

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

2018



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY

ACTIVITIES
COMMISSION
REPORT ON
ACTIVITIES
THE COMM
, 2018
REPORT ON
IF ACTIVIT

United Nations publication
LC/PLEN.34/3
Distribution: G
Copyright © United Nations, 2019
All rights reserved
Printed at United Nations, Santiago
S.19-00586

This publication should be cited as: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report on the activities of the Commission from January to December, 2018* (LC/PLEN.34/3), Santiago, 2019.

Applications for authorization to reproduce this work in whole or in part should be sent to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Publications and Web Services Division, publicaciones.cepal@un.org. Member States and their governmental institutions may reproduce this work without prior authorization, but are requested to mention the source and to inform ECLAC of such reproduction.

Contents

Contents

Foreword	5
Introduction	7
1. Highlights of 2018	9
2. Financial resources	14
3. Subsidiary bodies	16
4. Publications	20
5. Main results and activities	26
6. Strategic partnerships for development	48
7. Results-based management and outreach	52



Foreword

Foreword

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) celebrated its seventieth anniversary in 2018. As an organization fully committed to the development of the region, ECLAC has consolidated its role as a leading think-tank of the United Nations Secretariat; has nurtured its convening role by providing intergovernmental platforms for policy dialogue, peer learning and normative discussion; and has provided policy advice, operational support and technical cooperation, at the request of member States, to implement capacity development activities at the regional, subregional and national levels.

This report on the activities carried out by the Commission in 2018, which highlights its key achievements and its contributions, is submitted for the consideration of member States in light of the accountability and transparency framework promoted by the United Nations.

The Latin American and Caribbean region faces a challenging scenario. Average growth rates in the region remain barely above 1%, with uneven performances among countries. In addition, considerable uncertainties persist in the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This situation, coupled with increased financial volatility and low rates of investment in the region, limits productivity and the structural changes needed to progress towards a new model of development. It also jeopardizes the social progress achieved by Latin American and Caribbean countries over the past few decades, particularly with regard to the reduction of poverty and inequality.

In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents, more than ever, a unique opportunity to bring about profound and lasting change in the prevailing development paradigm. The Commission's proposal builds on the main ideas and policy options contained in the position documents presented to the ECLAC member States at the last five sessions



of the Commission, in particular *The Inefficiency of Inequality*,¹ endorsed by ECLAC member States at the thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, held in Havana, in May 2018.

The Commission's most recent analyses and public policy proposals have also helped to stimulate discussion on key regional development issues. ECLAC has 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 high-level meetings and summits of heads of State and government.

The ECLAC officers and technical staff have worked to support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and to catalyse debate around them through the Commission's flagship publications, and have 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 within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Alicia Bárcena

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

¹ LC/SES.37/3-P.



Introduction

Introduction

ABOUT ECLAC

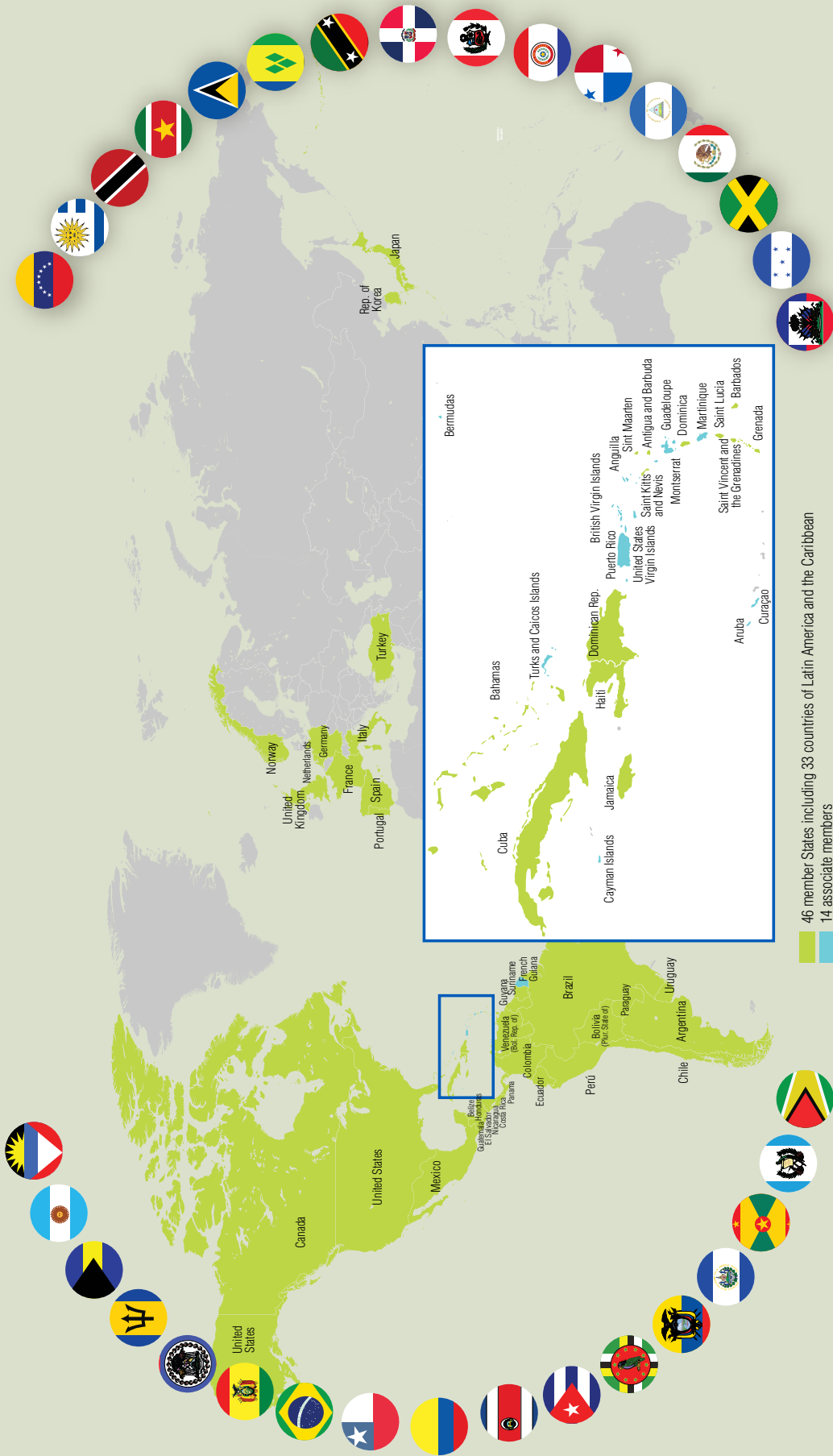
The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) —the Spanish acronym is CEPAL— was established by the Economic and Social Council resolution 106(VI) of 25 February 1948 and began to function that same year. By resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change its name to the Economic 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. Fourteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members of the Commission.

MISSION STATEMENT

“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



Highlights of

Highlights of 2018

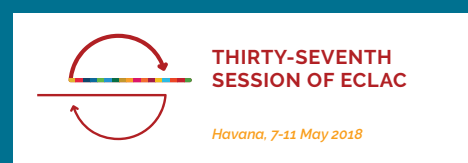
Seventieth anniversary of ECLAC

During 2018, ECLAC celebrated its seventieth year of producing and disseminating innovative thinking and building knowledge both within and outside the region. The celebration of this anniversary included various events in Santiago, New York and throughout the region. This milestone gave the Commission the opportunity to revitalize its mission and reaffirm its commitment to the values that underpin its daily work: to preserve and promote the dignity and well-being of the inhabitants of such a vast and diverse region, and advocate for greater equality of rights and opportunities for all women and men.



Thirty-seventh session of the Commission

The thirty-seventh session of ECLAC was held in Havana, from 7 to 11 May 2018. It was attended by delegations from all 46 member States of ECLAC and representatives of the associate members. Both the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, attended the meeting. The ECLAC secretariat was truly honoured to receive Mr. Guterres —the first time a Secretary-General of the United Nations had attended a session of ECLAC— and to hear from him that “ECLAC has been a progressive proponent and authorized voice of social justice in the world economy. It has consistently and courageously promoted a vision of development that considers equality to be the driving force behind growth”. At the meeting, the position document, *The Inefficiency of Inequality*, was presented to the Commission’s member States. For almost a decade, ECLAC has identified equality as a foundational value of development and as a non-negotiable ethical principle based on rights. It has also provided new analysis, data and knowledge on key trends and factors related to inequality in the region.



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



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
18-20 April **2018**

The second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Santiago, from 18 to 20 April 2018, to support member States in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was attended by more than 650 participants, including representatives of national governments, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, civil society, the private sector and development banks, among other entities. Thirty-eight side events were held during the week of the second meeting of the Forum. This multi-stakeholder platform provided an opportunity to share experiences, foster peer learning and establish partnerships among participants, and promote South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. At the meeting, the *Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*² was presented. In their intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, the Ministers and high representatives gathered at the meeting commended the work carried out by ECLAC through its 70 years of existence and its continued effort to support country-led processes, and took a commitment to ensure that the functions and mandate of ECLAC would be fully recognized and maintained, particularly its crucial role in the regional dimension of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement): supporting access to information and justice in environmental matters

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, 10 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean issued a declaration calling for the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the region. ECLAC actively supported the process, which evolved into an international negotiation. As a culmination of this process, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica, on 4 March 2018, after two years of preparatory meetings (2012–2014) and nine meetings of the negotiating committee, established in 2014, with the significant participation of the public. This is the region's first environmental treaty and seeks to guarantee the full and effective exercise of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters. The Regional Agreement was opened for the signature of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 September 2018. In 2018, 16 countries signed the Agreement and it shall enter into force once it has been ratified by 11 States.

² LC/FDS.2/3/Rev.1.



The Escazú Agreement

Placing equality at the centre of sustainable development and leaving no one behind



Environmental Information



Participation in environmental decision-making



Access to justice in environmental matters



Environmental defenders



Capacity-building and cooperation

The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into national development planning

Effective planning for sustainable development is a tool for ensuring cohesion, coherence, rationality and territorialization in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development was launched in 2017 to support the region in strengthening its planning and public management processes and to provide a facilitation space for linking these processes to the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, the Regional Observatory consolidated its website, incorporating additional analytical categories and information at the regional level and for each of the 33 countries of the region, including national planning systems, national development and open government plans, and linkages between planning and the implementation of the SDGs. The Observatory's contents and analytics were negotiated and validated by the countries of the region, ensuring both robustness and the fostering of ownership of the platform as a learning space at the country and regional levels, as well as the development of national networks of public officials in planning and public management. The Observatory is an open data forum and serves as an input for governments, parliamentarians, political parties, academia, the private sector and civil society in general.



The Caribbean debt for climate adaptation swap initiative

As part of its “Caribbean First” strategy, ECLAC has continued to advocate for the debt swap initiative to foster growth and economic transformation in the Caribbean economies. The initiative calls for donors to use pledged resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to finance a gradual write down, or “haircuts”, of debt held with various multilateral institutions, as well as the public bilateral debt of Caribbean member States. “Caribbean First” demonstrates the Commission’s renewed determination to promote a more effective defence on behalf of the countries of that subregion, taking advantage of the international community’s goodwill, solidarity and support. ECLAC has long argued that

the high debt burden and debt servicing costs of many Caribbean economies constrain the ability of governments to confront their development challenges. The Caribbean's debt dilemma should therefore not be viewed simply as the result of policy missteps, but rather as a consequence of the increased expenditures required to address the impact of extreme climactic events, such as hurricanes, as well as other negative external shocks.

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

It is estimated that some 80% of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean lived in urban areas in 2018. Cities produce 70% of regional greenhouse gas emissions, owing mainly to energy use, particularly electricity consumption, transportation and waste disposal. In addition, the region's highly unequal and socioeconomically segregated cities are characterized by the exclusion of low-income groups from participating in the management of their cities. Given this context, ECLAC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) have partnered to strengthen accountability systems in cities in Brazil, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to monitor local government policies for achieving the SDGs that are related to cities. The ongoing activities focus on how cities can improve accountability and participatory policymaking in the field of urban sustainability. The initiative seeks to provide an operational platform for South-South cooperation and to make available a set of virtual tools to facilitate and systematize city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange in urban sustainability among peers from government, the private sector and civil society, including academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Regional framework of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the definition of an internationally-agreed set of indicators to follow up and review progress in the attainment of the SDGs, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC tasked the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean with proposing a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the situations and shared challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. In 2018, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference endorsed the *Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean*,³ which contains a prioritized set of 154 indicators, covering all 17 Goals and 94 of the 169 targets of the global indicator framework.⁴

³ LC/CE.17/3.

⁴ A/RES/71/313.

