, two books, nine publications in the Social Policy series, 13 project documents and two Challenges newsletters.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

In the light of the additional economic, environmental and social risks that countries face, approaches based on human rights and equality are increasingly relevant to the advancement of social covenants that build consensus, provide political legitimacy, and increase institutional capacity to carry out necessary reforms. The Division's first major achievement of the biennium was convening the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo in November 2016. The meeting was held in conjunction with the eighth meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and was convened jointly by ECLAC, UNDP and the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic. The meeting was attended by social development ministers and senior officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, who acknowledged the importance of protecting social investment and advancing towards universal systems of social protection to avoid setbacks in the fight against poverty, given the current economic situation, and to move towards closing the gaps identified by ECLAC in its report *The social inequality matrix in Latin America*.



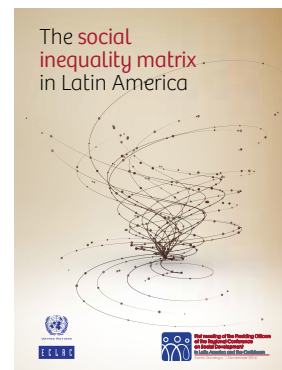
SOCIAL PANORAMA OF LATIN AMERICA, 2016

In this document, social inequality is examined as a fundamental challenge and obstacle to sustainable development. Some of the axes and aspects of social inequality are addressed, drawing attention to how they intersect with and reinforce one another. The different chapters examine inequalities in the distribution of income and property; inequalities over the life cycle; time-use inequalities between men and women; and the situation of Afrodescendent populations as an example of ethnic and racial inequalities. Recent trends in the amount of public resources available to finance social policies capable of tackling poverty and inequality and of promoting inclusive social development are also analysed.

Another achievement was the knowledge disseminated through the two editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* published during the biennium. The 2016 edition provides evidence that inequality is a structural feature of the region and an obstacle to sustainable development. Chapter V of that edition shows that analysis of ethnic and racial inequalities has been incorporated into the work carried out under the subprogramme. Disparities in the exercise of economic and social rights by the Afrodescendent population in Latin America, and the institutional framework and policies for the Afrodescendent population are analysed in that chapter. The Division has also addressed gender mainstreaming and sustainability issues, as evidenced by the publications presented by ECLAC at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development.

THE SOCIAL INEQUALITY MATRIX IN LATIN AMERICA

This document pursues the analysis of the social inequality matrix in the region. The analysis focuses on some of the main axes that serve to structure social inequality to illustrate how they influence the depth of the equality gaps, their persistence over time and their reproduction. The document concludes with some policy recommendations, including policies that are universal but sensitive to differences. At their first meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the document, drawing attention to the importance of progressing towards the elimination of poverty through the stable generation of productive employment and decent work, the universalization of access to good-quality education and health care, and the construction of rights-based universal systems of social protection, and taking action to tackle inequality gaps.



I am very grateful for this comprehensive document on social inequality, which will significantly strengthen the implementation of public policies, both in our country and throughout Latin America.

Claudia Pascual Grau, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, letter dated 3 October 2017

The second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held from 25 to 27 October 2017 in Montevideo, was another of the subprogramme's highlights during the biennium. At that session, the Commission presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*, which argues that the region must move towards a virtuous circle of development in which productive diversification, progressive structural change and environmental momentum are accompanied by inclusive social development. In its resolution 2(II), the Regional Conference recognized that reducing the social footprint of the current development model and achieving inclusive social development were essential for the fulfilment of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and require the coordination of productive inclusion and social inclusion policies. It also expressed appreciation for the advances achieved by the region over the past 15 years in reducing poverty and inequality, but observed with particular concern the trend towards the reduction of social development budgets in the region and the possible weakening of social protection systems that this could cause. Furthermore, lastly, the Conference asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance for the construction of a regional agenda for inclusive social development.



LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SOCIAL AND PRODUCTION SPHERES: GAPS, PILLARS AND CHALLENGES

Latin American and Caribbean region is facing a complex set of economic and social circumstances that threaten the conditions needed for further progress towards the goal of eradicating all forms of poverty and ensuring that no one is left behind, as required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These temporary challenges are compounded by structural problems, such as low productivity, high levels of inequality, social exclusion and a failure to care for the environment. This document argues that to overcome those challenges and ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of the entire population, the region must move towards a virtuous circle of development in which productive diversification, progressive structural change and environmental momentum are accompanied by inclusive social development. In this virtuous circle, creating decent work goes hand in hand with maintaining levels of social investment to ensure universal access to education, health, social protection systems, housing and basic infrastructure (energy, clean water and sanitation). Analysing the gaps, axes and linkages between the region's social and productive spheres is part of the mandate that the Latin American and Caribbean countries handed down to ECLAC at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in November 2016

Another important part of the work carried out by the Division is analysis of the level of investment in and impact and management of social policies and programmes implemented by the governments of the region. During the biennium, 10 social policies, plans or programmes, drafted in line with ECLAC recommendations, were adopted in the region. For example, technical assistance on the process of defining regional policy objectives, and designing national policies and monitoring and evaluation systems was provided to the Chilean National Council for Culture and the Arts. As a result, changes were made to participatory mechanisms' processes and work to define cultural public policy objectives at the regional level. In addition, manuals or methodological instructions to guide this process were drawn up, as well as clear definitions for their implementation, so as to better articulate common objectives between cultural and other sectorial policies. The Division also provided input for the digital policy recommendations made by the Advisory Council for a Digital Agenda in Education to the Ministry of Education of Chile in 2017, and the technical assistance given to the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica in 2017 resulted in a report with recommendations for a training strategy to strengthen the impact on the target population of the programme to connect households to the Internet.

The Division also continued to advise governments of the region on social development issues and training professionals and technical staff. In this regard, 15 social policy institutions of the region requested and received technical assistance. Assistance was provided to El Salvador, Ecuador and Peru to facilitate the adoption of ECLAC recommendations on budget classifiers, in line with the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG); to the Office of Planning and the Budget

of the Office of the President of Uruguay with courses on the statistical analysis software, Stata; to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico for a training course on measuring disability indicators; to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities of Costa Rica for a training course on human rights indicators for persons with disabilities; and to the National Youth Secretariat of Paraguay on results-based management for mainstreaming youth issues into the public sector. Finally, the Ministry of Social Development of Mexico asked ECLAC to provide technical assistance and to be part of the technical executive committee responsible for planning the international symposium, funded by the World Bank, on conditional cash transfer programmes, organized as part of the *Prospera* programme.

The Government of El Salvador, through the Technical Secretariat of Planning of the Office of the President, would like to thank you for the technical support received in connection with the design and conceptualization of the El Salvador poverty eradication strategy, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. I hereby inform you that the strategy was launched in the second half of 2017 and we hope it will be adopted as a State public policy, transcending government, as part of the development vision of leaving no one behind. We draw particular attention to your institution's valuable contribution, as was seen in the different discussion forums for formulating the strategy, which will undoubtedly be a key component in advancing social policy in El Salvador.

Roberto Lorenzana Durán, Technical Secretary of Planning of the Office of the President, El Salvador, letter dated 11 December 2017

In the framework of the Development Account project entitled “Promoting equality: strengthening the capacity of select developing countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes” led by the Division and jointly implemented by the five regional commissions, a toolkit was prepared to analyse and measure socioeconomic inequalities and the redistributive impact of social and fiscal policies. In addition, four workshops were organized, in collaboration with ECLAC offices in Montevideo and Buenos Aires, on quantitative and qualitative methods for policy analysis and evaluation, which were attended by representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Social Security, of Social Development and of Economic Affairs and Finance, and the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay and the Ministries of Social Development and of Finances of Argentina. Two interregional studies were also produced, focusing on the design and implementation of equality-oriented public policies: *Confronting inequality: Social protection for families and early childhood through monetary transfers and care worldwide* and *Pension and income transfers for old age: Inter- and intra-generational distribution in comparative perspective*. The former analyses social protection policies for families and early childhood focusing on family allowances and other types of monetary transfers for families with children, work leave and early childhood education and care policies worldwide. The latter provides a comparative analysis of pension system designs and reforms around the world and recommendations to improve pension coverage, equality and sustainability.

The Division also fostered the exchange of ideas, the production of information and capacity-building on social protection. In that connection, it organized a seminar on non-contributory social protection and labour inclusion in collaboration with the Global Development Institute of the University of Manchester. At the seminar, held on 5 December 2016, in Santiago, discussions focused on the results of non-contributory social protection programmes and their potential incentives and

disincentives to labour and productive inclusion and employment formalization. In conjunction with ILPES, the Division organized a course on social protection tools throughout the life cycle, which took place in Santiago from 22 to 26 May 2017 and was attended by 34 social protection professionals from 15 countries of the region. The objective of the course was to strengthen the capacities of those involved in decision-making processes regarding social protection public policies, encouraging them to put equality and human rights at the centre of development policies in the region. Lastly, in 2017, the Division offered three training courses on social protection tools and labour and productive inclusion mechanisms, in collaboration with FAO.

In addition, the Division has worked steadily to develop, maintain and update databases on social investment, on labour and productive inclusion programmes, conditional cash transfer programmes and social pensions, and on youth and social inclusion. As of November 2017, 29 Latin American and Caribbean countries have provided information on their non-contributory social protection programmes and the database contained information on 48 conditional cash transfer programmes, 29 social pensions and 75 labour and productive inclusion programmes. It was visited 11,210 times in 2016 and 12,693 times in 2017. During the biennium, a new database on social investment in Latin America and the Caribbean was made publicly available to all users interested in discovering the volume of resources spent on policies related to six functions: social protection; education; health; housing and community services; recreation, culture and religion; and environmental protection.

The Division also launched an online database on social policy institutions with information covering four areas: legislation and regulation, organizational arrangements, technical capacities and funding. It includes comparative tables and national profiles of 33 countries of the region and provides an overview and analysis of the four areas covered. To complement this information a book, entitled *Institucionalidad social en América Latina y el Caribe*, was published, which sets out an analytical framework for and a regional overview of social policies, and focuses on ministries of social development, pension systems, the regulation of labour markets and care policies. It also analyses the characteristics of institutions devoted to the promotion of the rights of specific population groups, namely youth, people with disabilities, and Afrodescendants.

The Division is also in the process of updating the youth and social inclusion observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, JUVeLAC, to include 25 indicators on youth education, employment and health. Moreover, to raise awareness of the portal, a virtual seminar was hosted on the platform on 11 August 2017 to commemorate International Youth Day. Over 440 individuals from 20 countries in the region participated in this event, many of whom represented national-level counterparts, including ministries of education, health, social development, labour and coordination and participation.

Lastly, a new area of work for the Division has been the analysis of the challenges posed by migration to social protection systems in the region. To that end, national and regional expert meetings were held, attended by government actors from countries where the problem is particularly acute, namely El Salvador and Mexico, as well as countries like Chile where immigration is a recent phenomenon, but one that is climbing higher on the public agenda. The main objective of these activities was to raise awareness among governments of the need to develop

specific policies to address the barriers migrants face when accessing social protection mechanisms in a region where migration flows are increasingly important and diverse.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

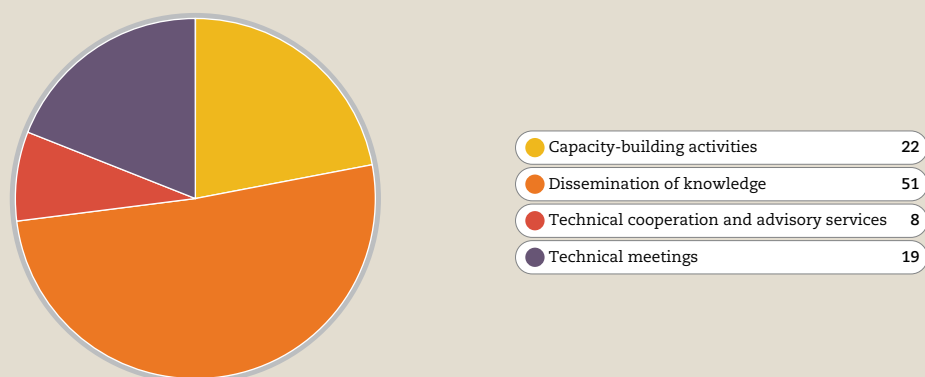
As part of the project to strengthen institutions for universal and sustainable social protections, financed by GIZ, the Division encouraged the countries of the region to improve the quality (effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and transparency) of their social protection policies and promote decent work with a gender approach. In addition to technical assistance provided to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Paraguay, several regional and national seminars have been held on social policy institutions, migration and social protection, and two books were published on social policy institutions and social protection: *Institucionalidad social en América Latina y el Caribe*, and *Protección social en América Latina: la desigualdad en el banquillo*.

The invaluable contribution of ECLAC helped us to achieve our objectives and goals, improving the quality of life of those people living in poverty.

Mr. José Soler, Director of International Relations and Cooperation of the Secretariat for Social Action, Office of the President of Paraguay, email dated 30 December 2016

Developed by ECLAC in conjunction with ILO in its capacity as technical secretariat of regional initiative, Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, the project on child and adolescent labour, poverty and inequality seeks to generate knowledge to improve policymaking in order to prevent and combat child and adolescent labour in Latin America and the Caribbean. Between April and August 2017, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru were chosen as the project pilot countries, which the Division will provide with technical assistance and inter-institutional coordination forums tailored to their specific political and institutional needs.

[FIGURE 5]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

Given the greater demand for technical assistance and capacity-building activities in a context of limited financial resources, the videoconferencing platform, WebEx, has been used with great success. This not only allowed seminars to be webcast live, but also information to be disseminated in advance to encourage participation. Questions could also be submitted beforehand and thus addressed during the event. Another lesson learned was that projects should include innovative analysis. An exit strategy should also be adopted, either from the outset or during the implementation of projects and activities at the national level, to maximize sustainability.

A lesson learned from the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was that better strategies were needed to establish and maintain contact with social development counterparts in the region, and thus encourage the active participation of and constructive dialogue and sharing of experiences among the government representatives of participating countries. These improvements had been largely achieved before the second session of Regional Conference. In its resolution 2(II), adopted at that session, the Conference asks ECLAC to provide technical assistance for the construction of a regional agenda for inclusive social development, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require more meaningful dialogue and closer links with countries and subregional organizations to address emerging challenges in the region, such as the demographic transition, migration, climate change and technology.

SUBPROGRAMME 6**MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE
IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****[6]****MARIA NIEVES RICO**

Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs

INTRODUCTION

The biennium provided a unique opportunity to strengthen the capacities of member States of ECLAC to implement the 2030 Agenda, with their adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Strategy is a tool for national governments to mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda. It can be adapted to national priorities, gender equality plans, sustainable development plans, policies and budgets. The Division also contributed to the global follow-up process of the Sustainable Development Goals by analysing and disseminating indicator 5.4.1 to measure the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

Throughout the biennium, the Division generated knowledge on gender relations in the region, in connection with issues such as poverty, education, social protection, urban planning and violence against women. It has estimated the fiscal cost of implementing policies to prevent violence against women and the cost of failing to adopt such policies, and generated knowledge on the links between education, labour supply and decent work. The Division has also continued to strengthen national capacities to produce gender statistics and relations between producers and users of gender statistics, to support pension reform processes and to mainstream the gender approach into national policies.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was overhauled in 2016 to incorporate a new conceptual approach and analysis based on the interrelationship between women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, helping to make the Observatory the main regional point of reference for gender statistics and gender equality policy analysis.

Over the course of the biennium, various United Nations system and intergovernmental agencies, including UNFPA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), FAO, UN-Women, and IOM, continued to collaborate with the Observatory.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The current conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean are marked by uncertainty on the economic, political, social and environmental fronts and are thus less favourable than they were during the 2000s. Although progress has been

made since 2002, the region is still the most unequal in the world and to achieve gender equality and women's autonomy, the gap between advances in legislation and women's day-to-day realities must be closed.

A persistent challenge with respect to women's economic autonomy is distributive equality, which includes overcoming women's poverty in terms of both money and time, achieving equal pay, ending discrimination in the labour market and redressing biased or inadequate social protection. Unpaid domestic and care work is also addressed as the root of inequality based on the sexual division of labour.

Development is not possible if women lack physical autonomy, which will remain out of their reach if they cannot fully exercise their right to health, are unable to decide freely on their reproductive and sexual lives, and suffer from high rates of maternal mortality. Women cannot achieve physical autonomy while child and adolescent motherhood increases, and while obstacles remain to treating women with disabilities as bearers of rights. Women have the right to a life free of violence, without threat of femicide which is, moreover, worsened by inadequate access to justice.

Another key element is autonomy in the exercise of power and in decision-making processes, where women notably lack visibility and representation despite their demographic weight and their contribution and role in society. This is evident in women's limited participation not only in the political arena, but also in other decision-making spheres, such as the economy, academia and knowledge management, and the media.

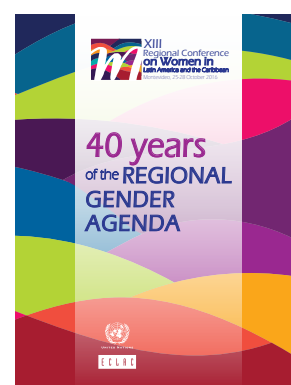
The uninterrupted progress made by the region since the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, demonstrates governments' commitment to moving towards greater autonomy for women and gender equality. The Regional Gender Agenda compiles all the commitments adopted by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean on women's rights and autonomy, and gender equality. With sights set on the future, ECLAC presented a proposal for strengthening public policies on gender equality and on ensuring the fulfilment of women's rights and autonomy, while weaving interdependent linkages between the goals, targets and measures for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda. The new challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean call for innovative and effective public policies that support and are supported by, a gender equality architecture based on solid and interconnected institutions, as well as on clear gender mainstreaming and participation processes.

The Division has continued its efforts to strengthen the knowledge, skills and policymaking capacities of government officials from the region with regard to gender equality, women's physical, economic and decision-making autonomy and the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main outcome of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo, from 25 to 28 October 2016, was the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 by the member States. The aim of the Montevideo Strategy is to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality and women's autonomy and human rights.

Four structural challenges have been identified in the region: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere. The Division has also developed a Regional Gender Agenda libguide in conjunction with the ECLAC Library and the Information and Communications Technology Section. This online tool allows users to search all the commitments made by the governments of the region on women's rights, women's autonomy and gender equality at the meetings of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to raising the visibility of those agreements, this tool proved to be very useful for national authorities.

40 YEARS OF THE REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA

At the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in 1977, ECLAC member States adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, the region's first road map for progress towards the recognition of women's contribution to society and to make visible the obstacles that they faced. The governments also gave ECLAC a mandate to convene periodically a Regional Conference on Women. Over the next four decades ECLAC organized 13 Regional Conferences on Women. This intergovernmental platform, with the active participation of the women's and feminist movement and the support of the entire United Nations system, has become the main forum for the negotiation of a broad, profound and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda, in which women's autonomy and rights are front and centre. This publication is a contribution to the implementation of the commitments undertaken. It is a compilation of all the agreements adopted by the governments at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and will serve not only as a tool for reference, but above all as a tool for action and for building a future based on the collective memory of the women of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Over the course of the biennium, the countries of the region implemented several policies in response to the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy. For example, law No. 5446/15 was enacted in Paraguay in November 2016 to promote and guarantee the economic, social, political and cultural rights of rural women. In December 2016, the Ministry of Education of El Salvador adopted a gender equity and equality policy to eradicate gender inequalities in the education system. Suriname ratified the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111) in January 2017 and the Labour Inspection Act (Decree No. 178-2016) came into force in Honduras in March 2017 to guarantee women's right to work when pregnant or breastfeeding. The same month, Mexico amended articles 10, 11 and 14 of the Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence Act, establishing wage discrimination as a type of economic violence. The National Women's Institute was created in September 2017 as a decentralized entity of the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina, and, lastly, the Government of Chile adopted law No. 21,001 in March 2017 which prohibited gender discrimination in the national armed forces. In

addition, stakeholders from Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay said that they had benefited from ECLAC technical assistance on gender equality plans, time-use surveys, gender indicators, and urban development and care policies to support the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy.



MONTEVIDEO STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA WITHIN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK BY 2030

The Montevideo Strategy was adopted by the member States of ECLAC at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality and women's autonomy and human rights.

Four structural challenges have been identified in the region: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere. With a view to overcoming these challenges, the Strategy sets forth 74 measures under 10 implementation pillars: 1. Normative framework; 2. Institutional architecture; 3. Participation; 4. Capacity-building and -strengthening; 5. Financing; 6. Communication; 7. Technology; 8. Cooperation; 9. Information systems; and 10. Monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

The Division provided advisory services to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay on issues related to violence against women; family responsibilities and care; pension systems; urban planning; gender statistics; time-use surveys and the economic valuation of unpaid work; gender mainstreaming; development planning; peace and security; and the economic empowerment of women. The first time-use surveys were carried out in Chile and Paraguay in 2016, an important achievement for the Division.

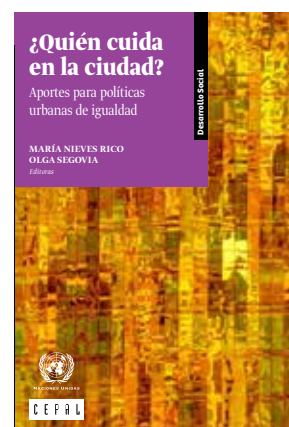
As part of the Development Account project on “Strengthening national capacities to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women’s economic empowerment in urban areas”, technical assistance and capacity-building activities were undertaken with the municipalities of Bogotá, Mexico City, Cuenca, Havana, Montevideo, Santiago and San Salvador, to support the generation of evidence of the link between urban development, women’s economic autonomy and care policies or programmes.

I wish to thank you on behalf of the government and the secretariat of labour and employment of Mexico City for the support given to the South-South Cooperation Initiative by the Division for Gender Affairs as part of the United Nations Development Account project on urban development, economic autonomy and care policies. The workshop held at the beginning of June [2017] had proved to be very successful and useful for creating a care system in Mexico City —as called for in the recently-approved municipal constitution—.

Amalia García Medina, Secretary of Labour and Employment, Mexico City

¿QUIÉN CUIDA EN LA CIUDAD? APORTES PARA POLÍTICAS URBANAS DE IGUALDAD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes gender equality and women's autonomy as fundamental factors in moving towards sustainable development. In accordance with the New Urban Agenda, equal rights for women must be guaranteed in all areas related to cities. This book seeks to find out who provides care in cities and how it can be planned and managed to respond to the needs of women, who have traditionally been assigned care tasks, so that they can exercise their rights and expand their economic autonomy. The objective, based on studies on different Latin American cities, is to broaden the debate and make suggestions that will help women and men to use and enjoy the urban space and time in the city equally. The book proposes to move towards a caregiver city, which encourages women to overcome the barriers to inclusion that affect them and assert their right to the city.



