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**TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:
CHALLENGES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DRAFT ANNOTATED INDEX



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INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is undoubtedly the biggest challenge proposed by countries to date, given its scope and scale in the area of sustainable development. Its universal, indivisible and interlinked nature calls for a highly complex comprehensive approach for agents and institutions, as much in terms of design and implementation as in terms of follow-up and analysis.

One of the key aspects of this challenge is the territorial dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Although only Sustainable Development Goal 11 on inclusive cities refers explicitly to space, this dimension should consider both urban and rural territories. Thus, the main objective of the 2030 Agenda, to leave no one behind, should take into account that a considerable portion of the population lagging behind economically, socially and environmentally live in specific areas or territories in the region where living conditions have historically reflected bigger disadvantages.

Adopting a territorial perspective therefore reinforces a holistic approach to achieving the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda. This perspective involves, inter alia, public policies based on multiple agents, sectors, time horizons, levels of government and territories. There is a need for multilevel territorial development policies demanding close coordination between national and subnational entities with respect to strategies, objectives, priorities and resources.

The territorial perspective of development was highlighted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, held in Lima in October 2017, where various country representatives expressed an interest in working on different aspects of territorial issues in the countries of the region and the public policies to address them.

These include development and territorial policies in general, rural development and the links between planning and budgeting, and other points of special interest, in accordance with the *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Social and Economic Planning (ILPES), Lima, 12 October 2017*.

The Chair of the Board of Directors of CEPLAN of Peru said that the region's diversity made it difficult to understand the territories fully, so governments should collaborate with experts to identify changing and long-term trends. He emphasized that planning must be carried out differently, not only with respect to infrastructure, but mainly with regard to people's quality of life to avoid the loss of human potential. He recalled that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had urged countries to use all their resources for that purpose (ECLAC, 2018a, p.5).

The National Secretary of Planning and Development of Ecuador, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning, said that a vision for the biennium had to be established in order to consolidate technical assistance and dialogue and learning forums. In that connection two areas had to be prioritized: strengthening territorial planning processes at the national level and establishing regional strategies for financing for development (ECLAC, 2018a, p. 4).

Finally, at the closing session, the Chair of the Board of Directors of CEPLAN of Peru said that learning should be an ongoing process and that the secretariat could act as the natural channel for communication. The objective was to achieve sustainable well-being for the entire population through the

continuous improvement of policies and plans, based on information on specific territories, in order to have capacities to generate early warnings in the face of the effects of climate change, and on long-term planning.

Pursuant to resolution CRP/XVI/01, the Regional Council for Planning requested ILPES to develop proposed contents for a position paper to be presented at the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, and to circulate that proposal at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers (ECLAC, 2018a, p. 14). In line with that mandate, this document outlines the proposed contents for the position paper of the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in 2019, which will be discussed at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council in August 2018 in Santo Domingo.

The proposal addresses territorial issues and the public policy response as comprehensively and fully as possible, highlighting aspects of interest for discussion and definitions of action of the countries. However, with respect to the final development of the document to be presented at the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in 2019, the discussion is expected to outline the themes and problems that will receive the most attention and special consideration.

In this context, the general purpose of this position paper proposal for the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in 2019 is to examine the following themes and the links between them: (a) the current situation and recent trends in territorial inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean, (b) the national plans, strategies and policies of the governments of the region to address them, along with their financing mechanisms, and (c) linkages or connections with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This draft annotated index also proposes some background and key messages relating mainly to the first two points for discussion among the ministers and authorities attending the meeting of the Regional Council for Planning. Moreover, this index provides suggestions on how to address the last point so that it can be developed in the document to be presented at the meeting in 2019.

