



2020

**Thirty-eighth  
session of ECLAC**

25–28 October



**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE COMMISSION, 2019**

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ACTIVITIES  
COMMISSION  
REPORT ON  
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# Foreword

## Foreword

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is fully committed to the development of the countries of the region. For more than 70 years, it has helped to build a tradition of innovative Latin American and Caribbean thought, consolidating its role as a leading think tank of the United Nations Secretariat. The Commission has also played a convening role by fostering intergovernmental platforms that provide a space for policy dialogues, consensus-building and peer learning, and has delivered technical cooperation, capacity-building and advisory services to member States, upon request, to implement capacity development activities at the regional, subregional and national levels.

This report on the activities of the Commission highlights its key achievements and contributions in 2019 and is hereby 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 many challenges. After several years of low average growth rates, albeit with differences among countries, the region's economies reflect a loss of momentum across the board, combined with weak external demand and international financial market volatility. Between 2014 and 2019, regional per capita GDP decreased by 4%, and an estimated 191 million people still live in poverty, in a context of growing social demands to reduce inequality and reinforce social inclusion. In addition, financing of public policies continues to pose a major challenge. Leaving no one behind is a fundamental principle to advance in building institutions and universal social protection systems that address all population groups. Amid this backdrop, there is a need for public policies to stimulate growth and reduce inequality.

Throughout 2019, ECLAC provided support in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies. The Commission's most recent analyses and public policy proposals have helped to ignite a lively debate on key issues pertaining to the regional development agenda.



ECLAC has also continued to serve as technical secretariat for various subsidiary bodies and initiatives such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and for other sectoral initiatives in the areas of statistics, women and development, population and development, planning and public management, social development, South-South cooperation, and development cooperation in the Caribbean.

The Commission would like to thank member States for the ongoing trust and support they have placed in the institution.

**Alicia Bárcena**

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



# 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.

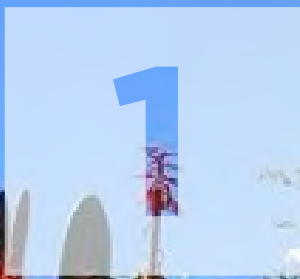
ECLAC is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Headquartered in Santiago, Chile, it was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America. In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves 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 Bogotá, Brasília, 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 2019

### Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development adopted by Latin American and Caribbean countries

At the third session of the [Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Mexico City, October 2019), the countries of the region adopted and endorsed the proposals set forth in the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, as a technical and political instrument that will enable progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. This agenda reflects the countries' endorsement of the development of public policies as a means of tackling poverty, structural inequalities and new challenges in the region. The main objectives of the agenda are to identify axes and lines of action to deepen the progress made in social development, end poverty and achieve greater social inclusion and equality; to promote high-quality public social development policies that enable the entire population to exercise their rights, leaving no one behind; to strengthen the position of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the role of ministries of social development and equivalent entities in public agendas; and to promote regional and subregional cooperation spaces as a means of deepening progress towards inclusive social development, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### Axes of the regional agenda:





## Towards a new development paradigm: Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico



Towards a new development paradigm:  
Comprehensive Development Plan  
for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras  
and south-southeast Mexico

“I fully support proposals to convert debt to investment in resilience such as through the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative. We should move this from idea to reality.”

*António Guterres,  
United Nations  
Secretary-General*

Considerable progress was made in 2019 in the formulation of this development plan, which aims to create a space for sustainable development and local opportunities between El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and nine south-southeastern states of Mexico in order to improve the population's quality of life, with a comprehensive vision that addresses the migration cycle and an emphasis on human security. Throughout the year, ECLAC presented to the countries revised versions of the draft plan, which comprises two parts: (i) diagnosis of the structural causes and the proposed policy response under four strategic pillars: economic development; social well-being; environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction; and comprehensive management of the migration cycle and (ii) over 100 concrete proposals including investment in large-scale infrastructure projects, development of certain key sectors and capacity-building. The proposals are being prepared jointly with all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and fine-tuned in the light of feedback and following negotiations with the highest authorities in all four countries, in a special coordination process led by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, at the request of the Secretary-General.

## The ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative: increased momentum

Since 2000, the Caribbean region has suffered at least eight climate-related disasters representing an annual cost of between 33% and 200% of the affected countries' GDP. Annual losses from catastrophic climate events in the Caribbean are estimated at US\$ 3 billion. Caribbean countries are also among the most highly indebted in the world. In 2018, average Caribbean debt accounted for 70.5% of GDP. The Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative, formulated and championed by ECLAC, aims to respond to the Caribbean's high vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and high level of indebtedness. In 2019, the Initiative was reformulated to incorporate the Caribbean Resilience Fund, which is designed to attract large-scale funding for climate resilience-building while addressing debt reduction in the Caribbean. The Initiative has been gaining momentum as it was advocated by ECLAC at several events leading up to the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General and during the high-level week of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Moreover, the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted by acclamation on 27 September 2019, urges actions to support small island developing States in climate change mitigation and adaptation through diverse approaches, including by exploring debt swap initiatives. This proposal was also endorsed by the United Nations Secretary-General at the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund held in Washington, D.C. in October 2019. With this strong political support, ECLAC is moving ahead to make the initiative a reality by conducting scenario analyses on debt sustainability and developing practical debt reduction options for Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as a basis for discussions and negotiations with multilateral and bilateral creditors.

## Third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development: quadrennial review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region

The third meeting of the [Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development](#) took place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago from 24–26 April 2019. The event, which marked the quadrennial review of progress and challenges regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, was attended by more than 1,000 participants, including 153 representatives from 33 countries—25 of them from Latin America and the Caribbean—, as well as 17 of the region's United Nations Resident Coordinators, 20 representatives from regional offices of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and 18 representatives of intergovernmental bodies. Most of the attendees were women (51%, versus 49% men). The Forum, convened under the auspices of ECLAC and chaired by Cuba, was inaugurated with a call to strengthen multilateralism, democracy and regional cooperation, with messages from Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), underscoring the region's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to sustainable development. The high-level event, which featured peer learning sessions and 54 side events, was recognized by the region's countries as an example of regional coordination among multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the business community, academia and civil society, among others, to implement and follow up the 2030 Agenda. During the meeting, ECLAC presented the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>1</sup> prepared for the first time jointly by ECLAC and the regional offices of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Forum of the Countries  
of Latin America and  
the Caribbean on  
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Santiago  
24–26 April **2019**

## Environmental big push: the ECLAC proposal for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25)

A delegation from ECLAC attended COP 25 in Madrid in December 2019, and actively participated in over 40 events linked to themes such as adaptation, the economics of climate change, the social price of carbon, green fiscal policy, sustainable agriculture and indigenous peoples in climate change actions. ECLAC presented its proposal for an environmental big push, to move towards a new development paradigm, and events related to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which is an environmental milestone for Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the key events was the launch of the document *Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>2</sup> a joint publication with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the support of EUROCLIMA+ (a programme funded by the European Commission of which ECLAC is a strategic partner), with a focus on the main human rights standards applicable to climate change and the progress made in this regard.