During the biennium, the Division continued to deliver online courses to better respond to requests from countries of the region for more technical cooperation support. The seventh and eighth versions of the online course on gender statistics and indicators were delivered in 2016 and 2017, respectively; an online course on gender and ICTs was run for the first time; and the third and fourth versions of the online course on measuring violence against women were also delivered in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Thanks to these courses, 473 participants, 385 of them women, from 20 countries strengthened their capacities in these areas.

A third regional training workshop was held in Santiago, in July 2016 to promote greater awareness of the resolutions on women and peace and security in the region, in particular, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in order to strengthen the capacities of governments of the region to mainstream gender equality into peace and security policies. This workshop was attended by 100 participants from 21 countries of the region representing the ministries of foreign affairs, of defence and of women's affairs.

The website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was updated in 2016, to include the latest web technologies and a new content management system, and to incorporate a modern design that facilitates navigation and improves users' experience. As part of the overhaul, a new conceptual approach was developed with revised analysis based on the interrelationship between the three autonomies of women (economic, physical and in decision-making). Following that update, the Observatory was visited by 76,597 users as of September 2017. The Observatory has also established a vast statistical repository that has been integrated into the CEPALSTAT database. In addition, the national regulation repositories of the Gender Equality Observatory were updated and consolidated with the inclusion of new regulations on pensions, migration and equality plans.

As a result of technical assistance provided under the subprogramme, the following policy actions were implemented in priority areas covered by the Gender Equality Observatory. To address the shared burden of care, Brazil adopted law No. 13,257 (March 2016) extending paternity leave from five days to up to 20; Argentina

launched the national early childhood plan (decree No. 574/2016, April 2016) to promote care spaces and facilitate women's access to the labour market; and Cuba promoted shared childcare responsibilities in families through decree-law No. 339 (February 2017). To tackle the persistence of violence against women, Paraguay approved the national plan to combat violence against women, 2015-2020 (decree No. 5140, April 2016); Brazil launched a national plan on women and peace and security in March 2017; and Peru strengthened its efforts to fight gender-based violence through legislative decree No. 1323 (January 2017). Guatemala adopted the Migration Code (decree No. 44/2016, October 2016), which constitutes a considerable advance in the recognition of the migrant women's rights. Lastly, in September 2016, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile launched a new gender statistics website (see [online] <http://www.ine.cl/estadisticas/menu-sociales/genero>), developed using the conceptual framework of the Gender Equality Observatory.

The Division continued to generate knowledge and produce documents that have been used as a source of reference by other entities. The publication *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*, presented at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, provided input for the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, presented at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The paper, *The 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda. Synergies for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, analyses the 2030 Agenda in the light of the challenges and priorities for gender equality and women's rights and autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, the Division contributed to the global follow-up process of the Sustainable Development Goals by analysing and disseminating indicator 5.4.1, proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

With the support of GIZ, the Division is implementing a project on the challenges for the 2030 Agenda linked to gender equality and sustainable development, working with countries of the region to mainstream the gender approach in activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen the production of gender statistics and indicators. The production of gender statistics highlights the gaps between men and women, demonstrating the need for public actions that seek to close those gaps, a key issue for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

The Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) thanks the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC for introducing us to the gender statistics work being carried out internationally. This has allowed us to plan and operate using the same criteria and standards as the other countries of the region. We also thank the Division for its valuable technical support, which has allowed us to adapt survey methodologies to the priorities identified in the 2030 Agenda and the public policies of El Salvador for 2017-2019.

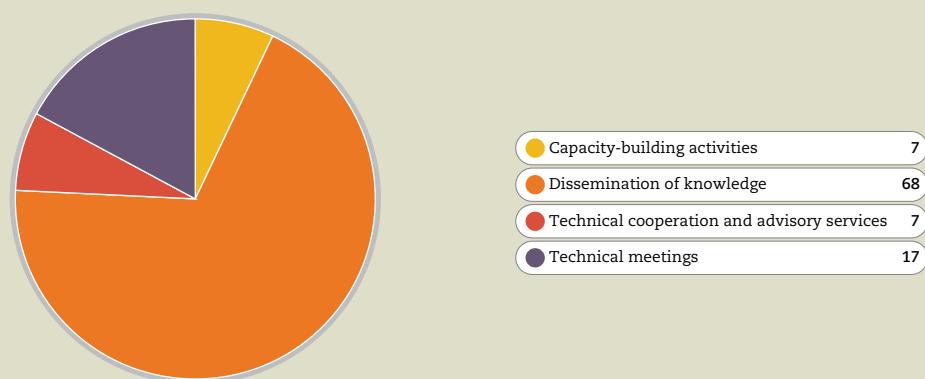
Vilma Lucrecia Mejia, Gender Statistics Manager of the Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC), Ministry of Economic Affairs, El Salvador

The Division is also undertaking a project promoting technical and vocational education for greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, in conjunction with other Divisions of ECLAC and with the support of the Embassy of Norway. The

project aims to strengthen the link between equality and technical and vocational education, by placing it on the regional agenda and advocating political dialogue to foster fiscal, social and labour agreements. The work of the Division focuses on generating knowledge about the situation of women in vocational education systems and analysing the challenges they face when entering technical professions and over the course of their careers. This analysis will help to identify public policy recommendations that could overcome the gender biases that exist in vocational education and that promote the economic autonomy of women graduates of that educational system, by fostering dialogue among national mechanisms for the advancement of women and other key actors in the countries of the region.

Lastly, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Division organized two meetings on pension system reform and gender equality with the Governments of Chile and Uruguay. AECID also supported the second Ibero-American meeting on gender and social security, organized by the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and the Division, which took place in San José in November 2017, and culminated in the signature of a declaration. The Division provided technical support to Costa Rica to mainstream women's rights and gender equality into the pension system reform.

[FIGURE 6]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

Over its 40-year history, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has provided a forum for ECLAC member States to negotiate and develop an agenda of women's human rights and gender equality and non-discrimination. But the consensus and commitments that comprise this agenda have not always resulted in implementation plans. In the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and as part of the process of drafting the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, the Division undertook a systematic review of the language used over the last 40 years in the agreements that comprise the Regional Gender Agenda. That review led to the identification of the existing

regional and global agreements linked to different implementation pillars. The measures of the Montevideo Strategy make progress towards operationalizing and giving full effect to the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030.

An important lesson learned was the need to create synergies between international and regional mandates and among intergovernmental bodies specializing in women's human rights and gender equality. At its thirteenth session, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to report, through the Chair of the Conference, to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, regarding progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy from a perspective of gender and women's full autonomy and rights, which is an important step in the creation of those synergies. A sign that these synergies are being established, is the decision to include the Montevideo Strategy in the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 (FNS-CELAC Plan), approved in November 2016.

The Division also undertook an extensive and participatory consultation process prior to drafting the Montevideo Strategy, involving government officials, representatives of civil society organizations and United Nations system bodies, specialists from the women's movement and academic institutions. This meant that discussions at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women were productive and straightforward. In addition to facilitating the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy, this unique participatory process allowed a large number of actors to take ownership of the Strategy, and therefore there are high hopes for its effective implementation. Moreover, for the first time in the history of the Regional Conference, it was attended by more than 100 journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean, which helped to raise awareness of the Conference and the Regional Gender Agenda.

SUBPROGRAMME 7**POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT****[7]****PAULO SAAD**

Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC

INTRODUCTION

During 2016-2017, the Division continued to promote the inclusion of population-related issues in the development planning of Latin American and Caribbean countries, through the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In the framework of this subprogramme, past, present and future demographic trends were analysed, with emphasis on the social, economic and territorial inequalities that still persist in the region, with a view to enhance the capacity of national institutions to monitor those trends and address population and development issues for the purpose of sociodemographic and economic planning. Specifically, this was achieved through the organization of two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: the first in November 2016, and the second, a special meeting, in November 2017, held pursuant to the decision to organize the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2018. In addition, two workshops were held in Mexico City, in June 2016 and May 2017, to review the progress made in preparing the proposal of indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The proposal was presented during the special meeting of the Presiding Officers. It is important to note that the Montevideo Consensus resulted from the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, and is a regional milestone in the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

Some of the activities carried out in the framework of the subprogramme have reinforced the Commission's institutional presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other regions of the world. Those include: (i) the preparation of the study on the challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons, presented at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2017 in Paraguay, the main objective of which was to review the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, (ii) the organization of the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory meeting of international migration experts on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, (iii) the organization of training workshops on the use of the REDATAM software in several Latin American, Caribbean, Asian and African countries, and (iv) the production of a study on the situation of

Afrodescendants in Latin America and the policy challenges in guaranteeing their rights, in the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Throughout the biennium, the Division continued to provide technical assistance on topics related to population issues, spanning over a vast geographic area within and beyond Latin America and the Caribbean, with a major focus on ageing, the impact of demographic changes on development, indigenous peoples and people of African descent, internal and international migration, population estimations and projections, and censuses. The Division provided technical assistance to member States in the context of recently conducted censuses (Chile and Peru in 2017) and those in the process of preparation that will be conducted in the near future (Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala, planned for 2018). Also during the biennium, the Division continued with its work evaluating the censuses concluded in the 2010 round in Argentina, Cuba and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

As CELADE maintains its unchallenged reputation for demographic analysis and population studies in the region and beyond, member countries continue to seek the Commission's guidance on collecting, analysing, disseminating and using censuses, surveys and administrative records. Accordingly, the Division has continued its efforts to increase stakeholders' capacity to monitor demographic trends and utilize this knowledge to inform the design, management and evaluation of sociodemographic policies and programmes. To this end, CELADE has enjoyed strong support from agencies in the United Nations system, especially from UNFPA. Three main strategies were deployed in pursuit of that aim: training in demographic analysis, support for census taking, and technical assistance on population matters, including population estimates and projections.

During the biennium, in the context of the Division's capacity-building activities, 175 experts from 19 countries participated in workshops, courses and internships organized by CELADE. Through those efforts, they increased their capacities to incorporate population issues in public policies and support the monitoring of international commitments related to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, enhanced REDATAM data processing methods were taught to 85 technical staff from the region and 50 technical staff from South Africa and Bhutan. CELADE also successfully organized the Regional Intensive Demographic Analysis Course (CRIAD), training 10 professionals, mostly from the public sector, from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. The new version of CRIAD helped raise awareness about demographic analysis methods and techniques for the study and diagnosis of population dynamics, as well as the production of demographic inputs for economic and social management. Finally, the Division delivered a training workshop on population projections, held in Santa Fe, Argentina, in September 2017, as a parallel event to the Fourteenth Argentine Conference on Population Studies and the First International Congress on Population in the Southern Cone. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the methodological advances in the population estimates and projections applied in the countries of the region in recent years and to identify the future challenges to be faced. It resulted in a draft of recommendations for addressing the challenges ahead.

Throughout the biennium, 49 government institutions in the region adopted policies, measures and actions to monitor and implement the recommendations and objectives of the regional programme and the international agreements, in line with the Commission's recommendations. Policies, programmes and/or legislation on sexual and reproductive health and human rights were adopted by Argentina (resolution No. 1915/2011, Protocol for victims of crimes against sexual integrity), Brazil (National Programme for Quality in Mammography (PNQM)), Colombia (law No. 1761, which made femicide a separate offence), as well as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. Specific programmes to prevent HIV and STDs were launched in Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras (National Policy on HIV and AIDS in the workplace), Nicaragua (law No. 820, Promotion, Protection and Defence of Human Rights against HIV and AIDS, for prevention and attention) and Peru. Similarly, Mexico (National Strategy for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancies) and Honduras implemented measures related to the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico (National Policy for a Cross-cutting Intercultural Approach), Peru (National Development Plan for the Afro-Peruvian Population) and Uruguay (Work Plan on African Descent) implemented measures related to the rights and issues of the indigenous population, the rights of people of African descent and interculturality. A number of countries have also introduced legislation, decrees or policies and programmes in favour of older persons, including Argentina (2017-2020 National Plan for Older Persons), Belize, Chile (Proper Treatment for Older Persons Programme), Costa Rica (law No. 9394, ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2016-2020 Multisectoral Plan for the Integral Development of Older Persons).

In connection with the twenty-fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee for Liaising with the States, held on 11 to 13 October 2017, I would like to thank you for your participation at the opening ceremony, on the dialogue panel on progress with population policy in Latin America for implementing the Montevideo Consensus and during the workshop on national accounts and transfers.

Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of National Population Council of Mexico(CONAPO), extends her gratitude to Paulo Saad, Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC

CELADE continued to work with the region's countries to evaluate and support the censuses conducted in the 2010 and 2020 rounds. Two meetings of experts were held in 2016: one on progress and challenges in Latin American censuses as of 2016, held in Santiago, in June, and the other on the potential and challenges of the 2020 census round in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, held in Panama City in November. In addition, technical assistance was provided to Chile, in connection with its April 2017 Population and Housing Census; to Peru, on the census it carried out in 2017 and with specific reference to the experimental census, the inclusion of ethnic groups, the definition of the technologies to be used and the monitoring and coverage control system; to Colombia, as part of the process of consultation with indigenous peoples for the eighteenth National Population Census and seventh Housing Census to be held in 2018; to Guatemala, in preparation for its 2018 census; to Haiti, in revising the content of the questionnaire for its next Census of Population and Housing; to

El Salvador, in coordination with UNFPA, in relation to the start of preparations for the census; to Panama, in connection with its 2016 census; and to Argentina, for the evaluation of its 2010 census with a view to prepare the upcoming 2020 census. Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay received assistance in evaluating the results of their censuses and data processing. The recommendations regarding the upcoming census round were summarized in the publication *Los censos de la ronda 2020: desafíos ante la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y el Consenso de Montevideo sobre Población y Desarrollo*.

On behalf of Director Ximena Clark and all the INE team, special thanks are due for your participation in the international observers operation deployed during the 2017 Population and Housing Census. Your presence provided an international outlook to validate the transparency and correct execution of all steps of the census process, giving an opportunity for all stages of the process in the field to be showcased and enabling interactions with some of the census takers as the information was being gathered.

Olga Barquero Alpizar, Coordinator of International Relations, National Statistics Institute (INE), Chile



PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PROPOSAL ON THE INDICATORS FOR REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP OF THE MONTEVIDEO CONSENSUS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (REVISED VERSION)

The objective of this report is to present to the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, for their approval, the list of indicators that will be used for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The main component of the report is the proposal of indicators, but it also contains background information on the drafting process carried out prior to its presentation at the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017.

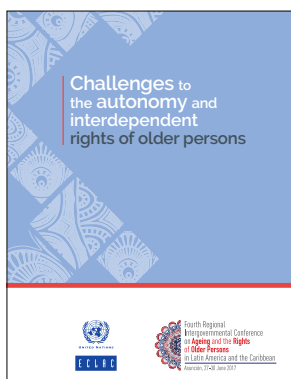
The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was held in Santiago, from 4 to 6 October 2016, to analyse and adopt the proposed format for national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as well as to review the progress report of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus. The third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for which ECLAC is the technical secretariat, was to be held during 2017. However, at the preparatory meeting, it was decided to postpone the third session of the Regional Conference until 2018 and to convene, in its stead, a special meeting of the current presiding officers in November 2017. This meeting, jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA, was attended by ministers and senior authorities responsible for population and development, specialists, academics, delegates from international bodies and numerous representatives of civil society.

Throughout the biennium, CELADE continued to develop, maintain and update several databases on demographic issues. The *Distribución Espacial de la población y urbanización en América Latina y el Caribe* (DEPUALC), a database on spatial distribution and urbanization, has been updated with information from the 2010 censuses held in Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. In addition, the *Migración Interna en América Latina y el Caribe* (MIALC) database has been updated with information from the 2010 census in Argentina, the 2011 Census in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the 2012 census in Cuba and the 2013 census in Honduras. The MIALC database currently contains information from over 30 censuses (from the 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 rounds) and its structure enables information to be obtained quickly on internal migration by country and census year, major and minor administrative division, type of migrant and internal migration matrices for a variety of census questions. Processing of census information from the 2010s for a total of 10 countries continued with a view to updating the database of the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) project. Finally, the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean Data Bank (PIAALC) was updated with maps and thematic tables. Work is underway to compile and incorporate a list of all recognized indigenous peoples in Latin America in this database. The population estimations website was updated with indicators for the economically active population (EAP) for the period 1950-2100, based on the latest release of population estimations and projections. These four databases are publicly available on the ECLAC website.

CELADE collaborated in the ECLAC City of the Twenty-first Century in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, on topics related to the dynamics of metropolitan residential segregation; to the *Social Panorama of Latin America*, on topics related to Afrodescendent populations, which raised the profile of an important topic that has received little regional attention; in the seminars held during the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the regional seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators; and the regional training workshop on measuring the population with disabilities for the upcoming 2020 census round, held in Mexico City in September 2017.

The Division prepared several studies on different topics throughout the biennium. The study *Mortalidad materna en pueblos indígenas y fuentes de datos: alcances y desafíos para su medición en países de América Latina* explored the data sources on indigenous maternal mortality in the region. A related study looked at trends in adolescent motherhood and fertility and related inequalities in the Caribbean between 1990 and 2010. The book *Envejecimiento e institucionalidad pública en América Latina y el Caribe: conceptos, metodologías y casos prácticos* compiled a panorama of institutions dedicated to ageing populations in the region, offering a methodology for comparing those institutions and presenting the specific cases of Argentina and Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. The document *Challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons*, prepared for the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Asunción, June 2017), summarizes the main advances, limitations and challenges in the exercise of human rights of the elderly. Finally, the document *Nuevas tendencias y dinámicas migratorias en América Latina y el Caribe* describes recent migration dynamics in Latin American and Caribbean countries, based mainly on census information and on other sources from extraregional destination

countries. During 2016-2017, CELADE also continued to publish the review *Notas de Población*, with four issues in the biennium, and it continued the publication of the Demographic Observatory.



CHALLENGES TO THE AUTONOMY AND INTERDEPENDENT RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

The changing age structure of the population is a phenomenon that has been clearly foreseen. Today, population ageing is an ongoing but well-established process, with some differences between subregions and countries. The absolute and relative increase in the number of older persons is a global trend that is affecting the economy, development planning, social policies, families, communities, large cities and indigenous localities. Given its economic and social implications, it may be the most significant change of our times. These phenomena mean that there is a pressing need to adapt to an era of demographic change. Those changes are occurring faster in the region than in Europe and against a backdrop of underdevelopment, where inequality has still not been eradicated and the institutional infrastructure for the protection and exercise of human rights is inadequate. In this context, rapid population ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean brings multiple challenges and requires action to ensure the fair distribution of resources to meet the needs of all society's age groups. It also requires a change in attitudes, policies and practices to improve older persons' quality of life. The effective inclusion of older persons thus has to do with equitable access to different services and social and economic benefits, as well as with guaranteeing them their human rights.

This report by ECLAC describes the current situation of older people and their human rights and provides a framework for analysis. It served as the basis for the discussions at the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017. It documents the main developments, limitations and challenges regarding the exercise of older persons' human rights in the region and in the world. The topics covered in this document were chosen based on the outcomes of the work undertaken by ECLAC in the region's countries. It does not analyse all the issues currently on the regional agenda, but it does cover the most pressing ones. While there is undoubtedly a long road ahead, a legally binding instrument now exists to support governments' efforts to improve the situation of older persons.

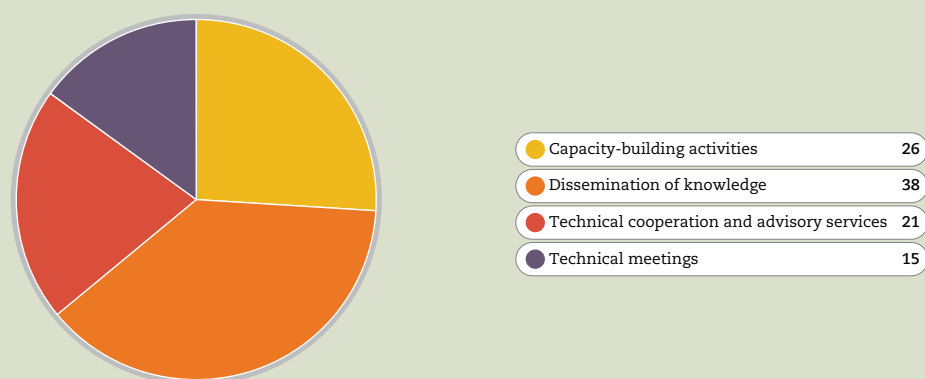
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

Over the biennium, CELADE continued to receive support from UNFPA for a range of activities. One example was the Division's contribution to the *Social Panorama of Latin America 2016* on Afrodescendent populations, focusing on the background situation and the framework for rights, the demographic situation and territorial distribution, living conditions in the field of education, health, employment and income poverty, a systematic review of policies and programmes aimed at Afrodescendent populations in the region's countries and policy recommendations. Another example was the publication of the study *Trends in adolescent motherhood and fertility and related inequalities in the Caribbean 1990-2010* which, while having

a demographic focus, also offers a set of conclusions relevant to sexual and reproductive health policies aimed at guaranteeing the exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents, preventing teenage pregnancies and countering the great inequalities that characterize early reproduction.

The Division also provided technical assistance for the development and improvement of national transfer accounts in Jamaica and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, ECLAC contributed to the development of four fundamental aspects of the methodology: the construction of the macroeconomic values of national transfer accounts for the year 2014; the estimate of the Bolivian life cycle deficit for 2014; the estimation of Bolivian net public transfers for 2014; and the calculation of the country's demographic dividend, using United Nations population projections for the years 1950 to 2100. In the case of Jamaica, the Division delivered capacity-building to 10 officials of the Planning Institute of Jamaica on the concepts of national transfer accounts, which resulted in the delivery of the concepts and methodology of the complete national transfer account model and the estimation of Jamaica's life cycle deficit for 2014.

[FIGURE 7]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned during the biennium was that synergies need to be made with the Regional Conference on Social Development, the Regional Conference on Women and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with the objective of better supporting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the biennium, self-assessments and evaluations allowed better decisions to be made regarding the coordination of the different activities. In 2016, for instance, a survey was conducted among the alumni of the four previous generations of the Regional Intensive Demographic Analysis Course (CRIAD). The results provided a clear picture of the impact of CRIAD on the students' professional development and of their views about the relevance of the course's format and content. In particular, they highlighted that the inclusion of indigenous students in CRIAD, together with the training workshops directed at indigenous organizations for the use and analysis of sociodemographic

information, had a positive impact on indigenous peoples' contributions to census processes. Additionally, the evaluation of the technical assistance given by CELADE to different countries on census collection, analysis and dissemination provided evidence on the need to support countries in all phases of their census processes. It also highlighted the importance of sharing experiences and lessons learned at each stage of those processes. As a result, recent census workshops organized by CELADE have provided an important forum for sharing national experiences. Also, it is important to work both with governments and with civil society, organizations of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendent organizations, as this both contributes to increased opportunities for advocacy regarding the activities carried out and encourages dialogue between the State and civil society and the forging of agreements to carry out actions for the benefit of all.