Fostering regional integration

The northern Central America countries (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), together with Mexico, asked ECLAC to provide support in designing an endogenous development plan as a means of generating opportunities for the populations of these countries. On 1 December 2018, the Presidents of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, and the Vice-President of El Salvador, in the presence of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, signed a joint declaration calling for the Comprehensive Development Plan to be drawn up and implemented. It was then presented by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the four signatory countries at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2018. ECLAC will continue its work to support countries in the design and implementation of the Plan, which adopts a migration-cycle approach, examining the structural causes of migration in places of origin, human rights during transit, integration at destination and voluntary return and sustainable resettlement. It seeks to tackle the root causes of migration and create an economic integrated zone, by generating socioeconomic conditions that will allow local populations to stay in their places of origin and not be forced to migrate.

Meanwhile, at the XIII Pacific Alliance Summit held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in July 2018, ECLAC reiterated its commitment to support this bloc's efforts to converge with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). In this regard, the Commission presented the document, *La convergencia entre la Alianza del Pacífico y el MERCOSUR: enfrentando juntos un escenario mundial desafiante*.⁵ In addition to providing a characterization of the commercial and investment ties between both blocs, the document presents policy proposals to deepen regional integration, in the context of a new phase of the convergence process.

The Regional Facility for Development in Transition: supporting middle-income countries

To address the challenges faced by middle-income countries, the European Union launched, with the support of ECLAC and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its Development Centre, a new initiative named the Regional Facility for Development in Transition. It seeks to ensure that this group of countries continues to benefit from international development cooperation by exploring innovative approaches to measuring development beyond per capita GDP, which often conceals the structural gaps that become impediments to achieving higher levels of development (the so-called middle-income trap). Furthermore, in relation to financing for development in the particular context of middle-income countries, ECLAC is supporting member States' efforts to mobilize domestic resources through fiscal reforms, including those to tackle tax evasion and avoidance and illicit flows and to increase public spending efficiency, as well as through foreign direct investment (FDI), remittances and access to capital markets.

⁵ LC/PUB.2018/10.

Financial res

Financial resources

Figure 1
**General overview:
of ECLAC funding
by source, 2018**

*(Thousands of dollars
and percentages
of total resources)*

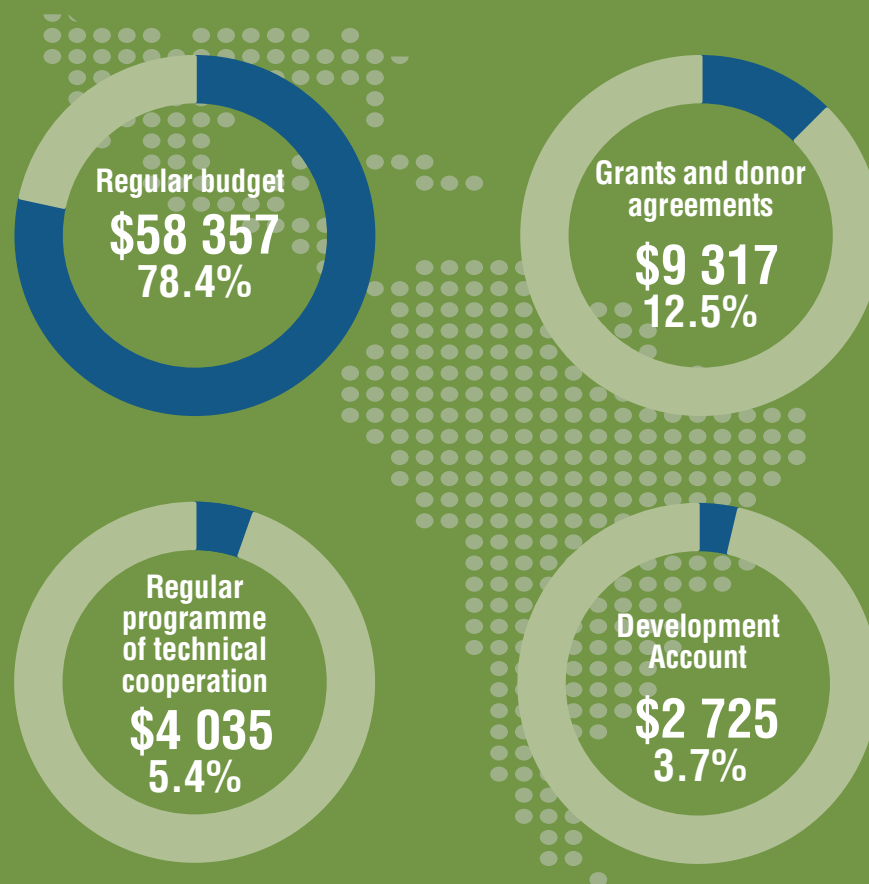


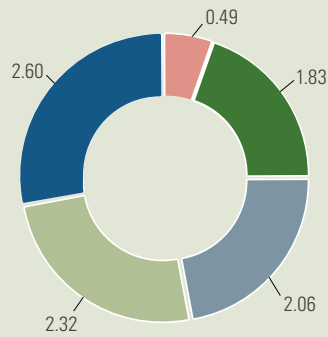
Figure 2
Breakdown of extrabudgetary resources, 2018

A. Grants and donor agreements, by thematic dimension
(Millions of dollars and number of projects)

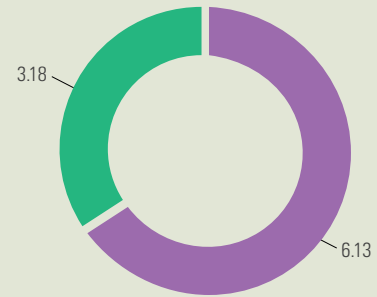
B. Grants and donor agreements, by development partner
(Millions of dollars and number of projects)

Financial resources

US\$ **9.31**
 million

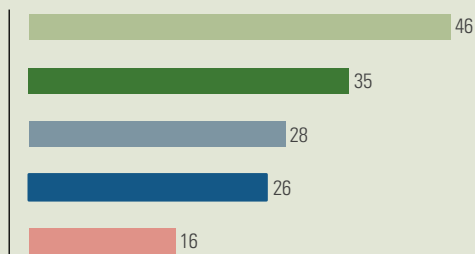


US\$ **9.31**
 million

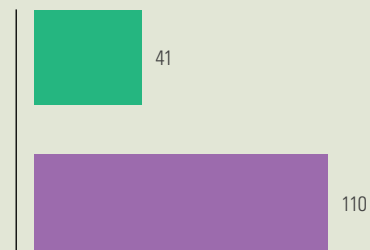


Number of projects

151



151



- Public management and statistic dimension
- Subregional dimension
- Sustainability dimension
- Economic dimension
- Social dimension

- Bilateral
- Multilateral

3

Subsidiary bodies

Subsidiary bodies

Committee on South-South Cooperation

Seventh and eighth meetings of the Presiding Officers

At their seventh meeting, held in Santiago, on 17 April 2018, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation asked the secretariat to submit the proposal to create a network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America for consideration in the framework of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. At their eighth meeting, held in Santiago, on 3 October 2018, the Presiding Officers, welcomed the report by the Chair and by Mexico on progress made in the project establishing a Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also agreed to hold the first working meeting of the Network in the last two months of 2018, and to convene a regional interactive dialogue of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the priorities of the region, at United Nations Headquarters in New York in November 2018, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which was held in Buenos Aires, in March 2019.

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

Twenty-seventh session, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 27 April 2018

The Committee welcomed the establishment of a Task Force to further advance the debt for climate adaptation swap proposal from the conceptual design phase to an actionable initiative. It also requested the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, to continue to aid its member States and associate members with respect



Twenty-seventh session
Caribbean Development and
Cooperation Committee (CDCC)
Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 27 April 2018

to mainstreaming disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction initiatives in their development plans; and to provide institutional support to facilitate synergies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway at the national and regional levels.

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santiago, 30–31 July 2018

The Presiding Officers agreed to request the secretariat to promote technical assistance to the countries of the region, with particular attention to Caribbean countries, on building the capacities of gender focal points to design and implement gender equality policies and to mainstream gender equality into national development plans through multi-stakeholder participatory processes. They also requested the secretariat to promote the strengthening of national statistical systems for the production of information, in order to build and further develop gender indicators with an intercultural perspective, and to make all groups of women and girls statistically visible, in particular by promoting the conduct of time-use surveys and other statistical projects included in the Montevideo Strategy, in line with the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.



Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Third session, Lima, 7–9 August 2018

In its resolution 3(III), the Regional Conference decided that the first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development shall represent the regional contribution to the global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to be undertaken by the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-second session. In addition, it requested that the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development present a final report on its work to the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference at their fourth meeting, for endorsement by the countries.



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

Twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santo Domingo, 30 August 2018

The Presiding Officers conducted a review of progress with respect to the resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and of the ILPES report on activities 2017–2018. In addition, they requested the secretariat of ECLAC to convene the seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning and the sixteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean in Uruguay in the second half of 2019.



Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean



Second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Panama, 12 September 2018

Second meeting of the Presiding Officers, Panama City, 12 September 2018

The Presiding Officers established that the regional agenda for inclusive social development should be prepared with the active participation of the members of the Regional Conference on Social Development, and should include means for consultation with civil society. Furthermore, they commended ECLAC for the launch of the Social Development Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to supporting the design and implementation of public policies in the region and analysing their trends. Lastly, they requested ECLAC to convene the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in the second quarter of 2019.

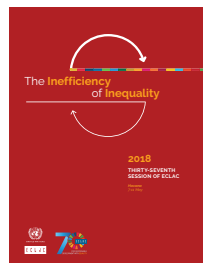
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee, Santiago, 3-4 October 2018

The Executive Committee endorsed the *Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean*⁶ and requested the member States to update the information on national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the SDGs and for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, using the mechanisms put in place by the respective secretariats. It also adopted the *Proposal for reorganization of the Knowledge Transmission Network and dissemination of outputs of the working groups*,⁷ to be implemented by ECLAC, and endorsed the *Criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as from 2020*,⁸ which proposed a new system for grouping countries on the basis of geographic and linguistic considerations.

Selected publications produced in support of the Commission's thirty-seventh session, its subsidiary bodies and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development



The Inefficiency of Inequality

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43443-inefficiency-inequalityinefficiency-inequality>

⁶ LC/CE.17/3.

⁷ LC/CE.17/6.

⁸ LC/CE.17/5/Rev.1.



Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43439-second-annual-report-regional-progress-and-challenges-relation-2030-agenda>



Towards a regional agenda for inclusive social development: bases and initial proposal

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44020-towards-regional-agenda-inclusive-social-development-bases-and-initial-proposal>



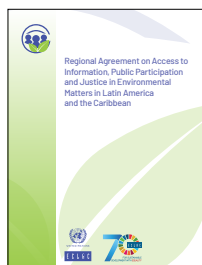
Draft first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

<https://crpd.cepal.org/3/en/documents/draft-first-regional-report-implementation-montevideo-consensus-population-and-development>



Data, algorithms and policies: redefining the digital world

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43515-data-algorithms-and-policies-redefining-digital-world>



Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf



Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43616-report-twenty-seventh-session-caribbean-development-and-cooperation-committee>

4

Publications

Publications

In its role as a leading think tank in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC undertakes studies and research in a number of substantive areas related to economic and social development in the region. The analytical effort of gathering, organizing, interpreting and disseminating information and data led to the preparation of 152 publications in 2018. ECLAC publications were downloaded a total of 3,710,507 times in 2018.

An illustrative selection of these publications is presented in this section. All publications are available for download on the ECLAC website.