<sup>1</sup> LC/FDS.3/3/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> LC/TS.2019/94.



## Milestone: Twentieth edition of ECLAC Summer School on Latin American Economies



**ECLAC Summer School**  
18 July to 28 September 2019

ECLAC Summer School on Latin American Economies is an advanced training programme for postgraduate students (at both master's and doctoral degree levels). It is a space of thought that promotes discussion and the generation of ideas and policies related to social sciences, with a specific emphasis on economics. It takes place every year between July and September. Classes address both theoretical and empirical issues related to economic development and political economics, in particular those relating to Latin America and the Caribbean. The Summer School devotes an important space to the debate on the region's recent economic history, and its impacts on current perspectives and future policies, including the political system and inequality, gender issues and sustainable development. Classes are taught by ECLAC staff and distinguished professors (economists and social scientists) from prestigious universities, and over the last 20 years more than 550 students from over 30 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Europe and North America have successfully completed the course, forming a network with a growing presence in universities, international organizations, NGOs and national governments. Special focus has been placed on encouraging the participation of female students. At the opening of the [twentieth edition of the Summer School](#), ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, said: *"This summer programme is not just a course on economics. It is a school of political economics, because ECLAC is a think tank and we have placed our bets on development theories as pioneers in research methodologies and techniques, but also for our constant questioning of the development model, inequality, the traditional economy. This is our task."*

## The urgency of supporting landlocked developing countries with concrete actions



MIDTERM REVIEW  
VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR  
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
5-6 DECEMBER 2019, NEW YORK

From 11-12 June 2019, ECLAC convened at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, the Midterm review meeting of Latin American countries preparatory to the comprehensive midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. The event was attended by Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, United Nations Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Doma Tshering, Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations and co-facilitator for the midterm review, and Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and co-facilitator for the midterm review, as well as Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries. Discussions centred on the progress made in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and the SDGs in the Latin American region, in areas such as transit policy, infrastructure, information and communications technologies, energy, trade facilitation and regional integration. The results and conclusions of the meeting were presented as the region's position at the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014-2024, convened by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2019.

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## Financial resources

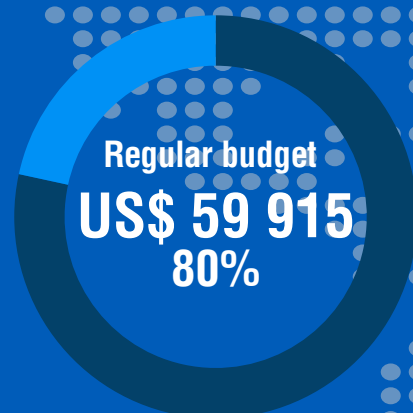


Figure 1  
**General overview  
of ECLAC funding  
by source, 2019**

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

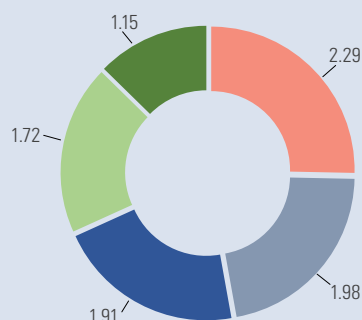
Figure 2  
**Breakdown of extrabudgetary resources, 2019**

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

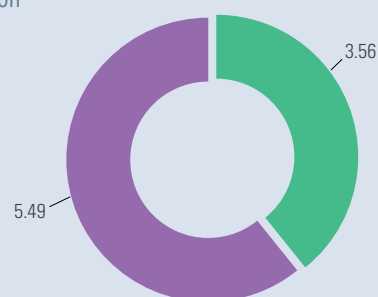
B. Grants and donor agreements, by development partner  
*(Millions of dollars and number of projects)*

#### Financial resources

US\$ **9.05**  
million

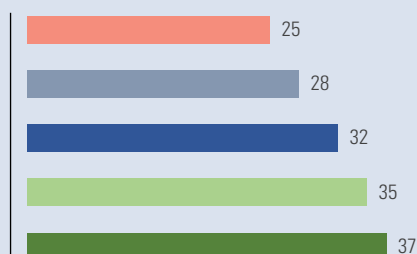


US\$ **9.05**  
million

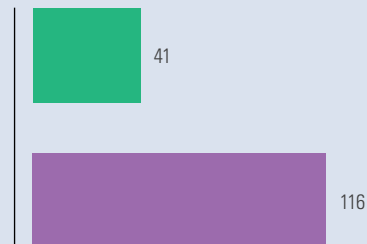


#### Number of projects

**157**



**157**



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

■ Multilateral  
■ Bilateral



## Subsidiary bodies

### Committee of the Whole

Thirty-fourth session, New York, 15 October 2019

At the thirty-fourth session of the Committee of the Whole, ECLAC member States adopted resolution 736(PLEN.34), and the Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2021, emphasizing and welcoming the fact that it reflects the alignment and adaptation of activities, contents and modalities to the new requirements arising from the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the *Report on the activities of the Commission, 2018*, commending especially its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region.

### Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

Nineteenth meeting, Port of Spain, 17 May 2019

At the meeting, member States acknowledged the excellent work of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean over the past year and challenged the office to consider multi-year programme planning alongside the new annual budget cycle. In addition, ECLAC was requested to convene a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and other relevant partners to conduct a comprehensive review of a revised proposal for the repositioned Regional Coordinating Mechanism. The TAC would present its findings at the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). Finally, the Monitoring Committee welcomed the announcement that the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would assume the chairship of the twenty-eighth session of the CDCC in 2020.