A. CURRENT SITUATION AND RECENT TRENDS IN TERRITORIAL INEQUALITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

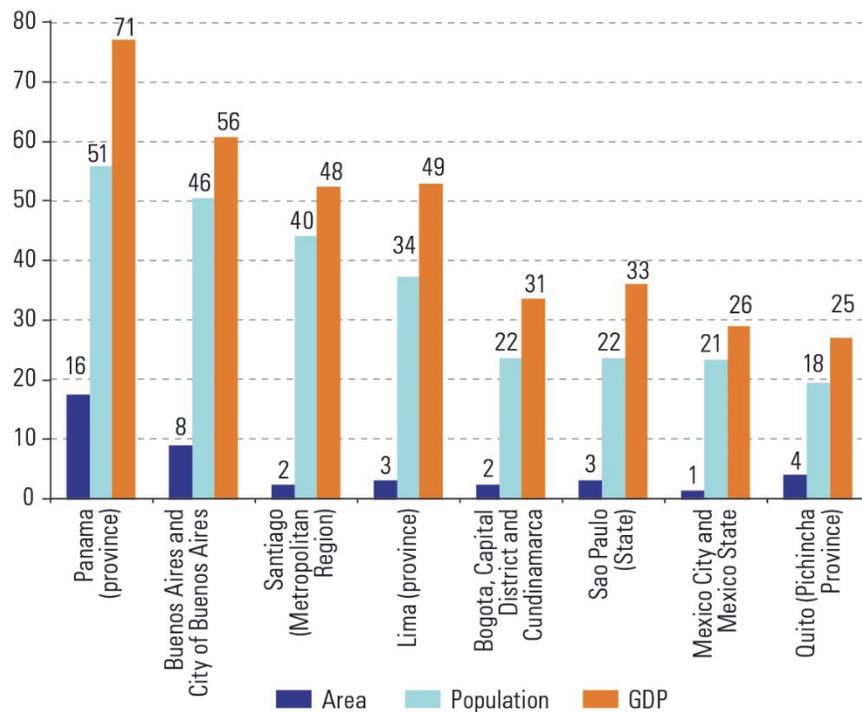
Latin America and the Caribbean not only reflects the highest indices of unequal income distribution in the world, but also very strong and persistent territorial disparities. Territorial inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean are one more expression of the general inequality that characterizes the region (ECLAC, 2018b, 2017 and 2009; Jordán, Riffo and Prado, 2017). They reflect an interdependent and cumulative relationship with economic, social, environmental and political inequalities, among others. This implies that territorial inequalities are highly structural. Thus, the public policies that target them must include sustained and significant measures to reduce them.

These inequalities can be interpreted in very different ways; two stand out, given their relevance and implications: the spatial concentration of resources, assets and opportunities, and the differences (gaps) in quality of life and well-being between territories.

1. Spatial concentration of the population and wealth

First, as shown in figure 1, the population and GDP are highly concentrated in a few territories, generally around countries' largest cities, metropolises and urban areas. An analysis of eight countries in the region shows the scale of concentration in demographic and economic terms; in most cases the selected territory represents less than 10% of each country's total area but a large percentage of the population and GDP.

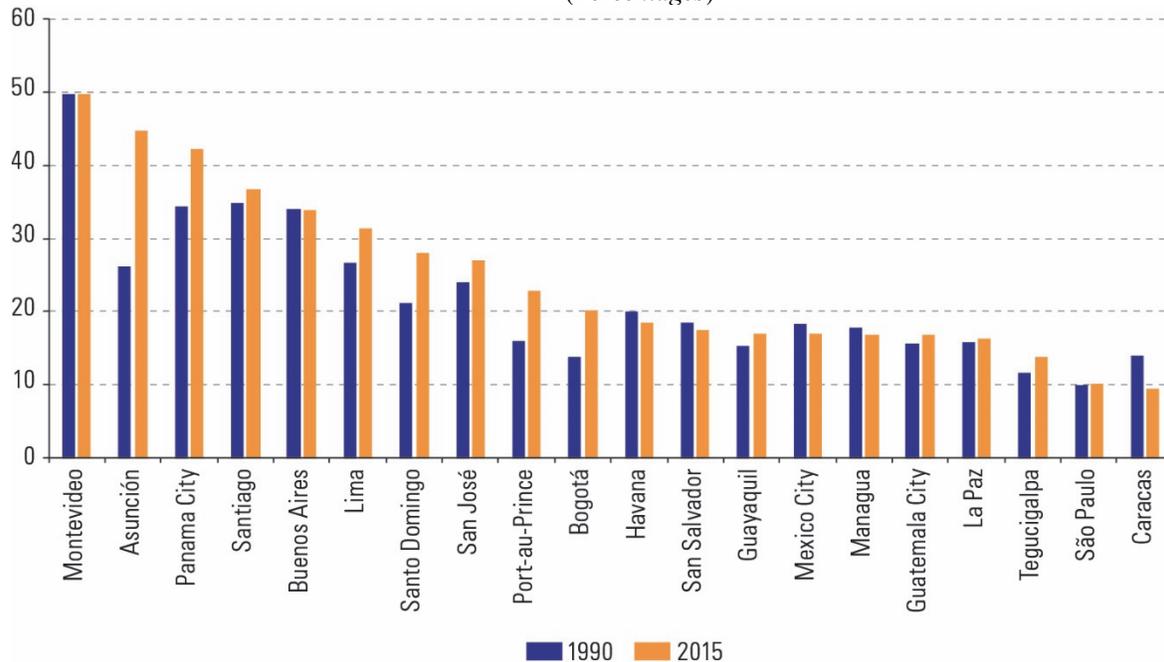
Figure 1
Latin America (8 countries): selected territories' share of total area, population and GDP, around 2010
(Percentages)



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), on the basis of official information from the countries.