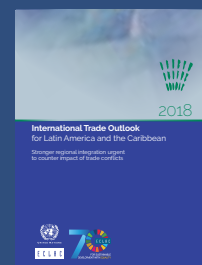
Six Flagships:
annual reports that track
a comprehensive vision
of development



Economic Survey
of Latin America
and the Caribbean



Preliminary Overview of the
Economies of Latin America
and the Caribbean



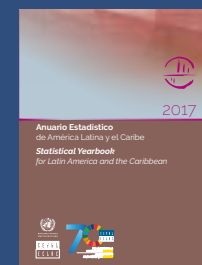
International Trade Outlook
for Latin America
and the Caribbean



Foreign Direct Investment
in the Caribbean



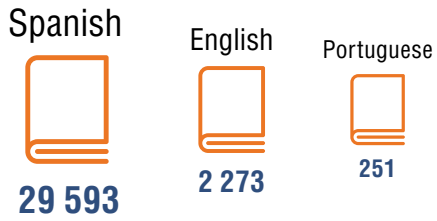
Social Panorama
of Latin America



Statistical Yearbook
for Latin America
and the Caribbean

Downloads of Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean

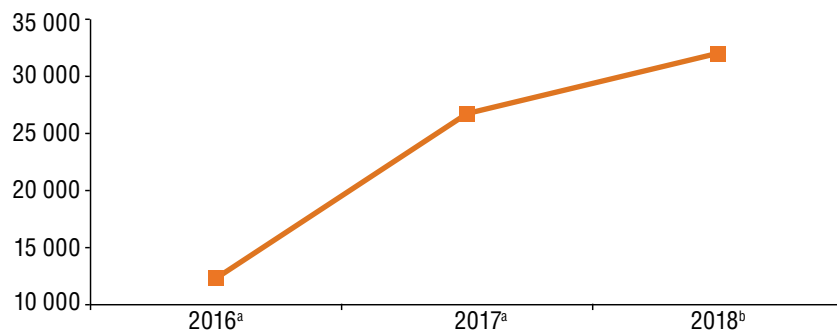
By language, 2018



By source, 2018



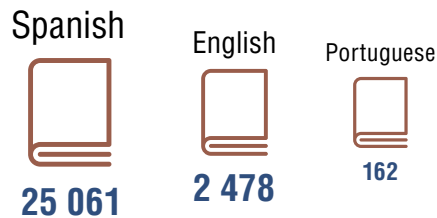
Trend, 2016–2018



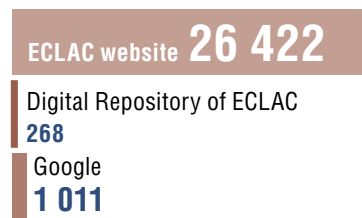
^a Download data for the 2016 and 2017 editions of the Economic Survey cover the two months after their launch.
^b Data for the 2018 edition cover three months after its launch.

Downloads of Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean

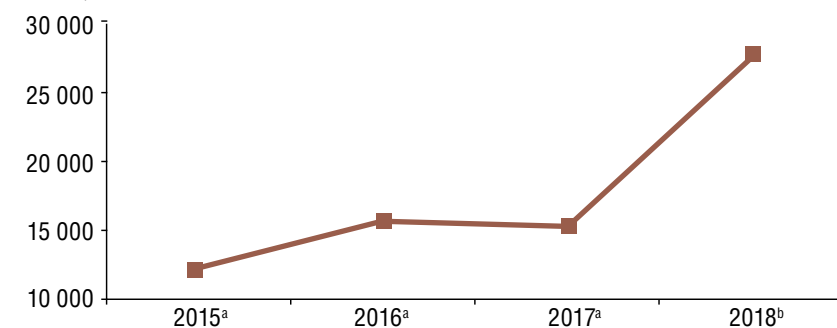
By language, 2018



By source, 2018



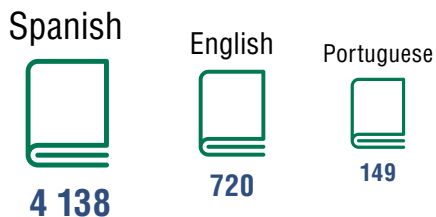
Trend, 2015–2018



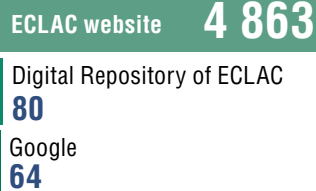
^a Download data for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 editions of the Preliminary Overview cover the two months after their launch.
^b Data for the 2018 edition cover three months after its launch.

Downloads of International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean

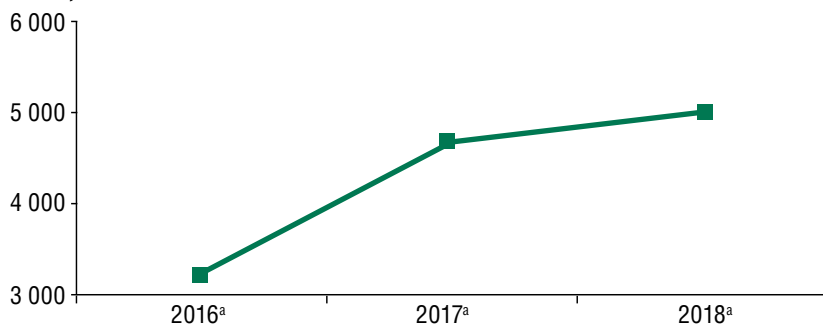
By language, 2018



By source, 2018



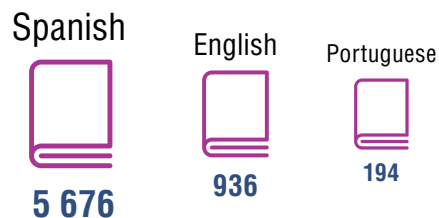
Trend, 2016–2018



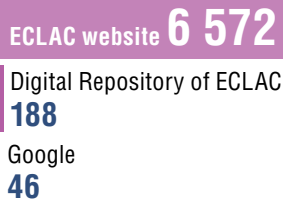
^a Download data for the 2016 and 2017 editions of the International Trade Outlook cover the two months after their launch.
^b Data for the 2018 edition cover three months after its launch.

Downloads of Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean

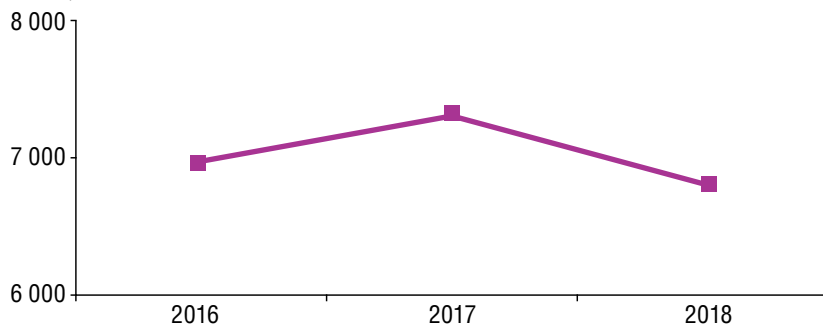
By language, 2018



By source, 2018



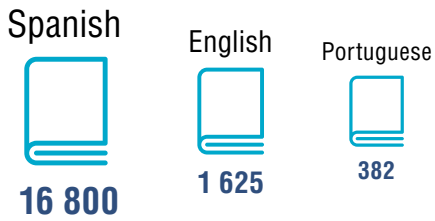
Trend, 2016–2018



Note: Download data cover the two months after their launch.

Downloads of Social Panorama of Latin America

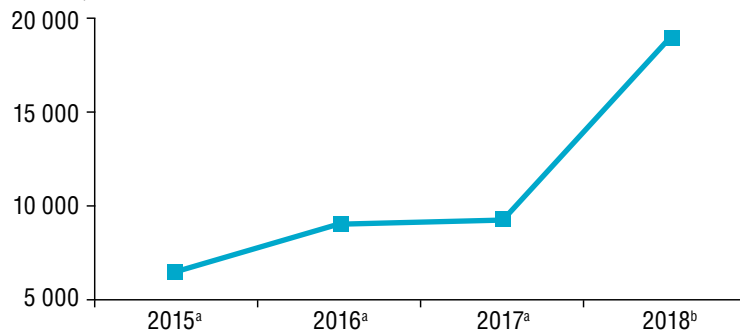
By language, 2018



By source, 2018



Trend, 2015–2018



^a Download data for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 editions of the Social Panorama cover the two months after their launch.
^b Data for the 2018 edition cover three months after its launch.

Downloads of Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean^a

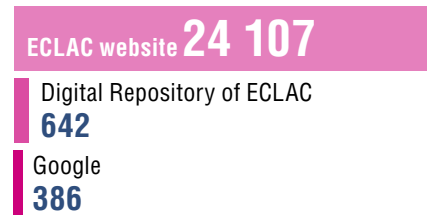
Total downloads, 2018

Bilingual

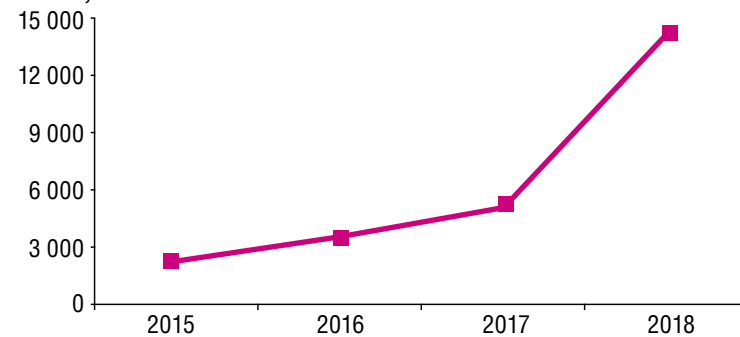


25 135

By source, 2018



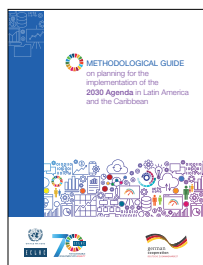
Trend, 2015–2018



Note: Download data cover the three months after their launch.

^a Bilingual publication in English and Spanish.

Support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



Methodological guide on planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44193-methodological-guide-planning-implementation-2030-agenda-latin-america-and>



Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en Centroamérica y la República Dominicana: visualizando desafíos, viabilizando compromisos
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/45304>



Metodología para la integración de la Agenda 2030 en la planificación nacional mediante la identificación de eslabones y nodos críticos. Ejemplo de caso: Guatemala
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/47145>



The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: an opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean. Goals, Targets and Global Indicators
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/40156-2030-agenda-and-sustainable-development-goals-opportunity-latin-america-and>



Envejecimiento, personas mayores y Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: perspectiva regional y de derechos humanos
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/48103>

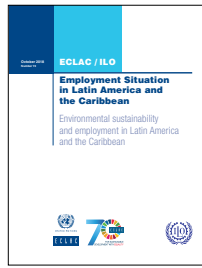


The challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean regarding financing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43421-challenges-facing-latin-america-and-caribbean-regarding-financing-2030-agenda>

Intraregional cooperation: research in collaboration with other agencies



Latin America and the Caribbean 30 years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44272-latin-america-and-caribbean-30-years-after-adoption-convention-rights-child>



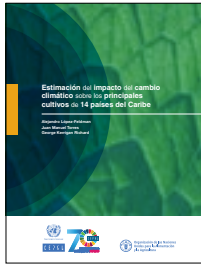
Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean: environmental sustainability and employment in Latin America and the Caribbean
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44186-employment-situation-latin-america-and-caribbean-environmental-sustainability-and>



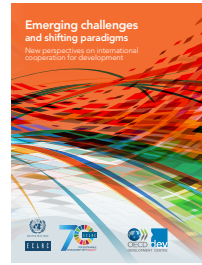
Las políticas públicas dirigidas a la infancia: aportes desde el Uruguay
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/47334>



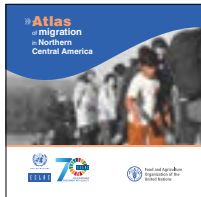
Latin American Economic Outlook 2018: rethinking Institutions for Development
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43514-latin-american-economic-outlook-2018-rethinking-institutions-development>



Estimación del impacto del cambio climático sobre los principales cultivos de 14 países del Caribe
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/47823>



Emerging challenges and shifting paradigms: new perspectives on international cooperation for development
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44002-emerging-challenges-and-shifting-paradigms-new-perspectives-international>



Atlas of migration in Northern Central America
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44288-atlas-migration-northern-central-america>



Ruralidad, hambre y pobreza en América Latina y el Caribe
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/48105>

Interregional cooperation with agencies from Africa, Asia and Europe



The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean: convergent and sustainable strategies in the current global environment
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43741-european-union-and-latin-america-and-caribbean-convergent-and-sustainable>



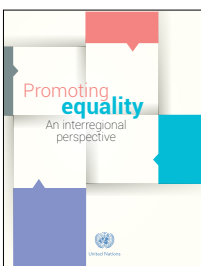
La convergencia entre la Alianza del Pacífico y el MERCOSUR: enfrentando juntos un escenario mundial desafiante
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/43614-la-convergencia-la-alianza-pacifico-mercosur-enfrentando-juntos-un-escenario>



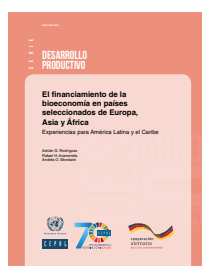
Exploring new forms of cooperation between China and Latin America and the Caribbean
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43214-exploring-new-forms-cooperation-between-china-and-latin-america-and-caribbean-tan>



Comercio e inversiones: la relación de Centroamérica y China ¿Hacia una relación estratégica en el largo plazo?
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44200-comercio-inversiones-la-relacion-centroamerica-china-relacion-estrategica-largo>



Promoting equality: an interregional perspective
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/43677-promoting-equality-interregional-perspective>



El financiamiento de la bioeconomía en países seleccionados de Europa, Asia y África: experiencias para América Latina y el Caribe
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44287-financiamiento-la-bioeconomia-paises-seleccionados-europa-asia-africa>



main results at

Main results and activities

The economic dimension

Under subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation, ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) to determine the economic and social impacts of expanding the protocol to enable the deep integration process with a view to the free movement of goods and people between Guatemala and Honduras to include El Salvador. Having carried out data collection and analysis, examined multiple factors at the national, subregional and international levels, and run simulations, ECLAC concluded that including El Salvador in the customs union would boost trade and fiscal revenue due to greater imports, thus enabling the countries to increase their participation in value chains. This, in turn, would have a positive impact on employment and would help to lower poverty and extreme poverty rates. Pursuant to the Commission's recommendations, El Salvador acceded to the Guatemala-Honduras customs union in November 2018.