Nineteenth meeting of the  
Monitoring Committee of the  
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

### Committee on South-South Cooperation

Ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santiago, 23 April 2019

At the meeting, the Presiding Officers analysed the importance of cooperation with Caribbean countries, which were vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change and high levels of external debt that had hampered their development. The participants also reflected on the outcomes of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), held from 20–22 March 2019 in Buenos Aires.

In addition, they reiterated the importance of the coordinated participation of Latin American and Caribbean South-South cooperation mechanisms in the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in the region, established during the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, held in Havana in 2018. Two working meetings of the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the SDGs were held in 2019. At the first working meeting, held in Havana on 27 May, member States requested ECLAC to prepare a road map of the work of the Network, including capacity-building activities. At the second working meeting, held in Mexico City from 28–29 November, the 14 member States in attendance agreed on a road map to continue to promote the work of the Network in three areas: institution-building, statistics and South-South cooperation.

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

### Fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santiago, 9–10 October 2019



Fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 9–10 October 2019

At the [meeting](#), representatives of the countries of the region assessed the progress made and the challenges faced in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its synergies with related agendas in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, participants considered the *Report of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*, as well as the prototype of the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Consensus. Participants in the meeting included 24 delegations comprising ministers and authorities from member countries of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, along with representatives of the United Nations system and civil society.

## Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Third meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santiago, 23 April 2019



Third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 23 April 2019

The Presiding Officers drew attention to the importance of putting people at the centre of development, and reiterated their conviction that multilateralism and cooperation were essential to making headway in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, including its social dimension, and that the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development could contribute to that process. Furthermore, they endorsed, in general terms, the initial proposal of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and welcomed its commitments to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and addressing the gaps in access to well-being.

## Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Third session, Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019



Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019

The third session of the [Regional Conference](#), organized by ECLAC, the Government of Mexico and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was attended by 102 representatives of 29 countries, 40 representatives from 13 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector. The Conference adopted the proposals set forth in the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development as a technical and political instrument that will enable progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thereby helping to eradicate poverty and achieve greater levels of equality and well-being in the region. In addition, participants in the Regional Conference highlighted the establishment of the Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a regional public good to support the design and implementation of public policies and

monitor their trends. At the meeting, country representatives analysed the document *Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda*,<sup>3</sup> which was prepared by ECLAC and which identifies at least eight key factors impeding the achievement of inclusive social development in the region.

## Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers, Santiago, 22–23 January**

At the [meeting](#), the Presiding Officers made progress in the preparations for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and exchanged views on the country reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and its synergy with the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25). In addition, they endorsed the annotated index of the position document to be presented at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women.



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

**Seventeenth meeting, Montevideo, 29–30 August 2019**

The [meeting](#) was attended by ministers, deputy ministers and heads of planning from 24 countries in the region, seven of them from the Caribbean. Participants in the meeting called for the strengthening of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the importance of coherent public policies to strengthen the process and instruments of planning for development and public administration, with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Within the framework of this meeting, ECLAC presented the position document *Planning for sustainable territorial development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>4</sup> which analyses 153 policies relating to territorial development in the region and their multiple approaches and thematic focuses, and proposes a working model to address them systemically.



## Statistical Conference of the Americas

**Tenth meeting, Santiago, 19–21 November 2019**

Authorities from participating countries reaffirmed their commitment to statistical development through cooperation with the regional and international statistics community. At the [meeting](#), attended by 21 member States and 3 associate members of the Commission, national authorities agreed on the need to pursue a collaborative regional response to the demand for economic statistics to support the formulation of evidence-based policymaking within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to improving the organization and management of national statistical systems. Furthermore, they adopted the proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America, as a regional model for countries that are interested in formulating or reformulating the legal basis for the functioning of their national statistical systems and the production of official statistics. Finally, participating countries supported the creation of 11 working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which will address the statistical development issues of the highest priority for the countries of the region, and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.



<sup>3</sup> LC/CDS.3/3.

<sup>4</sup> LC/CRP.17/3.

## Selected publications in support of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

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

[http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44552/7/S1900432\\_en.pdf](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44552/7/S1900432_en.pdf)

**First regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44458/S1801011\\_en.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44458/S1801011_en.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y)

**Planning for sustainable territorial development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44732/S1900438\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44732/S1900438_en.pdf)

**Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44844/S1900578\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44844/S1900578_en.pdf)

**Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44947/S1901007\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44947/S1901007_en.pdf)

**Report of the nineteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44660/LCCAR2019\\_6\\_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44660/LCCAR2019_6_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

**Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios**

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45037/4/S1900722\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45037/4/S1900722_en.pdf)



# 4

# Publications

## Publications

In its role as a leading think tank in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC undertakes research and prepares documents and studies in substantive areas related to the three dimensions of sustainable development in the region. The analytical effort of gathering, organizing, interpreting and disseminating information and data led to the production of 204 publications in 2019. ECLAC publications were downloaded a total of 6,867,359 times in 2019.