In the same way, the fact that CELADE has continued working with other divisions that carry out institutional projects has strengthened the joint work intended to further the development of the region's countries. Finally, it is of utmost importance that CELADE continues to interact closely with other United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and donor countries through specific agreements. This collaboration has allowed the joint execution of valuable projects with UNFPA, PAHO, the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Population and Statistics Divisions of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, IOM, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Ford Foundation. The lasting collaboration between UNFPA and CELADE deserves a special mention for its significant contribution to intensifying and expanding the scope of the Division's work programme.

SUBPROGRAMME 8**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS****[8]****JOSELUIS SAMANIEGO**

Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

INTRODUCTION

During 2016-2017, the Division examined the interrelationships between economic progress, environmental protection, urban development and social equity in the context of climate change. Its contribution to the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was particularly noteworthy. The Division also worked on proposals related to the environmental big push, to foster more sustainable economic growth through the development of green sectors and increasing environmental efficiency.

One of the Division's main achievements was that 24 Latin American and Caribbean States have now signed the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, with Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia having become signatory countries since 2016, and several others have expressed a strong interest in the process, under which those signatory countries are negotiating a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters. After the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement, held in March, August and November 2017 in Brazil, Argentina and Chile, respectively, the wording of the articles on access to information and participation was agreed. Other important results achieved by the Division during the biennium were the publication in 2016 of environmental performance reviews on Chile and Peru, conducted jointly with OECD; the publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice* in conjunction with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the methodological support given to calculate public environmental expenditures in several beneficiary countries; and the launch of a line of research on sustainable mining.

Following the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, which includes commitments regarding nationally determined contributions by Latin American and Caribbean countries, ECLAC has provided increased technical support on this issue, as can be seen in the rise in the number of requests for technical assistance and training activities from the region's countries. Technical support was provided on climate change adaptation, urban development, sectoral impacts of climate change, environmental taxation and technical and institutional capacity-building.

The Division continued its work on human settlements, as evidenced by its active participation in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which was held in Quito in October 2016. This Conference determined the pillars of the New Urban Agenda, and ECLAC made an important

contribution to its discussions through the report *Sustainable and Equal Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Six key messages*. Finally, in the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Cities Conference, held in Santiago in October 2017 and jointly organized with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan aiming at adapting the results of the Habitat III Conference to the region's urban context.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

During the biennium, the Division carried out activities within the framework of the EUROCLIMA Programme and the ECLAC-BMZ/GIZ programme, which allowed progress to be made on issues related to public policy dialogue on climate change, technical capacity-building and cooperation among countries in the region (South-South cooperation) for sharing successful experiences, providing technical support to countries and raising visibility. The international seminar on development models and climate change, held in Montevideo in May 2016, contributed to Uruguay's National Climate Change Policy. The workshop on Peruvian innovation for the internalization of climatic risks in public investment projects, held in Lima in July 2016, helped promote the inclusion of climate change challenges in the design and execution of public investment policies in Latin American countries and create a forum for furthering Peru's initiatives and successful experiences with incorporating climate variables and climate change risks into public investment projects. Two important studies were carried out during the period: *Financiamiento para el cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe 2015*, which maps climate change flows that benefit the region, and *La economía del cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe: una visión gráfica*, which reviews the main economic issues related to climate change.



LA ECONOMÍA DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: UNA VISIÓN GRÁFICA

Climate change is one of the great challenges of the twenty-first century on account of its global causes and consequences and the magnitude of the simultaneous efforts needed to cushion its negative impacts, adapt to new climatic conditions and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The main objective of this publication is to present the hypotheses and basic figures of climate change economics in Latin America and the Caribbean in a summarized and graphic way. These stylized facts seek to contribute to a better design, implementation and evaluation of public policies for climate change in the twenty-first century, to allow the transformation of the current development model and the transition towards sustainable development.

ECLAC supported the design and implementation of climate and environmental policy instruments. The environmental policy spending classification guide, a budgeting tool, is currently implemented by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Finance as described in the publication *Política fiscal ambiental en el Ecuador: avances y desafíos*; the greenhouse gas emission rate in Colombia was included in the recent

tax reform proposal; and the intended nationally determined contributions of the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, technical assistance was provided in the design and evaluation of fiscal policy measures for the Dominican Republic, based on the technical support provided by the Division to the Climate Change Council on the development of strategies to achieve its nationally determined contribution, mainly in the energy and transport sector.

The assistance of ECLAC —through its technical teams and through its training courses on public policy and climate change— is highly beneficial for adopting the lessons learned and methodological approaches used by other countries across the region in designing economic instruments for climate change mitigation as well as for identifying the institutional dynamics generated by the implementation of that kind of mechanisms from the public policy viewpoint.

Rodrigo Suárez, Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

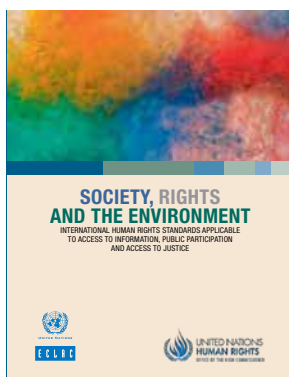
In the field of sustainable development, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil and Costa Rica requested capacity-building assistance for estimating environmental costs and spending. The Division organized several workshops as part of the Development Account project entitled “Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean”, through which it strengthened the capacities of national officers from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica in areas related to environmental costs and expenditures. A national workshop titled “Expenditure on environmental protection: methodological guidelines and advances in Latin America” was held in Brasilia in March 2017, in collaboration with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil. The workshop’s main objective was to share the experiences of Latin American countries, including Brazil, Chile and Costa Rica, in the measuring environmental expenditures and to present methodological guidelines for calculating environmental protection spending. A national workshop on general government environmental protection spending was held in San José from 27 to 29 January 2016; subsequent to this workshop, advisory services were provided to assist Costa Rica in calculating the cost of environmental protection, including a virtual workshop in November 2016 to support both Costa Rica and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. As a result, in June 2017 a workshop was held to present the Costa Rican methodology for calculating environmental protection spending, at which national officers were provided with training on and capacity-building for the methodology. At the request of the Ministry of Environment of Chile, technical assistance in this area was also provided in collaboration with UNDP. As a result, ECLAC provided support on the development of a methodology to estimate the cost of policy measures included in the agricultural sector’s adaptation plan.

During 2017, and with support from ECLAC, the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Brazil (March), Argentina (August) and Chile (November), respectively. At those meetings, the region’s countries exchanged positions in preparation for

the Conference of the Parties and continued to negotiate the regional agreement. The countries applauded ECLAC for its support as technical secretariat and, in particular, for the presentation of the preliminary report assessing the possible administrative, financial and budgetary implications of the agreement. In the context of this process, ECLAC launched the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, which analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the full enjoyment by all persons of the rights of access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

The national workshops on Principle 10 held in Dominica and Grenada in June 2017 were attended by more than 60 participants, including such high officials as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada and the Minister for Health and Environment of Dominica, as well as representatives of different government departments and agencies and civil society sectors (including youth, local, indigenous and women's groups). Authorities and senior officials expressed their strong commitment to Principle 10 and recognized the importance of the Commission's support, which they expected would significantly increase with the adoption of the regional agreement. The workshops also contributed to the discussions on draft environmental laws and policies (i.e. the climate change, environment and natural resources management bill in Dominica or the draft regulations on environmental impact assessments in Grenada) and on elements related to access to environmental information, participation and justice.

With the publication of the book *Society, rights and the environment: International human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice*, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ECLAC provided a compilation and systematization of international human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice.



SOCIETY, RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

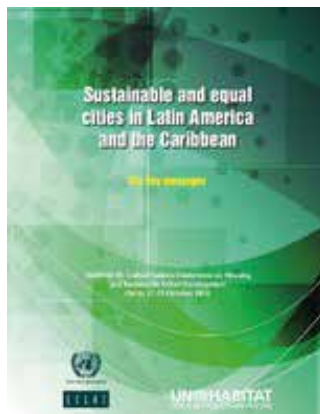
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the interconnection between human rights and sustainable development and focuses strongly on universality, participation and inclusion. In this publication, ECLAC and OHCHR provide a compilation and systematization of international human rights standards applicable to access to information, public participation and access to justice. This collection sets out the criteria contained in the international norms and shows how they have been developed and interpreted by international and regional human rights mechanisms. Both institutions consider that the human rights-based approach is key to achieving sustainable development. Through this joint effort, they invite countries in the region to strengthen the promotion, protection and guarantee of access rights, to incorporate those rights into their strategies, policies and programmes, and to make them a conceptual imperative for achieving sustainable development through equality and the universality of rights.

The Division's work also focused on the start of a new line of research on sustainable mining. In that context, it organized two seminars on mining, the Sustainable Development Goals and environmental democracy in the Andean countries, which were held in Santiago in July and November 2016. The aim of these seminars was to offer a venue for discussion and reflection on how the mining sector can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Andean countries, with a special focus on Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Activities undertaken by ECLAC over the biennium contributed to increasing the importance given to the topic of human settlements in the policy agendas of Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Declaration of Toluca states that participants "commit to using its considerations and proposals as guiding elements for inclusive and sustainable planning and management of our cities and human settlements during the next decades". This declaration, adopted by the representatives of national governments, local and regional authorities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, professionals and academia, private sector, civil society organizations, men, women, children and youth at the Habitat III Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting in Toluca, Mexico, from 18 to 20 April 2016, reiterates the region's commitment to the process of constructing the New Urban Agenda, which will be adopted in Quito at the Habitat III Conference. In addition, and in close collaboration with ECLAC, the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) adopted the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2036, which focuses on analysis, debate and knowledge generation in conjunction with public policies on housing, habitat and urban development. The proposal is centred around three instrumental axes: planning and design, governance and institutions, and financing. As required by the ECLAC member countries through MINURVI, the Commission and UN-Habitat will work to develop an Observatory to follow-up on the region's implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

We acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Regional Action Plan recently presented at the Cities Conference and in our city (following the invitation we extended to a representative of ECLAC) are strategic instruments for guiding, aligning and optimizing our road map. For that reason, we wish to join the Urban and Cities Platform that is being devised in conjunction with UN-Habitat and MINURVI, which we deem to be of paramount importance for the sustainable urban development of the San Luis Potosí Metropolitan Region.

Gustavo Puente Orozco, Secretary of Economic Development of the Government of the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, and President of the 2030 Metropolitan Economic Development Council, and Manuel Lozano Nieto, Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare of the Government of the state of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, November 2017.



SUSTAINABLE AND EQUAL CITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SIX KEY MESSAGES

The sustainable future of Latin America and the Caribbean is closely linked to sustainable urbanization. Therefore, in order to make cities sustainable, the region must take an institutional and political path based on a new urban agenda and a regional action plan that addresses the challenges of a new phase of urbanization. This document highlights six key messages to address this issue: (i) A new urban agenda for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean is fundamental for the national development of countries and for the sustainable future of the region. (ii) The Latin American and Caribbean region is marked by a double urban-demographic transition. (iii) New patterns of production, distribution and consumption in urban economies, combined with old structural challenges, hinder economic inclusion and universal access to the benefits of urban development. (iv) Important achievements have been made in poverty reduction and housing access, but inequality, socio-spatial segregation and security remain central issues on the regional agenda. (v) Vulnerability to the effects of climate change is on the rise with unequal socio-territorial impacts and urban ecological footprints that are increasingly driven by the pressures of consumption patterns. (vi) Significant progress has been made in recognizing the city as a macro-level public good, but institutional weaknesses persist with regard to managing sustainable urban development and fulfilling the right to the city.

In addition, several of the Division's publications contributed to discussions and debate on the design and implementation of public policies to address issues related to climate change, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the green economy. The study *La transversalización del enfoque de género en las políticas públicas frente al cambio climático en América Latina* identifies the relevance of the gender perspective in the causes and consequences of climate change and shows that they are heterogeneous and, in many cases, contribute to the worsening of the gender inequalities that still prevail. The document *Vulnerabilidad y adaptación de las ciudades de América Latina al cambio climático* presents a theoretical and empirical overview of climate change mitigation and adaptation processes in urban areas, with a focus on Latin America. This study encompasses 12 urban plans of 11 cities and metropolitan areas in the region, including São Paulo, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Santiago, Belo Horizonte, Montevideo, Quito and Cartagena. Finally, the study *Inventario de instrumentos fiscales verdes en América Latina: experiencias, efectos y alcances, 2016* identifies success stories that could serve as example for economies in the region to advance environmental fiscal reforms.

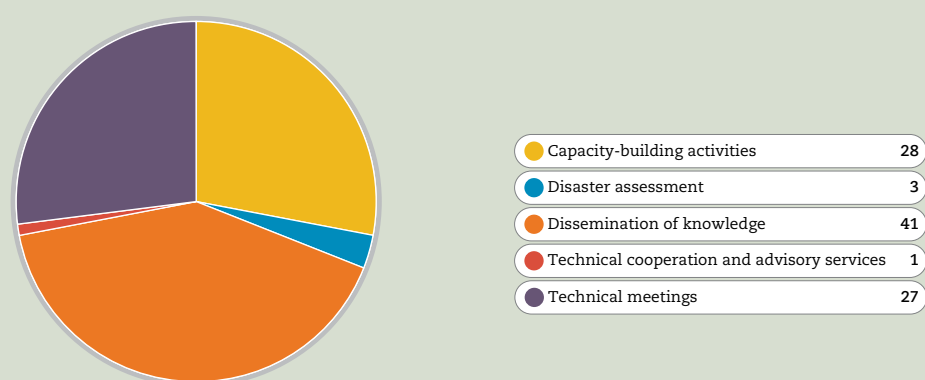
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

Within the framework of the EUROCLIMA Programme, the Peer-to-Peer programme sought to contribute to the exchange of successful experiences among Latin American countries and to foster South-South cooperation between countries. Two important achievements of this programme stand out. First, Uruguay was given technical support for the design of its National Climate Change Policy, based on the contributions and experiences shared by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru on issues such as sustainable cities and

resilience to climate change, efficient and low carbon transport, and financing for climate change. Second, the programme contributed to the inclusion of the challenges that climate change poses for the design and execution of public investment policies. Technical support was provided to that effect to enable Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay to learn about Peru's experiences with incorporating climate risks in public investment projects.

Likewise, the technical assistance to countries in the region carried out as part of the activities of the GIZ sought to support the design and implementation of environmental and climate policy instruments. In particular, ECLAC provided technical assistance to Guatemala on the incorporation of economic instruments with environmental content in the changes to national fiscal policy being designed by the national government; it also gave technical assistance to the Dominican Republic for the preparation of its nationally determined contribution, which was submitted under UNFCCC.

[FIGURE 8]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One of the lessons learned over the biennium was that the region needs ongoing efforts to promote sustainable urban policies, since coordination among the different levels of government, as well as among all involved stakeholders, is crucial to ensure the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and nationally determined contributions. Another lesson learned was the paramount importance of ensuring the participation of ministries of finance and planning ministries in the Division's seminars and workshops, in order to enrich discussions related to the design and implementation of public policies for addressing climate change. Finally, it was learned that continuing efforts are required to promote the environmental perspective in the formulation of public policies. It is also crucial to continue working for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the region, especially in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. During 2018-2019, ECLAC will continue to support the negotiations on the future regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

SUBPROGRAMME 9**NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE****[9]****JEANNETTE SÁNCHEZ**

Chief of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division

INTRODUCTION

Global issues related to sustainable energy, natural resource governance, the infrastructure gap and the challenge of integrated and sustainable policies for logistics and mobility were central to the Division during the 2016-2017 biennium. The start of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals added a cornerstone to the general orientation of the Division's activities. As the Sustainable Development Goals gained political traction on the development agenda of the region's countries, the Division prepared and disseminated several analytical documents and proposals, intended to enable countries to advance towards a more inclusive and sustainable development model and to scale up the equality agenda.

At the same time, some progress can be seen towards the region's adoption of a comprehensive governance approach that would fully address the three pillars of sustainable development. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in the institutional frameworks for managing non-renewable and water resources, diversifying energy mixes and addressing the growing challenges associated with a comprehensive approach to infrastructure services.

The global economic and energy context requires a new paradigm of fiscal, economic, social and technological development, including such concepts as full access to basic services, smart grids, sustainable cities and intelligent transport systems. These concepts pose important challenges related to industrial and technological restructuring with a focus on increasing the use of renewable energy and implementing sound energy efficiency programmes and projects. To this end, the Division generated new methodological proposals and regional initiatives, such as the high-level energy efficiency policy dialogues and the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database (BIEE), which now gathers data from more than 20 countries in the region. In addition, several studies, workshops and conferences on both natural resources and infrastructure matters were undertaken to discuss a new vision of governance of these two crucial sectors for the region's sustainable development.

The milestones in this area included the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure, attended by nearly 25 ministers and vice-ministers of energy, mining, infrastructure, the environment and natural resources, which was held in Santiago in November 2016, the launch of the book *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe*, and the organization of 13 national workshops on logistics and mobility policies.

During the biennium, there were some signals that the region is considering the new directions indicated by the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the region should pay close attention to the emerging paradigms in advanced industrial countries that are driving a new cycle of long-term infrastructure investments and a new vision of sustainable natural resource exploitation. In this context, the Division has addressed such general issues as the prevailing old-fashioned model of natural resource governance, the lack of comprehensive and integrated logistics and mobility policies, the need to promote co-modal transportation, the design and implementation of low-carbon infrastructure initiatives and the shortage of investment in infrastructure. The integration of logistics chains for a more sustainable use of natural resources and a better use of the co-modal approach to transport services remain areas of major importance and potential for the structural change and increased sustainability of the region's economies.

Finally, the Division's activities have also contributed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and the Decade of Action for Road Safety. For example, several meetings were held and a number of analytical studies were published to assess the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a regional programme of action was proposed to deal with both issues.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Technical assistance provided by the Division supported the region's national governments and institutions in developing policy frameworks to promote sustainable development in the areas of infrastructure, logistics, mobility, road safety, connectivity and public services such as sanitation, drinking water and service access. The work that the Division has been carrying out over recent bienniums has established a safe, trustful and collaborative working relationship with national governments and institutions and has set the foundation for policies, measures and actions taken by them, in line with the recommendations formulated by ECLAC.

In terms of energy and energy efficiency, ECLAC has strengthened national capacities to develop and report against their own indicators, through the development of BIEE Programme, which has become a useful tool for the region's countries in adopting informed and evidence-based decisions. ECLAC also supported the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Ecuador in launching its National Energy Efficiency Plan (PLANEE) through tailored capacity-building activities.

During the biennium, countries and institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean took action to harmonize policies for the management of natural resources and accepted ECLAC recommendations on potable water and sanitation. These included the National Public Services Authority in Panama, which benefited from water security analyses that helped the Government start work on the 2015-2050 National Water Security Plan, and the Pontifical Catholic University of the Dominican Republic, which launched a master's programme on sustainable water management with assistance from ECLAC.

In Colombia, the Integrated Climate Change Management Plan for Ports was launched, based on the joint work of the Division with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport. This effort provided the country with a baseline of energy consumption in port terminals, which is a central element in defining energy efficiency indicators, and it will be a major contribution for the full implementation of the country's nationally determined contribution.

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) acknowledged the Division's experience in infrastructure and logistics competitiveness, core issues for port development and its impact on country connectivity. The Division also attended the CIP Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Competitiveness and Logistics: Connectivity for Development, held in Veracruz, Mexico, in October 2016, which brought together private and public actors to interchange ideas and lessons learned about successful practices.

The Division conducted important activities in Haiti. In January 2016, ECLAC delivered a training course in Port-au-Prince on sustainable logistics and mobility: implementing integrated public policies. The main objective of this course was to discuss the general framework for logistics and mobility policies, as well as issues related to energy efficiency in transport and the link between logistics and the sustainable use of natural resources. It was also an opportunity to share, with national officials and representatives of the private sector and civil society, the diagnosis of the current situation in the region and to jointly identify the key components of a public policy on logistics and mobility needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with equity and social inclusion, as promoted by ECLAC. This training activity strengthened an inclusive dialogue on a national logistics and mobility policy, initiated by the Presidential Commission for the Modernization of Land Transport in September 2015.

In July 2016, the Division organized a meeting on a binational approach to transport, logistics and mobility, focused on sustainability, between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This meeting, held in the border region of Jimani, with preparatory meetings in Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince, sought to assist the two neighbouring countries in enhancing their cooperation on issues of cross-border land transport by addressing and improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their transport, logistics and mobility operations. This resulted in renewed interest in signing a bilateral agreement for facilitating land transport, aimed at reducing the inefficiencies and insecurity of cross-border transport operations and at building trust between public and private stakeholders. A draft protocol with the comments resulting from the Jimani meeting was presented for the consideration of the two countries' Mixed Bilateral Commission.

I have the honour of writing to you to convey the thanks of the technical secretariat of the Haitian-Dominican Mixed Bilateral Commission in Haiti for the capacity-building support provided by the Infrastructure Services Unit of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division of ECLAC to the Mixed Bilateral Commission for those involved in land transport in the border zone between the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. [...] The members of the transport and communication subcommissions have certainly gained a better understanding of the various topics covered.

Léon Charles, Ambassador at Large, technical secretariat of the Haitian-Dominican Mixed Bilateral Commission

Technical assistance and advisory services were also provided to other countries in the region. During 2016, the Division gave technical assistance to Ecuador's Coordinating Ministry of Strategic Sectors in the design, discussion and preparation of the National Energy Agenda (ANE), a new government planning instrument with an emphasis on sustainable energies and including a significant section on promoting and financing renewable energy projects (hydraulic and non-conventional). ECLAC officially attended the launch of the agenda by the Vice-President of the Republic on 11 October 2016.

Based on the technical assistance it had received, in August 2017 El Salvador adopted a five-year plan on integrated policies for mobility, logistics, transport and ports; the National Association of Water and Sanitation Companies of Mexico (ANEAS) acknowledged the support of ECLAC in improving national basic drinking water and sanitation services; and Costa Rica acknowledged the Commission's technical assistance on water tariffs and related issues that had allowed the country to analyse its internal regulatory instruments and perform the adjustments needed to provide the public with better services. Finally, capacity-building activities were carried out with the National Waterway Transportation Agency (ANTAQ) of Brazil. In this context, a workshop on inland navigation and more sustainable use of natural resources: networks, challenges and opportunities for South America was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in October 2016, at which decision makers, national experts and technical advisers were offered an opportunity to share their experiences and exchange views on the challenges and potential for the development of inland waterways in South America and the role that inland waterways can play in the more sustainable use of the region's natural resources.

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 August, the President of the Republic of El Salvador launched the El Salvador Logistics Policy. [...] I would like to extend my thanks to ECLAC, since its studies, knowledge and contributions formed the basis for the design of that policy.