“The successful completion of this [deep integration] process was made possible by the technical assistance provided by ECLAC to the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador and other State institutions, generating valuable inputs for analysis, establishing a methodological strategy for estimating ad valorem equivalents and quantifying the potential macroeconomic and social effects of the customs union.”

Oscar Cabrera Melgar, Governor, Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador

ECLAC provided technical assistance to Ecuador to evaluate possible trade and investment benefits from negotiations for a free trade agreement with the United States. This assistance included carrying out surveys with Ecuadorian firms to identify those sectors that faced major market barriers

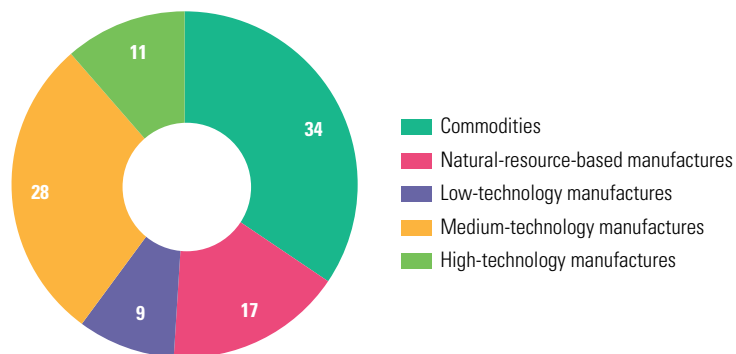
and opportunities for greater integration into value chains. ECLAC presented its preliminary findings and conclusions to the Ministry of Productivity, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fishing, which enabled the Ministry to strengthen its technical and operational capacities for negotiating a possible free trade agreement.

ECLAC continued to support the Latin America - Asia Pacific Observatory, a joint initiative with the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), whose objective is to deepen the knowledge about the economic relations between the two regions, and to have a permanent mechanism that provides the different actors of both regions with the necessary information that contributes to the adoption of policies and strategies on the issue.



The Commission also received requests from stakeholders from the public and private sectors for capacity-building and technical support in connection with action plans to mainstream environmental sustainability (calculating carbon and environmental footprints of export products) into export strategies, particularly in the food sector. Activities included the preparation of capacity-building material and the organization of workshops, such as the “Ninth ECLAC seminar on trade and sustainability: International trade as a driver for sustainable development”. These initiatives facilitated the establishment of public-private partnerships to address environmental issues in international trade, with a view to improving both the sustainability and the competitiveness of exports from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Peru.

Figure 3
Latin America and the Caribbean: goods exports to the rest of the world, by technology intensity, 2017
(Percentages)



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make up around 90% of exporting firms in Latin America and the Caribbean, but their share of total exports averages below 7%. Little data are available on exports by SMEs, which has hindered the formulation of effective policies. In 2018, ECLAC developed a methodology to collect data from exporting SMEs to serve as input for SME trade promotion policies; the central bank of El Salvador is already using this methodology. In addition, ECLAC supported trade promotion organizations’ efforts to build gender-specific approaches into export promotion policies to increase and diversify exports. The Commission prepared a publication to support these efforts and provided technical assistance to build and strengthen the capacities of trade institutions in El Salvador and Uruguay. In addition, under the subprogramme, the seminar-workshop “Promoting the internationalization of women-led businesses” was held in Peru, providing an opportunity for national offices to share their experiences on these matters. These initiatives facilitated the establishment of public-private partnerships to address gender issues in

international trade, such as the public-private alliance to promote exports by women in Peru, launched in September 2018 by five ministries and the Lima Chamber of Commerce. Key to achieving the aforementioned results, was the contribution and support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, in particular, for ECLAC initiatives regarding SME trade promotion, the Latin America-Asia Pacific Observatory and the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into export strategies.

Under subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, ECLAC has implemented a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing the capabilities of government institutions of the region to formulate and implement policies and instruments to boost productivity and progressive structural change, and to move towards more sustainable and inclusive growth. These initiatives focused on the topics of productive transformation and diversification by supporting the incorporation of sophisticated and advanced digital technologies in production processes.



Following longstanding support from ECLAC, at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in April 2018, 25 countries of the region adopted the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020)⁹ and established seven working groups to guide implementation in the following seven areas of action: 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. The Commission's support for the regional Digital Agenda has led Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to adopt policies on digital matters aimed at increasing competitiveness levels through the incorporation of digital technologies into production processes. Furthermore, the regional Digital Agenda has contributed to the design of national policies and the promotion of digital inclusiveness, such as Ecuador's national e-governance plan for 2018-2021. The Commission's research on new digital technologies and their impact on the labour market and the economy in general has led to efforts under the subprogramme that actively promote the use of big data for development and consideration of cybersecurity and privacy issues. Lastly, with regard to the formulation of evidence-based public policies, ECLAC supports the Regional Broadband Observatory (ORBA), which provides relevant and timely information that helps countries devise their own public policies for the universal provision of broadband.



In 2018, ECLAC provided technical assistance to countries of the region on issues such as the diversification of the production structure, the creation of linkages among activities, firms and sectors, and the development of productive value chains with a special emphasis on SMEs. In this regard, Chile's policy of business development centres was assessed as part of activities under the subprogramme. Technical assistance was also provided to design tax instruments that promote the creation of technology centres in Argentina and supported the establishment of an observatory of SMEs by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador. ECLAC worked with countries of the region to formulate strategies for the development of productive value chains. In Argentina, activities under subprogramme 2 included assistance to design a development plan for the medical equipment production chain, while in Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, activities focused on the design of plans to strengthen the digital animation value chain.

⁹ LC/CMSI.6/7.

“The contribution of ECLAC [...] both in the diagnosis of the production chain [of the medical equipment sector] and in the definition of a road map for sectoral development has been of paramount importance for successful policy implementation.”

Sergio Drukaroff, Undersecretary for “Buy Argentine” and Supplier Development, Ministry of Production and Labour, Argentina

In addition, activities under subprogramme 2 have influenced the current debate on the participation of the middle-income countries (MICs) in international cooperation by exploring innovative ways of measuring development beyond per capita GDP, which often conceals the structural gaps that become impediments to achieving higher levels of development. This is a very important issue for the countries of the region, the majority of which are MICs. In this connection, the Commission, together with the European Union and the OECD Development Centre, organized various seminars in the context of the first Development in Transition week from 2 to 5 October 2018.

Seminars, workshops and trainings delivered under the subprogramme focused on topics such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, the industrial Internet, e-commerce, big data, cloud services, and financing and cooperation for development. The regional conference, “Challenges in an interconnected world: Cross-border data flows, data protection and cybersecurity”, held in Santiago on 22 November 2018, brought together high-level representatives from governments, academia, the private sector and civil society to analyse the tensions between the cross-border nature of the Internet and national jurisdictions. The participation of ECLAC in the workshop on data production and SDG 12, organized in the framework of the cooperation with the national statistical office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic in October-November 2018, led to improvements in the systematic production and quality of statistics and indicators used to monitor SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production.

Lastly, studies were conducted on specific issues in connection with FDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. These studies provided valuable information and policy options to support countries in their efforts to design policies to attract high quality FDI, trends in which are set out and analysed in the annual flagship *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

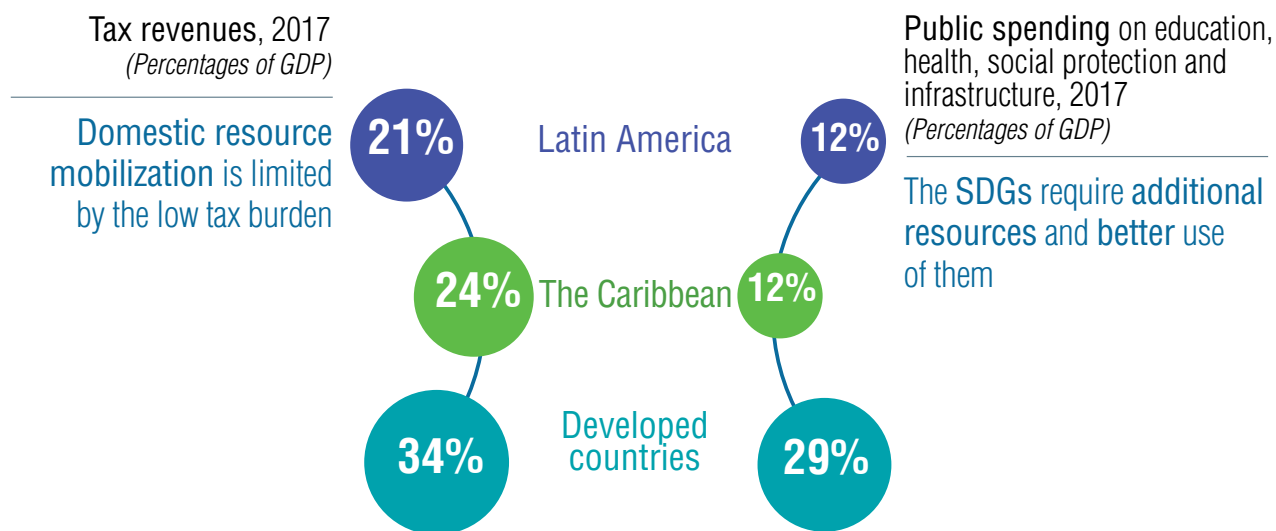
Seminars and workshops organized under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, brought together policymakers with the aim of generating instances of South-South cooperation and sharing experiences based on the Commission’s macroeconomic and development financing policy analysis and recommendations. The regional seminar for development banking experts on the regional information system for financial inclusion instruments in Latin America, organized by ECLAC in the framework of a United Nations Development Account project, was held in Santiago in June 2018. It was attended by policymakers from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The discussions of the meeting, combined with policy recommendations based on research conducted under the subprogramme, led development banks in Argentina, Ecuador and Peru to review and adjust their policies in line with ECLAC proposals. The Ministry of Production and Labour of Argentina also adopted the definition of financial inclusion proposed by ECLAC. In addition, the



association of private banks of Ecuador ASOBANCA used the national study on financial inclusion produced in the framework of the Development Account project to prepare the programme of work of Ecuador's Risk Committee.

Likewise, the thirtieth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy, held in Santiago on 26 and 27 March 2018, organized with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and OECD, and sponsored by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and German cooperation, was an occasion for policymakers to discuss the fiscal policy challenges facing their countries and the wider region. The Seminar also served to promote the regional discussion on the potential role of a reinvigorated fiscal policy framework based on more proactive countercyclical policies. The work carried out under the subprogramme in this area, as detailed in the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018*,¹⁰ which was presented at the Regional Seminar, and in the Fiscal Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean (OFILAC), added significant value to these discussions by bringing a regional dimension to the global debate, opening up new policy options in the light of the region's history and identifying the constraints imposed on the countries by the current economic context. The long-standing partnership with the Government of Spain and AECID has supported and contributed considerably to the expansion of the Commission's fiscal policy initiatives.

Latin America and the Caribbean needs active fiscal policies to finance the 2030 Agenda



Under the subprogramme technical cooperation services were provided to countries of the region covering a wide range of policy areas. Bespoke assistance to inform internal policy processes were provided to authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Commission also responded to various requests for technical advisory services in the area of labour policies. In Argentina, capacity-building support was provided to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and

¹⁰ LC/PUB.2018/4-P.

Social Security to analyse and design inclusive policies. In Colombia, technical assistance delivered under the subprogramme focused on supporting the process of harmonizing national occupational classifications, in order to improve research and public policies, as well as education and training, by identifying sought-after skills. In the Dominican Republic, significant support was provided to the Ministry of the Presidency with regard to the formulation of policies to provide universal health care, in order to strengthen social protection for those involved in accidents and the unemployed.

During the year, technical assistance and advisory services were provided to the Directorate-General for the Budget of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Haiti to strengthen the institutional capacity to design and implement short- and medium-term fiscal policies, to increase their effectiveness in tackling the social and economic challenges faced by the country, to improve the follow-up and evaluation of public investment, and to address the fiscal and budgetary processes and challenges related to the education.