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

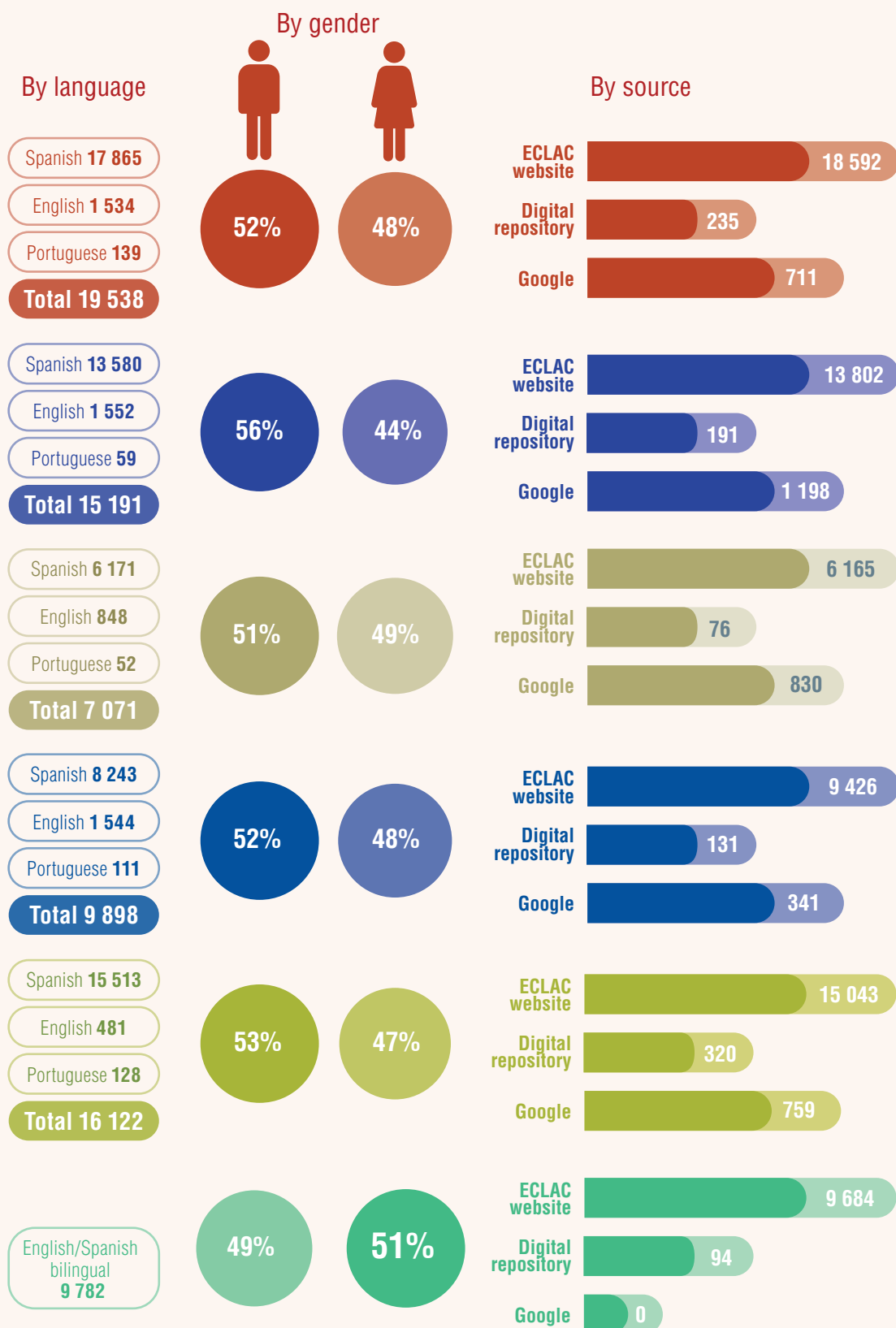
Foreign Direct Investment  
in Latin America and  
the Caribbean

Social Panorama  
of Latin America

Statistical Yearbook  
for Latin America  
and the Caribbean



## Downloads of the flagships of the Commission launched in 2019 (Three months following the launch)



## CEPAL Review and other institutional publications

### CEPAL Review

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/type/cepal-review>

### Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2019

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45065-economic-survey-caribbean-2019>

### Universal Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: selected texts 2006–2019

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45093/1/S1901140\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/45093/1/S1901140_en.pdf)

### Migración y desarrollo sostenible: la centralidad de los derechos humanos. Textos seleccionados 2008-2019

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44864/4/S1900738\\_es.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44864/4/S1900738_es.pdf)

## Support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

### The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: an opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean

[http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40156/25/S1801140\\_en.pdf](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40156/25/S1801140_en.pdf)

### From beneficiaries to citizens: access by and treatment of women in Latin American pension systems

[http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44606/1/S1900076\\_en.pdf](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44606/1/S1900076_en.pdf)

### Ingresos y pobreza en los países del MERCOSUR: nuevos retos para economías en transición al desarrollo

<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/50330>

### Panorama de las contribuciones determinadas a nivel nacional en América Latina y el Caribe, 2019: avances para el cumplimiento del Acuerdo de París

[http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44974/1/S1900855\\_es.pdf](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44974/1/S1900855_es.pdf)

### Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019

[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44517/1/S1900074\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44517/1/S1900074_en.pdf)

### Notas de Población

<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44669-notas-poblacion-ndeg-109>

**Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean: road maps for development**  
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**Income poverty measurement: updated methodology and results**  
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## Intraregional cooperation: research in collaboration with other agencies

**Latin American Economic Outlook 2019: development in transition**  
<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44515-latin-american-economic-outlook-2019-development-transition>

**Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean: evolution of and prospects for women's labour participation in Latin America**  
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**Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean**  
[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44971/1/S1900999\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44971/1/S1900999_en.pdf)

**Desarrollo y migración: desafíos y oportunidades en los países del norte de Centroamérica**  
<https://www.cepal.org/en/node/49501>

**Challenges. Newsletter on childhood and adolescence**  
<http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44972/1/challenges22bulletin.pdf>

**Efectos cambiantes de la migración sobre el crecimiento, la estructura demográfica y la segregación residencial en ciudades grandes: el caso de Santiago, Chile, 1977–2017**  
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**Recommendations for incorporating a human rights-based approach in environmental impact assessment of mining projects**  
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**Evaluación de escenarios para la formulación de la Estrategia Energética Sustentable SICA 2030**  
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# Main results

## Main results and activities

### The economic dimension

Under subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation, a project was implemented to foster increased integration and cooperation among 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries, using input-output tables (IOTs) as an economic analysis and planning tool to promote their integration into intraregional value chains. As a result of the project, a first-of-its-kind IOT for Latin America and the Caribbean was developed and presented at a [workshop](#) jointly organized by ECLAC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, held in Santo Domingo in September 2019. This powerful analytical tool enables analysis of productive links at the intraregional level between the various Latin American integration schemes (Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Andean Community, Central American Common Market, and the Pacific Alliance), as well as of potential for trade between the Latin American and Caribbean region and the Asia-Pacific region.

“The presentation of the input-output table of MERCOSUR and South America for 2005 and 2011, and the new adaptations that integrate the countries of the subregion with the Asia-Pacific region, will be very useful for the Secretariat’s work, mainly because they provide timely inputs for the technical assistance provided for the MERCOSUR forums, especially in the areas of productive integration and extraregional negotiation with Asian countries.”