Gerson Martínez, Minister of Public Works, Transport, Housing and Urban Development, El Salvador

In March 2017, ECLAC, IDB and the Economic Commission for Europe jointly organized a seminar in Argentina on the Decade of Action for Road Safety Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim of halving road traffic death figures by 2020 through the creation of better regulations. This event allowed participants to exchange best practices and proposals for the future design of public policies for road safety in the region.

As part of the Development Account Project “Logistics integration for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Latin American countries”, the Division gave technical assistance to Costa Rica and Honduras in implementing national logistics policies that provide for the sustainable use of natural resources. At the regional level, the issue of logistics integration for a more sustainable use of natural resources, as promoted by the project activities, has been taken up by two regional integration mechanisms: SIECA and the Mesoamerican Project. SIECA has finished its framework for a regional logistics and mobility policy, in line with recommendations made by ECLAC, and the Mesoamerican Project is also promoting the integration of logistics infrastructure under its wider strategy for regional integration, which was presented at the meeting of presidents of the Tuxtla Mechanism in 2017. The collection of data and situation analyses for logistic chains involving natural resources were completed for Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

One of the milestones in the Division's activities over the biennium was the organization of the ministerial meeting held in Santiago in November 2016. This meeting, which included a high-level regional dialogue on the governance of natural resources and infrastructure, was attended by ministers and vice-ministers responsible for the areas of energy, mining, infrastructure, the environment and natural resources from 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries, in addition to senior authorities from SIECA, the Mesoamerica Project and UNASUR,

and representatives from the non-governmental and private sectors. At the event, the heads of delegation shared reflections and experiences regarding the challenges present in the governance of natural resources and infrastructure in their respective nations. This event marked the formal inauguration of the Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure, which took place from 7 to 11 November 2016. During the High-level Regional Dialogue on the Governance of Natural Resources and Infrastructure, the ministerial delegations formulated and agreed upon recommendations to promote a shared vision for the better governance of natural resources and infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event demonstrated that the link between logistics and sustainable exploitation of natural resources is now an established concept for the region and an area to be addressed in public policies dealing with infrastructure and natural resources. The ministerial delegations that attended the High-level Regional Dialogue requested ECLAC to design and implement a programme of work for the medium and long terms.

GOVERNANCE WEEK ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, 7-11 NOVEMBER 2016

The Governance Week on Natural Resources and Infrastructure took place between 7 and 11 November 2016 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. Government representatives responsible for the areas of mining, transport, energy, public works, water and sanitation, as well as multilateral agencies and the private sector, came together to promote a cross-sectoral dialogue towards a governance model for natural resources and infrastructure that promotes a more sustainable development paradigm.

The programme was composed of ten events, including two ministerial dialogues with high-level representatives from Latin American and the Caribbean countries, at which the ministerial delegations agreed on a set of recommendations to promote a better governance of natural resources and infrastructure in the region, recognizing the need to establish government strategies that promote a long-term shared vision on the governance of natural resources and infrastructure for sustainable development and to strengthen institutions in order to reconcile the increased and improved access to infrastructure services with a more sustainable use of natural resources. The ministers called for a systematized and regular regional dialogue to foster the development of a shared vision for the governance of natural resources and infrastructure and for a parallel process of national multi-stakeholder dialogues to build consensus and strengthen the institutional framework for governance. In addition to the ministerial dialogues, a series of technical meetings took place on topics related to infrastructure investment, responsible mining, public-private partnerships, energy efficiency, and logistics and regional integration, in order to promote best practices and systems for measuring and monitoring progress towards the Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.



The Division prepared several important studies. The document *Barriers to identification and implementation of energy efficiency mechanisms and enhancing renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean* aims to provide an assessment of the region's status with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy and to identify mechanisms for enhancing energy initiatives, while the manual

Energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean is intended to guide discussions about two possible obstacles to the adoption of energy efficiency policies in the Caribbean: the availability of primary infrastructure, and debt overhang. The book *Hacia una nueva gobernanza de los recursos naturales en América Latina y el Caribe* explains the need for a new natural resource governance paradigm in the region that ensures the sustainability of their benefits. The report *Desafíos de la seguridad hídrica en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the definitions and scope of the term “water security” in the international debate and offers conclusions regarding the nature of the challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, the study *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis* explores the opportunities and challenges of using electrification to increase the energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets.



HACIA UNA NUEVA GOBERNANZA DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

The challenge of development in Latin America and the Caribbean is of vital importance, on account of the different dimensions it covers, its objectives and instruments and the obstacles that shape it. This book aims to contribute to discussions on development and, in particular, on one of its greatest challenges: the governance of natural resources. The governance challenge is even greater for non-renewable natural resources, since they are by nature exhaustible and therefore require especially careful care in line with the guiding principles of sustainable development, with the needs of future generations being taken into account as an essential element in decision-making. The current model for natural resource governance has failed to ensure the sustainable use of the region's riches. For that reason, the new governance paradigm proposed in this book involves discussing and constructing a common vision, through which non-renewable natural resources can be taken and converted into other types of assets to support national incomes and sustainability beyond the life cycle of those resources.

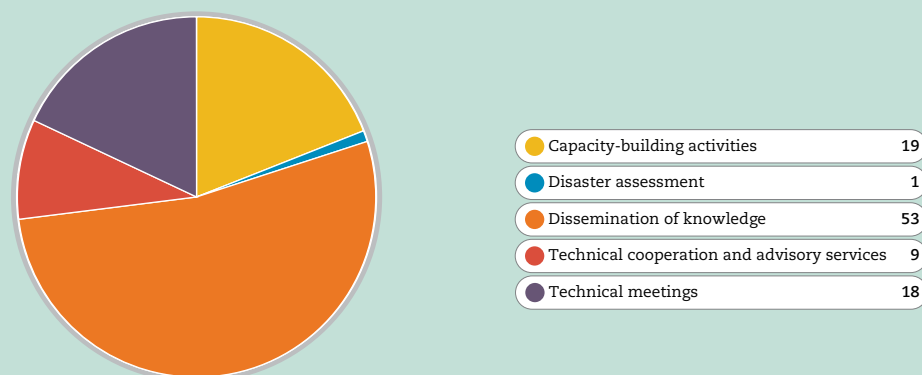
TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

During the biennium, with the support of GIZ and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), ECLAC developed a BIEE database for the Caribbean. The BIEE programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of energy authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean to monitor their energy efficiency, improve data reliability and in turn enhance evidence-based decision-making on energy efficiency. The BIEE programme of activities starts with a data compilation of basic information, which is usually undertaken by the focal point in each country in coordination with ECLAC. The energy efficiency indicators are then identified for the seven sectors considered by the project: macro/energy balance, households, industrial, services, agricultural, transportation and energy. Finally, the focal points are trained in the interpretation and use of those indicators. To date, 19 Latin America countries have agreed to participate in this important initiative. At the event to launch the BIEE programme in the Caribbean and the capacity-building workshop on energy efficiency indicators, held in Kingston in May 2017, ECLAC introduced the main features of the project and demonstrated, through regional examples, the indicators available for monitoring energy efficiency. Procedures for measurements and data compilation were also demonstrated.

With the support of GIZ, the Division conducted research on extractive industries and, as a result, published the study *Infraestructura logística para una mejor gobernanza de la cadena del carbón en Colombia*, which contains a classification of the different manifestations of the coal industry in Colombia and analyses the economic and social importance of coal in the development of the national economy.

GIZ was also a strategic partner in the line of research on the importance of interlinking water, energy and food security perspectives (“the Nexus”), with the organization of a national workshop in Costa Rica in June 2017 and the related publication of the document *El Nexo entre el Agua, la Energía y la Alimentación en la Cuenca del Río Reventazón*.

[FIGURE 9]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During the biennium, one important lesson learned was that meetings and activities organized closely with national ministries gives better results in the formulation of plans at local and national levels. The coordination and expertise delivered by the participation of ECLAC experts facilitates the success of these activities and provides technical support for the revision of future policies arising from these plans. During the cooperative work undertaken with Haiti and Dominican Republic to help those countries reach a proposal for a bilateral protocol to facilitate their services linked to transport logistics and connectivity, one lesson learned was the importance of creating spaces to facilitate dialogue in their own territories, where they can discuss their problems, and to help them identify the best solutions. This has resulted in a long-term and trustful working relationship with ECLAC that is conducive to sustainable development.

As the subprogramme has focused its efforts on coordinating with the region's countries in the establishment of long-term strategies and policies that strengthen the role of the State in the use of natural resources to achieve inclusive and sustained development, it has been important to focus attention on capacity-building in public institutions, especially to effectively manage related conflicts, such as

those involving social, environmental and labour issues. Another lesson was to exchange experiences on how to create and implement interconnected policies for infrastructure, mobility and logistics.

In the next biennium, the Division will further develop its research into natural resources governance, continue to support regional dialogues on water, energy, and infrastructure, and, in general, contribute to thinking more effectively about how to ensure full access to basic services, such as promoting a more sustainable management of natural resources and energy, smart grids, sustainable cities and smart transport systems.

SUBPROGRAMME 10**PLANNING OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION****[10]****CIELO MORALES**

Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute
for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

INTRODUCTION

Through the services provided under the subprogramme, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) seeks to strengthen the region's institutional capacities for planning and public management for development. The Institute employs cycles of technical assistance services, applied research and training in planning and public management for development for governments and key stakeholders to create and reinforce learning environments and institutional change. A key element of these virtuous learning cycles are the synergies that have been created through strategic alliances between ILPES and governmental agents and ministries, as well as in long-term partnerships with donors operating in the region. ILPES, through its partners and services, has fostered and consolidated a diverse tapestry of learning communities in planning and public management for development across the region, that are globally linked to state-of-the-art research institutes and governmental agencies.

The main objective of subprogramme for the 2016-2017 biennium was “To strengthen competencies for planning and public administration for development with a regional perspective”. ILPES focused its work on the whole cycle of planning and public management for development: agenda setting and policy formulation (foresight; strategic and territorial planning for development); budgeting (results-based budgeting); implementation (leadership in the public sector, public programme design and management, and public investment); and evaluation of public policies and programmes. The activities undertaken by the subprogramme reveal a growing demand and positive recognition in relation to ILPES services under the three programme strategies, namely, technical assistance and advisory services, training activities and analytical work.

The construction process of the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development, the first of its kind, has produced significant results in relation to data collection, validation of relevant information on national planning systems and the creation of networks of planning experts. The Observatory will provide a long-term space for the collective creation, sharing and analysis of knowledge at the regional level.

Two cross-cutting approaches to planning for development and public management—namely citizens' participation and gender mainstreaming—generated high demand for training activities during the biennium. Moreover, the development and strengthening of soft skills, such as public leadership, dialogue and negotiation, have emerged as innovative ways of promoting inclusion, participation and public value.

Following the guidance received from the Regional Council for Planning, ILPES worked unflaggingly under the subprogramme to enhance knowledge- and experience-sharing on planning and public management. During the biennium the Institute published more than 10 documents on open government, territorial development, public management, foresight and planning for development. It also delivered 59 courses and developed and tested several methodologies.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals have led to renewed requests from countries for collaboration and technical cooperation to strengthen their capacities. New complexities and challenges linked to the indivisibility of the Agenda became an opportunity to reposition planning as both a political and a technical exercise to enhance policy coherence among sectors and levels of government for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016–2017

Throughout the biennium, as part of the mandate of the subprogramme, ILPES continued to support regional intergovernmental bodies in planning and public management. It contributed to promoting the Latin American Network of Public Policies of Regional Development, which brings together authorities responsible for planning and territorial development. It also supported the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN), co-organized meetings of the Network of Directors of National Public Investment Systems of Latin America (SNIP), with a view to contributing to the improvement of the quality of public investment, and collaborated with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and established links with different foresight and regional development networks.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning was held in Santiago, in November 2016. The Presiding Officers gather every two years to review progress in the work plan and the commitments adopted by the Regional Council on Planning. The fifteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning were held in Lima, in October 2017. The meetings of the Regional Council for Planning constitute an important policy deliberation space for the region's planning authorities and ministers. At the 2017 meeting, the planning authorities discussed the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda —its localization in territories; its multiscale and intertemporal dimensions; the need to articulate multiple State and non-State actors in its implementation; and its financing challenges— as well as the quality of public investment, and gender and open government as cross-cutting approaches to planning.

In addition, on that occasion, ECLAC launched the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, a space for analysis, information and the collective construction of knowledge for governments, academia, the private sector and civil society regarding development planning in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission also released PlanBarometer, a tool for characterizing instruments, processes and systems related to development planning and implementation. The experience of Tucumán, Argentina, illustrates the application and utility of this instrument within technical assistance programmes.

“We believe that ILPES must be the technical arm for strengthening our planning systems and forging synergies for addressing our countries’ common concerns.”

Andrés Mideros, National Secretary of Planning and Development of Ecuador, statement at the Regional Council for Planning, 12 October 2017

The Institute organized seminars, conferences, congresses and technical meetings throughout the biennium, addressing new approaches and emerging issues in planning. The regional seminar on planning and public management in the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was held from 26 to 28 September 2016 in Santiago. This event convened government officials specializing in public policy planning and budgeting at the national or local level, as well as the private sector and civil society, and other agencies of the United Nations system. The international seminar “The Sustainable Development Goals and building futures for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held on 18 May 2016 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in the framework of efforts to strengthen planning as a means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In August 2016, the seminar-workshop “Digital Government and Engineering Project 2030: Good Practices in the Region”, organized by ILPES in conjunction with the Technical University Federico Santa María, was held to raise awareness of good practices on topics of digital development, open government, citizen participation, transparency and technological innovation.

Also in September 2016, ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs jointly organized the Workshop on Action Planning for Open Government Data for Sustainable Development in Latin America. This workshop served to exchange experiences and develop open government data plans (OGDs), which are critical for identifying development opportunities and for evidence-based decision-making. In March 2017, ILPES organized a seminar on development, urbanization and metropolitan areas in the Republic of Korea and Latin America in Santiago, to exchange experiences between the two on these topics in the context of 2030 Agenda and Habitat III, by sharing the examples of Seoul, São Paulo, Santiago, Buenos Aires and Bogota.

In November 2017, a meeting of experts in territorial development held in Santiago convened 90 speakers presenting 80 research papers, case studies and public policy experiences on the major themes contained in the 2017 issue of the ILPES regular publication on territorial development *Panorama del desarrollo territorial en América Latina y el Caribe*. These issues included the territorial dimension of global development agendas, territorial disparities and inequality, multilevel planning of territorial development, and territorial foresight and public leadership. This meeting contributed to the consolidation of the ILPES alumni network in public leadership and set the initial groundwork for a network of academics to provide support for territorial development matters in relation to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I am writing to convey my congratulations on the excellent seminar organized by ILPES and thank you for the privilege of participating in it. The structure, attendance, plenary discussions and a number of presentations were very useful and the work of ILPES is very important for territorial development.

Patricio Valdivieso, University of Los Lagos, Chile, email dated 17 November 2017

Finally, within the framework of a technical cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Social Development of Chile and ECLAC, and under the auspices of SNIP and with the support of IDB, the first International Congress of Social Project Evaluation (CIESP) was held in November 2017. With close to 250 practitioners, specialists and network members, and an additional 200 people connected via webstreaming, the Congress was a ground-breaking forum for the exchange of knowledge and technical experiences, both internationally and within SNIP.

Technical assistance was provided under the subprogramme to support countries in the region in planning and public management processes spanning the national, regional, and local territorial scales and government levels. In Mexico, ILPES provided technical assistance to the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) on results-based budgeting and evaluation. Assistance was provided to the Government of El Salvador in the implementation of a national system of planning and the design of a national development strategy. Technical assistance was provided to the Technical Cooperation Service (SERCOTEC) in Chile to support local authorities in their planning and development strategies. Advisory services were provided to the Ministry of Finance of the Dominican Republic to strengthen its capacities in public management, project formulation, the national planning system and public investment. Support was extended to the provincial government of Tucumán, Argentina, for updating its regional development instrument 2016-2030. Finally, support was provided under the subprogramme for the development of Guatemala's national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Observatory provides an excellent opportunity to actually document what we've done, what we are doing and where we want to go. [...] it really represents ... sustainability in action. [...] We would like to further support your work in the Observatory.

Elizabeth Emanuel, Programme Director of Vision 2030 Jamaica of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, statement at the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, 12 October 2017

The activity in Guatemala is part of a capacity-building programme for the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into planning and public management processes. It is being carried out in cooperation with the Government of Germany and in coordination with several ECLAC divisions, and is aimed at governmental officials and other actors whose work could generate multiplier effects in experience-sharing forums. These policy spaces permit dialogue and interchange on key mechanisms and instruments to support alignment of country agendas, plans and policies with the 2030 Agenda. The discussion includes the architecture for inter-institutional coordination; national and subnational budgeting; public investment systems, development of participatory and multi-stakeholder dialogues; long-term prospective or foresight analysis; and transparency and accountability processes.

In the area of capacity-building, under the subprogramme ILPES delivered 27 international courses with 841 participants, and 23 national courses with 857 participants, in addition to 9 e-learning courses with 609 participants during

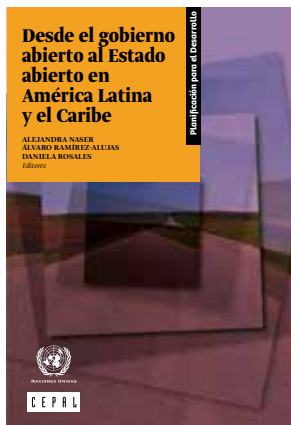
the biennium. Within the framework of cooperation agreements with various countries in the region, ILPES conducted 73 courses, workshops and training seminars with 2,182 participants. Overall, in this biennium, ILPES carried out 132 international, national and distance-learning courses and workshops which provided training for 4,489 experts from different public and private agencies in 14 of the region's countries, as well as academics. Over 7,000 hours of teaching were invested in this training process. Women's participation in international and national courses increased in the 2016-2017 biennium; 63% of total participants were women, while 37% were men.

PLANIFICACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE. ENFOQUES, EXPERIENCIAS Y PERSPECTIVAS

Planning for development has acquired such breadth and importance in the region that it is necessary to understand it from a systemic perspective. Its basic functions—foresight, implementation and evaluation—operate simultaneously in sectors, institutions and levels of government, as well as within different time frames. This book investigates and interprets the concrete practices of nine countries in the region which have confronted the challenges of managing the interrelations between the aforementioned dimensions. The book posits that in order to achieve comprehensive planning for development, it is necessary to adequately resolve the challenges of intersectorality, pluritemporality, their multiscale dimensions and the issue of participation. Finally, evaluation and monitoring are highlighted as processes that have the potential to contribute to better coordination of planning and public management, as well as to generate institutional learning that permanently improves systems, processes and results. The reflections set forth in the book provide useful suggestions to consider in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



ILPES also published numerous studies that contributed to the regional body of knowledge on planning for development. *Panorama de la gestión pública en América Latina y el Caribe: un gobierno abierto centrado en el ciudadano* describes the state of public management mechanisms and instruments in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and reviews current practices in planning, budgeting, execution, and the monitoring and evaluation of public management processes, within the framework of the open government policy paradigm. *Panorama regional de los datos abiertos: avances y desafíos en América Latina y el Caribe* analyses the efforts under way in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to take advantage of the opportunities that information technologies offer to manage open data and make it available to citizens through portals, as well as through initiatives to provide public value and generate new applications that create new meanings and resolve common problems. *Plan de gobierno abierto: una hoja de ruta para los gobiernos de la región* offers further support to the countries of the region in the formulation and elaboration of their own open government action plans.



DESDE EL GOBIERNO ABIERTO AL ESTADO ABIERTO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

One of the main challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to configure a new framework of public governance and a renewed State architecture that will promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitate access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (Sustainable Development Goal 16). In this context, the open government paradigm constitutes a reference and a key pillar for fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. This pioneering work aims to contribute to the emerging debate on the transition to an open State through multiple perspectives from ECLAC and from representatives of multilateral organizations, authorities and government officials, renowned experts, academics and representatives of civil society organizations in the region, as well as from civic activism and innovation platforms.

In the compilation *Planificación y prospectiva para la construcción de futuro en América Latina y el Caribe, Textos seleccionados 2013-2016*, a select set of papers published between 2013 and 2016 by ILPES is assembled to offer the reader an analytical description of recent advances in planning for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The publication highlights one of planning's key allies —the discipline of foresight— with particular emphasis on institutional capacity development and its use as an instrument for managing development. The manual *Territorio e igualdad: planificación del desarrollo con perspectiva de género*, developed in collaboration with the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs, illustrates the importance of incorporating the gender perspective in planning processes at different territorial levels and provides a methodological contribution to the practice of governmental and non-governmental actors with responsibilities in the design and execution of those processes. Finally, the publication *Pactos territoriales en la construcción de regiones transfronterizas: por una mayor integración a múltiples niveles* aims to show how cross-border cooperation is a key link in the consolidation of integration processes.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

A large part of the activities carried out by ILPES have been possible thanks to technical cooperation agreements. The cooperation programme with GIZ continued to be successfully executed; its main activities were the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development and the capacity-building programme for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both activities have strengthened the network of efforts with planning authorities in the region and interdivisional work within the Commission, particularly with the Statistics Division and the ECLAC subregional offices in Mexico City and Port of Spain. In the framework of the agreement with AECID, international courses for public officials from the region have continued to be held on planning, foresight, leadership and

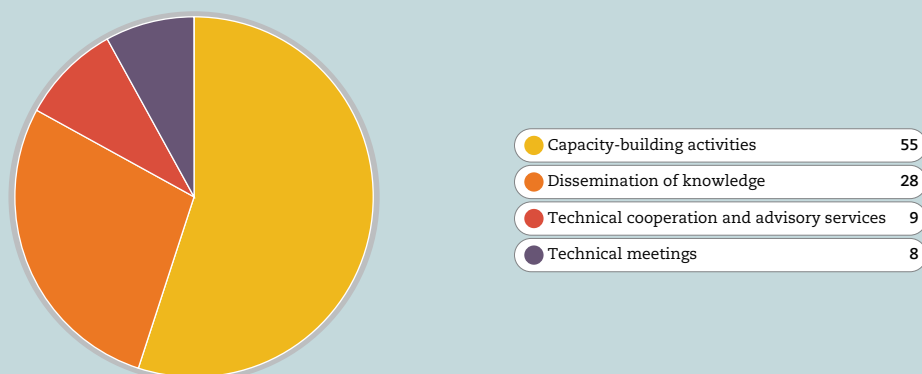
open government issues. In the framework of this agreement, ILPES was able to create the first network built under the aegis of the AECID courses, the Alumni Network on Public Leadership, organized by students of the four editions of the course carried out to date. The cooperation agreement with the Republic of Korea has allowed the exchange of experiences about the challenges for Latin American cities in the context of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in terms of the public leadership, open government, participatory planning and monitoring capacities needed to implement sustainable strategies and inclusive urban projects.

