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Second Working Meeting of the Network for the Implementation
of the 2030 Agenda and Follow-up to the Sustainable Development
Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 28 and 29 November 2019

**TECHNICAL NOTES FOR THE THREE AXES OF THE NETWORK
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND
FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Note: This document has not undergone formal editorial review.

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INTRODUCTION

The Network for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG-LAC Network) was established by virtue of resolution 730(XXXVII) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), adopted in Havana in 2018, with the objective of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The work of the SDG-LAC Network revolves around three axes: strategy, statistics and cooperation. This note is intended to serve as an input for the discussions to be held at the second meeting of the Network, which will take place in Mexico City on 28 and 29 November 2019.

A. STRATEGY AXIS

TERRITORIALIZATION OF THE SDGS AND SDG BUDGETING

(Note prepared by Uruguay)

One of the pillars of the management strategy of the Government of Uruguay is putting the focus on territories as spaces for integration and development, with a view to reducing the inequities inherent in economic growth. In this third report, Uruguay has chosen to report on actions being taken to advance on one of the priority axes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: localization of the SDGs. In the introduction to Uruguay's second national voluntary review, presented in 2018, the Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget, Álvaro García, said, "Localizing SDGs has been a priority. The territory, at the local level, is understood as the place where all visions of development meet. Hence, we are conducting work at the second and third levels of government (departmental and municipal governments)."

In this context, the Office of Planning and the Budget has decided to move ahead with the process of SDG localization in Uruguay, driving the strategy and taking actions jointly with subnational governments and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The overall strategy has included two fundamental components. On the one hand, the joint work between the national and subnational governments entails an effort to align the actions implemented, and to build a road map that prioritizes opportunities highlighted and issues identified as problematic in dialogue with local stakeholders. These inputs were used to strategize the outlook on the challenges, with a focus on comprehensiveness and facilitating the linkages between the productive, social and environmental dimensions that shape the 2030 Agenda. Secondly, an awareness-raising component was pursued through communications and training actions involving local stakeholders and the general public.

At the same time, United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", makes mention of the role of planning and the adaptation of the 2030 Agenda to national realities, as well as the necessary mobilization of means and resources for achieving the targets set.

The public budget is the main instrument for setting forth government priorities and allocating resources for putting them into effect. Throughout the twentieth century, international standards on budget preparation methods have evolved to perform these functions better. In addition, budgeting has changed to reflect new requirements, such as the need to make public expenditure increasingly more effective and efficient, to identify and objectively measure the results achieved and to facilitate the public's understanding of government action.

Accordingly, there is an overall understanding that linking the budget to the 2030 Agenda poses a major challenge, as the budget is one of the main public finance mechanisms available for implementing the Agenda. Uruguay has thus assumed the commitment to explore, design and implement models that link the national budget with the SDGs. We see this initiative as an innovation that will serve to recognize and afford value to many individual efforts made by countries to develop methodologies that will support progress on these issues.

B. STATISTICS AXIS

(Note prepared by Mexico)

Background and rationale. Between 2013 and 2015, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) coordinated a project to build and strengthen institutional capacity in Meso-American governments for the monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The main outcomes of the project were:

- More than **100 government officials** trained during **three regional events** and **five technical assistance workshops**.
- Six **memorandums of understanding** (MoU) for the transfer of information technology tools to monitor the implementation of the MDGs signed between the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and counterpart institutions in Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.
- National systems of development indicators were implemented in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.
- The Millennium Development Goals monitoring network (RMODM) was established.
- Committees, commissions and working groups responsible for monitoring the MDGs and for the implementation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 were strengthened in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

Drawing on the lessons learned from the Meso-American project, the SDGs-LAC Network aims to strengthen capacities in three pillars for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Mexico and in the other 21 participating countries. These are:

1. Strategy: mechanisms for inter-agency coordination.
2. Statistics: national frameworks and tools for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.
3. Cooperation: tools for aligning international development cooperation projects with the SDGs.

SDGs-LAC Network - Statistics pillar (carried out by Mexico/INEGI)

Aim: to share Mexico's experience in implementing the computer tools, inter-agency coordination strategies and methodologies needed for calculating and integrating the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the SDGs, building capacities in each country and in all the countries of the Network to this end.

Participants: officials of the INEGI counterpart institution who have the relevant decision-making roles and technical skills for follow-up of the project.