María Fernanda Monti, Director of MERCOSUR

The work of the subprogramme in the area of value chains contributed to the development and implementation of policies to enhance regional integration. Following technical assistance from ECLAC, which provided evidence-based analysis of value chains to determine potential areas of trade growth and simulations of possible impacts, El Salvador decided to join the customs union

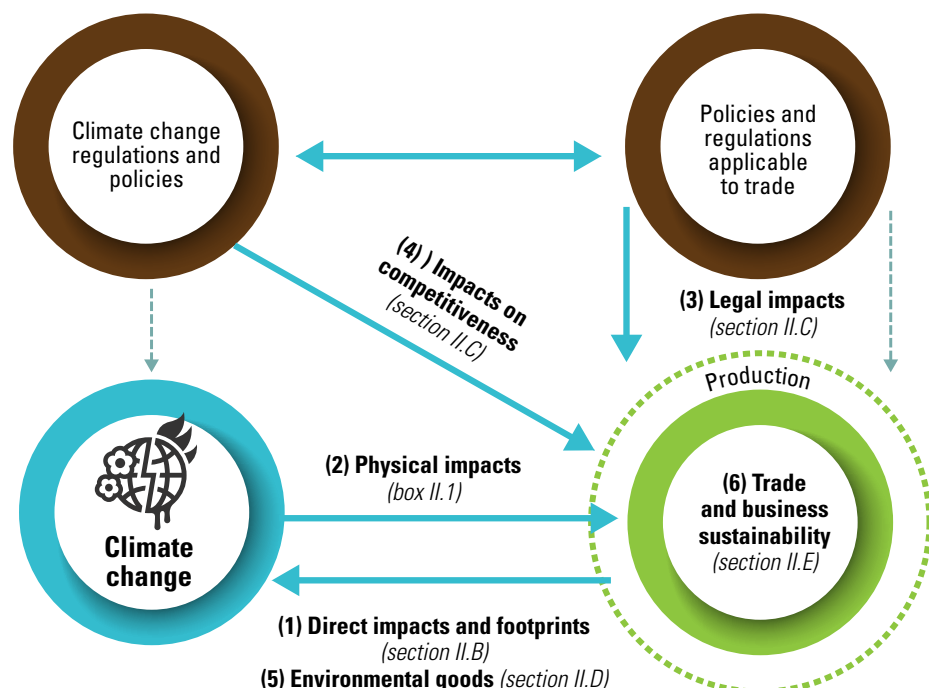
with Guatemala and Honduras. This further strengthened integration in the Central American region, especially in the Northern Triangle, as seen in the establishment of air transport facilitation rules in 2019.

Under the subprogramme, an open dialogue was encouraged on the potential common needs of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the reform of World Trade Organization (WTO), in a workshop involving the Pacific Alliance and MERCOSUR, held in Santiago in August. The event allowed countries of the region to work towards future common positions in the light of the great challenges faced in matters of regional integration and the fears of a weakening multilateral system.

Instruments such as trade single windows were also promoted under the subprogramme to support greater access of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) to export markets, making trade more inclusive and sustainable. In this regard, at the [third CORPYME Training Workshop](#): “Trade Single Windows for the Internationalization of SMEs”, organized by ECLAC with the support of the Republic of Korea, participants learned about the experiences and good practices of this Asian country, and explored options for international cooperation.

The [Second High-level China-Latin America Investment and Cooperation Forum](#) was held in Santiago in October 2019. The event, jointly organized by ECLAC, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Ministry of Finance of China, served as a platform to discuss best practices and new areas for cooperation, as well as to contribute in a timely manner to the policymaking processes of countries of the region and of development institutions.

## Linkages between trade and climate change



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of A. Cosbey, *Trade and Climate Change Linkages*, Winnipeg, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), 2007.

**Note:** The continuous lines indicate direct impacts on trade or climate change, while the dashed lines show indirect effects.

The 2019 edition of the [International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) provided an opportunity to highlight the nexus between trade and sustainable development.

This document includes a regional analysis of carbon emissions from exports and an estimation of exports of environmental goods, including policy recommendations on how to increase the region's contribution to environmental sustainability through trade. Finally, as part of the subprogramme, technical assistance and advisory services were provided, upon request, to countries of the region to mainstream gender issues in trade policy.

ECLAC subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, aims to identify and support member States in the implementation of new policies to move towards a more diversified economy, promote productivity and increase technological capabilities. Throughout the year, and in partnership with the European Union within the framework of the project “*Mejores políticas para las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas en América Latina*” (EUROMIPYME), ECLAC provided technical assistance to the digital animation industry in Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, carrying out an assessment of the sector's value chain in each country and subsequently designing policy proposals to strengthen them. These policies are expected to foster the creation of productive linkages and a cluster of digital animation firms, improving their productivity and competitiveness through innovation and the adoption of new technologies, especially in the digital field, and to boost trade within Mesoamerica.

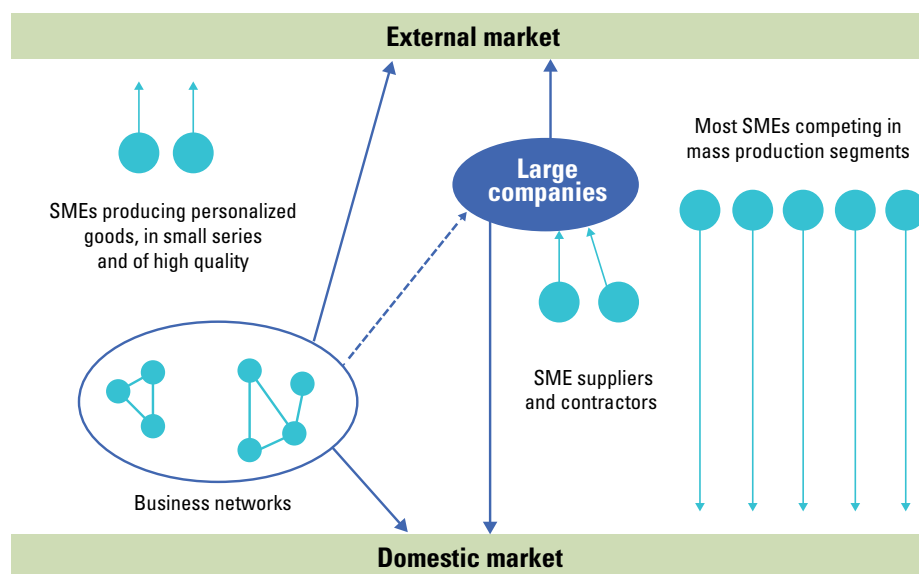
Research on new digital technologies conducted under the subprogramme made it possible to pinpoint its effects on the labour market, to promote the use of big data for development, and to advance in the consideration of cybersecurity and privacy issues in corporate governance. In this regard, the workshop “*Uso de Big Data en las Estadísticas Oficiales para la Medición de la Economía Digital y El Desarrollo Sostenible*” was organized jointly with Data-Pop Alliance and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, as part of a development account project. The workshop was held in Bogotá in May 2019, and its aim was to improve national officers' understanding of the conceptual, technical, methodological, political and ethical aspects of the big data paradigm and its impact on development.