ILPES provides technical assistance services at national and subnational levels (regional and local) of government, as well as from a region-wide perspective, as in the provision of public goods to the region. At the national scale, support was provided under the subprogramme for the judiciary of Costa Rica through technical assistance workshops to strengthen its institutional capacities for the formulation and implementation of a national institutional open justice policy. ILPES facilitated and supported a broad participatory process which included all the departments of the judiciary, in addition to a commission of practitioners and beneficiaries, representatives of civil society, and the Costa Rican Association of Lawyers. This effort by the judiciary is especially relevant in the global and regional context, as it is recognized as a pioneering experience in developing the concept of open government within a judicial power, in which a broad range of stakeholders participated in policy discussions and design. It is, in fact, the first time that an exercise has been undertaken in the region to apply the principles of open government to the justice sector. The open justice policy is also leading to the articulation, coordination and strengthening of projects, programmes and actions in the sector, with a focus on improving access to justice for vulnerable populations.

At the subnational scale, an innovative experience in technical advisory services was the support provided under the subprogramme to the State of Jalisco in Mexico for the evaluation of the State Development Plan Jalisco 2013-2033, and the formulation of recommendations to strengthen future processes for development planning, particularly in relation to strategic economic development. ILPES also participated in the 2016 *Glosa Ciudadana* (an open government accountability exercise) and provided feedback to the State of Jalisco monitoring and evaluation system (*MIDE Jalisco*).

Technical advisory services targeting the local level are directed through national agencies or ministries, to ensure broad-based capacity development in the articulation of local level challenges. An interesting experience in this regard was the support provided to Uruguay in its decentralization processes, focused on the promotion of competitive territories. In conjunction with the Office of Planning and the Budget of the Office of the President of Uruguay and the National Economic Development Agency (ANDE), ILPES tested a model to support capacity development in systemic territorial competitiveness.

[FIGURE 10]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The challenge for the next biennium is to provide an effective response to governments' requirements for technical assistance and other advisory services in a timely manner and according to their needs. ILPES also looks forward to identifying concrete ways to apply information technology in activities that encompass the main areas underpinning its work—foresight, territorial planning, results-based management, evaluation of public policies, open government and public investment—as well as engaging with emerging issues such as multiscale planning, linking plans and budgets, or linking the structural gaps methodology with tools for characterizing and assessing the impacts of policies and plans.

The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is in a pilot phase and is being continually updated to facilitate access by all users. This will lay the foundations for strengthening a joint agenda with the planning ministries and authorities. The Institute also expects to consolidate areas of work relating to public leadership, the participatory approach and the gender approach in planning, as well as mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into planning and public management systems.

SUBPROGRAMME 11

STATISTICS

[11]

PASCUAL GERSTENFELD
Chief of the Statistics Division

INTRODUCTION

During the biennium, work under the subprogramme produced a wide range of results, fulfilling its aim to support countries in building, strengthening and harmonizing statistical information in order to feed evidence-based decision-making processes as part of the region's public policymaking for development. One of the objectives targeted by that work was strengthening the role of national statistical offices as leading institutions of their respective national statistical systems, in order to meet the statistical challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in June 2016, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was created to coordinate the preparation and implementation of regional indicators and to build relevant capacities, as part of the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. During 2016 the Group focused its actions on collecting information on national capacities to develop the 232 indicators coming from the global framework defined by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, to identify the main challenges in the production of basic statistics to monitor the Goals and to explore possible lines of action to coordinate horizontal technical cooperation. At the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2017, in its capacity as the technical secretariat of the Statistical Coordination Group, ECLAC presented an initial proposal for the regional framework of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Conference requested the Group to make an updated proposal, with the support of the secretariat, for presentation at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, on a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the situations, emphases and shared challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Working in concert with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the annual meetings between national statistical offices and national geographic institutes for promoting and coordinating national geospatial information activities, and for developing projects to construct national geospatial data infrastructure. Efforts under the subprogramme continued to support the region's countries in implementing their systems of national accounts, transitioning to the SNA 2008

structure and building capacities for the future implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), by holding seminars and providing technical advisory services.

In the second half of 2017, activities for the International Comparison Programme began with the first technical meeting for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as a continuous activity with a rolling benchmark. With the participation of 37 countries from the region and ECLAC as regional coordinator, the programme adopted the road map and timetable of surveys and data exchange for the calculations.

Other activities were carried out to promote the region's development and use of new indicators for monitoring economic, social and environmental trends. In particular, activities for improving the measurement of poverty continued during this biennium. An updated methodology for estimating income poverty was finished after several years of work, in order to provide a more comparable framework for regional poverty estimations. In addition, the Division has co-led the component on poverty and inequality statistics of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, which aims to strengthen developing countries' capacity to measure and monitor indicators related to Goals 1 and 10 on the basis of household surveys as well as to improve the possibilities for data disaggregation.

The implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and of statistical recommendations and handbooks to compile environment indicators at the country level continued to be the focus of many technical assistance activities carried out under the subprogramme, and the Division took new steps to promote the production of information on climate change and disaster impact and adaptation, energy, forests, ecosystems and biodiversity, and environment-related expenditures.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

The Division continued to focus its work on the compilation, production and dissemination of comparable social, environmental and economic indicators, on the development of quantitative methodologies to produce new indicators and the use of existing ones to help formulate and analyse evidence-based policymaking in the region, and on expanding its work with data visualization. During the biennium, the Division worked to support countries' preparedness in monitoring their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC held its fifteenth meeting in Santiago in June 2016. On that occasion, the Statistical Coordination Group was established within the Statistical Conference, comprising the member countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region that are also members of the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting also included a seminar on the follow-up framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, at which the participants discussed global and regional statistical coordination mechanisms for Goals indicators, national mechanisms for measurements and new statistical tools. At the meeting, the Executive Committee approved the activities for the biennium 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference

of the Americas, as a means to implement the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 and meet the statistical challenges of the region. As a side event, on 17 June 2016, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, ECLAC organized the first meeting for the promotion and coordination of national geospatial information activities, attended by national statistical offices and national geographic institutes, with the purpose of developing projects to construct national geospatial data infrastructure.

The sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Santiago in April 2017, with the objective of reviewing the key topics of the working groups. It included a regional seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, titled Progress in the development of monitoring frameworks for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was intended to share information on the design and construction of the indicator frameworks for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals with the directors of the region's national statistical offices and other statistical agencies in attendance at the Conference. A side event on geospatial information management took place with the geospatial expert community and national statistical office directors during the meeting of the Statistical Conference. With the support of ECLAC, the Statistical Conference's Working Group on Institution-building developed a proposal to consolidate the financial resources needed to undertake peer reviews of the implementation of the Code of Good Practices in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Working Group on Administrative Records and the Working Group on Poverty Statistics developed products for progressing with the implementation of the Statistical Conference's 10-year strategic plan.

Under this subprogramme, the Division also provided support for the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, for which ECLAC is the technical secretariat. At the meeting, held in November 2017 in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the 39 participating delegations adopted a resolution in which the countries highlighted the Statistical Conference's importance as the intergovernmental body that is best suited for producing a regional indicator framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and for channelling cooperation activities to strengthen the statistical capacities of the region's countries. At the meeting, ECLAC presented countries with a proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, intended to help stimulate and sustain intergovernmental dialogue within the Statistical Conference over the coming months in order to ensure a regional consensus is reached.

Throughout the biennium, regional workshops on the statistical aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals were held under the aegis of the subprogramme at the regional, subregional and national levels. The Latin American Conference: Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, held in Santiago in September 2016, brought together heads of national statistical offices, chief statisticians of international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners and other stakeholders. The event was intended to take stock of various international, regional, subregional and national initiatives for integrating and modernizing statistical systems and to shape the global initiative for a transformative agenda to the Latin American context.

In August 2017, as part of the activities of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, in conjunction with the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of Panama, the Division organized a subregional workshop on institutional strengthening, cooperation, dialogue and association for the production and use of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Held in San Salvador, the workshop was attended by representatives of national statistical offices from the region's countries, as well as of the national institutions responsible for preparing voluntary national reviews in the countries of Central America. A high-level seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals was also held in Asunción in July 2017. This event, attended by the President of Paraguay and senior national government authorities, was organized to raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and to give an impetus to their implementation. The high-level meeting in Paraguay marked an important milestone, with the signing of a joint commitment for implementing the 2030 Agenda by the three main institutional partners, the country's executive, legislative and judicial branches, represented by the President of the Republic, the President of Congress and the President of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Environmental statistics is the least developed of the three domains of statistics involved in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region, in spite of the existence of an ever-growing demand for evidence-based national policies for sustainable development. Environmental statistics are needed to calculate and sustain the 104 SDG global indicators, 51% of SDG targets and 70% of the Goals. This has driven most of the region's countries to seek technical assistance and training in order to build capacities for monitoring the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda.

In its work, the environmental statistics team has successfully mobilized external resources, has worked hand in hand with other specialized teams from other ECLAC divisions and has strengthened coordination and cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division, FAO, the Latin American Energy Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to synergize limited resources and increase impact at the national level.

Provision of environment statistics capacity-building services to countries increased considerably during 2016, and particularly throughout 2017. The environment statistics team assisted in the construction of 40 new national environmental indicators as prioritized by each country. ECLAC gave technical support to Chile's key work with one of the most complex Sustainable Development Goal indicators—ecosystems and biodiversity—which will be useful for its National Biodiversity Strategy and the corresponding indicators; interim products include six new biodiversity indicators (for Goals 14 and 15), and a fully trained inter-institutional team that can sustain, update and increase the indicators to be disseminated. This experience will also serve to assist Mexico and other countries in producing biodiversity and ecosystem indicators.

A regional meeting of experts was held in Santiago in September 2017 to analyse the main challenges with environmental statistics, indicators and accounts in the region. In addition to formulating specific recommendations to increase the speed at which environmental statistical products are being disseminated at the national and regional levels, the experts agreed to launch a dynamic regional network on environmental statistics to foster the exchange of knowledge and practices in the field.

I am writing to express our gratitude for the historic support and technical assistance ECLAC recently gave our institution through the workshop on methods for constructing and maintaining environmental Sustainable Development Goal indicators... It gave our statistical processes a very positive boost.

Carlos Evaristo Hernández, Director General of Statistics and Census, Republic of El Salvador, letter dated 28 March 2017

Through the technical cooperation provided under the subprogramme, 10 countries made significant progress towards implementing the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). This included updating their base years and recording progress made with the estimates of the environmental, cultural, illegal activities and non-remunerated work satellite accounts. As part of the subprogramme, the Division held several workshops on this topic, including the National Accounts Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean: regional implementation of SNA 2008 and its relationship with other systems, held in Santiago in November 2016, and the workshop on national account statistics and the balance of payments, held in Brasilia in June 2017, in collaboration with Eurostat and IMF.

Various policies, measures or actions were taken by countries in keeping with ECLAC recommendations: Argentina made significant progress with the revision of its official national accounts series (base year 2004); Cuba strengthened its national accounts and its consumer price index; Curaçao made progress with calculating annual GDP at constant prices; the Dominican Republic undertook the design and implementation of a continuous employment survey; and Ecuador implemented a new consumer price index —a purchasing power parity index between the Galapagos Islands and the country's mainland— which is having an important impact on national public policies, and it developed its social accounting matrix.

I would like to thank ECLAC for its support towards the Central Bank of Ecuador, in the shape of the products that it publishes, distributes and leaves for posterity.

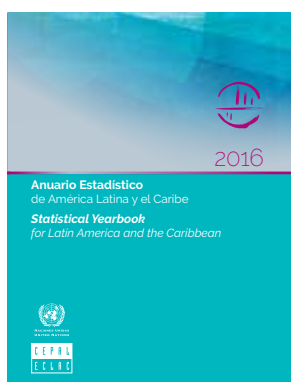
Verónica Artola Jarrín, General Manager, Central Bank of Ecuador (June 2017)

The first technical meeting of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), jointly organized by ECLAC and CARICOM and held in Santiago in June 2017, focused on finalizing the regional list of products for the collection of household consumption price data, thereby launching the programme's activities in the region. ICP is a worldwide statistical partnership led by the World Bank to collect comparative price data and compile detailed expenditure values of countries' GDP and to estimate purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world's economies. This event marked the first occasion on which Latin America and the Caribbean participated as a single region.

As part of its work on poverty measurement, the Division organized the regional seminar on non-monetary poverty indicators: progress and challenges for measurement in Santiago in May 2017, as an activity of the Working Group on Poverty Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. The Division also provided technical assistance to Uruguay and Costa Rica to help design of national poverty measurements and improve labour indicators. Jointly with SICA and the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Panama (INEC), ECLAC also organized the workshop on the use of household surveys for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicators on poverty and inequality, which was held in Panama City in August 2017, to revise how income and non-monetary variables that may be used in the elaboration of poverty indicators, indicators of access to basic services and inequality indicators are

measured in household surveys and to discuss best practices among the SICA member countries. The Division and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador also jointly organized a regional seminar on enhancing the use of administrative records for statistical purposes to follow up on the 2030 Agenda, which was held in Santiago in October 2017, as an activity of the Statistical Conference's Working Group on Administrative Records. Its goal was to produce an analysis of the statistical use of administrative records in the region and to learn about successful experiences with statistical production using administrative sources, with special emphasis on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the biennium, the Division published the 2016 and 2017 editions of the flagship *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean*, which contains demographic and social indicators, economic statistics relating to trade, balances of payments, domestic prices and national accounts, and quantitative information on the environment in the region. These editions were redesigned using visualization tools and statistical graphics to assist analyses of the regional situation. Access to the raw data was facilitated through digital and online mechanisms. The ECLAC *Statistical Yearbook* continued to be a statistical reference for the region.



STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2016

The ECLAC *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean* presents a set of basic statistics on the economic, sociodemographic and environmental situation of the region during a specific time period. This information is part of the statistics available in CEPALSTAT, the statistical databases and publications portal of ECLAC. This edition of the *Yearbook* includes information available up to mid-January 2017 and incorporates a new look in presenting regional statistics to describe social, economic and environmental situations at the regional level. The *Yearbook* comprises three chapters. The first covers demographic and social indicators and includes statistical information on population, labour, education, health, housing and basic services, poverty and income distribution, and gender. The second chapter presents economic statistics relating to trade, balances of payments, domestic prices and national accounts. The third chapter provides the quantitative information available on the environment. Given the abundance of data now accessible to researchers, special attention must be paid to technical aspects specifying the source of the data, their definition and coverage. This information is presented in a fourth chapter available in the electronic version of the *Yearbook*, which deals with methodology and metadata.

The Division also published various studies, including *Las cuentas de los hogares y el bienestar en América Latina. Más allá del PIB*, as part of the *Cuadernos Estadísticos de la CEPAL* collection, which examines the analytical potential of national accounting to describe and interpret the structure and behaviour of household accounts. The document incorporates several recommendations included in the report of the Stiglitz Commission, in particular the need to focus on the measurement of household incomes and consumption to better understand issues related to income and wealth distribution, human well-being and sustainable development. Two publications were published describing the state of the art and main challenges facing the region in the fields of environmental statistics and environment accounts.

LAS CUENTAS DE LOS HOGARES Y EL BIENESTAR EN AMÉRICA LATINA: MÁS ALLÁ DEL PIB

In this work on household accounts, the authors reaffirm the analytical potential of national accounting to describe and interpret the structure and behaviour of one of the most important sectors of the economy, which is the engine of demand and, at the same time, the generator of a considerable part of national production, at least in Latin America and the Caribbean. This sector is also the ultimate beneficiary of property and company income and the source of an important surplus that drives the mechanisms of social accumulation in the region's countries. The document echoes several suggestions made in the Stiglitz Commission report, in particular the need to focus more carefully on measuring household income and consumption in order to understand issues related to the distribution of income and wealth, well-being, human rights and sustainable development.

The text describes the fundamental elements of household income and expenditure surveys, as well as the architecture of this institutional sector's accounts in accordance with the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008).



The Division continued the regular development, update and maintenance of statistical information available through different databases. CEPALSTAT, the statistical portal of ECLAC, continued to expand with increased amounts of metadata and new functionalities. The portal contains national and regional profiles that are in line with databases, a dashboard to facilitate mass data access, web services for advanced API developers (OpenData project), a collection of infographics and numerous other features.

As part of the implementation of the Development Account project entitled “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries”, the national statistical systems assessment phase has been completed in the two areas concerned, namely national and environmental accounts, and issues to be tackled by the project were identified, together with strengths and weaknesses for Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay and Uruguay. The project has raised awareness about the need to step up the implementation of SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012 in those countries in order to comply with international recommendations and standards. In this context, the subprogramme provided advisory services on national accounts to Uruguay, and on national and environmental accounts to Curaçao and Paraguay.

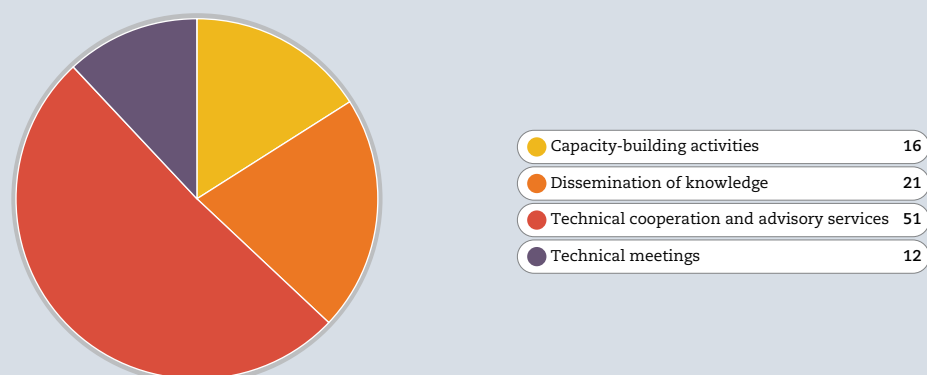
Finally, and in the context of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, ECLAC organized workshops and provided advisory services to Argentina and Brazil to assess the capacities of the MERCOSUR countries to produce data for measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The main conclusions were shared with representatives of the national statistical systems of Argentina and Brazil, highlighting their challenges and progress in measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Also, ECLAC supported the participation of a group of Caribbean countries in the interregional seminar on national statistical systems reviews in small island developing States organized by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

A great number of activities (missions, workshops and seminars) in support of environment statistics and indicators in the region were carried out over the biennium, with a considerable increase in 2017. A total of 20 technical assistance missions and/or training workshops were carried out at the national level, (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru) attended by 950 practitioners from national statistical offices, environment ministries and other sectoral institutions. Similarly, 13 inter-institutional coordination and advocacy meetings were held with national decision- and policymakers for strengthening and institutionalizing statistics, indicators and accounts in the countries. A total of eight regional training workshops, seminars and conferences on environmental statistics, indicators and accounts were carried out successfully, along with the first meeting of the regional expert group in 2017.

Over the course of the biennium, technical assistance on price, industrial, employment and household surveys and national accounts was provided to Argentina, Cuba, Curaçao, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

[FIGURE 11]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One lesson learned was that technical assistance is a key activity in cooperation and dissemination of methodologies for enhancing basic social, environmental and economic data and national accounts. The demand for statistics is increasing in the region on account of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and national statistical systems are being pressured to provide information that is currently not available. Activities have to be focused on certain areas, such as improving environmental statistics.

Another important lesson learned was that channelling horizontal cooperation on a peer-to-peer basis between national statistical offices and other institutions of national statistical systems, such as central banks and sectoral ministries, is a powerful mechanism for leveraging the capacity for intraregional technical assistance and meeting the increasing demands derived from the exponential increase in the use and production of statistics.

SUBPROGRAMME 12**SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, CUBA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND MEXICO****[12]****HUGO BETETA**

Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

INTRODUCTION

Globalization is setting special challenges for Central America. The countries in this subregion are among the most open economies in the world. The adoption of neoliberal policy agendas during the last two decades of the twentieth century left most countries without industrial policies, development banks, countercyclical macroeconomic management or even the most minimal social protection standards for workers. In this context, in 2015 Central America (with the exceptions of Costa Rica and Panama) still lagged behind Latin America and the Caribbean on most of the Millennium Development Goals and faces an uphill journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

ECLAC emphasizes regional integration as the best global insertion strategy for a group of small, open economies, with a focus on closing structural gaps (in productivity, investment, fiscal, labour, gender, education, health, territorial) and on addressing inequality as a key developmental challenge. In addition, in a subregion that imports most of its food, is energy dependent and tops the global rankings in exposure to natural disasters, food security, energy and inclusive adaptation to climate change pose specific challenges.

During the biennium, advisory services, training workshops, analytical studies and policy recommendations were provided to assist countries in addressing their most pressing development needs. Examples of this are the results achieved by modelling the impacts of a customs union between Honduras and Guatemala, the analysis carried out on the impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on the textile sector and the publication of macroeconomic performance reports for the subregion. In line with the Commission's commitment to regional integration, the subregional headquarters analysed options for interconnecting the subregion's electric power transmission network with that of Mexico, drafted harmonized national electricity regulations and established an energy efficiency database for the entire subregion. Work also took place on the development of regional methodologies for assessing food security, hydroelectric generation and public investments under climate change scenarios, and on establishing planning frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals in all the subregion's countries, using a new methodology for revealing critical linkages and nodes among the Goals. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of ECLAC in Mexico City in April 2017, provided a great opportunity for peer learning and exchanges of best practices among the subregion's national officers, government representatives, private sector and civil society.

Social development is key for peace, prosperity and stability in the subregion. But the subregion's ability to increase social expenditure is limited by low tax rates and a growing pressure to increase response capacities to disasters and security threats. During 2016-2017 the subregional office spearheaded a debate on minimum wages in Mexico, worked on issues of labour participation for women and strived to understand the structural issues behind chronic violence in the region. A significant amount of time was devoted to strengthening national capacities to fight poverty and inequality, contributing to debates on poverty measurement and developing new ways to measure income inequality using fiscal and tax data, methods for determining structural gaps and innovative ways to estimate wealth (not income) inequality in Mexico. During the biennium, more attention was paid to the specific constraints on the social development of indigenous groups, and the subregional office led discussions on the feasibility of establishing a new social development pillar by advancing a universal basic Income in Mexico. Migration will remain a crucial issue in the subregion's future development. In 2016-2017 the subregional headquarters studied migration patterns among indigenous groups in Oaxaca and forged an alliance of think tanks from Mexico and three Central American countries to construct a narrative on migration that is closely linked to development models and human security and not just to security and containment concerns.

A strategy to upgrade productive capabilities in the subregion is also at the core of the Commission's work. Efforts remain almost exclusively at the national level but regional value chains are also addressed. Under the subprogramme, the idea of progressive structural change by updating input-output tables has been advanced in several countries, and a major initiative was undertaken to forge value chains in several countries and to advance new ideas regarding industrial policies for rural areas and for services in the subregion. As part of this subprogramme, ECLAC organized a major conference in Mexico that brought together entrepreneurs, firms and policymakers from India with counterparts from all over Latin America. In addition, the subregional office provided support in the development of formulas for fuel pricing in the subregion, for the revision of the tariff structure of the electricity sector in Costa Rica and to the drafting of tax models for the customs service in Mexico. The subregional office is also following the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations between Mexico and the United States from a developmental perspective.