1. The legal framework in Mexico and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

The legal foundations for development planning are established in article 26 of the Constitution of Mexico.¹ Paragraph A of that article provides that the State shall organize a democratic planning system to support national development, which shall provide solidity, dynamism, competitiveness, continuity and equity to economic growth, laying the foundations for the Planning Act.² Paragraph B establishes the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information (SNIEG), which provides official data that must be used by all public bodies, and states that INEGI shall be responsible for regulating and coordinating said System. The Law on the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information is derived from this paragraph.³ Paragraph C provides for the establishment of the un National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), which is responsible for measuring poverty and evaluating the programmes, objectives, targets and actions of the social development policy. The Social Development Act is derived from this paragraph.⁴

Mexico has confirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, incorporating it into national legislation by amending the Planning Law to include a series of fundamental provisions to adapt planning to the new sustainable development paradigm:

- Consideration of social, environmental and economic dimensions in national planning
- Incorporation of a medium-term approach in planning, covering at least 20 years, with a view to proposing projects that run beyond terms of office
- Strengthening of the performance evaluation system to guide results-based budgeting, thereby encouraging actions that have a greater impact
- The mandate to integrate the 2030 Agenda in the design of the 2019–2024 National Development Plan, the 2024–2030 National Development Plan, and sectoral plans and programmes.

2. Coordination and follow-up mechanisms for national implementation

Similarly, April 2017 marked the establishment of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a multi-stakeholder body tasked with analysing Mexico's progress on various aspects of the 2030 Agenda, identifying and proposing solutions for its implementation, as well as ensuring the coherence

¹ Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos [online] http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/1_090819.pdf, pp. 2829.

² See [online] http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/59_160218.pdf (Spanish only).

³ See [online] <https://www.snieg.mx/contenidos/espanol/normatividad/marcojuridico/LSNIEG.pdf> (Spanish only).

⁴ See [online] http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/264_250618.pdf (Spanish only).

and coordination of the various efforts to implement it. It is chaired by the President of the Republic, with the Office of the President serving as the executive secretariat, and is made up of 19 State Secretariats, seven non-sectoral institutions and two autonomous bodies.⁵

In June 2017, the National Conference of Governors (CONAGO) set up a committee on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which serves as an organizational forum through which subnational governments participate in national efforts to implement the SDGs. Under this committee, federal bodies are able to share experiences and coordinate actions to include the 2030 Agenda in state development plans and related programmes, implement public policies that are consistent with the SDGs, and develop state mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up. Each state government has designated a focal point to serve as liaison with the committee and oversee the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As agreed in the committee, each entity must establish a monitoring and implementation body (OSI) to promote and monitor implementation of the Agenda. These bodies should be made up of municipal authorities, the various secretariats within the state government, the legislative and judicial branches, autonomous constitutional bodies, the state office of INEGI and representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector. The role of each OSI is to coordinate implementation efforts for all federal entities, ensuring that the Agenda is mainstreamed in the budget, the Planning Act, the Social Development Act and the budget cycle of each entity.

3. Generation of information

In keeping with the division of powers established by the Constitution, INEGI coordinates the generation of the information necessary to follow up the goals of the Agenda and maintains open channels of communication with the various bodies mentioned above. It has a voice and vote in the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is in constant contact with the committee on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in CONAGO, and each of its state offices is represented in OSIs.

SNIEG aims to coordinate various “State units”, which correspond to distinct administrative areas with the capacity to produce information. This coordination is achieved by means of a framework of thematic executive committees, as well as specialized technical committees which discuss methodologies and appropriate sources for the production of indicators used to develop and evaluate public policies on national development.

⁵ Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB); Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE); Secretariat of Defence (SEDENA); Secretariat of Maritime Affairs (SEMAR); Secretariat for Public Safety and Security (SEGURIDAD); Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP); Secretariat of Welfare (BIENESTAR); Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT); Secretariat of Energy (SENER); Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SE); Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER); Secretariat of Communications and Transport (SCT); Secretariat of Civil Service (FUNCIÓN PÚBLICA); Secretariat of Public Education (SEP); Secretariat of Health (SS); Secretariat of Labour and Social Security (STPS); Secretariat of Urban, Territorial and Agricultural Development (SEDATU); Secretariat for Culture (CULTURA); Secretariat of Tourism (SECTUR); National Women's Institute (INMUJERES); National Institute for Older Adults (INAPAM); Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE); National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination (CONAPRED); National Council for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS); National Institute for Indigenous Peoples (INPI); National Housing Fund Institute for Workers (Infonavit); National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI); and National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

Image 1



Note: SNIEG thematic subsystems in which State Units work together to produce and disseminate official information. There are specialized technical committees for each subsystem which define the technical standards, guidelines, methodologies and procedures.