After receiving technical support through the subprogramme, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru adopted policies aimed at increasing competitiveness by incorporating digital technologies into their production processes, which are aligned with the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020). The telecommunications white paper published by Ecuador, *Libro Blanco de la Sociedad de la Información y del Conocimiento*,<sup>5</sup> represents a milestone as it is one of the few in the region with a clearly defined roadmap to guide public policy on the digital economy.

The analysis of the role of business development centres for SMEs in the region, conducted as part of the subprogramme, highlighted the need for new instruments. ECLAC organized the international workshop “Europe and Latin America: partners to promote the development of SMEs” with the European Union under the EUROMIPYME project and with the Production Development Corporation (CORFO) of Chile, in Santiago in May 2019. This workshop brought together European and Latin American business centres and SME development agencies, resulting in increased cooperation between these institutions, including the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) of Uruguay and the Brazilian Agency for Research and Industrial Innovation (EMBRAPII) in October 2019.

<sup>5</sup> See [online] <https://www.telecomunicaciones.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/libro-blanco-de-la-sociedad-de-la-informacion-y-del-conocimiento..pdf>.

## Latin America: integration of businesses into the production structure



**Source:** M. Dini and G. Stumpo (coords.), "Mipymes en América Latina: un frágil desempeño y nuevos desafíos para las políticas de fomento. Síntesis", *Documentos de Proyectos* (LC/TS.2019/20), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2019.

"[...] I would like to express my gratitude to ECLAC for its support in the definition of strategic guidelines and the improvement of competitiveness in the medical equipment production chain. The contribution of ECLAC through the EUROMIPYME project [...] has been significant for advancing towards the successful implementation of the policy [...] for this business segment [...]."

*Sergio Drucaroff, Undersecretary for "Buy Argentine" and Supplier Development, Ministry of Production and Labour, Argentina*

The activities of the subprogramme included technical cooperation with Costa Rica in support of the preparation of its national bioeconomy strategy. As part of this process, ECLAC helped to create an interministerial working group on the bioeconomy and supported dissemination workshops and interviews with stakeholders. Technical support was also provided to Ecuador in the formulation of an agricultural and agro-industrial development plan, focused mainly on the cocoa and dairy value chains.

Activities implemented in 2019 under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, strengthened the capacities of policymakers in the region by creating spaces for South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing, on the basis of ECLAC policy recommendations. The [XXXI Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy](#), which was sponsored by the Spanish Cooperation and held in Santiago in March 2019, was attended by finance ministers and vice-ministers from 10 countries, and by representatives of international organizations, academia and civil society. Taking as a reference the analytical work conducted by ECLAC, participants agreed on the need to increase fiscal space to undertake active fiscal policies. The initiatives discussed include the mobilization of domestic resources by reducing tax evasion and illicit financial flows, adopting taxes on the digital economy and public health levies, changing incentives through environmental taxes to move towards decarbonization of the economy and the reconversion of production, reassessing tax expenditure and strengthening the collection of personal income tax and real estate property tax.

In this regard, the report *Tax incentives for businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>6</sup> jointly published with Oxfam International, aims to establish a dialogue between national authorities, international organizations and civil society organizations on tax incentives, providing tools for their design, as well as to estimate their costs and benefits. These topics were further developed at the seminar Fiscal Challenges in Latin America: Policy Measures for Sustainable & Inclusive Growth, held in Washington, D.C. in June 2019.

Topics such as development banking were also addressed under the subprogramme. The workshop “Development banking and financing of projects towards an environmental big push”, organized by ECLAC with the support of BMZ/GIZ and held in Lima in October 2019, provided a forum to analyse the links between national and regional development banks in order to coordinate actions and financing mechanisms to increase investment in accordance with a green growth strategy. Participants from Brazil, El Salvador, Jamaica, Paraguay and Uruguay, among other countries, presented their experience in leveraging investment by development banks to finance green projects.

Technical assistance on topics related to labour was included in the activities of the subprogramme. Costa Rica benefited from support to develop public policies to improve senior citizens’ entry into the labour market, and in the analysis and interpretation of statistics generated from surveys of job positions in firms. Technical assistance provided to Ecuador resulted in the creation of a data product to analyse labour, and the Dominican Republic received technical support to reform its social security system.

“I am grateful for the technical assistance provided by ECLAC [...] which was fundamental to the discussion of several key elements in the first stage of reform of the social security system.”

*Juan Ariel Jiménez Núñez, Minister of Economic Affairs,  
Planning and Development, Dominican Republic*

Finally, the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019*, draws attention to some of the macroeconomic policy challenges the region faced and examines the external and domestic factors that influenced its economic performance, including economic growth, prices and the labour market. Several countries have incorporated policy advice and empirical tools and frameworks into their analysis, in line with recommendations included in the documents prepared under the subprogramme.

## The social dimension

The work conducted under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, aimed to support the strengthening of social development strategies, policies and programmes oriented towards the achievement of greater social and economic equality.

The third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in October 2019, was attended by representatives of countries, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. ECLAC presented the document *Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda*,<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> LC/TS.2019/50.