The region's long-term development outcomes will have to pay greater attention to the participation of women, to the wealth of indigenous cultures and to young people's demands for employment and transparency, given that youth represent a particularly educated and engaged demographic group in the subregion. The current model of development in the subregion is showing signs of fatigue. The emergence of new technologies, the challenges of globalization, changing demographics (pace of urbanization, migration, dependency ratios and women's empowerment), the threats of climate change and the politics of fear in key economic partners demand critical engagement. The Commission's capacity for historical and structural analysis and its trusted presence, access to decision makers in the subregion and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals will remain crucial in the years to come.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

In the last three years, the economies of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic have experienced solid growth, with the highest growth rates registered in Panama and the Dominican Republic. Inflation rates have remained low, due to falling prices for commodities in general and oil in particular, which has also contributed to a significantly lower current account deficit. Central banks have increased their benchmark interest rates. The evolution of fiscal policies has been uneven: while Honduras has made significant efforts to consolidate public expenditures, other countries, such as Costa Rica, still require profound fiscal reforms. Social and productive development still involves significant challenges. Poverty and inequality rates have remained consistently high, whereas productivity growth has been scant.

Recent political proposals constitute challenges for the subregion. Central America and Mexico have close commercial ties with the United States. The proposed revision of NAFTA and the uncertainty over WTO provisions and over taxes related to United States foreign direct investment pose a major challenge for the subregion and underline the need for sectoral policies to promote a greater diversity of trade partners.

Agricultural activity is a key component of the subregion's economies. In the subregion, agriculture accounts for around 9% of total GDP. Key challenges in this area are: slow growth of output, yields and productivity; acute inequality and poverty, which affects women in particular; insufficient creation of quality jobs; low access to financial instruments such as credit; and lack of public and private investment. High fragility and low resilience are aggravated by the adverse effect of disasters derived mainly from hydro-meteorological threats. Institutional and stakeholders' technical capacities must be enhanced to face these challenges, including measures to promote adaptation to climate change. Cooperation efforts to address this issue must consider the design of strategies to transit to low-carbon economies, climate adapted agriculture, financial inclusion, mechanisms to transfer risk as insurance, resilience in private and public infrastructure and housing, integrated water management and forest protection.

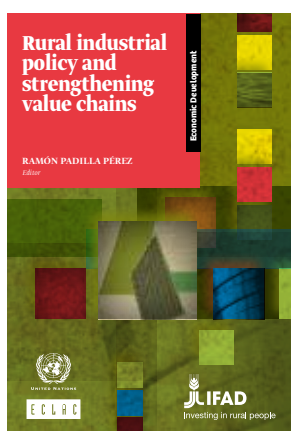
The prevalence of undernourishment differs among the Central American countries even though, in general, the rate has decreased in the past few years. Guatemala and Nicaragua are the countries with the highest rates of undernourished people—15.6% and 16.6%, respectively— while, at 5%, Costa Rica has the lowest. Central America must not only face undernutrition, but also increasing obesity and overweight, which is the cause of what has been called “the double burden of malnutrition”.

Central America is one of the regions of the world that is most exposed to climate phenomena, and its societies, human activities and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, lacking resilience to the adverse effects of climate variability and exhibiting several of the vulnerabilities characterized in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As an isthmus bridging two vast land masses and standing between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, it has long coastlines with lowland areas and is exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms. The region is repeatedly affected by droughts, intense rains, cyclones and the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Climate change is exacerbating socioeconomic vulnerabilities in Central America and will increasingly affect its economic and social progress, affecting production activities such as agriculture, hydroelectric power and water.

Finally, the energy transition is one of the great common challenges facing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This translates into specific challenges for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, especially in relation to universal access to modern energy services, greater use of renewable energy and a substantial improvement in energy efficiency. All this is associated with special efforts for the mitigation of greenhouse gases, particularly as regards the use of fossil fuels and the loss of forest cover. In the countries of this subregion, the sustainable use of biomass, especially in rural areas, is one of the priority issues.

In recent days, the mayors and technical personnel of the Association of Municipalities of the El Bálsamo Microregion and tourism sector business owners from the community have been delighted to learn about the Commission's methods and experiences with the development of tourism chains, with particular emphasis on Antigua Guatemala. The learning has encouraged the launch of tourism development processes to strengthen and re-evaluate the potential for tourism that exists.

Association of Municipalities of the El Bálsamo Microregion, El Salvador, letter dated 7 April 2017



RURAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND STRENGTHENING VALUE CHAINS

Rural areas have undergone major changes in recent decades, with the declining share of agricultural jobs and added value in total economic activity, the greater interdependency between the agricultural sector and other sectors (manufacturing and services) and the increasing importance of learning and innovation processes. Those changes notwithstanding, rural areas are still a major presence in the economic structure of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The book sets out the need for a rural industrial policy that promotes environmentally harmonious structural change based on innovation, greater added value and better employment and living conditions. The proposal is based on the experience of ECLAC in strengthening rural value chains and offers a novel approach to industrial policy and the development of rural areas. The book also presents the Commission's methodology for value chains and compares processes for strengthening rural chains around primary and agro-industrial products and rural tourism.

As part of its work programme with ministries of agriculture and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), ECLAC coordinated a multi-institutional effort to generate proposals on how to analyse the impact of climate change risks on food and nutritional security with a systemic approach. Technical institutions such as FAO and IICA participated, and a discussion meeting was held in Costa Rica in May 2017, which included a technical review with national institutions.

SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA Y NUTRICIONAL EN CENTROAMÉRICA Y LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: EXPLORANDO LOS RETOS CON UNA PERSPECTIVA SISTÉMICA

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. In order to assist the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in pursuing those objectives, this document proposes the development of a more systemic approach to food and nutritional security, based on the four dimensions proposed by FAO: availability, access, biological use and stability. It presents information available in the region and analyses the example of maize as a case study.



The subregional headquarters worked with the central banks of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic to build input-output tables, making use of supply and use tables. These products, along with international trade and employment data, were the basis for conducting structural analyses aimed at designing and evaluating public policies. Four country-specific studies containing a structural analysis of each of the national economies were carried out using highly disaggregated data and information on transactions between and within economic sectors, which allows for comparisons and different analyses to be carried out to identify the sectors with the greatest capacity to generate both direct and indirect employment. The studies also presented important findings with policy implications, especially regarding issues of functional income distribution, structural heterogeneity and its effect on employment, the sectoral generation of employment and its components and the link between the evolution of exports and job creation.

As part of the work carried out by the Governments of Guatemala and Honduras to further their economic integration through the customs union, I am pleased to offer ECLAC our sincere thanks for the assistance provided in its specialized analysis and impact assessment. That help will be invaluable in the policymaking and coordination processes being led by the participating countries.

Carmen Gisela Vergara, Secretary-General, Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA), 1 December 2016

In order to strengthen the analysis and formulation of public policies for fostering a diverse ecosystem of economically viable financial service providers, which increase sustainable access to a broad range of financial services among poor people in rural areas, the subregional headquarters carried out a comparative analysis of the institutional architecture available in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Working in close collaboration with local authorities, a detailed diagnostic study was prepared for each country. The preliminary findings of these studies were discussed with key actors from the public and the private sectors, think tanks and other international organizations. The studies were then combined and published in the book *Financial inclusion of small rural producers*.

In addition, working in conjunction with the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division, the subregional headquarters presented and discussed cross-border transport problems at the seminar on a binational approach to transport, logistics and mobility, focused on sustainability, held in Jimaní, Dominican Republic, in July 2016. This event was part of the technical cooperation provided by ECLAC to the Haiti-Dominican Republic Binational Joint Commission on issues related to transportation between the two countries, and it contributed to the drafting of their final cross-border transport protocol. ECLAC also helped build the capacities of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Panama to formulate economic projections through the delivery of a course on the design, evaluation and analysis of econometric models for forecasting macroeconomic variables.

The subregional headquarters in Mexico provided the subregion's countries with advisory services and support for their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Technical assistance was given to the Government of Guatemala in aligning its national priorities with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, through the identification of national priorities within the national development strategy; as part of this effort, three national workshops were held in February, March and May 2017. ECLAC also assisted the Government of Honduras in drafting its voluntary national review for presentation at the July 2017 meeting of the High-level Political Forum in New York.

In conjunction with Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the subregional office provided the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences (IHSI) with technical assistance for devising a synthetic economic activity indicator to estimate the short-term evolution of economic activity. Finally, together with the Government of Haiti and its Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), the subregional office organized a seminar to present the results of the joint ECLAC-Mora Institute project on South-South cooperation between Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Haiti (29 August–2 September 2016) and published the report *A cinq années du tremblement de terre en Haïti. Leçons apprises de la Coopération Sud-Sud: les cas du Brésil, du Chili et du Mexique*, which gives an overview of the South-South cooperation initiatives with Haiti that took place between 2010 and 2015 and identifies lessons learned for the future.

Technical assistance on norms for renewable energy and its components was also given to the Secretary of Energy of Mexico at meetings that focused on certifications for solar panels and wind energy. ECLAC also assisted El Salvador in reviewing the procedures and structures used for its hydrocarbon reference price formulas. Finally, the subregional headquarters provided the municipal government of Saltillo with technical assistance for drafting a local policy to prevent gender violence on public transportation.

As part of the Development Account project on “Strengthening the capacity of Central American and Caribbean countries in the preparation of sustainable energy policies and strategies”, the office supported discussions in the subregion on methodologies for energy efficiency plans, and a document containing a proposed methodology for SICA member countries to draw up such plans was published and reviewed by the project's beneficiary countries. A training workshop to discuss the challenges posed by the entry of large amounts of unconventional or intermittent renewable energies (solar and wind) was held in September 2016 in Panama City, and another workshop on methodologies for assessing biomass

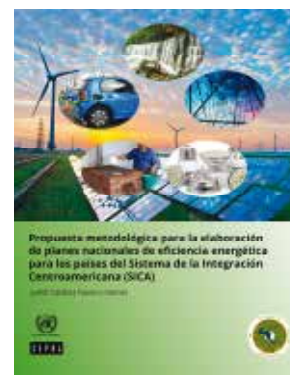
potential for sustainable energy production was held in Mexico City that same month. After the subregional office had provided technical assistance and advisory services, in April 2016 the Government of Panama approved its new National Energy Plan 2050 (Cabinet resolution 34 of 29 March 2016); follow-up activities have been organized to ensure its implementation, including the training workshop on integrating renewable energy into the regional electrical system to examine the problems of incorporating large amounts of intermittent renewable energy, which was held from 26 to 28 October 2016 in Panama City. At this workshop, attended by participants representing national public, private, academic and social sectors, 20 experts from different parts of the world gave presentations on the technical, economic, social and regulatory challenges of incorporating large amounts of renewable energies. In addition, and also as a result of the advisory services provided by the subregional office, the Dominican Republic launched its biomass network in December 2016 and El Salvador prepared its first nationally appropriate mitigation action, on energy efficiency in public buildings, which was presented at a side event at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016.

Please accept my thanks and those of the Ministry of Energy and Mines for the cooperation provided by ECLAC (...) for the launch of the biomass platform and the workshop on using biomass as a source of energy for producers and consumers.

Oscar A. de la Maza R., Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Dominican Republic, email dated 20 January 2017

PROPUESTA METODOLÓGICA PARA LA ELABORACIÓN DE PLANES NACIONALES DE EFICIENCIA ENERGÉTICA PARA LOS PAÍSES DEL SISTEMA DE LA INTEGRACIÓN CENTROAMERICANA (SICA)

In September 2015, ECLAC received a request from the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to prepare a methodological proposal for the preparation of national energy efficiency plans. The methodology presented here considered three reference frameworks: the energy efficiency programmes of four Latin American countries, methodological proposals from international organizations and a review of the experiences of the SICA member countries. Because of its level of development and results, emphasis was placed on the approach adopted by Mexico's National Programme for the Sustainable Use of Energy (PRONASE). A first version of this document was presented in December 2015 at a regional workshop held in San Salvador; this new version includes comments from the SICA countries and cooperating agencies and institutions.



ECLAC also produced various studies on topics of interest. These included an analysis of the contribution of public expenditure to economic growth and fiscal multipliers in Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic, which examined the impact of public spending on economic growth between 1990 and 2015. The results of this study were discussed by and distributed to national officers from central banks and ministries of finance at the sixth meeting of

the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, held in Mexico City in April 2017. The analysis was deemed to be of great importance in designing fiscal policies.

Finally, during the biennium, close coordination with Indian authorities took place for organizing the Seventh India-Latin America and the Caribbean Conclave in Guadalajara, Mexico, in November 2016. ECLAC contributed to the discussion with a study titled *Strengthening the relationship between India and Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Conclave helped to identify future areas of cooperation.



STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Economic relations between India and Latin America and the Caribbean are only beginning to develop, and so there is significant room for international trade, FDI and cooperation between these two important regions to grow. Recent data indicate that their economic ties are increasing year on year, with a 140% expansion in trade between 2009 and 2014. The evidence indicates that these ties will continue to grow in the coming years. India, like the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, is a developing country, meaning there are great investment opportunities for companies wishing to expand. In addition, despite their differences, both India and the Latin American and Caribbean region have generally reported better rates of growth than the developed countries, making them emerging areas of economic dynamism. India is the best example of this trend. It has the highest economic growth among the world's largest economies, which offers interesting opportunities for investors. At the same time, today's India is open to FDI and international trade: not only as an exporter of final goods, but increasingly as a link in different global value chains. With this change, the country recognizes that open relations with other countries can support its long-term development goals.

The average rate of economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole does not equal that of India. Nevertheless, the region-wide figures disguise the high levels of heterogeneity in the region. In recent years, countries like Panama and the Dominican Republic have had high rates of growth comparable to those of India. In addition, per capita incomes in Latin America and the Caribbean remain higher than in India and, as a result, the region may hold special appeal for Indian companies. However, economic growth is not the only benchmark for measuring development: ECLAC maintains that inequality must also be addressed as an essential aspect of development. In that context, the publication presents a number of economic, social and trade indicators for the two regions.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

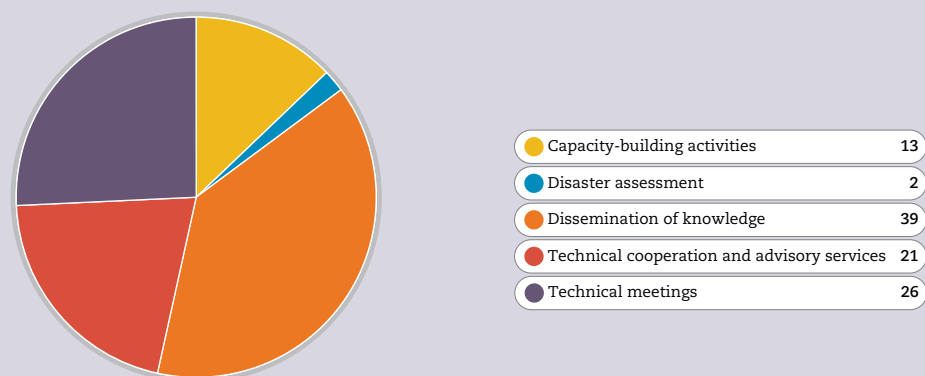
During the biennium, at the countries' request, the subregional headquarters provided technical assistance and advisory services in thematic areas related to the challenges they face. Through close collaboration with public organizations, ECLAC has worked to strengthen a number of value chains in the subregion: rural tourism in Antigua, Guatemala; fruit-based snacks and rural tourism in El Salvador;

dairy products in the Dominican Republic; and vacuum-fried snacks in Costa Rica. For all of those value chains, the Commission's work resulted in the design of participatory strategies and improved public-private dialogue. Additionally, the ECLAC methodology for enhancing value chains is being spread throughout the region and more public institutions are adopting it as part of their public productive policies. The Ministry of Economy of El Salvador officially incorporated the ECLAC value chain methodology into its 2014-2019 Operational Productive Transformation Plan, as did the Round Table on the Development of Productive Chains of Mexico's Business Coordinating Council for Economic Growth, in light of the experience with the chain for pork sausages and other cured pork products. Similarly, several Costa Rican institutions, including the development bank, the University of Costa Rica and the National Institute for Learning, are interested in applying the ECLAC methodology in their policies for SMEs. The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade of Costa Rica and the country's Foreign Trade Corporation (PROCOMER) also adapted their trade promotion mechanisms by using the ECLAC methodology to create productive linkages, and the Ministry made institutional changes in order to create an internal unit that will apply the methodology to strengthen value chains. Finally, the government of the Mexican State of Chihuahua has shown interest in using the ECLAC methodology to strengthen value chains. The work carried out resulted in the publication of several documents, compiled in the book *Rural industrial policy and strengthening value chains*.

The subregional headquarters in Mexico also provided capacity-building assistance on the use of the ECLAC MagicPlus software at the request of various stakeholders, including Chapingo University, its Economic, Social and Technological Research Centre for Agro-industry and World Agriculture (CIESTAAM) and several employees at the newspaper *El Financiero*. The office also organized a training course for Mexican journalists on using and analysing trade statistics with the software, as well as for officials from the trade ministries, customs services and statistical offices of a number of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member countries.

[FIGURE 12]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017

(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The lessons learned over the course of the biennium included the following: the Commission's mandates are better achieved through close interaction with local governments; economic analyses and policy recommendations are richer and more relevant if studies focus on addressing policy-oriented questions formulated by public officers in close collaboration with ECLAC; and technical assistance with the use of extrabudgetary funds is crucial in maintaining close communication and collaboration with our main partners in the subregion. In light of the work done at the subregional headquarters, the implementation of exercises to help align the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals with national priorities —such as those conducted in Guatemala and Mexico— may be of use to other countries in the region.

One good practice in the subregional office's work was identifying and maintaining a high-level counterpart in the government or institution with which the office is working. This helped ensure the Commission's activities were of greater relevance and build better capacities for undertaking projects and solving problems. Another good practice and lesson learned was that the effectiveness of technical cooperation improves if it is based on a country's national plan and an institutional agreement is in place between the national government and ECLAC.

Finally, in the technical assistance given to the subregion's national and regional institutions, it has proved useful to include as many institutions as possible that are either directly or indirectly related to the subject of the technical assistance in order to reveal synergies and complementarities that maximize limited resources in achieving national and regional goals.

SUBPROGRAMME 13**SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN****[13]****DIANE QUARLESS**

Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

INTRODUCTION

During the biennium, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean contributed directly to advancing the sustainable development process in the countries of the Caribbean subregion and supported the shaping of their response to the mandates established in the major global and regional development platforms to which they have committed. ECLAC also sought to respond directly to the most urgent development imperatives identified individually by the member States by offering technical and advisory services for capacity-building and institutional strengthening and by undertaking the research necessary to guide appropriate policy intervention. As a result, the countries' capacity to address their sustainable development challenges was markedly increased, as evidenced by the acknowledgement of ECLAC policy advice by specific member States on such issues as management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue; design and promotion of strategies for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including the transitioning of vehicles to electric and hybrid and the diversifying of the energy mix; development of the yachting sector; and restructuring of national offices to better assess and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additional recommendations were also provided to policymakers through technical studies on several issues, including opportunities for strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries, and prospects for blockchain-based settlement frameworks as a solution to the threat of de-risking to Caribbean financial systems.

Further, the subregional headquarters continued to support the repositioning of ECLAC as the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by undertaking assessments in Belize following Hurricane Earl, in the Bahamas following Hurricane Matthew, and in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Damage and loss assessments were also conducted in Ecuador following the earthquake of April 2016, and in Argentina following the floods that impacted that country in March 2017.

Member States engaged actively in high-level consultations, exploring ways to strengthen subregional integration and increase trade as an effective vehicle for sustainable economic development in the Caribbean. The established mechanisms for consultation and coordination of decision-making at the subregional level were used to undertake comprehensive reviews and assessments to shape subregional strategies in response to specific Caribbean concerns relating to the

global development agenda. Examples of these were the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at the ministerial level, the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the convening of a seminar on women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean, in collaboration with UN-Women and UNFPA, which took place on the eve of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo.

In addition, specific high-level consultations were carried out in the context of strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean. In this regard, examples included a workshop —jointly organized with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat— on the development of a set of core indicators, from among the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, for monitoring the implementation of the Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in Caribbean small island developing States, as well as a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Goals in national development planning. The symposium led to the identification of gaps and of institutional capacity constraints in implementation planning for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The subregional office's continued implementation of its tailored and targeted communication and outreach strategy ensured that national governments, the media and the general public were well aware of all of the aforementioned efforts. In particular, the deployment of online and offline marketing tools, coupled with the organization of community outreach events, greatly strengthened the ECLAC brand and its positioning in the subregion's news market.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Because of their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities and low levels of resilience, the countries of the Caribbean subregion continue to face a variety of development challenges. Their small, open and as yet undiversified economies, which were impacted by the recent recession in major export markets, are still striving to return to sustainable economic growth following the global economic crisis.

The subregion's countries also face mounting public debt and severe fiscal challenges, with average debt-to-GDP ratios still in the unsustainable range. Such substantial debt burdens contribute to persistently high interest rates and put a brake on investment. This has also limited the capacity of Caribbean Governments to deliver the full range of social services, raising concerns about an erosion of the social fabric and a failure to meet the growing needs of vulnerable groups. Reducing their significant levels of poverty and inequality also remains a major challenge for Caribbean countries.

The small island and coastal States of the Caribbean continue to be challenged with adapting to climate change and sea level rise, as well as the ever-increasing risks of exposure to extreme weather events, which have increased in intensity. Related issues of energy and food security have gained prominence on the policy agenda as the subregion seeks to reduce its heavy dependence on fossil fuel exploration and imports by developing biofuels and other alternative energy technologies.

Effective responses to emerging demographic trends are hampered by the persistent lack of data. Policymakers acknowledge the need to strengthen infrastructure and

expand capacity for data collection and analysis on increasingly important issues such as migration rates and remittance flows, the informal economy, persons living with disabilities and gender-based violence. They have also reaffirmed the commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and autonomy, the right to decent work and an adequate standard of living, and to attending to the needs of older persons and persons living with disabilities.

Against this background, during the biennium, the subregional headquarters facilitated and supported the shaping of subregional perspectives on key development issues. Advisory services were provided to Saint Kitts and Nevis on the design of a strategy for the development of the yachting sector, and an implementation plan for the 2017-2022 period was subsequently drawn up. Advisory services were also given to Grenada regarding the identification of non-tourism industries and subsectors in which the country has a competitive advantage and for the formulation of a policy framework and strategy for their development; this formed an integral part of the country's diversification thrust. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received a complete review and update of its national energy policy to accommodate the anticipated diversification of its national energy mix, while a technical review of the draft national energy policy of the Cayman Islands was conducted prior to its finalization. A readiness study was completed for Saint Lucia for the transitioning of the official vehicle fleet to electric and hybrid technologies.