“[...] These recommendations and proposals provide invaluable input for the drafting of amendments to the Social Security Act which the Government of the Dominican Republic has undertaken, and cooperation with ECLAC has thus been a vital part of this process [...]”

Juan Ariel Jiménez Núñez, Vice-Minister of Development Policies of the Presidency, Dominican Republic

The social dimension

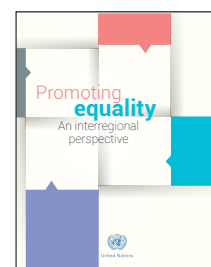
During 2018, under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, the Commission provided advisory services and delivered capacity-building activities, particularly in the areas of education, professional technical training and the labour market, putting these issues on national agendas, and thus advocating for a political dialogue to reinforce fiscal, social and labour agreements.

Important progress was made with regard to the development of social protection systems in 2018. Technical assistance provided favoured the development and strengthening of inclusive social protection policies. In line with ECLAC recommendations, the Central American Social Integration Secretariat (SISCA) formulated the Intersectoral Regional Agenda on Social Protection and Productive Inclusion with Equity (ARIPSIP) 2018–2030, and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) considered inclusive social policies as part of its Strategic Plan for Social Action (PEAS). El Salvador established a new national social protection strategy, and the Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay created a new non-contributory social protection policy and launched a new social protection network. Haiti and Peru developed proposals for new national social protection strategies. In March 2018, a two-week course on social protection was organized by ECLAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti.

In the framework of a Development Account project coordinated by ECLAC and co-implemented with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) between 2015 and 2018, the document *Promoting equality: an interregional perspective* was published. This document is a landmark as it is the first publication prepared by all

Universal and comprehensive social protection systems are a key public policy to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality

Coverage of **social protection** has grown in the region, but it is still far from universal. It is fundamental to develop comprehensive social protection systems



regional commissions on the issue of inequality. The interregional meetings on measuring inequality and developing pro-equality public policies provided platforms to share good practices and lessons learned among experts, civil servants and other stakeholders. Following the completion of the project, 15 countries have already begun to generate and report quantitative data in accordance with the project's recommendations.

During 2018, ECLAC launched the Child Labour Risk Identification Model, to implement targeted actions to prevent child labour. This tool was a joint effort between ECLAC and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO). This tool has been adopted by the Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Security Welfare, and by the Ministry of Labour of Colombia and included in the public policy guidelines on preventing and eradicating child labour and providing comprehensive protection for adolescent workers, 2017–2027. In Argentina, the tool will help to reinforce national information systems and serve as a starting point for the design of provincial operational plans as part of the implementation of the new national plan to prevent and eradicate child labour and protect adolescent labour, 2018–2022.

“We are pleased to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Mexican States to combating child labour, in coordination with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) [...] We welcome the assessment with every intention to make appropriate use of it in order to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

David Arellano Cuán, Undersecretary for Social Security, Secretariat of Labour and Social Security of Mexico, May 2018

In addition, ECLAC launched activities linked to the study on *The Cost of the Double Burden of Malnutrition* in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Based on the Commission's long-standing strategic partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), this initiative calls for nutrition to be made a priority in national plans as a matter of urgency and for increased resource mobilization to ensure the implementation of those plans. In addition, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic implemented the Commission's recommendations on reintegrating youth and adolescents into school and has adopted measures to take students' interests into consideration with regard to technical and vocational education and training at the secondary level, thus making them active participants in their own training processes. The Government of Norway supported these activities and the preparation of five publications focused on strengthening the links between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and the labour market.

Lastly, at the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC presented the Social Development Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was considered a valuable source of regional information on this matter. The Observatory includes a set of databases on food and nutrition security, non-contributory social protection programmes, youth and social inclusion, social institutional frameworks and other sources of information relevant to the region.

Under subprogramme 5, Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development, technical cooperation services were provided to countries of the region over the course of the year to strengthen gender equality policies in line with the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements. In this connection, Uruguay created the national strategy for gender equality 2030 and Costa Rica adopted the national policy for effective equality between women and men 2018-2030 with the Commission’s support.

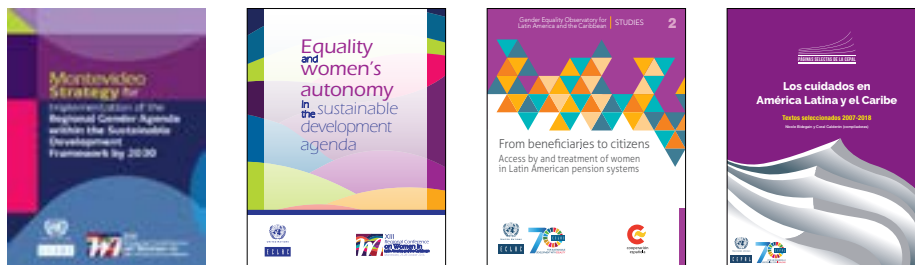
“I would like to express [...] our gratitude for the technical assistance provided [...] and the invaluable support which helped to build technical capacity in several of the country’s public institutions in the calculation of vital gender-sensitive indicators.”

Alexandra Izquierdo, Director of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic, December 2018

Pursuant to the agreements and resolutions adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the subsequent meetings of its Presiding Officers, the countries of the region have adopted relevant policy actions. For example, in April 2018, Mexico issued a Presidential Decree amending article 11 of the Act on Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence to include behaviour identified in the Federal Labour Act as an example of workplace violence. In July, Peru adopted Legislative Decree No. 1,368, creating the national specialized justice system for protection against and punishment of violence against women and members of the family group. In August, Ecuador adopted the Act for the Comprehensive Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women, focusing in particular on women in situations of vulnerability, and issued Executive Decree No. 397, on the prevention and eradication of violence against women. Lastly, in December, Uruguay adopted Law No 19,580, establishing norms against gender-based violence against women.

Spanish cooperation has been a very important ally for the Commission’s gender mainstreaming efforts, providing support for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and the work of the secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

 **Gender Equality Observatory**
for Latin America and the Caribbean



Technical cooperation on gender statistics was also provided in the framework of the subprogramme. In this regard, technical support was provided to the national statistical offices of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala

and Paraguay on generating statistics and time-use indicators that reveal the gaps between men and women, in connection with the follow-up and monitoring of SDGs 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11. At a training workshop on processing and analysing time-use data in order to construct indicators for the follow-up of the SDGs held in Santiago in July 2018, participants discussed the lessons learned from their experiences of collecting time-use information and calculated strategic indicators for monitoring the SDGs using national databases. The workshop helped to develop the capacities of technical staff from national statistical offices and mechanisms for the advancement of women.

Similarly, under subprogramme 6, Population and development, technical assistance was provided both remotely and face-to-face to 35 institutions for population issues from the region to strengthen capacities to monitor population trends and to address population and development issues with a view to drawing up sociodemographic policies and programmes. Those institutions valued the importance of these demographic methodologies and tools. For example, technical assistance was provided to Guatemala throughout 2018, which included a comprehensive analysis of the conduct of the twelfth national population census and the seventh national housing census by the Census Unit and the National Statistical Office.

The National Institute of Statistics (INE) expresses its “appreciation for the valuable technical assistance that the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC has provided to the Institute [...] in connection with the twelfth national population census and the seventh national housing census [...] ensuring that the process was technically robust and building capacity in the Institute and across the country.”

Néstor Mauricio Guerra Morales, Manager, National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, February 2019



Training was provided to strengthen the capacities of the national statistical offices across the region to process and analyse information from censuses, particularly population and housing censuses. For example, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC ran a training course, attended by 49 national officers from Argentina, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay, on using the statistical tool for the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) and on data processing and analysis for evidence-based public policies. The national statistical offices of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Mexico and Paraguay also received technical assistance and subsequently used the new knowledge acquired and the methodologies and tools prepared under the subprogramme at different stages of their respective census processes. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been the Commission’s long-standing partner in efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of countries to generate and use population data.

Over the course of 2018, 23 actions related to human rights, sexual and reproductive health, adolescents and youth, gender, ageing, indigenous peoples and sexual minorities were implemented across Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. As a result of these actions, some of which were supported by the Ford Foundation, countries have taken steps to improve

the identification of indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants and persons with disabilities in censuses. For example, Colombia undertook structured consultations with indigenous peoples prior to the 2018 censuses in order to guarantee their right to free, prior and informed consent. With regard to persons with disabilities, the national statistical offices of Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay refined the relevant questions in their respective censuses and adopted the social model of disability, replacing the biomedical model commonly used in previous censuses, which was an innovative step for the region.

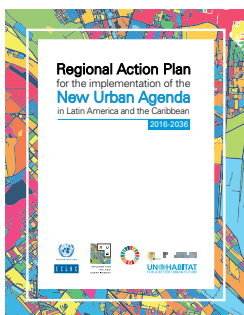
Further to technical assistance provided under the subprogramme and in the framework of the Development Account project, “Demographic transition: opportunities and challenges to achieve the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean”, Brazil, Chile and Mexico produced National Transfer Accounts, strengthened their analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of demographic changes and enhanced their ability to formulate long-term policies focused on attaining the SDGs. A series of national workshops aimed at creating awareness of the usefulness of National Transfer Accounts were also undertaken over the course of 2018 in Colombia, Brazil, El Salvador and Mexico, all of which were evaluated positively by the participants. As a result, the national authorities of Brazil and Colombia identified National Transfer Accounts studies as a fundamental tool to measure the impact of public policies on the promotion of inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and highlighted the importance of National Transfer Accounts in anticipating the impacts of the ageing process on economic and fiscal policies.

The sustainability dimension

In 2018, in the framework of subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, the Commission took steps to monitor the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), which identify the adaptation and mitigation targets of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the Paris Agreement. Under the subprogramme, technical support was provided to Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to develop a methodology for social carbon pricing to evaluate public investment projects. The course on prioritizing public policies in the context of climate change was carried out in Caracas in July 2018 and focused on the use of multi-criteria analysis to evaluate and prioritize public policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC also provided technical assistance to Guatemala, offering inputs for the formulation of an environmental tax strategy, which seeks to guide public and private investment and budget allocations to meet national and international commitments on climate change adaptation and mitigation and the protection of natural resources. The ongoing support of the European Commission, through its programme, EUROCLIMA+, and of the Government of Germany, through different cooperation programmes, have been instrumental in achieving these results.

“The participation of ECLAC officials throughout the process has been instrumental in the progress and development of the [country’s environmental economics] strategy.”

Lionel Fernando Lopez Valdés, Vice-Minister of Income and Fiscal Evaluation of the Ministry of Public Finance, Guatemala



The *Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2036*,¹¹ published in February 2018, provides the countries of the region with a guide for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, taking into account national specificities. Several countries, including Costa Rica, Cuba and Ecuador, and cities, such as Valparaiso in Chile, have begun to develop plans to implement the New Urban Agenda in their particular contexts. The capacity-building seminars organized during the year in Barranquilla, Colombia, and Chacabuco, Chile, on disaster risk reduction and risk management at the city level, allowed for the peer-to-peer exchange of best practices, strengthening South-South collaboration. Furthermore, workshops on urban resilience helped selected municipalities to mainstream disaster risk management into their local development strategies.

The Regional Action Plan was presented at the second Cities Conference, held in Santiago, in October 2018, which provided an important platform for peer-to-peer discussions and information sharing. The *Proposal for the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform*,¹² an instrument to support monitoring of urban development in the region and promote capacity-building and experience-sharing among practitioners, was well received by stakeholders at both the Conference and the twenty-seventh General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), at which participants expressed support for continuing to develop the Platform. The second Cities Conference called for public-private partnerships to be strengthened and coherent planning strategies to ensure urban sustainability in the region.



In relation to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which was adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica, on 4 March 2018, two documents were published: a regional assessment on *Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*¹³ and *Ensuring environmental access rights in the Caribbean: analysis of selected case law*,¹⁴ a study on a case law conducted with the Caribbean Court of Justice.

To support the process and build countries' capacities in environmental matters, including civil society organizations and the wider population, work also continued under the subprogramme to update and improve the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, which contains legislation, policies and case law from the 33 countries of the region. Lastly, over the course of the year, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay received support from ECLAC with regard to the design of policies on sustainable urban mobility, clean energy transition, the bioeconomy and climate change adaptation. Environmental expenditure estimates for Costa Rica were published in March, with the figures officially recognized by the government. In the same month and within the framework of the process of environmental expenditure analysis, Costa Rica created the National Council for Environmental Accounts.

¹¹ LC/TS.2017/77/Rev.2.

¹² LC/TS.2018/81.

¹³ LC/TS.2017/83.

¹⁴ LC/TS.2018/31/Rev.1.