Additionally, figure 2 shows that in 13 of the 20 countries considered, the spatial concentration of the population in the largest urban agglomeration rose between 1990 and 2015. The largest increases occurred in Paraguay, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Colombia.

Figure 2
Latin America and the Caribbean (20 countries): largest urban agglomeration's share of total population, 1990 and 2015
(Percentages)



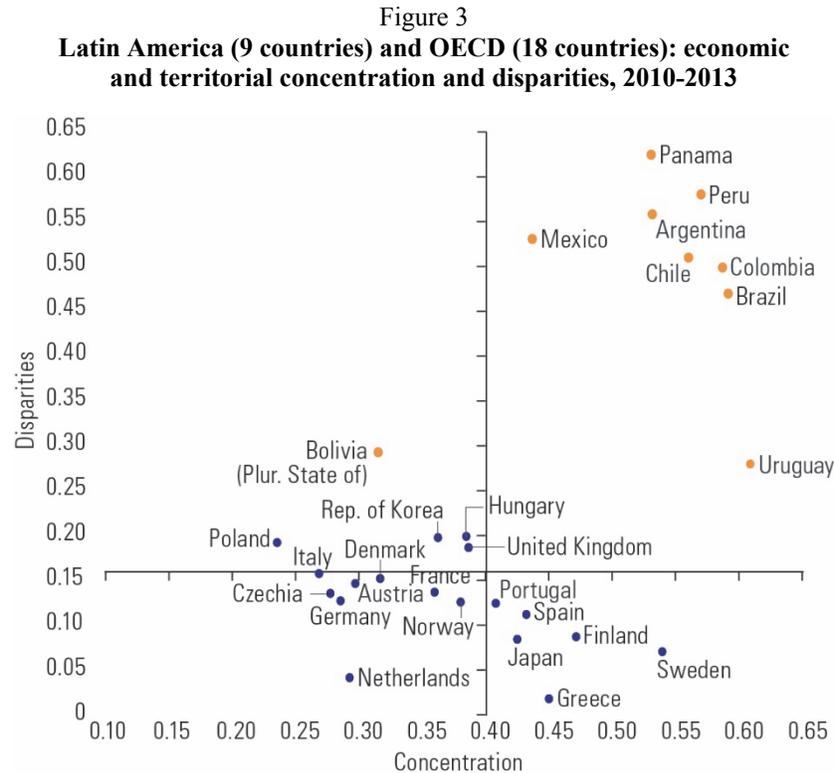
Source: Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), on the basis of information from the United Nations Population Division.

This concentration of people, activities and resources is not a problem in itself; there is a natural tendency for people to come together for protection, learning, sharing and production of goods. However, in certain circumstances a problem may arise:

- (i) If the prevailing decision-making system reproduces and increases concentration through the orientation of resources and facilities. Thus, the cultural, ethnic and social diversity of the territories could be undermined, and the system could have a negative impact on the right to differences and diversity.
- (ii) If it is detrimental to economic efficiency. The most highly concentrated territories could generate diseconomies of scale and of agglomeration owing to the impacts of pollution, congestion and living costs. These impacts on efficiency can occur when concentration exceeds certain thresholds and the biggest cities grow to a large size.
- (iii) If this concentration is a source or poses a risk of environmental deterioration owing to its impact on water, land and air, and the potential economic and social costs.

Figure 3 suggests that the spatial concentration of the population and wealth in Latin America and the Caribbean is a problem. Estimates for 18 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and 9 Latin American countries show that, in the first group, stronger concentration does not necessarily mean greater disparities: this is the case of Sweden and Japan (lower right quadrant). In contrast, in the second group, 7 Latin American countries show a direct and strengthening link between

concentration and disparities, given the high levels seen for both variables (upper right quadrant). Uruguay reflects high concentration but less disparity, while the Plurinational State of Bolivia shows the lowest levels of concentration and disparities among the countries of the region considered.



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), on the basis of official information from the countries. The disparities (vertical axis) are measured on the basis of the standard deviation of GDP per inhabitant for intermediate territories in each country (region, province, State, department), while geographic concentration (horizontal axis) is measured on the basis of an index which combines the relative weight of the area of each intermediate territory with the relative weight in total GDP, for each country. Available figures for Latin America refer to 2010, while those for the OECD countries refer to 2013.

