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## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE PLANBAROMETER



**CONTENTS**

	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION .....	3
A. APPLICATION OF THE PLANBAROMETER TO SPECIFIC CASES .....	3
B. RECOMMENDATIONS .....	4
1. Recommendations linked to the instrument.....	4
2. Recommendations linked to development planning .....	4
C. AREAS FOR FUTURE WORK .....	4

## INTRODUCTION

The PlanBarometer project emerged from resolution CRP/XV/01 of the Regional Council for Planning (CRP) of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) at its fifteenth meeting in Yachay (Ecuador) on 19 November 2015. It was presented at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council held in Lima on 12 October 2017.

The PlanBarometer characterizes development planning processes. It is an instrument of analysis and self-evaluation that aims to identify the main characteristics, conditions, problems, challenges and limitations of development planning systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. The application of the PlanBarometer to each reality lays the foundation for decision-making and the development of strategies to improve planning instruments, processes and systems.

This document presents the progress made in the implementation, improvement and expansion of the PlanBarometer, coordinated by ILPES. It combines the main lessons learned from the process since it was launched and future challenges.

### A. APPLICATION OF THE PLANBAROMETER TO SPECIFIC CASES

One of the main characteristics of the PlanBarometer is its practical and participatory model, which constantly generates feedback as it is applied to specific cases. In 2017-2018, this instrument was used in 12 cases representing different levels of government.

Table 1  
Application of the PlanBarometer

Application	Country	Level of application
Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing	Argentina	National
Junín	Argentina	Municipal
Jujuy	Argentina	Provincial
Corrientes	Argentina	Provincial
Tucumán	Argentina	Provincial
Tarapacá	Chile	Regional
Valparaíso	Chile	Regional
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN)	Costa Rica	National
León	Mexico	Municipal
Jalisco	Mexico	State
Guanajuato	Mexico	State
Technical Secretariat of Planning for Economic and Social Development	Paraguay	National

**Source:** Latin American and Caribbean Institute of Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

## **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following set of recommendations derives from the application of the PlanBarometer. They are organized according to their link with the instrument or with general development planning issues.

### **1. Recommendations linked to the instrument**

- The cases examined reveal serious difficulties in inter-institutional coordination that call for more detailed analysis and justify the use of the PlanBarometer to guide strategies for improvement.
- There are difficulties in coordination between development plan objectives and budgets, which justify the need for tools to diagnose and analyse this situation. This point includes situations such as the weak link between national objectives and intersectoral projects, along with the lack of institutional mechanisms to explain why specific objectives were not achieved despite the implementation of activities and budgets.
- The instrument identifies difficulties related to planning, but also to the management of processes.
- The extent of the use of the PlanBarometer as an instrument of analysis and self-evaluation must be specified.
- The parameters for the composition of discussion groups must be specified to avoid biases or unrepresentative conclusions.
- An information or communication system must be developed to allow the sharing of experiences relating to the application of the PlanBarometer to different realities in the region.
- The design and interpretation of prospective alerts must be developed further to anticipate possible problems or difficulties in the implementation of plans.

### **2. Recommendations linked to development planning**

- There is a disconnect between society's expectations and the development planning objectives set out by the countries.
- There are difficulties in establishing and systematizing governments' development plan priorities.
- Responsibilities relating to implementation in planning systems must be more clearly assigned to ensure that these systems can be effective.
- Participants in the PlanBarometer exercises have highlighted the need for a set of actions or strategies to address the different situations identified in these exercises.

## **C. AREAS FOR FUTURE WORK**

In light of the results of the application of the PlanBarometer in the cases listed in table 1, a set of areas for future work to strengthen achievements and overcome weaknesses has been proposed.

- Development of interactive applications that simplify the interpretation of the results obtained by the teams in charge of the application of the PlanBarometer.
- Development of predictive and sectoral models that address the specific conditions of long-term planning and of the different government sectors.
- Advance in the implementation of a PlanBarometer user network to create a forum for discussion and sharing for experts in the region.
- Implementation of mechanisms and tools to link the characteristics of planning systems with the probability of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.