In November 2015, the Specialized Technical Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals (CTEODS)⁶ was established with a view to coordinating the conceptual, methodological, technical and operational work that would enable the generation and periodic updating of the information required to design and evaluate public policies for the implementation of the SDGs in Mexico. CTEODS consolidates the information generation strategy and reclassifies SDG indicators based on statistical capacity and the sources from which Mexico builds those indicators. The classification is as follows:

- Tier I refers to the State Unit that is best placed to generate the information; the aim is to formalize the Unit's commitment to generate and provide information on a regular basis.
- Tier II refers to the SNEIG specialized technical committee that is best suited for discussing how to produce the information in accordance with international methodology.
- Tier III defines information priorities for the country and indicators which are most feasible for Mexico to produce (because there is active and encouraging research on the issue) and which have potential information sources. This makes it possible to forge alliances with national research institutes to foster the development of methodologies in line with the established priorities.

The SNEIG committees monitor the production and updating of information through the annual statistics and geography programme, a programming tool that is used to track all specific statistical and geographical activities carried out by the various State Units during the year.

4. Monitoring platform for the 2030 Agenda indicators

In keeping with the country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the National Digital Strategy Unit (CEDN) of the Office of the President of the Republic and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), developed an open source platform to advance in monitoring and follow-up of the SDGs, establishing Mexico as a pioneer in the publication of data on the 2030 Agenda.

⁶ The agreement establishing this Committee and in which its purposes and membership are specified, is available at: https://snieg.mx/DocumentacionPortal/Demografico/AcuerdosCreacion/ACUERDO_CTE_ODS.pdf.

Integration, validation and publication of all the indicators related to the Agenda that are agreed upon in SNEIG collegial bodies fall under the remit of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), which is responsible for administration and the maintenance of the platform, and also provides technical support to other public entities that produce information on the SDGs.⁷

In 2019, CTEODS conducted an analysis of the information and communication technology (ICT) capacities within its various units. Based on the results, and with a view to generating economies of scale, INEGI proposed that instead of a system of federated platforms for reporting on SDGs across the country, there could be a single platform which it would maintain and for which it would provide technical assistance, enabling all other stakeholders to provide and publish information in the same place.

INEGI and the Office of the President of the Republic decided that annual updates will be performed during the first half of the year, when all stakeholders will be requested to provide information to be updated in accordance with established intervals. During the second half of the year, updates will be made performed when the producer of the information directly requests them from INEGI.

The information in SIODS is used as input for the design of public policy and the preparation of reports in compliance with the country's international reporting obligations.

The platform is open source⁸ and includes a guide on the callouts in the application programming interface (API).⁹

The aim is to include in the platform all the indicators of the global framework, of the regional framework, as well as the disaggregations that are deemed relevant for Mexico.

(a) National framework and disaggregations

Mexico adopted a national framework composed of 54 indicators included in the national catalogue of indicators approved by the Board of Directors of INEGI, which is the governing body of SNIEG.