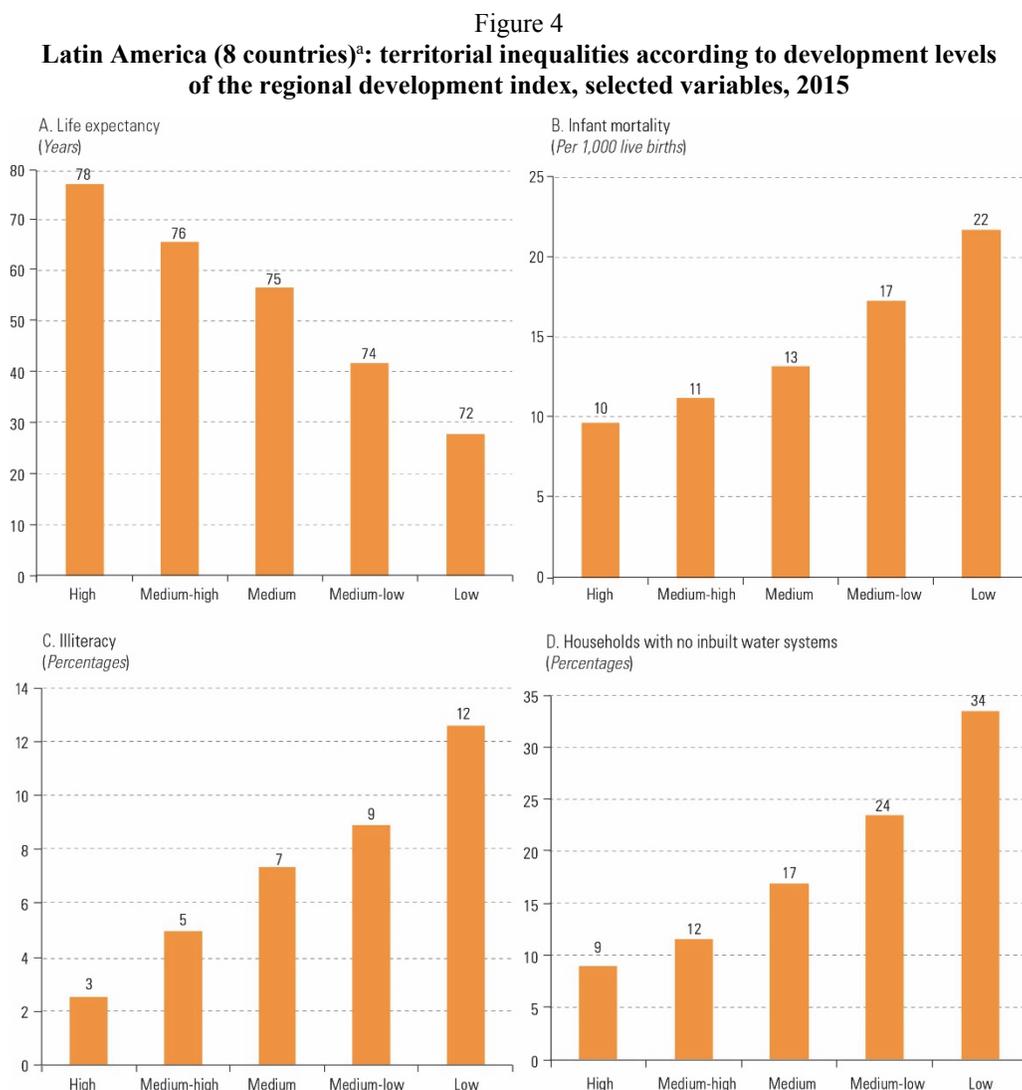
2. Territorial gaps in development and well-being

Second, the countries of the region reflect large gaps in social and living conditions between territories, although they appear to be less persistent and there has been a more positive impact from the most recent public policies.

On the basis of a regional development index¹ of nine countries prepared by ILPES, development gaps were identified between territories representing the following levels of development: high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low (ECLAC, 2017).

¹ The regional development index aims to produce a typology of development levels for intermediate territories (region, province, department, State) on the basis of 10 economic, demographic and social variables, which are compared to the

Figure 4 shows the size of the gaps between territories of high and low development for selected social variables of the regional development index. For example, with respect to life expectancy, there is a six-year difference between territories of high and low development. Similarly, average infant mortality in territories of low development is double that seen in territories of high and medium-high development, while the percentage of households with no inbuilt drinking water systems is four times higher in territories of low development than those of high development.



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), “Panorama del desarrollo territorial en América Latina y el Caribe, 2017: agendas globales de desarrollo y planificación multinivel”, *Project Documents*, (LC/TS.2017/120), Santiago, 2017.