Under subprogramme 8, Natural resources and infrastructure, technical support was also provided to countries of the region in 2018 to improve their capacity to design policies related to water management, renewable energy, natural resources governance, infrastructure, road safety, logistics and mobility. Inadequate cross-border international transport facilitation is one of the main determining factors behind the high logistics and transportation costs in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC therefore helped to foster the dialogue between the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which not only strengthened the technical capacities of both countries, but also contributed to building the right enabling political environment to advance preparations for a cross-border ground transportation protocol. In addition, the launch of the Central American Regional Framework Policy on Mobility and Logistics in April marked another important milestone in the Central American integration process, which was the result of technical cooperation, advocacy and institutional coordination by ECLAC with subregional and multilateral cooperation partners. This instrument promotes coordinated efforts to implement and finance regional transport projects to improve connectivity, reduce the costs and externalities of transport and encourage regional integration as a key element for sustainable development.

“I have the honour to write to you to express the gratitude of this Ministry for the support of [...] the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division in strengthening the technical capacity of Dominican government officials in the matter of overland cross-border transport services, which has helped us to draw up a draft protocol between the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti.”

Miguel Vargas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

The political and technical regional dialogue organized by ECLAC and German cooperation in May 2018 on the water-energy-food nexus made policymakers aware of the interconnections among those basic human requirements and of the need for national authorities to work together to coordinate new public policies or measures to promote more sustainable development. ECLAC, in conjunction with German cooperation, also organized the second Regional Technical Forum for Energy Planners in October, at which participants shared their experiences related to energy planning and the integration of renewable energies. Despite the progress made by the Latin American and Caribbean countries to diversify their energy matrix to include renewable sources, efforts must be redoubled to improve the design of policies, tools and mechanisms that promote universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy. In this connection, the Regional Observatory on Sustainable Energy (ROSE) is being developed to provide tools to monitor progress made towards attaining SDG 7. Energy authorities of 15 countries of the region participated in the meeting to launch this initiative in October, and training activities were carried out in Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, to strengthen national technical capacities for assessing and monitoring progress made in expanding access to and coverage of sustainable energy.

At the high-level seminar on Mining in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC in conjunction with the ninth Mines Ministers of the Americas Conference (CAMMA), held in Lima, in November 2018, it was stressed that mining governance must be promoted to contribute to the sustainability of national development processes, which would require a long-term vision for institutional innovation to maximize social benefits. German cooperation has strongly supported activities related to water, energy and sustainable mining.

Lastly, under the subprogramme, activities were coordinated with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety, which offered an excellent opportunity to deepen collaboration with entities of the United Nations system, to highlight the economic and social impacts of sustainable mobility, to discuss international best practices and to promote the adoption of United Nations conventions on road safety and cooperation in that regard.

The public management and statistics dimension

In the framework of subprogramme 9, Planning of public administration, technical support was provided to Latin American and Caribbean countries to strengthen the planning and public management processes of public entities, both at the national and subnational levels. As a result, the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) of Mexico strengthened its results-based budgeting and evaluation capacities. Meanwhile, in Argentina, the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) Argentina incorporated the 2030 Agenda at both the subnational and local government levels, and the data of the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development were used as inputs by the Secretariat of Territorial Planning and Coordination of Public Works to formulate the Strategic Territorial Plan. Furthermore, ILPES provided: training courses on methodologies for planning, formulating, and executing production development projects for the Ministry of Production of the province of Buenos Aires; capacity-building activities for the national Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay on methodologies for participatory planning processes and territorial development; and technical cooperation of planning and public management processes to the Civil Aviation Authority of Panama.

Over the course of the year, the Commission, through ILPES, used its convening power to foster coordination and the sharing of best practices, and to enhance cooperation among governments of the region and other stakeholders on matters pertaining to planning and public administration for development. For example, senior representatives from a total of 15 relevant public agencies from 12 countries participated in: the side event, entitled “Planning as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda: tools, instruments and methodologies”, held on the margins of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in April; the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of National Public Investment Systems (SNIP Network) in May 2018; a peer-to-peer learning event on planning tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Mexico; the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning, held in Santo Domingo, in August; and the fifth international event organized by ECLAC on foresight for development, the “Seminar on 70 years of ECLAC: forward-looking development planning”, held in October.

The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development is the Commission’s most consulted observatory, making it an important source of relevant and up-to-date information, analysis and experience-sharing on planning for development. It has been instrumental in fostering discussions and the exchange of knowledge across the region, thus encouraging stakeholders to take ownership of the platform and providing a crucial learning tool at national and regional levels. Additional analytical categories and information for each of the 33 countries of the region were incorporated in the Observatory in 2018, such as the mapping of national planning systems, national development and open government plans, and the linkages between those plans and the achievement of the SDGs. As a result, the Observatory’s diverse set of legal frameworks has served as

a benchmark as acknowledged by Uruguay and Chile. It formed the basis of Guatemala’s strategy to incorporate the SDGs into its national development plan, *K’atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032*. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina recognized the importance of the Observatory and PlanBarometer as tools for improving planning for development processes in its Strategic Territorial Plan.

All the activities undertaken by ILPES have benefited from the support provided by two of the Commission’s most important strategic partners, namely the Governments of Spain and Germany.

Tools for strengthening regional capacities



Regional Observatory on Planning for Development



Training and communities of practice



Facilitating self-evaluation for improved planning capacities



Methodology: critical nodes and integrated SDG planning

“Thanks to the support from ECLAC, and ILPES in particular, on the issue of alignment [of the national development plan, “K’atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032”] with the 2030 Agenda, we are now laying the foundations for a prioritized agenda.”

Miguel Angel Moir, Secretary of Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala

Under subprogramme 10, Statistics, advisory services, training and technical assistance were provided to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen their technical capacities to monitor economic, environmental and social trends in order to formulate evidence-based policies and to follow up and monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In 2018, activities and workshops were held and technical assistance was provided to countries of the region, in collaboration with the World Bank, in connection with the current round of the International Comparison Programme.

National processes to validate information on prices and national accounts for international comparability were improved. Technical assistance provided by ECLAC helped Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to produce better quality price statistics. Following technical cooperation, Paraguay began to produce quarterly national accounts and adopted supply and use tables, while Guatemala developed its input-output matrix and also began to compile quarterly national accounts.



“The experts from ECLAC provided invaluable input, both from a theoretical and a practical perspective, given their extensive knowledge and methodological expertise used to share their experiences with staff at the Central Bank of Ecuador. Continued technical assistance from ECLAC in these areas is therefore essential, as this will improve the management of national accounts.”

César Danilo Estrella, Deputy Director, National Office for Macroeconomic Synthesis, Central Bank of Ecuador, January 2019

Within the framework of subprogramme 10, activities were undertaken to enhance the national statistical capacities of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to produce environmental statistics, indicators and accounts. Other countries also affirmed their commitment to prepare national plans to develop their environmental statistics with a view to building indicators on the use of natural resources, biodiversity and climate change, and thus to being better positioned to undertake evidence-based monitoring of important elements of the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda. With German cooperation support, ECLAC launched the regional network of environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean in June, an informal collaborative platform that seeks to strengthen institutional and technical capacities and foster regional collaboration in this area.

Methodological guidelines for measuring income poverty¹⁵ were published in December 2018 as a reference for national statistical offices and the academic community. The document sets out a new protocol for accessing household surveys databases, to ensure better use of one of the main sources of information available for research and analysis. Following technical assistance provided by ECLAC, Ecuador improved the design of its National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, Jamaica adopted new analysis practices for the 2017 Household Expenditure Survey and the annual Survey of Living Conditions, and El Salvador restructured data collection process for its National Multipurpose Survey.

Activities under the subprogramme also helped to strengthen national capacities. These included organizing discussion and learning forums on innovative uses of data to produce environmental, economic and social statistics and on disaggregating data using new methodologies which combine several sources of information.

With regard to geospatial statistics, technical assistance and advisory services provided under the subprogramme contributed to the development of national baselines for geospatial information management, in accordance with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGIM) guidelines. Inter-institutional workshops focusing on issues such as the use of geospatial information to support the 2030 Agenda and census mapping updates were also organized. As a result of these activities, actions have been taken at the national level to strengthen processes to manage geospatial information; for example, to date, spatial data infrastructure has been officially created in 17 countries of the region. In addition, national institutions have prepared documents and roadmaps to be implemented in the short and medium term. For example, ECLAC organized a workshop in July 2018 and provided technical support to Guyana to assess geospatial information management nationwide and to elaborate a roadmap to advance the development of a national geospatial framework. As a result, Guyana has revised its draft National Geographic Information System Policy, which has been submitted to the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission.

Lastly, the Commission provided leadership to achieve regional consensus among the members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on a prioritized set of region-specific indicators to follow up and monitor the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (see the section on Highlights of 2018 for more details).

¹⁵ *Medición de la pobreza por ingresos: actualización metodológica y resultados*, Metodologías de la CEPAL, No. 2 (LC/PUB.2018/22-P), 2018 (English version forthcoming).

The subregional dimension

During 2018, the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico delivered technical assistance and advisory services to the countries of the subregion on issues related to the implementation of the SDGs, energy, value chains, climate change and food and nutrition security, fiscal matters, disaster and loss assessment, and migration.

The subregional headquarters supported the efforts of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico to develop a comprehensive plan to address migration challenges, by providing analysis and policy recommendations (see the section on Highlights of 2018 for more details).

As a result of technical support provided under subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, harmonized input-output tables were developed by Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, forming the basis for the first input-output table of Central American countries. This work is key to addressing policy issues related to integration, trade and industrial policies in the subregion. Furthermore, following the provision of technical assistance by ECLAC, the Regional Centre for the Promotion of MSME (CENPROMYPE) and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) are applying the Commission's methodology to develop regional value chains to their work to promote further integration in the subregion.

The subregional headquarters in Mexico worked closely with the Council of Energy Ministers of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to approve for the first time four energy efficiency standards for Central America. The subprogramme activities continue to provide a benchmark for energy statistics in the subregion. As a result of the technical support provided, Panama and El Salvador updated their price mechanisms for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which will ensure the continuity of a targeted policy of prices and subsidies for low-income families. In addition, pursuant to the activities carried out as part of the Development Account project on sustainable energy policies, the first draft of the Central American Sustainable Energy Strategy 2030 was presented at the fifty-second meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of SICA, held in Belize in December 2018. This Strategy, aimed at ensuring universal access to modern energy services, increasing the use of renewable energies and improving energy efficiency, was designed taking into account the priorities of the eight SICA member States as well as their international commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The mainstreaming of SDG 7 is one of the major topics in this new Strategy.

"I would like to [...] express my personal thanks for the substantial contributions and the inestimable technical cooperation provided to the Ministry of Economic Affairs by the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico, which has played a vital role [...] in enhancing [...] the review and update of the reference formulas for the prices of liquefied petroleum gas."

Luz Estrella Rodriguez, Minister of Economic Affairs of El Salvador

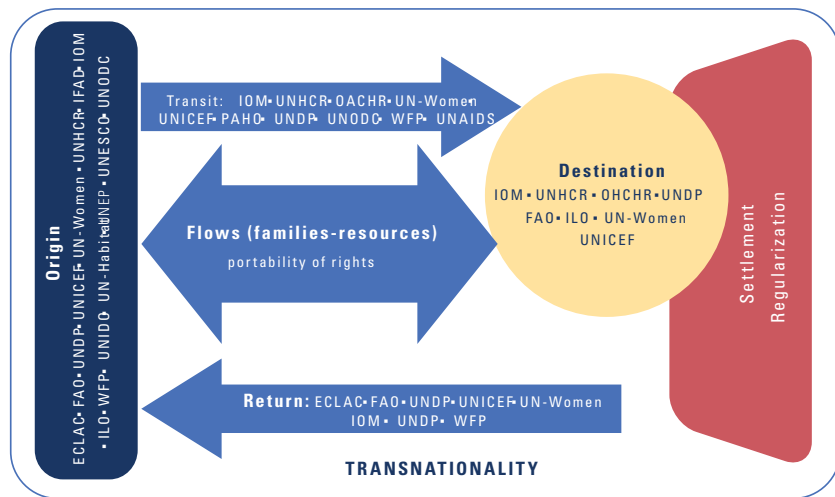
The ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico also prepared several technical studies on various development issues. For example, three documents were published on the relationship between climate change and food and nutrition

security. Studies, including methodological proposals, were also produced on remittances, financial inclusion and value chains, providing sound empirical evidence to design participatory public policies. The tax administration service of Mexico benefitted from a study conducted by ECLAC on best practices to reduce evasion of value added tax (VAT), and Guatemala defined its development strategy using the methodology developed by ECLAC on planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean,¹⁶ based on the identification of critical nodes and links between the 2030 Agenda and planning instruments.