To facilitate the sustainable development of yachting in Saint Kitts and Nevis, the ongoing partnership with ECLAC has so far resulted in significant tangible benefits on behalf of the local yachting sector. In this context, not too many jurisdictions in the Caribbean can boast of a yachting policy to guide the development of this sector. The partnership with ECLAC has not only resulted in such a policy but was also extended to the development of the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Yachting Strategic Plan and an accompanying implementation plan. These documents, to my mind, have certainly provided the framework to literally achieve the sustainability of the yachting sector within Saint Kitts and Nevis.

McClean Hobson, Director, Department of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Posts, Urban Development and Transport, Saint Kitts and Nevis, email dated 30 November 2017

The subregional headquarters also supported the repositioning of ECLAC as the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region by conducting several disaster assessments using the damage and loss assessment (DALA) methodology. It conducted DALA assessments for Ecuador on the estimation of the costs of damage and losses as a result of the earthquake that affected the country in April 2016, for Belize in the aftermath of Hurricane Earl in 2016, and for the Bahamas as a result of the impact of Hurricane Matthew, also in 2016. Finally, after the severe impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, which brought devastation to several Caribbean countries, ECLAC led disaster assessments in Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and the Turks and Caicos Islands. These missions were coordinated with different agencies of the United Nations system and involved PAHO and FAO as well as staff from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

To support member States in their commitment to build resilience to disasters through improved preparedness for disaster response—as articulated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030—the subregional

headquarters conducted several national and regional training courses, increasing the post-disaster assessment capacities of 267 officials from governments, regional organizations and other United Nations agencies.

Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in restructuring its Central Statistical Office into an independent National Statistical Institute. Likewise, as part of the United Nations' Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) efforts in Trinidad and Tobago, support was provided in assessing the status of data and statistics for implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, a review of data and statistics monitoring was performed in Aruba to support the MAPS mission in that country. Technical assistance was provided to Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in reviewing the 2014 poverty reports, while the Government of Jamaica, through the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), was given technical advice on best practice initiatives and implementation in internal knowledge management.

The subregional office contributed to building national capacities and awareness by convening workshops and seminars. National officials from Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname were trained in the use of REDATAM software for online dissemination of census data. Post-training REDATAM support was provided to the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago to assist them in making their census data accessible online. Further, through the Development Account project on "Strengthening technical capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean States", the subregional headquarters enhanced the national capacity of public finance managers to apply methods and procedures for better management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue. Beneficiaries from Antigua and Barbuda and Belize informed of their application of the skills and techniques acquired at the regional workshop to their day-to-day fiscal management activities, namely regarding the incorporation of the knowledge acquired on actual expenditures during ministerial consultations across various ministries, the use of forecasting techniques in the Ministry of Education during the budget cycle and the development of new indicators to measure progress towards achieving overall sector goals. In the context of the implementation of this project, more than 80 public finance officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis were trained in the use and application of the Public Expenditure Review (PER) methodology in their ministries and government agencies. Feedback on the workshops indicated participants' agreement that the PER methodology could be used as a tool to facilitate more accurate and deeper analysis for budgeting and forecasting. The subregional office also collaborated with the Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to deliver a capacity-building workshop on trade data compilation and analysis for 32 senior officers from OECS ministries of trade, customs divisions, statistics departments and other government agencies. Participants were introduced to a suite of trade software packages to strengthen their countries' abilities to analyse and interpret trade and trade-related data and ultimately improve regional competitiveness.

As part of the initial steps to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ECLAC organized a workshop in Port of Spain in December 2016, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CARICOM Secretariat, with the aim of enhancing technical capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development

Goals at the national level. The workshop focused on the development of a set of core indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in the subregion. The subregional headquarters also organized a Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning. This symposium, held in Kingston in February 2017 and attended by 21 member and associate member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, led to the identification of gaps and institutional capacity constraints in implementation planning for the Sustainable Development Goals and considered how best to synergize the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS agenda with national development plans. A follow-up workshop to accelerate the implementation of the Goals in the Caribbean was organized in Port of Spain in May 2017. The workshop, which was attended by 16 member and associate member countries of Committee, considered a model institutional arrangement for implementing the Goals in the Caribbean and addressed the data challenges for development planning.

The discussions between our respective delegations were very productive, and the assistance offered to Trinidad and Tobago by your organization is very welcomed. It is my hope that from the issues raised during our discussions that the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will continue to be dynamic and mutually beneficial to both sides.

Keith Christopher Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, letter dated 14 June 2017

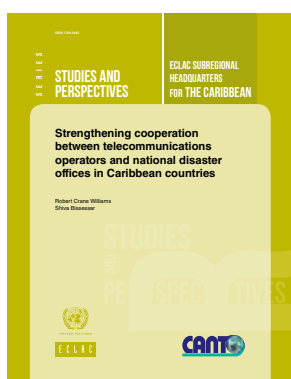
The subregional headquarters prepared a number of technical studies and convened meetings of experts, which provided policymakers with recommendations for responding to development issues including research and dialogue regarding the economy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, ICTs for development, disability, inclusive social protection, Caribbean offshore financial centres and trade agreements. Both issues of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean* examined the main factors influencing the economic performance of the subregion and made short-term economic forecasts, while the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean* provided policymakers with an in-depth discussion of the subregion's economic performance over the previous period. The subregional headquarters also contributed a Caribbean perspective to ECLAC flagship publications, as well as to the first edition of the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

BARRIERS TO IDENTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MECHANISMS AND ENHANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

This study examines the barriers that exist to the identification and implementation of mechanisms for enhancing energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy in the Caribbean. Specifically, it provides an assessment of the subregion's situation with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy and identifies mechanisms for the enhancement of energy initiatives. After reviewing the literature and conducting a web-based survey, four main barriers were identified: regulatory frameworks and policies, conservatism, costs and financing, and market barriers.



The document *Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis*, which focuses mainly on small island developing States, explores opportunities for and challenges in increasing energy efficiency in official vehicle fleets through electrification, identifies international fleet electrification best practices, suggests the most suitable comprehensive approach for a fleet transition and provides recommendations for initial actions. The study *Strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries* addresses selected issues relating to ICTs for development in the Caribbean and analyses numerous areas for engagement between the entities responsible for ICTs for development in the subregion.



STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS AND NATIONAL DISASTER OFFICES IN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

In Caribbean countries, modern telecommunications infrastructure is vulnerable to an array of natural disasters, as exemplified by the impact of Tropical Storm Erika in Dominica, Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas and Hurricane Earl in Belize. At the same time, telecommunications services—especially mobile telephony and data services—can provide invaluable support to disaster management efforts by facilitating communication, coordination and intelligence collection during emergency situations. Thus, as a matter of public safety, ensuring the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure in the face of natural hazards is of national importance. One way this resilience can be enhanced is by strengthening the relationship between telecommunications service operators and national disaster offices. This paper suggests numerous areas for engagement between these entities and recommends the development of more formalized frameworks for mutual support. Among other issues, it considers the need for improvements to information sharing practices, collaboration on public early warning systems and the inclusion of telecommunications operators in disaster drills.

In April 2017, the subregional headquarters convened an expert group meeting on disability, human rights and public policy to review the progress made in implementing policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. At the meeting, held in Port of Spain, ECLAC presented the findings of its study on the subject. The participants agreed on the need to strengthen protection for the rights of persons with disabilities, to report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to improve the standardization of disability-related census questions.

In September 2017, the subregional office convened a meeting of experts in Port of Spain to determine ways in which Caribbean countries hosting offshore medical universities could enhance their income potential using a global value chain analysis. Participants at the meeting explored the characteristics of the offshore medical universities cluster in the Caribbean and the contributions the cluster has made to its host economies. The meeting's conclusions endorsed this line of research as a viable diversification option for the region and recommended further investigation to enhance medical and other benefits to the region and to improve the region's global ranking.

In November 2017, ECLAC convened an expert group meeting in Port of Spain to consider the social spending implications of population ageing in the Caribbean. The meeting's participants examined how ageing would affect public expenditure on education, pensions and health care by reviewing public expenditure projections for the period 2010-2050, and they endorsed the conclusions of the study and confirmed that the projections would be useful in informing pension reform and long-term public service planning. The meeting was attended by public finance and social security officials from Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago and by representatives of academia.

In November 2017, ECLAC convened a meeting of experts in Port of Spain to examine the economic contribution of offshore financial centres in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis and to reflect on related challenges, including increased regulatory compliance requirements and the loss of correspondent banking relationships. The attendees endorsed the Commission's recommendations on the need for greater emphasis on the prosecution of financial regulatory infractions and the establishment of a regional statistical bureau to strengthen regional and international analyses.

Also in November 2017, the subregional headquarters organized an expert group meeting in Port of Spain to present its findings on the recent trade performance of goods-producing economies in the Caribbean (Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) seeking to exploit trade opportunities provided by free trade and partial scope agreements. The experts concluded that successful integration of Caribbean economies into the multilateral trading system necessitated not only increased market access, but also investment and policy frameworks geared towards inducing the requisite structural change.

The subregional headquarters facilitated and supported the shaping of subregional perspectives on key development issues related to major international agreements impacting the Caribbean. With a view towards strengthening the framework for monitoring the implementation of the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean, the subregional headquarters convened the seventh meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM/TAC) of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA/MSI). Six RCM/TAC member countries and agencies participated and discussed strategies for strengthening the operation of RCM/TAC to support the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway Outcomes as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. A key decision taken at this meeting was to undertake a more in-depth analysis of the mechanics of strengthening RCM/TAC.

Ahead of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held in Mexico City in April 2016, a Caribbean forum on Shifting frontiers: shaping a sustainable development path for the Caribbean was convened. The forum engaged Caribbean high-level representatives on the subregion's response to new pressures of global shifts on small States and how this would impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The forum advanced five pillars: (i) to create opportunities for the emergence of new sectors and activities which can underpin development of a green economy, (ii) to build the human capital base necessary to effectively harness opportunities in an emerging information society, (iii) to create better opportunities for the private and public sector to collaborate meaningfully, (iv) to create the institutional framework for the full participation of citizens in decision-making, and (v) to advance regional integration to address both national and regional challenges.

Pursuant to resolution 73(XXIII) of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the fourth Caribbean Development Round Table was convened in Basseterre in April 2016. The central theme of this meeting was “The debt overhang: balancing adjustment with sustainable development in the Caribbean”. The centrepiece of the discussion was the ECLAC proposal on *Debt for climate adaptation swaps: A strategy for growth and economic transformation*, presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, which seeks debt relief for the Caribbean through a mechanism facilitating climate change adaptation swaps. In response to a resolution emanating from the subsequent intergovernmental meeting,¹ the Commission established a special task force to develop an evidence-based strategy for the initiative. The Debt Swap Task Force was inaugurated at a meeting held in Port of Spain on 24 November 2017.

We share your desire for more rapid progress towards achievement of the goals set out in Agenda 2030 and, in that connection, commend ECLAC for its support to the region in strengthening national capacities in the area of data collection and management.

Rudolph Michael Ten-Pow, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guyana, Chair of the CARICOM Caucus, in a letter dated 4 August 2017

The subregional headquarters also convened the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in April 2016, attended by representatives from 15 member States and five associate member countries were represented at this meeting, as well as members of the United Nations development system and various regional organizations. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the fourth Caribbean Development Round Table to create a task force to pursue a single debt relief proposal for the Caribbean. A number of other issues highlighted at the Round Table also served as a basis for stimulating relevant policy debates, particularly the threat to offshore and correspondent banking faced by Caribbean countries. The Committee also agreed to enhance support for capacity-building in disaster assessment and resilience-building strategies in the Caribbean, promote awareness of ageing in the subregion and ensure synergy in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean.

In May 2017, the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee brought together representatives from the Association of Caribbean States, the Brookings Institute, CARICOM, the Caribbean Policy Development Centre, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the University of the West Indies and representatives from 16 Caribbean Governments to explore innovative ways to promote growth and development in the subregion, in a period of dynamic change. Two key action points emerged: the issue of urbanization in the Caribbean, and creative thinking in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the biennium, the subregional headquarters organized several technical meetings and seminars. A technical meeting to examine the economic autonomy of women in the Caribbean, along with the Caribbean preparatory meeting for the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, were convened in Port of Spain in July 2016. These meetings, which brought together senior officials with responsibility for supporting women’s advancement programmes and the promotion of gender equity in countries of the

¹ See resolution 93(XXVI) adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Basseterre in April 2016.

wider Caribbean, were attended by representatives from governments, the United Nations development system, academia and non-governmental organizations. The outcomes were included in the development of a new regional strategy for the implementation of gender equality commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and they also contributed to the finalization of a study entitled *Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

In parallel to the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, working in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and in collaboration with UN-Women and UNFPA, the subregional headquarters organized a seminar on women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo in October 2016. The seminar, which was attended by representatives from gender affairs ministries and agencies from nine countries, focused on addressing the impact of the stages of the migration cycle on the empowerment of women and girls. The outcome of the seminar informed the position adopted by the Caribbean subregion in Montevideo at the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the new regional agenda *The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*. Inputs from the seminar also facilitated the finalization of a joint ECLAC/IOM publication entitled *Women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean*.

Ahead of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the subregional office convened a Caribbean preparatory meeting in Port of Spain in June 2017. The meeting's participants reviewed the implementation status of regional and global agreements on population ageing and the rights of older persons, in line with an ECLAC study, as part of the third global review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. They agreed on a number of recommendations —on social protection, labour market participation, health and social care— designed to further the implementation of those agreements. The recommendations were subsequently presented to the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean as the contribution of the Caribbean member States.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The subregional headquarters, with the support of the GIZ-funded project “Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Caribbean through the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies”, facilitated the design and promotion of strategies for improving the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Dominica, Martinique and Saint Lucia.

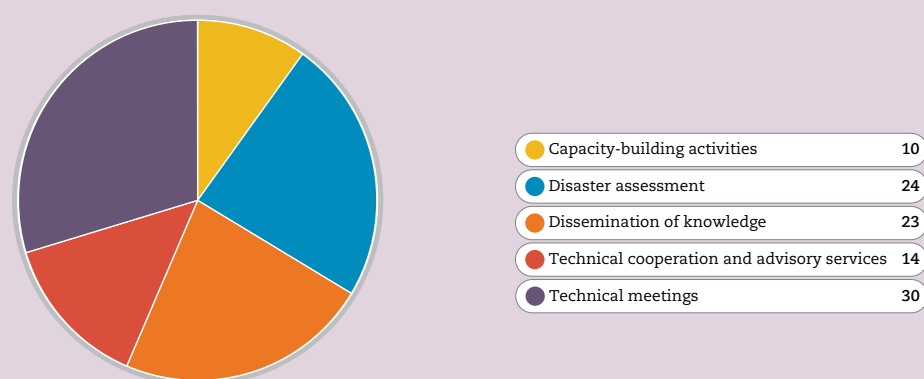
Participants attended a seminar on the Leaders Activating Research Networks (LEARN): Implementing the LERU Research Data Roadmap and Toolkit, with the goal of raising awareness about research data management and policy issues among institutions and encouraging institutions to produce research data management (RDM) policies themselves. As a result of this initiative, a Caribbean case study was included in the LEARN toolkit of best practices for research data management.

In partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), a three-day workshop on exploring innovation in transactions and financing in the Caribbean was held in June 2016. The workshop provided Caribbean stakeholders from various sectors with interactive sessions on the use of technology innovations for improving financial transactions and financing arrangements. A second two-day workshop on digital financial services, held in April 2017, examined consumer protection in mobile financial services and provided insights into research on application security from several providers. It was proposed that a Caribbean think tank initiative conduct further research to identify problems and examine potential solutions to mainstreaming digital financial services in the subregion.

The subregional office produced an economic analysis of the impact of the loss of correspondent banking services in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis, in which it offered short- and medium-term strategies to address the issue. The challenges of Caribbean offshore financial centres were also examined, and recommendations for a regional approach to strengthening and developing the sector's export potential were made.

Several countries requested that ECLAC provide technical assistance for undertaking an assessment of their capacity needs and data gaps in designing and implementing an institutional framework for mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their national development processes. This assessment will also address the institutional and capacity needs of their national statistical systems for producing data to support evidence-based policy planning and for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. To date, the subregional headquarters has completed the initial scoping exercise on implementing the Goals in Aruba, the Bahamas, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

[FIGURE 13]
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS BY TYPE,
JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2017
(Percentages of the total)



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

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

During this biennium, it was found that fostering regional dialogue requires greater attention be paid to ensuring that the institutional mandates of regional actors are aligned. While the issue of national indebtedness is globally recognized as a critical development challenge that exposes the vulnerability of Caribbean member States, the specificities of the mandates of some regional development stakeholders have precluded their active participation in responding to this challenge. In addition, with the adoption of 2030 Agenda and the SIDS development agenda, it was found that several legacy coordinating mechanisms do not easily lend themselves to these expanded mandates. As a result, while ensuring that the parameters for new development systems are framed to respond to specific development challenges, those systems should not be so tightly contextualized that their ability to evolve with the adoption of new and related development realities is limited.

Finally, one of the lessons learned was that closer and timelier collaboration with stakeholders can help ensure appropriate levels of participation in meetings. Further, greater transparency by the subregional headquarters regarding the rationale for the type of participant could facilitate better alignment of the participant profile with the requirements sought. Also, while the Port of Spain office has an operational monitoring and evaluation mechanism, it has been acknowledged that it should be improved to facilitate better analyses of the medium-term impact of the activities and related work carried out.

SUBPROGRAMME 14**SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION PROCESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS****[14]****LUIS FIDEL YÁÑEZ**

Officer in Charge, Office of the Secretary of the Commission

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown conviction in carrying forward and sustaining their regional and subregional cooperation and integration processes. Despite a complex economic and political context in the region during 2016-2017, this conviction has not changed.

During the biennium, in accordance with its work plan, the Office provided technical and substantive inputs to regional and subregional integration organizations in support of discussions and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues and it facilitated dialogue between the Latin American and Caribbean region and extraregional actors, such as Europe, China and the Republic of Korea.

ECLAC responded to requests from regional and subregional integration bodies, coordinated the work of compiling and systematizing information, studies and technical reports, provided technical assistance and helped to create guidelines for the formulation and implementation of plans and strategies, in accordance with the priorities and requests of those bodies.

With the unwavering support of ECLAC, several subregional and regional cooperation and integration processes gained in maturity and strength over the biennium. The requirements of cooperation and integration now exceed the scope of trade strategies and policies and are expanding into such spheres as production, energy, infrastructure, environment, poverty, public safety, migration and South-South cooperation.

The Commission has been catering to a region that is implementing significant global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. The region's commitment to these civilizing and transformative agendas that seek economic, social and environmental sustainability is proof of the value given to multilateralism and government consensus with other social actors.

The Commission supported regional and subregional integration and cooperation organizations in line with resolution 700(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC in May 2016, by virtue of which "other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Amid a more complex social, political and economic context in the region, Latin America and the Caribbean has striven to maintain a cohesive regional voice in response to global challenges —such as the effects of climate change, natural disasters and migration— through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Over the coming biennium, the Office of the Secretary of the Commission will continue to focus on furthering regional and subregional integration processes, supporting capacity-building and promoting convergence of the regional and subregional integration mechanisms; it will support the regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda; and it will play a part in achieving better outcomes and greater impact for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their interregional and global political dialogues.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-2017

Technical and substantive inputs were provided to facilitate regional debate and consensus-building on issues relating to the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender equality. In addition, ECLAC provided support for the presentation of regionally agreed positions in global forums and summits.

Relevant support was provided to CELAC. During the tenures of the Dominican Republic and El Salvador as pro tempore chairs of the Community, the Commission's support has become institutionally established, as evidenced by the mandates received in the form of annual action plans, its participation at the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers and presentations made on those occasions, as well as by the publication of the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States*, presented at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in January 2017.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PANORAMA OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES, 2016

This edition of the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States* is a contribution by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to the fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 2017). The document has six sections summarizing the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of economic, social and population affairs, foreign direct investment, trade and gender equality.

In addition, technical support was provided through the presentation of a proposal for the review of the mandates of the CELAC political statements and plans of action, through the provision of contributions for a document of reflections on the convergence of regional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, and through the preparation of a presentation to the pro tempore chair to be given at the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers.

In order to support the region, ECLAC has also made the work of its substantive divisions (technical documents, publications and presentations, among others) available to CELAC. Examples of this are the documents *Plan para la seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre de la CELAC 2025: una propuesta para seguimiento y análisis*; *Mapas de seguimiento de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. Indicadores seleccionados*; and *Food and nutrition security and the eradication of hunger CELAC 2025: Furthering discussion and regional cooperation*.

Regarding the fifth meeting of the Working Group of International Cooperation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), November 2017.

The pro tempore chair of CELAC, currently held by El Salvador, extends its gratitude for the valuable support that ECLAC has provided in pursuit of the established mandate for devising a regional policy for South-South and triangular cooperation. This will be a unique model for regional cooperation aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality in order to attain sustainable and inclusive development and horizontal ties with other regions of the world, and it will also emphasize the way in which the policy assumes the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the structural gaps that exist.

Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Notwithstanding the importance of the work ECLAC has carried out with CELAC, the Commission has also served the needs of other subregional integration institutions. The Commission's 2016 agreement with UNASUR shows its support for the process of summits, ad hoc meetings and conferences of the Union's 12 member countries. Under this agreement ECLAC published the document *South American Social and Economic Panorama, 2016*.

South-South cooperation is an important issue for the Latin American and Caribbean region, as it clearly contributes to its integration and convergence processes. The Commission has complemented the efforts of other regional institutions to respond to the countries' needs to ascertain the outcomes of South-South cooperation, specifically with regard to the identification of indicators and measurement methodologies.

Thus, within the framework of the first Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC organized the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, which took place in Mexico City in April 2017. During the meeting a discussion was held on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants included the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director-General for Regional Agencies and Mechanisms of the Americas of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Forums and Mechanisms on International Cooperation for Development of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), as well as representatives from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation Area at the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador and the Vice-Minister of International Cooperation from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic.

ECLAC also provided technical and logistics support for joint activities or initiatives in which various regional and subregional arrangements and mechanisms participated with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences.

Throughout the biennium, the Commission's support to facilitate regional dialogue with third parties, such as partners or extraregional mechanisms, has focused on the assistance requested by CELAC. Examples of this are the support provided for the preparation of meetings, seminars and publications for the CELAC-EU and CELAC-China forums, as well as in support of the CELAC-Turkey agenda.

Within the framework of CELAC, and jointly with FAO and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Commission participated in the design and implementation of the Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025. The plan aims to “reach concrete results that will generate significant improvements in the quality of life of the inhabitants of the region, aimed at the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, to guarantee food security and nutrition, with a gender approach and respecting the variety of eating habits”.