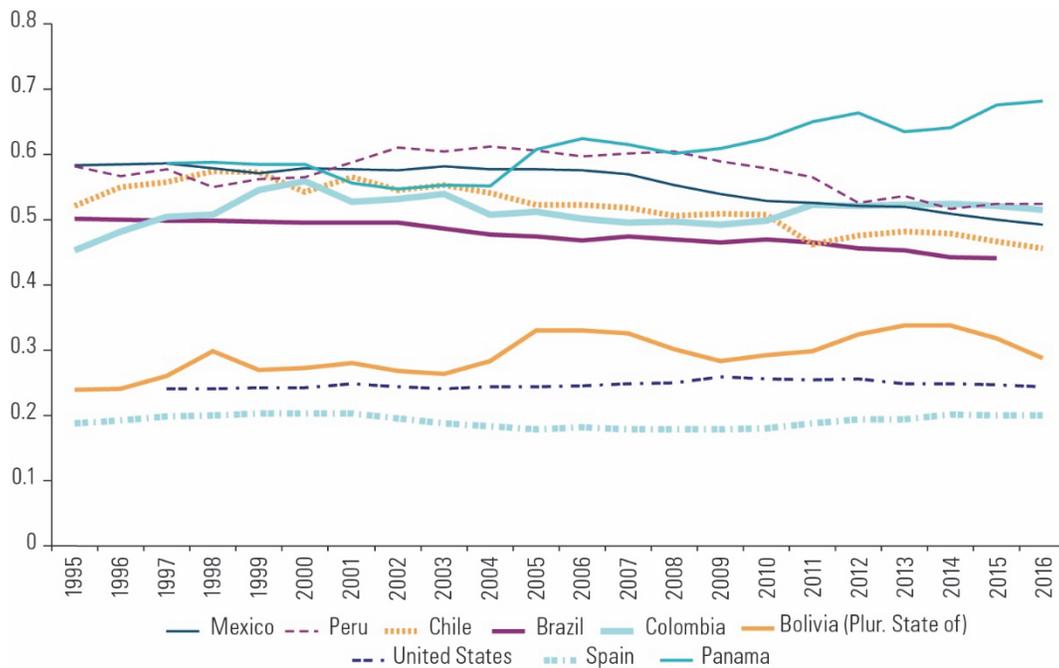
^a Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Latin American averages of each variable and then used to build a composite index and produce typologies. For more information see ECLAC 2017, *Panorama del desarrollo territorial en América Latina y el Caribe, 2017: Agendas Globales de Desarrollo y Planificación*. <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/42721-panorama-desarrollo-territorial-america-latina-caribe-2017-agendas-globales>.

There are also clear gaps, albeit of different sizes, in other variables relating to economic, social and environmental development, as is the case with GDP per capita. The disparity between GDP per capita in the different territories (called sigma convergence) in six of the seven countries in the region for which long-term information is available is much larger than that in the developed countries used as references: Spain and the United States. The Plurinational State of Bolivia is the only exception to this pattern (ECLAC, 2017).

However, from the mid-1990s to today, these wide gaps have gradually diminished—owing to a process of territorial convergence—in five cases: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. In contrast, these gaps increased in Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Figure 5
Latin America (7 countries), Spain and the United States: territorial disparities
in GDP per capita^a, 1995-2016



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), on the basis of official information from the countries.

^a Standard deviation of the logarithm of GDP per capita.

As shown in figure 3, concentration and discrepancies in territorial well-being do not necessarily go hand in hand. In the most developed countries there is no direct and positive (in this case negative) link between them: the countries with a high territorial concentration of the population and of GDP do not necessarily reflect greater territorial disparities in living conditions. In Latin America, however, this negative association does exist. Although the constitutions of the region's countries proclaim freedom and equality among citizens and before the State as basic principles, in certain circumstances, territorial differences in living conditions may result in a violation of these rights:

- (i) When health services reflect considerable differences in infant mortality rates, equality of the right to personal development is seriously called into question. If the sanitary conditions to which newborns are exposed do not protect them from the consumption of unsafe water and waterborne diarrhoeal diseases, these children will have fewer opportunities for organic, physical and intellectual development.
- (ii) When differences in the quality and relevance of education are considerable, the equality of rights to professional and economic development are seriously compromised.

In these cases and others, access to the basic rights enshrined in the countries' constitutions and laws and in international treaties is not independent of the place where a person is born or resides. A special—and in some countries, extreme—case of this is underdeveloped rural territories where not only are living standards the lowest, but gaps are persistent and long-lasting. Despite this situation, however, there has been an improvement since the early 2000 decade.

3. New inequalities related to the reprimarization of the economy

Third, there are circumstances in which a low concentration of the population and of activities is accompanied by high levels of economic wealth. This is now a fairly common scenario in the countries of the region, in light of mining activities.

It involves relatively unpopulated territories with a low density of activities, which nonetheless generate high volumes of economic wealth that is generally very unequally distributed, have deep environmental impacts and are subject to few or no regulations. These territories are also characterized by precarious social and institutional conditions. Many are associated with extractive mining (not necessarily related to exports); some examples include: Potosí (Plurinational State of Bolivia), La Guajira and Chocó (Colombia), Pasco and Cajamarca (Peru), O'Higgins (Chile) and Pará (Brazil).