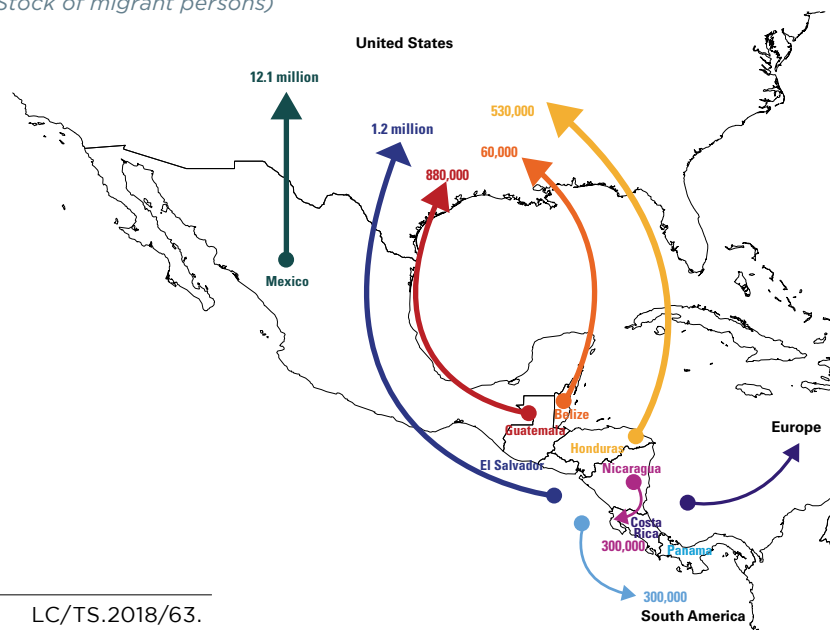
Supporting SDG implementation in Central America

ECLAC analysed the challenges faced by Central American countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on legal frameworks, planning instruments, public policies, institutions and resource availability

The migration cycle and United Nations agencies involved



Central America and Mexico: main migration destinations, 2015
(Stock of migrant persons)



¹⁶ LC/TS.2018/63.

ECLAC provided technical support to apply the damage and loss assessment methodology to estimate the socioeconomic and environmental impact of the Fuego volcano eruption in Guatemala, with a focus on the environmental and agricultural sectors. In addition, support was given to determine the investments needed to ensure a resilient reconstruction process of the affected localities.

Lastly, the subregional headquarters in Mexico conducted several training activities and workshops in Cuba on debt sustainability, value chain analysis, financial programming for government officials and disaster risk management, jointly with the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. Training activities were also carried out in Haiti on social protection for government officials.

During 2018, the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean supported the efforts of the countries of the subregion to establish an institutional framework for the implementation and integration of the SDGs into national development planning processes. In this regard, the Bahamas benefitted from ECLAC technical advice in the preparation and presentation of its voluntary national review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2018. ECLAC also contributed to the draft monitoring and evaluation framework of Vision 2040, National Development Plan of the Bahamas.

Technical support in connection with disaster assessment was also provided to countries of the subregion. The damage and loss assessment reports produced by ECLAC for the Government of the Bahamas in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were used to successfully request a contingent disaster loan of US\$ 100 million from IDB. In addition, the Government of Anguilla used the ECLAC damage and loss assessment report to appeal for financial resources from the United Kingdom to fund reconstruction of the damage caused by Hurricane Irma in 2017. In addition, and in the framework of subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, a training course on the value and use of the damage and loss assessment methodology was organized, which was attended by over 250 government officials and practitioners from six Caribbean countries and one subregional organization.

In collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), other regional inter-governmental bodies, United Nations agencies and civil society groups, ECLAC convened the Caribbean small island developing States regional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in San Pedro, Belize, in August 2018, prior to the midterm review to be held in 2019. At the meeting, the representatives of the Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) adopted the San Pedro Declaration and defined a programme of implementation for the next five years, emphasizing the importance of building resilience in all its dimensions and identifying priority areas for action, including calls for specific support from ECLAC. The San Pedro Declaration stresses the need for an integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and other sustainable development agreements, to strengthen coherence in overcoming the multiple challenges facing SIDS.

The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean also co-hosted the fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, in April 2018, on the central theme of which was promoting climate resilience and sustainable economic growth in the Caribbean. At the meeting, development experts reflected on how to implement the ECLAC debt swap initiative to promote climate resilience and on financing green investment for resilience building and structural transformation in the Caribbean. Other topics discussed at the meeting included: promoting fiscal responsibility and financial management within the context of the region's high debt burden; and addressing the vulnerability of Caribbean economies caused by de-risking and challenges to the offshore financial sector. Its recommendations were endorsed at the twenty-seventh session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), which was attended by senior-level government officials from 14 member States and 6 associate members, as well as representatives from other organizations, and where discussions focused on policies related to the issues of climate resilience and sustainable economic growth, and on the broader outlook for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development convened under subprogramme 12 in Georgetown, in July, brought together youth directors and other senior-level government officials responsible for youth affairs from 15 Caribbean countries and territories and other organizations in a high-level subregional dialogue around the issue of youth and development in the Caribbean. A policy brief was prepared on implementation strategies for youth participation in sustainable development processes. Additionally, a subregional review and evaluation of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean was prepared,¹⁷ and a paper was published on population ageing and sustainable development in the Caribbean.¹⁸ Lastly, ECLAC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) produced a road map towards a Caribbean strategy for informal settlements upgrading and inclusive urbanization, which seeks to foster coordinated actions to promote greater knowledge exchange and financing for sustainable urbanization.

Under subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, technical and substantive inputs were provided to support regional discussions and consensus building, with a specialized approach integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. Most notable in this regard were the establishment of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. More than 1000 participants attended the second meeting of the Forum, held at ECLAC headquarters in April, including more than 160 government delegates, representing

¹⁷ F. Jones and others, "Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: a review of the period 2013–2018", *Studies and Perspectives series-ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean*, No. 76 ((LC/TS.2019/8; LC/CAR/TS.2018/4), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2019.

¹⁸ N. Quashie and others, "Population ageing and sustainable development in the Caribbean: where are we 15 years post MIPAA?", *International Journal on Ageing in Developing Countries*, vol. 2, No. 2, 2018.

28 member States, 120 representatives of intergovernmental organizations and 230 representatives of some 180 civil society organizations, in line with the multi-stakeholder approach of the 2030 Agenda.

The results under subprogramme 13 are clear evidence of the growing importance of the regional dimension, which is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A strong regional architecture, as represented by the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, brings to the fore issues pertinent to Latin America and the Caribbean and allows them to be relayed to global forums. Moreover, the participants at the second meeting of the Forum recognized that the follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels of the 2030 Agenda can provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion of shared targets. Furthermore, and in line with the 2030 Agenda multi-stakeholder approach, the Forum brings together national government representatives with the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC), promoting the integration of the national and regional levels. The Forum provided opportunities for face-to-face meetings and participation to enhance regional and subregional integration processes, furthering efforts under the subprogramme.

The regional interactive dialogue of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the priorities of the region, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 29 November 2018. The objective of the meeting was to address the region's shared challenges and priorities in relation to South-South cooperation and to prepare a regional contribution for the draft outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. The interactive dialogue focused on regional cooperation guidelines that reflect the identity of Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular middle-income countries and small island developing States. It was underlined that the regional commissions should be responsible for the regional follow-up of the outcome of the second High-level Conference of the United Nations on South-South Cooperation.

The activities carried out under the subprogramme benefitted from the strategic partnerships established between ECLAC and the Governments of Mexico and Germany, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility.

ECLAC national offices

Throughout 2018, the **ECLAC office in Washington, D.C.**, continued to serve as the liaison office with the Governments of the United States of America and of Canada and with the international organizations based in Washington, D.C. The office provided relevant and timely monitoring and analysis of developments in the United States' economy and global financial markets, assisting the region of Latin America and the Caribbean in its evaluations of key analytical and policy issues such as: access to international financial markets; the impact of sovereign credit ratings changes on country risk measures; and access to bond markets by the Caribbean and Central American economies. This helped to improve key regional stakeholders' understanding of the region's economies and policymaking

options. The office also provided technical support, including the preparation of reports and statistical inputs for the Joint Summit Working Group of the Summits of the Americas and new Chair of the process (Peru), which provide comparative analysis and an overview of the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. These efforts led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding in September, formalizing a framework for collaboration to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the mandates of Summits of the Americas by ECLAC and ten other international organizations.

In 2018, 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 worked in close collaboration with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) on an analysis and evaluation of the management of the programme, *Brasil Mais Produtivo*, as set out in the publication *Avaliação de desempenho do Brasil Mais Produtivo*,¹⁹ which was presented to key authorities, including representatives of the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, at a seminar held in December. In collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Centre for Strategic Studies and Management (CGEE), the office organized a seminar on the environmental big push, which seeks to decouple economic growth and job creation needed to raise the population's living standards and reduce inequalities from greenhouse gas emissions. The expertise shared by the office placed a spotlight on the potential opportunities and challenges of low carbon investments for sustainable economic growth that would result from the adoption of this ECLAC approach by Brazil.

During the year, the **ECLAC office in Bogotá** worked to promote better conditions to foster public policies. In this regard, the office led implementation of the Development Account project on rural-urban linkages for inclusive development in Colombia as a basis for the national peacebuilding process. In 2018, the first year of the project, three key lectures were delivered on territorial development, and broader technical cooperation support was provided to experts in social, territorial and economic development from various sectors, through analysis, discussion and consensus-seeking to promote a more integrated rural-urban development. These efforts were recognized by the national authorities. The Commission's recommendations were incorporated into the 2018–2022 National Development Plan: "A compact for Colombia, a compact for equity", which includes tools and coordination mechanisms to strengthen rural-urban linkages, with a strong emphasis on youth, women and the bioeconomy.

Throughout 2018 the **ECLAC office in Buenos Aires** continued to provide technical assistance and carried out technical cooperation activities with national and provincial governments. In collaboration with the Argentine Industrial Association, the office developed a study on production integration between Argentina and Brazil, *Integración productiva entre la Argentina y el Brasil Un análisis basado en metodologías de insumo-producto interpaís*.²⁰ Subsequently, technical assistance was provided to the Secretariat of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Production and Labour of Argentina on potential production integration between Argentina and Chile, based on the Brazilian model. Two workshops were organized on the use of input-output

¹⁹ LC/TS.2018/99-LC/BRS/TS.2018/1.

²⁰ LC/TS.2018/37-LC/BUE/TS.2018/1.

table techniques, one for 29 Argentine government experts and officials, while the other was aimed at Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) country officials. The transfer of this technical expertise and dissemination of the resulting studies among policymakers reinforced the importance of fostering industrial and technological policies, as well as regional economic integration, to attain the SDGs.

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 the year, the office, in collaboration with the Office of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), published a book on child-oriented public policies, *Las políticas públicas dirigidas a la infancia: aportes desde Uruguay*,²¹ which seeks to transmit technical knowledge to the national government for the design of policies and fiscal measures to ensure that adequate economic resources are directed towards child-oriented actions. In addition to analysing social public spending on children and its distributive impact, the publication also examines issues related to the identification of beneficiaries and the location of the services offered in the case of two specific policy measures, namely the *Uruguay Crece Contigo* programme and the childhood care component under the National Comprehensive Care System.

²¹ LC/TS.2018/68-LC/MVD/TS.2018/3.

6

partnerships

Strategic partnerships for development

ECLAC continued to foster partnerships and strengthen strategic alliances with various stakeholders in 2018 in order to expand its technical cooperation activities, particularly those focused on supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These partnerships complement the financial resources the Commission receives under the regular budget, allowing its assistance operations to be expanded to better respond to member States' growing needs and demands. As a well-established regional think-tank with in-house research capacity, in addition to its convening power and operational capacities, ECLAC adds value to these strategic partnerships. The Commission has long been regarded as a cost-efficient and effective implementing entity of international and regional cooperation. It also has developed comparative advantages to effectively produce and systematize a broad range of data sets and statistics to inform evidence-based policy options, and to communicate and disseminate public information on the impact of cooperation activities, thanks to its networking and relational endowment. In turn, the institutional and financial support from these cooperation partnerships—which have been concluded with other ECLAC member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, multilateral organizations, academic centres and universities, foundations, the private sector and NGOs—leverage the institutional capacities and the convening power of ECLAC, built up over seven decades. As a result, the Commission can provide better responses to emerging issues on the regional and global agenda, focus on specific groups of countries and beneficiaries, and adopt a collective approach to problem-solving and the generation of regional public goods and services. The projects implemented with cooperation partners also offer opportunities to explore innovative technical solutions, build on successful experiences and disseminate best practices.