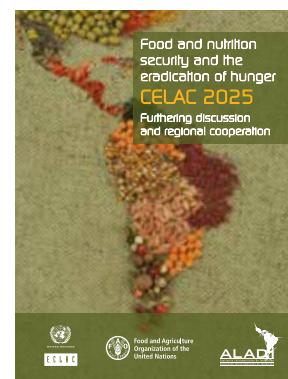
In this context, CELAC held a meeting on “Food security and climate change: challenges and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, in 2016. One of the main conclusions reached at the meeting was that the impact of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean will be considerable because of the region's economic dependence on agriculture, the low adaptive capacity of its population and the geographical location of some of its countries. The palpable threat of this phenomenon will be seen strongly in food production but it will also have repercussions on the wider economy and on social protection and health systems. Although the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will suffer differentiated impacts according to their individual circumstances, climate change will, without doubt, be a cross-cutting challenge that demands decisive and coordinated action.

The CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 clearly represents a unique tool for the region's countries to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the discussion of the issues considered will be crucial for attaining the shared targets. It is expected that the CELAC Plan will enable the CELAC countries to address these, deepen regional and international cooperation, and continue the successful process of hunger eradication that Latin America and the Caribbean has been pursuing over the last few years.

ECLAC has also provided technical assistance and advisory services to regional and subregional mechanisms, in order to facilitate regional dialogue with third parties, including extraregional partners and mechanisms, on issues relating to social, economic and sustainable development, including gender equality. ECLAC has also supported Latin America and the Caribbean's links with other regions of the world, through organizing and participating in the seminar entitled “Exploring strategies for economic cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean”, and “The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The environmental big push”. Further support was given through inputs provided to the pro tempore chair of CELAC, such as the unpublished document on Trade relations between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Russian Federation.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER CELAC 2025: FURTHERING DISCUSSION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Latin America and the Caribbean can boast a successful track record in the process of eradicating hunger: it is the only region in the world that has halved both the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (the target set in the Millennium Development Goals) and their absolute number (the target set at the 1996 World Food Summit). This publication aims to provide the region's countries with up-to-date and timely information on the status of food and nutrition security, on the role in eradicating hunger played by agriculture, agrifood trade and natural resource management and on the possibility of successfully addressing the twin burden of malnutrition, in a context where the effects of climate change could threaten the progress achieved to date in Latin America and the Caribbean. The CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 is a cross-cutting tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, as such, it encourages the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to redouble their efforts to identify key policy areas that will make it possible to speed up and consolidate the process of eradicating hunger and to tackle the twin burden of malnutrition in the region, in which overweight and obesity are increasingly adding to that scourge.



We, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the CELAC, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on January 25th, of the present year (2017);

We welcome the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to implement the first Korea-CELAC cooperation project with the implementation of the Workshop on Capacity-building for the Internationalization of SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean, on December 9th, 2016 in Santiago de Chile, which resulted from the Tripartite Academic Seminar Korea-CELAC-ECLAC, "Exploring Strategies for Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean", held in the same country on April 11th, 2015.

Political Declaration of Punta Cana, Fifth CELAC Summit, 25 January 2017

TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES

The Commission delivered advisory services to the Dominican Republic and El Salvador in their capacity as pro tempore chairs of CELAC. It supported the annual planning of the CELAC 2016 pro tempore chair with a proposal for the review of the mandates of the political statements and plans of action of CELAC. In this context, technical support was provided for the drafting of a reflections document on the convergence of regional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean. In parallel, ECLAC gave the pro tempore chair inputs for the meetings of national coordinators and foreign ministers.

During 2017, technical support provided by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission to El Salvador in its capacity as the pro tempore chair of CELAC centred on three major issues: food and nutritional security within the framework of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025;

South-South and triangular cooperation with the aim of contributing to a regional policy; and the link between these two topics and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Commission has complemented the South-South cooperation efforts of other regional institutions to respond to the countries' need to ascertain the outcomes of South-South cooperation, specifically with regard to the identification of indicators and measurement methodologies, among others.

LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

One of the lessons learned during the biennium was that the Commission must be able to service the requirements of a region that is implementing significant global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and, at the same time, adapt to a changing political context in the region. ECLAC must react quickly to these requirements. The support provided must be of high quality, with a specialized approach integrating the three dimensions — economic, social and environmental— of sustainable development. In this regard, peer learning has been key in addressing common development and integration challenges. Finally, coordination with other United Nations agencies or institutions in the region has proved to be highly relevant to the countries in order to promote synergies and avoid overlaps.



COUNTRY OFFICES

ECLAC OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

Throughout the biennium, the ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. continued to serve as liaison with the Governments of the United States of America and Canada and with international organizations based in Washington, D.C., including IMF, the World Bank Group, IDB, OAS and PAHO. The office remained the focal point for the Summit of the Americas process follow-up mechanism, for the Meeting of Finance Ministers of the Americas, and for the OAS-IDB-ECLAC Tripartite Committee. In addition, the office continued to monitor the evolution of the United States' economy and developments in its economic relations with Latin America and the Caribbean and in the region's access to international financial markets.

Through its active role in the Joint Summit Working Group and the Summit Implementation Review Group, the office coordinated technical inputs for the upcoming Eighth Summit of the Americas, which is to take place in Lima in April 2018. These inputs contribute to the formulation of mandates to be adopted at the Summit by the participating countries. Throughout 2016, the office also coordinated and provided inputs to the consultations launched by the Government of Canada to review its international assistance policy. The new international assistance framework helps to refocus Canada's assistance on reaching the most vulnerable and on its approach to supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Also, the office has been providing inputs to the Government of Canada on the promotion of gender equality and, in particular, on the development of an initiative on women's leadership in the Americas.

The ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. continued to deepen and broaden its analysis and monitoring of the evolution of economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States and Canada, with a particular focus on identifying novel issues in trade negotiations. In this respect, the office undertook a study on how intellectual property protection for the pharmaceutical industry was negotiated in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and assessed its implications for the region's countries. During the biennium the office started monitoring and analysing trends in digital trade, continued to update the database Observatory of the United States Imports Customs Control, which includes about 150,000 refusal records, and has contributed to offering new insights into the application of technical standards and the design of measures to improve access to the United States market. In addition, it continued monitoring performance and developments in the United States, economy providing information and analysis of interest to policy makers via its *United States Economic Outlook* and its *United States-Latin America and the Caribbean Trade Developments*.

The Washington office also continued to analyse the region's access to international capital markets. The quarterly assessment and the dissemination of the report *Capital Flows to Latin America* provided valuable and timely information to policymakers about developments in bond markets, including the evolution of bond spreads and debt issuances. Special attention was given to monitoring green bonds issuance by Latin American and Caribbean countries and assessing their potential contribution to the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the report *The rise of green bonds: Financing for development in Latin America and the Caribbean* was published in 2017. In the same vein, the role of bond markets in financing infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean was studied and inputs provided to the discussions undertaken by the Technical Group of the G-24 in the area of domestic resource mobilization. In addition, the office contributed to the G-24 Technical Group discussions on income inequality and growth. Additional research was undertaken to assess the evolution of international reserves with a focus on the countries of the region. Timely information and analysis was also provided via internal distribution of the *Washington Economic Note* reports which, during the biennium, covered a range of issues, including United States economic and trade policies, migration, the Bretton Woods institutions and Puerto Rico's debt burden.

Instrumental to the provision of timely information and analysis has been the inclusion of research generated by the Washington office in the ECLAC flagship publications *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*. The office has also helped to raise awareness about ECLAC among stakeholders in Washington and throughout the United States and Canada, contributing to the dissemination of the Commission's thought and body of work. During the biennium, the office participated as a guest speaker at more than 20 events, including courses and training sessions for government officials. It organized an event for the Washington launch of the ECLAC flagship publication *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean*. Finally, it participated in over 200 conferences, seminars and other events and distributed 400 documents and publications on issues relating to trade and sustainable economic and social development. The monthly newsletter *CEPAL News*, now in its twenty-eighth year of publication, was distributed in electronic format to over 8,800 readers. In addition, through the distribution of printed materials, the office has succeeded in increasing the awareness of key issues facing the region during this time of global uncertainty. Finally, the office continued liaising with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in support of the Latin American Development Forum. This peer-reviewed series, sponsored by the three institutions, promotes debate and disseminates knowledge and analysis on economic and social development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BRASILIA

During the biennium, the ECLAC office in Brasilia continued to serve as the Commission's link with the Government of Brazil, national institutions and civil society, through the organization of meetings and the dissemination of relevant documents. The office delivered technical assistance to various national institutions, upon their request, to develop their capacities in areas related to ECLAC fields of action.

Sustainable development remained a key topic for the office during the biennium. Under the Brazilian Sustainable Development and its Integration with South America technical cooperation agreement, the Ministry of the Environment requested an evaluation of the Brazilian Climate Fund. The objective of this evaluation was to review the contribution of the climate fund as an instrument of the National Policy on Climate Change. Specifically, this assessment focused on the performance of the climate fund, identifying its strengths and limitations and proposing recommendations to overcome them. The results of the evaluation of the Brazilian Climate Fund, conducted with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil, were presented at a workshop held in March 2016, which provided an opportunity to discuss the main results and refine the recommendations. The results of the discussions were incorporated in the final evaluation report *Avaliação do Fundo Clima*.

Under the same cooperation agreement, the office published *Compras públicas sustentáveis: diagnóstico, análise comparada e recomendações para o aperfeiçoamento do modelo brasileiro*, which brings together two studies based on a comparative analysis of sustainable public procurement practices abroad and in Brazil. In its conclusions, the document contains important recommendations aimed at improving Brazilian public procurement policies, at both the federal and State levels.

The Round Table on Principle 10 at the Brazilian Congress on Environmental Law was held in June 2016 in São Paulo. The office in Brasília also organized in March 2017 a seminar titled Environmental expenditures: methodological guidelines and advances in Latin America, which was intended to develop technical capacities for environmental protection spending. Finally, an international seminar on interconnecting climate change and national accounts was held in October 2017 to discuss ways to include greenhouse gas emissions in the national accounts system and the importance of matching national emissions inventory data with the satellite account system. Finally, the document *Generación de bases de datos climáticos para el análisis de riesgos en las costas de Santa Catarina (Brasil): resumen para gestores* was prepared to summarize the results of the project financed by the agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

The office oversaw the publication in Portuguese of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts Central Framework (*Sistema de Contas Econômicas Ambientais 2012: marco central*), in order to give Brazilian institutions better access to the central economic framework system, a basic conceptual framework consisting of a comprehensive set of tables and accounts which guides the preparation of consistent and comparable statistics and indicators for the formulation of public policies, analysis and research. In 2017, through the technical cooperation agreement with IPEA, the Brasilia office carried out studies to contribute to the IPEA project to analyse the main economic challenges facing Brazil in achieving a stable growth path. Experts on foreign trade, infrastructure, public finance, investments and new technologies and culture prepared analyses and proposals for Brazil's future. The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals were also a guide for this project and for the new technical cooperation agreement signed with IPEA and the Brazilian Government for the period 2017-2021, which will maintain the contributions of IPEA for new joint research, seminars and publications with ECLAC.

The Brasilia office is also maintaining contact with its government counterparts by providing studies on the proposal for social security reforms and helping the work programme of the Brazilian National Commission on the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.

Lastly, as part of its ongoing activities, the office prepared the country notes on Brazil for three ECLAC flagships: *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BOGOTA

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the ECLAC office in Bogota worked to promote better conditions for fostering public policies to accelerate the convergence of social achievements and sustainability, with emphasis on rural areas, which is a key area for peacebuilding in Colombia. Working on government priorities has made it possible to establish forums where the knowledge and experience accumulated by ECLAC is valued. Notwithstanding, ensuring greater flexibility has been necessary to match the changing demands of authorities, in a new peacebuilding context.

The office continued to provide technical assistance, upon request, to the Government of Colombia. Economic authorities have invited ECLAC to contribute with its knowledge and experience to the mission of experts convened to recommend to the Colombian Government an agenda of reforms that promote more efficient public spending to address the country's most urgent needs, also with the objective of addressing fiscal imbalances. ECLAC has been invited to the strategic committee of the Green Growth Mission, an initiative led by the National Planning Department that seeks to define the Colombia Green Growth Policy in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by identifying territories with capacity for innovative development processes.

Throughout the biennium, the ECLAC office in Bogota maintained its cooperation activities with the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) aimed at strengthening the poverty committees by analysing possibilities for improvements in data collection instruments and by carrying out preliminary analyses of the National Agricultural Census.

Achieving a more progressive fiscal structure is one of the topics on the Colombian development agenda. The impact on public finances of the less favourable international context reduced the public capacity for increased social spending. Based on the ECLAC diagnosis of tax structure problems in Latin America, proposals were advanced to develop a tax structure with a greater redistributive impact in Colombia.

As part of its permanent activities, the office prepared the country notes on Colombia for the ECLAC flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and it continued to provide inputs for the *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

ECLAC OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the ECLAC Office in Buenos Aires continued to provide technical assistance and carry out technical cooperation activities with national and provincial governments, as well as to contribute Argentine economic perspectives for the ECLAC flagship publications *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Social Panorama of Latin America*.

Throughout the biennium and at the request of the Government of Argentina, the office continued to provide technical assistance on a wide range of subjects, including public procurement, productive and territorial development, technological innovation and exports, productive and technological policies and child labour statistics. Technical assistance was also given to the provincial governments of Catamarca and Santa Fe on economic statistics (design of provincial indexes on consumer prices and on economic activity) and to the governments of Chaco, Formosa, Salta and Tucumán on the analysis of structural gaps in the development of these provinces. Each of these provincial studies includes a geographic, sociodemographic and productive description of the province, analyses the nine gaps covered by the methodology (income, inequality, employment, poverty, education, health, productivity, infrastructure and environment) and suggests strategic areas for intervention to bolster development processes in the territory.

The ECLAC office in Buenos Aires also continued its annual training programme in quantitative analysis techniques for officials from the Argentine public administration. This programme is made up of five independent courses of a theoretical and practical nature, which are implemented as workshops with an emphasis on the application of the concepts and techniques presented via software that corresponds specifically to each one.

ECLAC OFFICE IN MONTEVIDEO

The ECLAC office in Montevideo continued to advise public institutions in Uruguay and to bring its international experience to bear in better understanding the country's economic, social and environmental policy issues. During this period, the office continued to work with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, conducting various studies on macroeconomic policy, international trade and social protection. The office also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) of Uruguay, starting an intense line of collaboration. In this framework, the two institutions organized a call for project proposals from young researchers, to select four projects (out of 28 applicants) for implementation. Specific studies on social issues were also conducted under the agreement. Another agreement signed during this period was between ECLAC and the Central Bank of Uruguay, with the objective of providing technical assistance on statistical topics. ECLAC also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to conduct capacity-building activities in the area of collective bargaining.

During the biennium, the office oversaw the joint publication with ILO of the book *Hacia un desarrollo inclusivo. El caso de Uruguay*, which examines economic growth, the labour market and social protection in the country. It also published a joint research project with the World Bank, *Demographic Change in Uruguay: Economic Opportunities and Challenges*, which analyses the main challenges arising from the country's demographic transition. Under an agreement with the national office of UNICEF, the ECLAC office conducted research on childhood and adolescence in Uruguay, with the goal of helping design public policies to benefit those groups.

Finally, as part of its permanent activities, the office prepared the country notes on Uruguay for the ECLAC flagships *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, and it provided inputs for the flagship *Social Panorama of Latin America*.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Commission's technical cooperation programme allows it to respond to direct requests from member States and tackle new economic, social and environmental challenges to the regional development that have not yet been incorporated into its programme of work. This approach helps the Commission to build on its expertise, allowing it to remain ahead of the curve on emerging development issues, reinforcing its capacities and encouraging the sharing of experiences among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This programme is implemented through technical assistance and advisory services, the advancement and diffusion of specialized knowledge rooted in practical applications, the organization of workshops and seminars, and ongoing dialogues with national governments at the political and technical level. The programme also creates opportunities for intraregional, interregional and South-South cooperation.

During the biennium, 1,453 technical cooperation missions were carried out by the Commission. Of these missions, 533 were related to economic issues, 504 to social topics and 416 to environmental matters, thus covering the three dimensions of sustainable development.

ECLAC received voluntary contributions from development partners and donors both from within and outside the region, including member States, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, development banks, international foundations, academic institutions and civil society, through 151 technical cooperation projects, including 37 from multilateral organizations.

ECLAC was able to mobilize US\$ 29.57 million, of which US\$ 11.36 million were from bilateral sources, including countries in the region, demonstrating the confidence that bilateral and multilateral development partners have in the Commission and their commitment to multilateralism and regional . That amount is US\$ 2.35 million more than was raised over the previous biennium.

A lot of the resources have been devoted to helping countries build their capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the priorities set out in the 2030 Agenda. Technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Commission enhanced knowledge and management capacities, regional integration and public policies that seek to promote equality and sustainability.

In terms of knowledge management the Commission produced studies, with support from the Republic of Korea, on mitigating the environmental impact of regional exports. Two books on social protection and institutions were financed

by GIZ, as was research on extractive industries. With the support from the Government of Norway, ECLAC conducted research on the situation of women in vocational education systems. During the biennium, ECLAC consolidated its partnership with the European Union in the field of policies to promote small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, carrying out seven national studies. ECLAC worked with UNFPA to advance knowledge on population and development issues, particularly with regard to Afrodescendent populations.

With financial support from the European Commission, technical assistance and advisory services on selecting strategic value chains were provided to the Ministry of Production of Argentina to. With the support of AECID, technical assistance on pension system reform and gender equality was provided to Uruguay and Chile. ECLAC provided technical assistance, financed by GIZ, to the Government of Guatemala on incorporating economic instruments with an environmental approach into national fiscal policy changes. Lastly, ECLAC developed a BIEE database for the Caribbean, with support from GIZ and ADEME.

[MAP 1]

ECLAC TECHNICAL COOPERATION MISSIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2016-2017,
BY TYPE OF MISSION

RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

BETTER PLANNING OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

During the biennium, ECLAC expanded its use of results-based management in the planning, monitoring and evaluation phases of its operations. The Office of the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Programme Planning and Operations Division, continued to convene annual strategic meetings with the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices. These meetings provided an opportunity to assess achievements and obstacles and monitor the implementation of the programme of work and projects in 2016-2017, discuss strategic guidelines for 2018-2019, and review cooperation with donors and other partners to maximize the impact of activities and encourage synergies.

The Programme Planning and Operations Division also worked with the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices to refine their logical frameworks, by including better defined objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, so as to reinforce ownership of and commitment to the programme of work.

As a result of this consultative and collaborative process, the Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2020, was prepared. It will be reviewed and discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-eighth session and by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and will be presented to the member States of ECLAC at its thirty-seventh session in 2018. This document sets out the new proposed strategic priorities, as well as the related strategies and tentative list of outputs.

In the planning process for 2020, ECLAC has maintained its commitment to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the draft programme of work, from the strategic level to the activity level. In conjunction with the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Division for Gender Affairs, the Programme Planning and Operations Division has coordinated the oversight of the implementation and monitoring of the gender mainstreaming strategy. To that end, two training courses were organized by the Programme Planning and Operations Division in collaboration with the Human Resources Section, one on mainstreaming the gender perspective into programmes and projects, held in June 2017, and one on result-based management, held in October 2017. Both were attended by over 50 ECLAC staff members.

In a context of limited resources, ECLAC has sought to coordinate activities with different sources of funding in order to avoid duplication of efforts, identify synergies and allocate resources more efficiently, thus delivering the best results possible.

STRONG MONITORING CAPACITIES

During the biennium, the Programme Planning and Operations Division oversaw the reporting of ECLAC outputs in the Integrated Monitoring and Document Information System (IMDIS), which monitors indicators and results in all aspects of the Commission's projects and programme of work. The Division reviewed the inputs of the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices, maintaining contact with monitoring focal points in each division and office away from headquarters, and advised them, upon request, on how to improve monitoring. The Division issued Updated guidelines on reporting for each biannual review and gave feedback to ensure consistent reporting across the Commission, in line with requirements established by United Nations Headquarters. Evaluation surveys, an important reporting tool, were also undertaken, overseen by the Division.

ENHANCED EVALUATION FUNCTION

ECLAC has continued to strengthen its evaluation function, through the continuous updating and improvement of its evaluation processes, seeking not only to improve the quality of its evaluation reports, but to ensure that they are used to enhance its work. As part of this process, the formal mechanism to follow up the implementation of recommendations was enhanced and extended to all evaluations carried out during 2016-2017. Over the course of the biennium, the implementation of recommendations made in five full-fledged evaluations and six Development Account project assessments were either formally agreed and/or reported upon, leading to greater accountability and drawing attention to specific actions that showcase the impact of evaluations. Furthermore, the first edition of document designed to promote the best practices, lessons learned and recommendations identified in the evaluations dating from between 2011 and 2014, which, due to their cross-cutting nature, could be considered relevant to many divisions of the Commission.

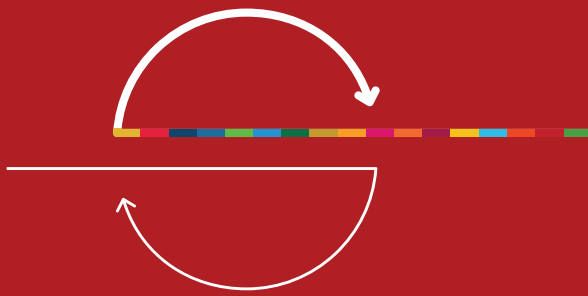
During the reporting period, ECLAC has also revised and updated its Evaluation Policy and Strategy¹ to bring it into line with the evaluation norms and standards established by the United Nations Evaluation Group and to take into account the lessons learned in recent years and evaluation best practices. In addition, the Commission produced internal guidelines for preparing and conducting evaluations, which provide detailed guidance on undertaking evaluations at ECLAC and ensuring high quality standards. The guidelines seek to standardize the approach to undertaking evaluations and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the evaluation process. In turn, it is hoped that this will ultimately lead to greater transparency, coherence and accountability within the Commission, as well as improving its performance and capacity for institutional learning. As stated in the Evaluation Policy and Strategy, all evaluation reports produced by the Commission can be found on the Commission's webpage and are available to the public.²

¹ See [online] <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/35507-evaluation-policy-and-strategy>.

² For more information on the ECLAC evaluation process and access to the evaluation reports, please see [online]: <https://www.cepal.org/en/ambito-de-rendicion-de-cuentas-evaluacion>.

REINFORCED ACCOUNTABILITY

ECLAC prepares a report on activities at the end of every biennium to allow member States, the bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to review the implementation of the Commission's programme of work. In addition, in the intervening years, ECLAC presents to its member States, in the context of the Committee of the Whole, a simplified statement of accounts of activities carried out and future lines of work. Evaluations are also used as a tool to reinforce accountability to both donors and member States. Lastly, ECLAC strives to be responsive to oversight bodies of the Secretariat and the United Nations system, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to follow up on the implementation of their recommendations.



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