One of the contributing factors of the occurrence and replication of these situations is the geographical transfer of income: only a very small percentage of the wealth and income generated in these territories remains there (Jordán, Riffo and Prado, 2017).

4. Institutional and public policy challenges

The design, follow-up, evaluation and feedback of any public policy calls for relevant and timely information. For this reason, it is important to begin by highlighting a first issue or challenge, which is linked to the existence of socioeconomic territorial information. Unfortunately, the region's collection of statistics in this area is less solid than in others. Few countries produce periodic information that is of good quality and used widely in public policy debate. The following are examples of the questions that should be raised:

- (i) What conditions facilitate the production of this type of information so that it is pertinent, timely and relevant to public debate? What are the obstacles? How can they be eliminated?
- (ii) What inspiring experiences have there been in the region that are worth knowing, disseminating, sharing and trying to replicate? Do any countries produce very good information at the municipal level? What has made this possible? How has this been sustained? What is the institutional and political use of these indicators?

A second issue or challenge relates to the relevance of indicators and their definitions. Given the heterogeneity of countries with respect to territorial organization, development levels and public policy challenges, some of the indicators mentioned make more sense or mean more than others, or in some cases are not worth measuring:

- (i) What are the spatial units of reference? What are the dimensions of development observed, and how are they measured and followed up?
- (ii) How is territorial information from different levels combined?
- (iii) What are the different sectoral approaches (for example, employment, research and environment) and how are they combined? Or do they remain separate?

B. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE REGION'S COUNTRIES: TRADITIONS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, various countries in the region have seen a return of the territorial dimension (see table 1) in the way national development strategies are both thought out and devised (ECLAC, 2012). This has been done in the framework of some processes in which the territorial dimension is of particular importance, such as globalization, climate change, inequality and the deepening democracy in the region.

Table 1
Latin America and the Caribbean: national plans, strategies and policies for territorial development

Country	National territorial development policy/plan
Antigua and Barbuda	– Sustainable Island Resource Management Zoning Plan (SIRMZP), 2012 – National Strategic Biodiversity Action Plan, 2014-2020
Bahamas	SMART Bahamas Master Plan
Barbados	National Park Plan and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
Belize	Belize City Master Plan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Planes Territoriales de Desarrollo Integral para Vivir Bien (PTDI)
Brazil	National Policy on Regional Development (PNDR) I and II – Planos Macrorregionais de Desenvolvimento – Planos Mesorregionais de Desenvolvimento – Programa 2029 - Desenvolvimento Regional e Territorial
Chile	– Política Nacional de Desarrollo de Localidades Aisladas – Plan Director de Infraestructura – Plan de Acción Nacional de Cambio Climático 2017-2022 (PANCC-II)
Colombia	– Plan Binacional de Integración Fronteriza Ecuador-Colombia - Contratos Plan
Costa Rica	– Política de Estado para el Desarrollo Rural Territorial Costarricense (PEDRT) 2015-2030 – Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Rural Territorial (PNDRT) 2017-2022 – Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano 2018-2030 y su Plan de Acción 2018-2022
Dominica	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020

Country	National territorial development policy/plan
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plan Nacional de Descentralización 2012-2015 – Sistema Nacional Descentralizado de Planificación Participativa (SNDPP) – Agendas Zonales
El Salvador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Política Nacional para la Gestión Asociada de los Territorios – Estrategia 2014-2018 del Plan Trifinio^a
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Política Nacional de Desarrollo Rural Integral (PNDRI) – Política Nacional de Descentralización del Organismo Ejecutivo – Política de Fortalecimiento de las Municipalidades – Estrategia 2014-2018 del Plan Trifinio^a
Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sistema Nacional de Información Territorial (SINIT) – Estrategia 2014-2018 del Plan Trifinio^a
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programa Regional de Desarrollo del Norte Programa Regional de Desarrollo del Centro Programa Regional de Desarrollo del Sur-Sureste
Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plan Quinquenal de Inversiones de Ordenamiento Territorial para el Desarrollo Sostenible 2015-2019 – Plan de Desarrollo Urbano de las Áreas Metropolitanas del Pacífico y del Atlántico – Plan de Desarrollo Integral de los Pueblos Indígenas de Panamá
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plan Nacional de Descentralización 2012-2016 – Plan Nacional de Fortalecimiento de Competencias para la Gestión Descentralizada 2014-2018 – Plan de Acondicionamiento Territorial – Plan de Desarrollo Urbano
Saint Kitts and Nevis	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020
Trinidad and Tobago	National Spatial Development Strategy
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Programa de Desarrollo y Gestión Subnacional I and II – Estrategia Nacional de Acceso al Suelo Urbano (ENASU)

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Institute of Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

^a The Plan Trifinio is a regional initiative involving El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The return, however, has been manifested in various institutional forms, contents and arrangements. Some of the areas on which particular emphasis has been placed include the impetus to decentralization processes, the increasing concern for territorial planning, cross-border development and citizen participation (Sandoval, Sanhueza and Williner, 2015; Galilea, Letelier and Ross, 2011).