Technical cooperation agreements signed in 2018

Bilateral agreements	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	17
Governments outside the region	7
Non-governmental organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean	2
Non-governmental organizations outside the region	2
Academic institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean	4
Academic institutions outside the region	2
Total agreements	34
Multilateral agreements	
Agencies of the United Nations system	4
Development banks	1
European Commission	1
Intergovernmental organizations and others	2
Total multilateral agreements	8
Total new framework agreements	42

Technical cooperation projects signed in 2018

Bilateral projects	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	15
Governments outside the region	18
Non-governmental organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean	1
Non-governmental organizations outside the region	1
Academic institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean	0
Academic institutions outside the region	0
Total bilateral projects	35
Multilateral projects	
Agencies of the United Nations system	13
Development banks	1
European Commission	3
Private sector	1
Total multilateral projects	18
Total new framework projects	53

The Commission's strategic and programmatic partnerships cover institutional, substantive and technical support from key partners, such as government entities, academic institutions and civil society organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions. In addition to nurturing long-term partnerships, ECLAC is constantly exploring new cooperation opportunities with relevant actors interested in the development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC continued to consolidate its bilateral cooperation with countries of the region, signing new agreements with Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, and Uruguay and renewing commitments with others, such as Brazil and Chile. The Commission also strengthened its strategic alliances with bilateral partners outside the region such as Germany, Spain, the Republic of Korea, France and Norway. This is particularly important in a region made up of mainly middle-income countries, as an increasing number of them do not have access to official development assistance (ODA) or receive less.

While not all partnerships provide for the transfer of financial resources, they are instrumental in facilitating knowledge-sharing, identifying good practices and enhancing the dissemination of the Commission's work. In terms of mobilization of funds and execution of extrabudgetary resources, 2018 saw a great deal of activity. ECLAC was able to mobilize some US\$ 11 million in connection with 53 projects (some of which are set to run until 2021) and signed 42 framework agreements (although not all of these provided for financial resources).





Regarding multilateral sources, ECLAC consolidated a crucial strategic alliance with the European Commission, with which it is working on two new initiatives: EUROCLIMA+ (1.5 million euros) and the Regional Facility for Development in Transition (2 million euros). The aim of Regional Facility is to pilot new development cooperation schemes tailored to the needs of countries transitioning to relatively higher levels of development.

ECLAC has also promoted the reinforcement of multilateralism through innovative cooperation schemes. For example, ECLAC and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are responsible for administering the multi-donor trust fund for the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), to support FEALAC-wide projects that promote inter-regional cooperation. The fund has already received voluntary contributions of US\$ 2,310,000 from the Republic of Korea, Peru, Thailand, Mexico, the Philippines and Laos, as well as formal pledges from Viet Nam, Panama and Chile. At the first Steering Committee Meeting of the FEALAC Trust Fund, held in Seoul, in January 2018, the first two interregional projects were adopted for the period 2018–2020: “Reducing inequality in FEALAC member countries: innovative policymaking that leaves no one behind” (led by ESCAP) and “Value chain development for deeper integration of East Asia and Latin America” (led by ECLAC).

Likewise, sister institutions from the United Nations development system have complemented their cooperation activities in the region with more comprehensive and far-reaching joint programmes with ECLAC in 2018. These partners include among others UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), WFP (including its country office in Ethiopia) and IFAD, which has become one of ECLAC’s main donors through the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico.

Throughout the year, cooperation with development banks were also an important part of the Commission’s technical cooperation extrabudgetary portfolio. The partnership with the World Bank was renewed and strengthened, with a new contribution of US\$ 400,000 for a region-wide international price comparison project. ECLAC has also received indirect financing from IDB through the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Haiti, amounting to US\$ 500,000, to strengthen the technical capacities of the Directorate General for the Budget of the Ministry.

Partnerships with foundations, NGOs and the private sector have also been fostered by ECLAC. In 2018, the Commission signed an agreement with the Ford Foundation to undertake studies and draft policy options to improve the socioeconomic conditions of indigenous peoples. It also entered into its first partnership with the private sector, signing a project valued at US\$ 100,000 with Google to evaluate the impact of digital technologies on the economies of the region.

The Commission will continue to work with the countries of the region and with the international community through its increasingly diverse range of partnerships, using its institutional and analytical capacities and the existing regional intergovernmental architecture to promote innovative ideas and political dialogue for sustainable development.



ECLAC technical cooperation missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, by type of mission, 2018



Results-based

Results-based management and outreach

In 2018, ECLAC took steps to adapt swiftly to the challenges presented by the various ongoing reforms of the United Nations system. Perhaps the most significant change is the move from a biennial to an annual programme budget cycle, starting in 2020. ECLAC has therefore adjusted its planning modality and presented draft programme of work for 2020 at its thirty-seventh session in Havana, in May 2018.

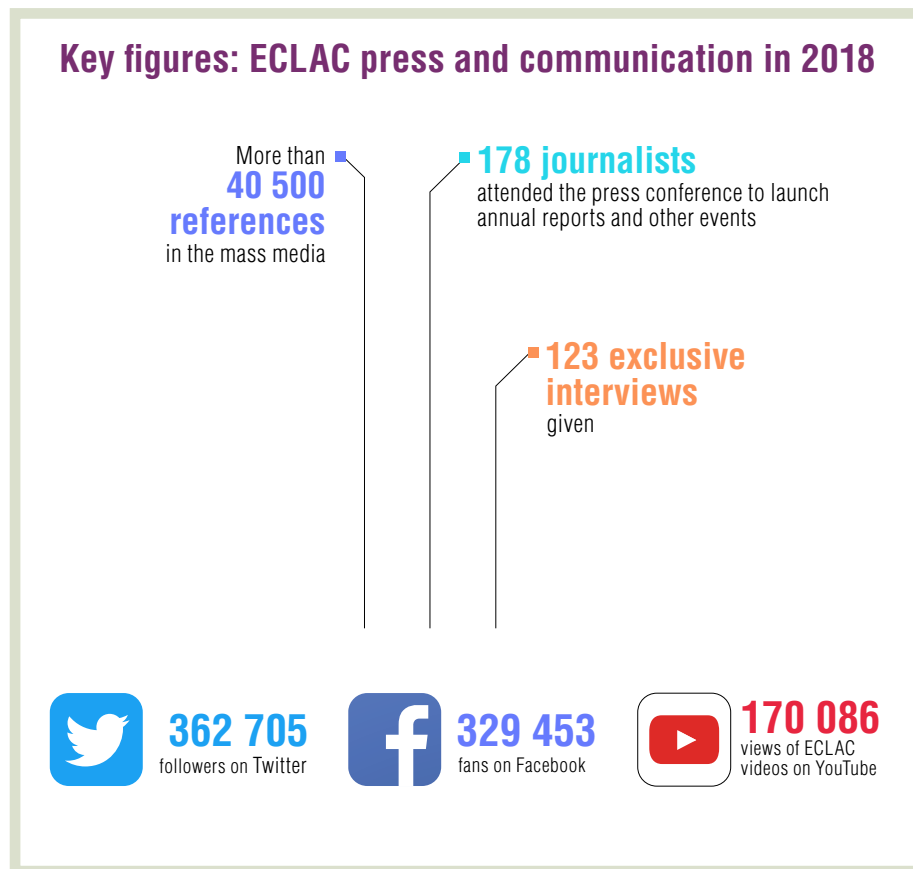
During the year, the Office of the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Programme Planning and Operations Division, continued to convene regular strategic planning meetings with the substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices. The meetings provided an opportunity to assess the implementation of the programme of work from a substantive and financial standpoint, to finetune substantive approaches to changing priorities and to encourage synergies and coordination among organizational units in order to achieve a multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach to development issues in line with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

As a result of this consultative and collaborative process, ECLAC prepared the *Proposed Programme Budget for 2020*,²² which combines in a single document the proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2020, the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance for 2018, in accordance with the new format requirements developed by the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the United Nations. This document has been reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-ninth session and by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and will be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

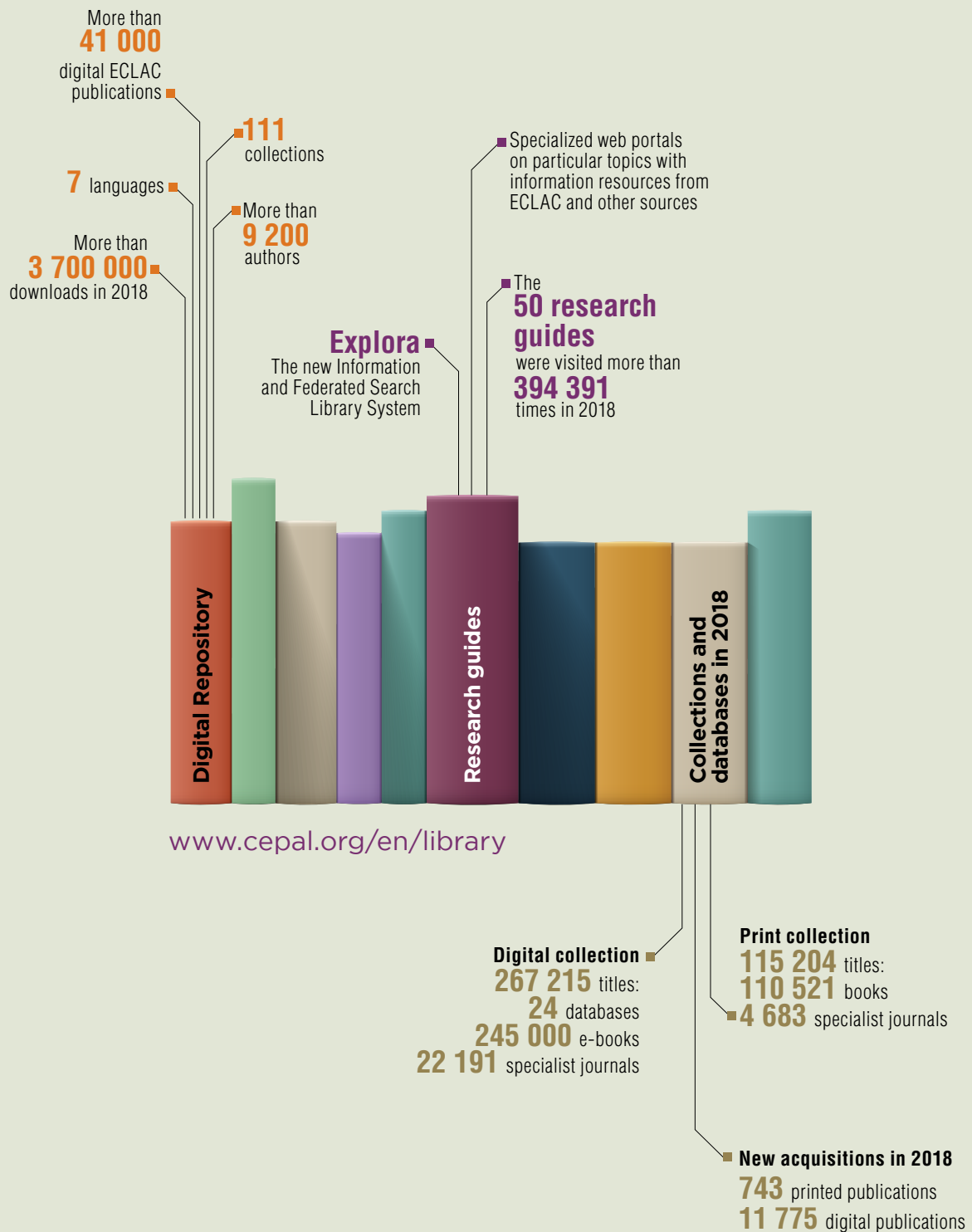
²² A/74/6 (Sect. 21).

Throughout 2018, the Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC monitored and reported on the results achieved in connection with the Commission’s programme of work and projects. The Division has also managed the evaluation function and produced five Development Account project assessment reports for projects that addressed statistical capacities, logistics integration, women’s economic autonomy, public finance management and equality-oriented policies. In an effort to ensure that the lessons learned from assessments are applied to future programmes and projects, the Division has also followed up on the implementation of recommendations made in six previous assessment reports.

ECLAC is committed to collaborating and implementing the recommendations of oversight bodies to improve its accountability and compliance processes. In 2018, this included an audit on the use of consultants from the Board of Auditors, and an audit of the management of the economic cluster by the Office of Internal Oversight Service (OIOS), as well as the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation by OIOS.



Key figures: Hernán Santa Cruz Library in 2018



REPORT ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE
COMMISSION, 2018
REPORT ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF
THE COMMISSION
2018
REPORT ACT
ON THE THE
TIVITIES OF
THE



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org