<sup>7</sup> LC/CDS.3/3.



which identifies and describes the critical obstacles that give rise to, and perpetuate, the gaps hindering the achievement of inclusive social development. One of the major outcomes of the conference was the adoption by country representatives of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

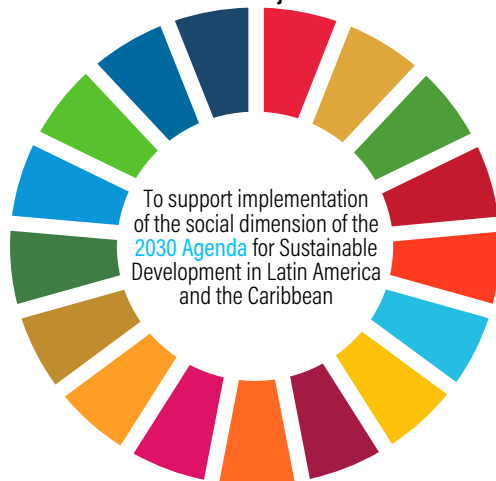
## Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean



The Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development is a technical and political instrument that aims for progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is based on public policies that address poverty, the region's structural inequalities and new challenges. It was adopted in 2019 at the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean which was attended by ministers and high authorities of social development in the region.



### Overall objective:



### Specific objectives:

- 1 Identify axes and lines of action to safeguard and deepen the progress made in social development in the region, end poverty and achieve greater social inclusion and equality.
- 2 Promote high-quality public social development policies that enable the entire population to exercise their rights, leaving no one behind.
- 3 Address the critical obstacles that hinder inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 4 Strengthen the position of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the role of ministries of social development in public agendas.
- 5 Promote regional and subregional cooperation spaces as a means of deepening progress towards inclusive social development.

“We have reviewed this document, Critical obstacles to social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is very important. Over the past few decades, the region has undoubtedly made considerable progress in social development. Poverty indices have been reduced significantly, protection systems in the region have been expanded [...]. But, undeniably, big challenges also remain: the population living in poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America.”

*Nicolás Reyes, Director of the National Council for Intergenerational Equality, Ecuador*

The meeting included the presentation of the [Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), a source of valuable and updated information that provides access to country profiles and analytical documents, and integrates a set of digital platforms and databases already developed by ECLAC on social investment, non-contributory social protection programmes, youth and social inclusion, social institutional frameworks, and regional and subregional commitments in social development.

The *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2019* included innovative analysis in the form of a methodology for measuring socioeconomic stratification in the region and estimating income inequality combining tax and national accounts data, taking into consideration the share of total income of the richest 1% of the population. This exercise showed that the middle-income strata have expanded as a proportion of the total population but are still vulnerable to falling into poverty, and that the levels of inequality measured considering fiscal data and national accounts are higher than those based solely on data obtained from household surveys.

Throughout the year, capacity-building workshops were organized in Argentina, Ecuador and Peru (on the challenges and opportunities in social and labour inclusion of young people with disabilities), in Panama (on public policies for equality) and in Paraguay (on social protection: institutions and territorial management), helping to strengthen the technical capacities of social policy institutions. The activities of the subprogramme also included South-South cooperation activities and interagency partnerships in the context of the measurement of the cost of hunger in Africa, according to the methodology developed by ECLAC for Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). Finally, two reports aimed at analysing and disseminating knowledge on social policies and institutions in the region were published: *Social programmes, poverty eradication and labour inclusion: lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>8</sup> with the support of the Government of Norway, and *Institutional frameworks for social policy in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>9</sup> as part of ECLAC cooperation with Germany.

Video: Vocational education and training for equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Vocational education and training is a key instrument linking education, work and social and economic development.

In 2019, the activities of subprogramme 5, Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development, helped to build the capacities and strengthen the knowledge, skills and policy-formulation capacities of the governments of the region in favour of gender equality and women's physical, economic and decision-making autonomy, through support for gender institutions in national entities such as sectoral ministries and national statistical offices. In this regard, the Dominican Republic published the National Gender Equality and Equity Plan 2020–2030 (PLANEG III), which acknowledged the contribution of the Commission. The technical assistance provided by ECLAC to the Dominican Republic was made possible thanks to German cooperation.

<sup>8</sup> LC/PUB.2019/5-P.

<sup>9</sup> LC/PUB.2017/14-P/Rev.1.

Throughout the year, research under the subprogramme focused on gender relations in Latin American and Caribbean countries, in areas such as international trade, the financial system, education, social protection, the care economy, climate change, the labour market and violence against women. With the support of the Government of Norway, seminars on gender equality in [technical and vocational education](#) were held in Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay, with the objective of generating regional and national discussions on the situation of women in technical and vocational education systems and the challenges of integrating the gender perspective into education policies. This work was complemented by the publication of various studies on the topic.

“[...] we are currently in the process of implementing the Action Plan [of the National Policy for Equality between Men and Women in Training, Employment and the Use of Science, Technology and Innovation Outputs 2017–2028]. At this stage, the support of entities such as ECLAC is fundamental to incorporate best practices, receive support from external consultants and share a more comprehensive international vision.”

*Paola Vega Castillo, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology,  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications, Costa Rica*

The meeting “[Medición del Femicidio en América Latina y el Caribe](#)” was held at ECLAC headquarters in March to discuss the strengthening of the regional femicide indicator of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean—an initiative implemented with the support of the Spanish Cooperation—, and to improve the management of femicide indicators by national governments. The meeting also included the presentation and discussion of a proposed work plan for the development of a femicide registration system in the countries of the region. The recommendations made as a result will also play a key role in the context of the launch in the region of the Spotlight Initiative established by the European Union and the United Nations, in which femicide is a priority area of work. This topic was further discussed at a side event during the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, to identify effective instruments to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women in politics, and to identify advances in legislative proposals and national and local initiatives that can be put into practice in the countries of the region.

National capacities were also strengthened to produce and analyse gender statistics and the relations between producers and users of gender statistics. Two training sessions focused on planning for development with a gender perspective were implemented (in [Port of Spain](#) and [Santiago](#)), to strengthen the capacities of public agents, experts and government and non-government technicians to incorporate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of planning processes at different territorial scales. The activities of the subprogramme involved preparatory work for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the organization of three subregional preparatory meetings. In this regard, ECLAC worked with UNDP to organize a workshop held in June, to analyse the multiple challenges of achieving gender equality in the context of changing economic scenarios at the regional level. The meeting involved the participation of prominent feminist economists,

academic researchers and experts from ECLAC, UNDP, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In 2019, under subprogramme 6, Population and development, the Commission provided training in demographic analysis, support for census taking and technical assistance in population themes, including population estimates and projections. These actions included gender and ethnic perspectives, for example, training courses for indigenous women and technical assistance for the inclusion of the gender perspective and persons with disabilities in population censuses. Technical assistance was provided to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Peru with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), covering different areas of the census process, including mapping, development of the questionnaire and dialogue with users, processing, evaluation, training in the use and analysis of information, and as a derivative, the preparation of estimates and population projections. In this regard, following systematic support throughout the year under the subprogramme, Guatemala successfully completed its census in 2019, after 16 years.