Despite these advances, few countries have availed themselves of a comprehensive, stable and long-term territorial development policy. Most frequently, there is what ILPES has termed a “family of territorial policies”. In other words, various sectors and ministries implement public policies that have a territorial approach, but these policies are rarely coordinated or interlinked. Moreover, within this family of policies, some assume particular significance—as has been the case with decentralization, land planning and territorial competitiveness—giving rise to what may be called predominant approaches.

However, these approaches do not exist in a pure or isolated state; in practice, various combinations thereof exist in public policy and they are weighted differently in each country. The following will contribute to a better understanding of the different combinations that are observed in the countries of the region, as well as some drivers of change that are beginning to emerge.

In addition, a common challenge all countries face is the subject of territorial competition in public functions and powers: at times, different levels of government take action on the same issues or related problems, reflecting a territorial distribution of functions in which there is significant overlap. This may lead to gaps and, in some cases, considerable ambiguity. Furthermore, what is required by laws and regulations is often very different from what happens in practice. Therefore, each country employs diverse strategies to articulate both competing and complementary functions, thus forming an array of diverse frameworks for multilevel territorial development planning.

1. Territorial development policies and strategies: main approaches

The territorial development policies and strategies in effect in the countries of the region are the result of a combination of institutional innovations that have been superimposed over time. During the 1980s, the main concern was decentralization; during the 1990s, it was territorial competitiveness and land planning; during the 2000s, the focus was on territorializing a variety of public policies, including technology, social and rural policies. This timeline, given only as a reference, was not uniform in all countries. Moreover, each country adopted its own approach and content in each of these decades. Similarly, each country adopted unique shorter-term and smaller-scale initiatives to accompany those policies in areas such as innovation, poverty, job creation and rural development.

Currently, there are at least three overlapping territorial policy approaches or strategies in the countries of the region:

- (i) The first is decentralization, understood as political and institutional transformation which redefines the distribution of competencies and attributes at the various levels of government for the provision of basic services and the exercise of public functions related to promoting development. The aim of these transformations, which differ from country to country, has been to strengthen the role of intermediate and local levels of government. However, each country has adopted a very distinct approach, and there have been changes in intensity and emphasis throughout. Given the scarcity of relevant studies and research, it is very difficult to ascertain what has been the contribution of this policy to the situation and trends in territorial differences.
- (ii) The second is a generation of the latest type of policies to emerge, such as land-use policies. With the weakening and disappearance of the “regional policy” of the 1980s, and as a result of the growing importance of environmental issues, these policies have gained ground in the region. Although they began to emerge in the mid-twentieth century, it was during the 1980s and 1990s that they gained more strength and relevance. What differentiates these policies is the importance they place on everything related to the use of natural resources and their relationship to economic growth and human development. As in the previous case, the institutional and political definitions are very different in each country, as are the attributions of each territorial level in the handling of different matters. As evaluations are rarely conducted, it is difficult to take stock of their contribution to sustainable territorial development.

- (iii) Also in the context of the disappearance of regional policies and the search for greater initiative on the part of intermediate and local levels in promoting development, there has been growing interest in territorial, urban and local competitiveness policies. Just as the approaches have differed, so have intensity and importance of these policies in each national context. Emphasis is placed on the role of intermediate and local levels in mobilizing tangible and intangible, public and private, and production and sociocultural resources to promote productive innovation, job creation, growth and territorial well-being.

As mentioned previously, it is very common for very different combinations of these three types of politics and institutions to exist in each country. It is also frequent that some of them play a leading role. On the other hand, as explained below, new approaches that combine with earlier ones have emerged in recent times.

2. Territorial development policies and strategies: emerging approaches

Recently, new regional and global challenges and changes have emerged which explain the appearance of certain innovative territorial policy approaches.

First, climate change —accompanied by natural disaster prevention and risk management— has become one of the issues of increasing impact and importance. Therefore, it becomes crucial to understand how this challenge is being addressed from a public policy perspective; and whether the response is being coordinated with the previously existing framework or whether, on the contrary, it leads to a new, parallel institutional framework.

The environmental big push (ECLAC, 2018b), a recent proposal by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizes the importance of spurring a new pattern of infrastructure investments and changes in the region's energy matrix region to promote greater energy and environmental efficiency which, in turn, promote socially inclusive growth. The challenge of sustainability is also regarded as an unprecedented opportunity for bringing together technological innovation, equality and environmental sustainability.