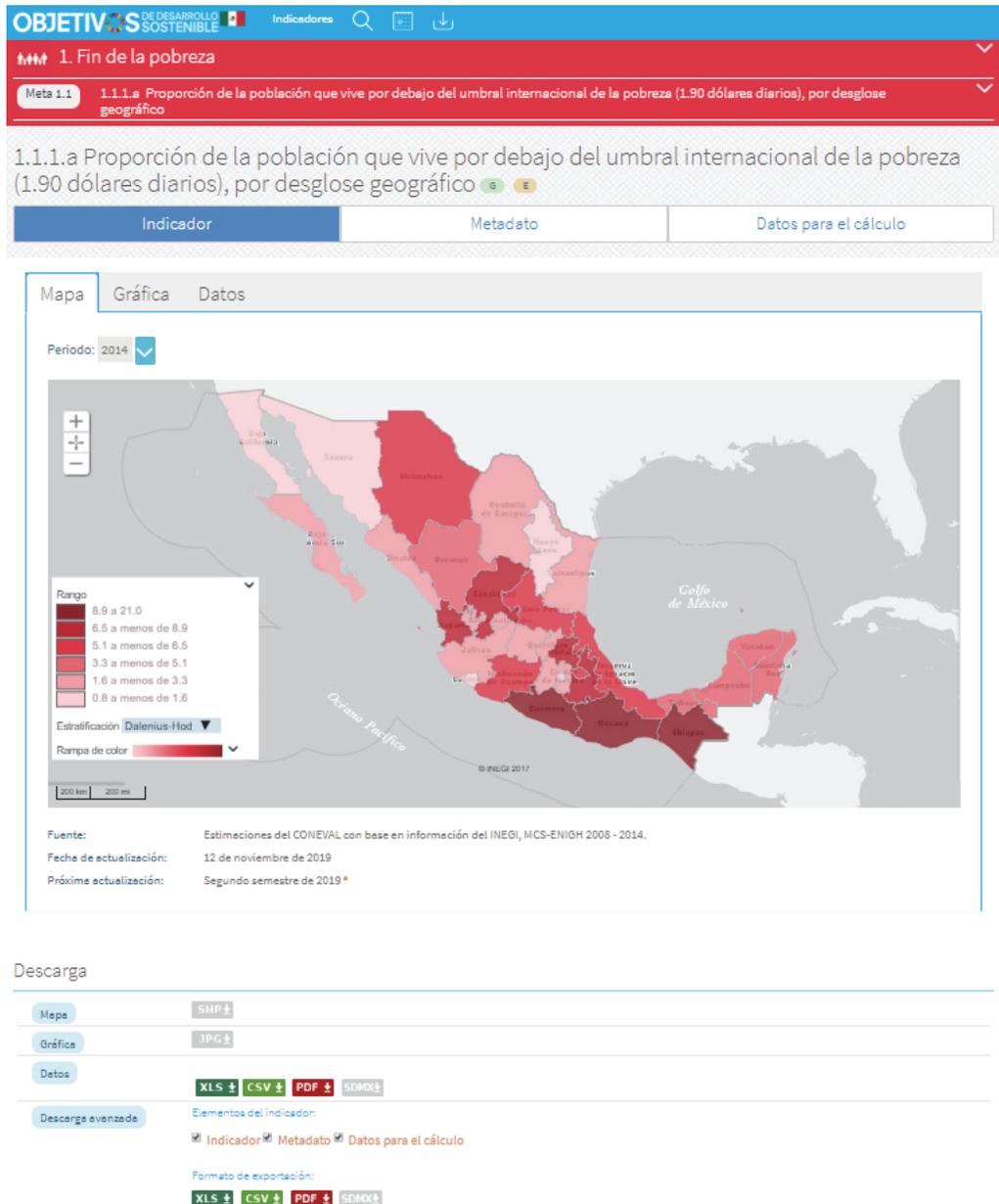
As a result of the wave of national planning following a change of government and a new National Development Plan 2019–2024, national development goals will be re-evaluated over the course of 2020 on the basis of the 2030 Agenda and its impact on the set of indicators that are relevant for measuring national progress. The National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will approve the targets and CTEODS will propose the indicators in an attempt to adequately measure the goals while keeping the set of indicators to a minimum.

⁷ See [online] <http://agenda2030.mx/#/home>.

⁸ See [online] <https://git.inegi.org.mx/SIODSMexico/Front-End>.

⁹ See [online] https://ods.org.mx/docs/doctos/system/05_guia_servicio_RESTful.pdf.

Image 2



Note: Example of an indicator available in the Sustainable Development Goals Information System (SIODS). Official data are provided and can be exported to different formats; all indicators can be georeferenced, disaggregated geographically and displayed in dynamic graphs.

In order to identify the key populations and regions that must be reached to meet development goals without leaving anyone behind, there will be a mapping process to define the relevant disaggregations at the subnational level, as well as the subgroups that must be included for each indicator in the global, regional and national frameworks.

The strategy for defining national disaggregations is as follows:

- The Office of the President of the Republic, INEGI and the committee for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of CONAGO will define an initial set of national indicators to be disaggregated, based on an analysis of State and municipal attributions and a study of State and municipal development plans with a view to aligning indicators with the frameworks.
- Subnational disaggregations will be reviewed in a consultation process involving CONAGO, OSIs and representatives of civil society and academia, to provide feedback on information needs that are not taken into account in programming or legal instruments.
- Disaggregations will be formalized within the framework of the activities of CTEODS and SNIEG, following methodological review and verification of production feasibility, designation of the State Units responsible for production and in compliance with the process outlined above once the classification by tiers has been completed.

For thematic disaggregations and the identification of key populations, the process will be similar but the review outlined in (i) will cover legal mandates, international commitments undertaken by Mexico and national planning instruments. In addition, the consultation process should include other government agencies and the collegial bodies of SNIEG.

This work will provide feedback for the national framework and help to define the set of information needed to measure the actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico.