Another of the emerging trends mentioned above is organizing territorial action according to a hierarchy of social issues, such as poverty, employment and access to universal rights and basic services.

The importance of multilevel territorial development planning cannot be overemphasized. Development is also planned and managed at subnational, regional, intermediate or local levels of government, with various degrees of autonomy and competence. The way in which these processes interact with higher levels and coordinate the various sectoral approaches mentioned above poses the challenge of devising and implementing multilevel management of territorial development. Several countries of the region are already making progress in that regard, and it is both necessary and appropriate to share experiences, expedite learning and consolidate management models that are suited to each national context.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has represented a major challenge for countries; a number of diverse approaches have been taken, including the creation of a specific coordination mechanism to this end. It is an ongoing process and, therefore, the social and institutional impacts of these initiatives have yet to be determined.

Lastly, there is a notable gap that must be mentioned. Very often, public policies on public investment and infrastructure tend to overlook the territorial dimension. In other words, in most cases decisions are made on the basis of sectoral, political or public-level criteria, without properly considering their territorial impact and meaning. However, by their very nature and importance, these policies have an immense impact and raise major questions as to what attempts there have been in the countries of the region to coordinate them with territorial concerns, the duration and significance of these policies and the progress made or obstacles encountered. This leads to the last issue of this document.

C. FINANCING AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

It is vital to question the modalities and magnitude of the economic resources mobilized through territorial policies. Which of those modalities work better and why? How can the amount and continuity of resources mobilized towards territorial development objectives be assessed? What challenges are there?

To address these questions, it is recommended to build on accumulated experience and, from there, identify gaps and strategic challenges. The regional practice in terms of public policy for territorial development has identified three broad types of strategy for the financing of territorial development, as described below. On this basis, questions must be raised concerning the proper management of the relationship between territorial development policies and their financing.

1. Decentralization

Decentralization is the most stable political-institutional strategy that has been used in the region so far to reorganize the distribution of resources, competencies and attributions for the purposes of territorial development. In most cases it has been accompanied by changes to the tax system (distribution of resources and tax attributions), institutional framework (reorganization of systems for the provision of public services) and policies (election of local and intermediate government officials and parliamentary representatives). It is difficult to establish what has been the territorial impact (concentration and disparities) of these transformations; it also remains to be determined the extent to which they have been linked with the planning processes of the different levels of government.

2. Regional development funds and royalty systems

Some countries have established special funds for regional or territorial development which are financed from specific sources and allocated to predetermined geographic areas. These mechanisms are more recent and less frequent, and their impact and effectiveness with regard to territorial development goals have yet to be proven. To that end, several countries have adopted special tax exemption systems that seek to attract investment and create employment in specific geographic areas.

3. Territorialization of national public investment

In some countries, there have been initiatives to reorganize national public investment while respecting territorial reality, with a view to obtaining more definite results and, thus, guiding efforts in manner that is consistent with the objective of reducing territorial inequalities. It is important to know what these initiatives are and try to understand why they have lacked the continuity needed to produce clear and visible results.

4. Territorial development agreements and contracts between different levels of government

On other occasions, very diverse strategies have been used to merge national public investment and territorial investment. One such strategy involves mechanisms regulated by long-term contracts or agreements for co-financing territorial investments. However, these initiatives are rarely considered from the perspective of reducing territorial inequalities.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSITION PAPER OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR PLANNING OF THE INSTITUTE

This draft annotated index proposes a number of options for furthering knowledge of territorial inequalities and the policies that would make it possible to define the situation in the region, as well as to identify the most recommendable actions. Among the many proposals above, it indicates some areas on which greater emphasis could be placed and options.

First, an overall analysis of the territorial inequalities in the countries of the region based on updated available information is proposed. To this end, analyses or diagnoses carried out by the countries themselves will be taken into consideration in order to systematize methods, sources and institutions, among others. This part of the document will be guided by questions related to advances and institutional and methodological challenges in the measurement of territorial inequalities, as well as those that would help to identify the territories with the greatest lags or deficiencies and which require special attention for territorialization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Secondly, it is proposed that the document should contain an up-to-date comparison of the national plans, strategies and policies for territorial development across the region, and include the methods used to design, implement and monitor them as well as their main strategic objectives. This would make it possible to identify the approaches that countries have adopted and, in particular, their linkages with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, thus facilitating comparative reflection in this area.

Lastly, it proposes systematization of the specific financing mechanisms or budgetary linkages of those plans, strategies and policies in order to create a summarized typology of countries and approaches that includes the following: (i) the extent of territorial gaps; (ii) national plans, strategies or policies; and (iii) instruments, financing and budgetary frameworks.

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