C. COOPERATION AXIS

THE EXPERIENCE OF CUBA CONCERNING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

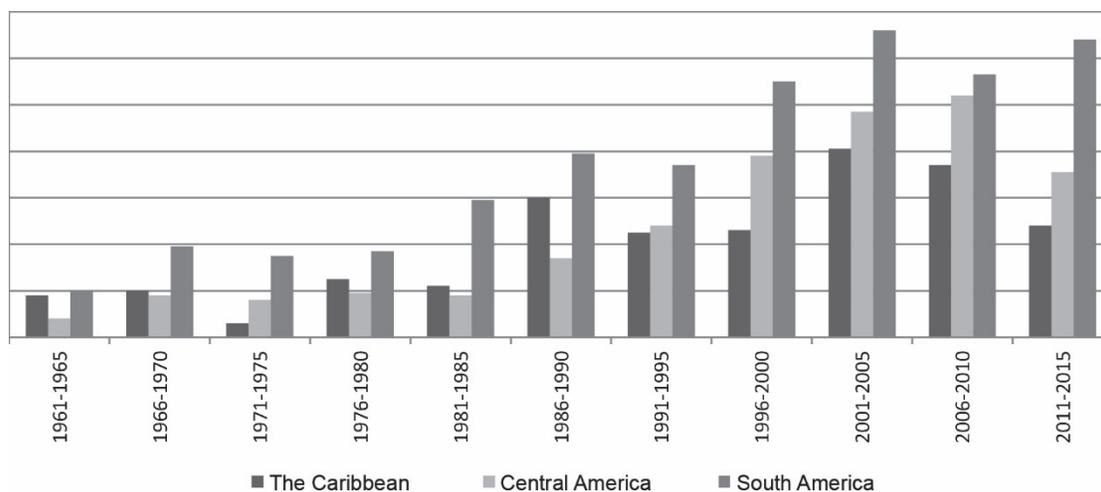
(Note prepared by Cuba)

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions most vulnerable to extreme events, with especially significant impacts occurring in Central America and the Caribbean. Climate change augments this vulnerability and increases the frequency and intensity of the related extreme natural events, which are considered catastrophes or natural disasters when they affect the population.

Cuba, like all the Caribbean countries, has been badly affected by disasters. In view of the country's high exposure and vulnerability, over the years it has managed to develop a national disaster prevention system, which has served to reduce this vulnerability. Cuba set up a broad network of committees to enable each territory to prepare locally for extreme events, with an efficient early warning system. Strong emphasis was also placed on prevention and on societal communication and awareness. In addition, risk management was mainstreamed into sustainable development planning.

In the framework of the SDG Network, whose objective is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the governments of the region engaged in establishing or seeking to establish national mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and with the support of ECLAC, Cuba is willing to share its experience and disseminate it among the countries of the region.

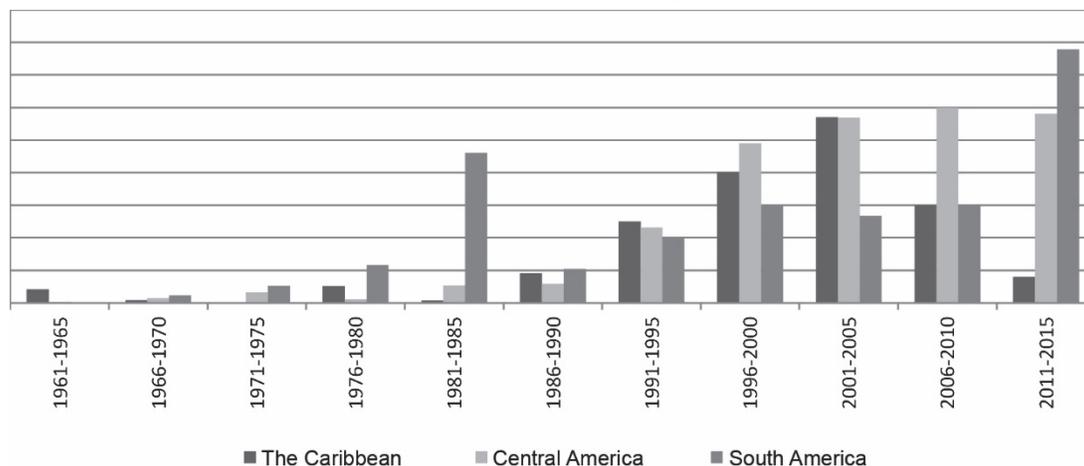
Figure 1
Latin America and the Caribbean: number of extreme events^a linked to climate change, 1960–2015



Source: Prepared on the basis of EM-DAT.

^a Droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, landslides, storms and fires.

Figure 2
Cost of extreme events linked to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1961–2015
(Billions of dollars at current prices)



Source: Prepared on the basis of EM-DAT.

The meeting of this axis of the SDG Network is part of its plan of work and is held in fulfilment of the agreements adopted at the meeting held in Havana on 26 June 2019, at which the secretariat is requested: *to treat the Caribbean and the subject of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of governments in relation to climate change as priorities within the work of the Network for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.*