“On behalf of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru, I would like to thank the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) for the technical assistance it provided within the framework of the regional population programme, for the review of estimates and projections of the national population [...], which represents a valuable input for the improvement of the country’s official statistics.”

*Francisco Costa Aponte, Chief of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), Peru*

In addition, and in partnership with national universities, government agencies and regional organizations, the subprogramme included training courses and workshops to build capacity in the analysis of demographic and population issues, with a focus on indirect methods of fertility and mortality estimation, production and use of indicators for policies and programmes, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants, care and ageing, migration, adolescent maternity, population prospects and national transfer accounts. Training in the use of the statistical tool for the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) was also provided to national offices throughout the year.

At the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York in April, the [First regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus](#)<sup>10</sup> was presented as 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. Furthermore, and as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC was tasked with coordinating the preparation of the metadata of a first set of indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus. During the year the Commission also continued to follow up the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration through its participation in various instances and multilateral forums.

<sup>10</sup> LC/CRPD.3/6.

Throughout 2019, ECLAC analysed the impact of demographic transition, ageing and the situation of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within the framework of a Development Account project, the Commission organized four national workshops to disseminate the information of the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) prepared in the context of the project, three capacity-building training workshops on the NTA methodology and two sensitization workshops on the subject. The regional seminar “*Transición Demográfica: Oportunidades y Desafíos para Alcanzar los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe*”, held in Santiago in September, provided a space for countries at various stages of their demographic transition to share experiences and lessons learned to identify similarities and differences in the opportunities and challenges they face, and to raise awareness of the different political approaches, in light of the new results of NTA studies available in the region.

Finally, the “*Seminario Internacional sobre Envejecimiento Poblacional y Políticas Públicas Vinculadas a las Personas Mayores*”, jointly organised by ECLAC and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, was held in Asunción in September, within the scope of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminar was attended by over 100 participants including experts from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay, as well as representatives of national government, civil society and academia. It provided a space to reflect on the economic and social impact of demographic changes and public policies linked to older persons, in order to raise awareness of the need for different policy approaches that contribute to the welfare of older persons and encourage their participation in decision-making.

## The sustainability dimension

Under subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, ECLAC supported the countries of the region in the achievement of ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs). At the fifth Regional Dialogue about Climate Finance in Latin America, held in Costa Rica in March 2019, national representatives shared experiences about the main advances regarding the fulfilment of NDCs in terms of financing, taxation, and public and private investment, among others. The importance of including social carbon pricing in the evaluation of public investment projects was emphasized through the publication *El costo social del carbono: una visión agregada desde América Latina*<sup>11</sup> and the second meeting of the working group on the social cost of carbon, held in Santiago in March, with the support of the European Union through the project EUROCLIMA+.

In July, with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), ECLAC organized a study tour in Chile for 15 technicians and experts from the Andean mining sector so that they could learn from practical cases about production chains, the circular economy, management of mining environmental liabilities and mine closure. Also with the support of GIZ, ECLAC provided assistance to the working group on mining companies and human rights of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO). In this regard, a publication on the inclusion of the human rights-based

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<sup>11</sup> LC/TS.2019/10.

approach in environmental impact assessment and the role of national human rights institutions in promoting environmentally and socially responsible mining was issued.

The [first meeting of the countries signatory to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Escazú Agreement) took place in Costa Rica in October 2019. At the meeting, which was jointly organized by Costa Rica and ECLAC (serving as secretariat), discussions focused on matters to be addressed at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, and on strategies and alternatives to achieve its early entry into force and implementation. In addition, ECLAC provided technical assistance to Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, to promote the signature and ratification of the agreement, and jointly with the government of Peru finalized its translation into Quechua.

The Commission strengthened its collaboration with Ecuador by signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing to support the country in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, ECLAC organized a workshop, held in Quito, to enhance national capacities for monitoring and reporting human settlement indicators. The twenty-eighth General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), held in San José from 21-22 October, was also convened by the Commission; at the meeting it presented the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform.

“The Platform represents the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the sustainable development of human settlements and will encourage the sharing and dissemination of experiences among our countries in the area of housing and urban development, as a whole, which are aspirations shared by ECLAC and MINURVI. Madame Executive Secretary, on behalf of MINURVI, I would like to express support for the necessary measures carried out by ECLAC to mobilize resources for the establishment and sustainability of the Platform.”

*Irene Campos Gómez, Minister of Housing  
and Human Settlements, Costa Rica*

Progress in different ECLAC initiatives was presented and discussed at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25), held in Madrid in December 2019, in side events on the social price of carbon as a key criterion in the evaluation of public investment projects in Latin America, advances in climate action in Latin America – nationally determined contributions for 2019, and the economics of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean and green fiscal policy as an instrument for decarbonization. ECLAC also presented the 2019 edition of the NDC overview of Latin America and the Caribbean, [Panorama de las contribuciones determinadas a nivel nacional en América Latina y el Caribe, 2019: avances para el cumplimiento del Acuerdo de París](#),

and the joint publication with OHCHR, *Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>12</sup> to promote rights and provide an evidence-based approach to climate change, at this event. The European Union and ECLAC supported the Government of Chile in the organization and preparation of COP25 through the joint programme EUROCLIMA+ COP25. This support will continue until the end of the Government of Chile's term as President of the Conference of the Parties.

Finally, within the framework of the cooperation programme with Germany on sustainable development paths for middle-income countries, several activities are focused on encouraging progressive structural change in the countries of the region based on an environmental big push. Thus, the activities of the subprogramme aim for a coordinated reorientation of policies, investments, regulations and tax regimes to maintain and recover the productive capacity of natural capital, and, at the same time, to generate jobs and economic growth. Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Mexico were defined as pilot countries with activities related to the bioeconomy, clean energy, decarbonization, sustainable urban mobility and climate change mitigation and adaptation that are replicable at the national or regional levels.

Under subprogramme 8, Natural resources and infrastructure, support was provided to countries of the region in their efforts to improve coordination among sectors in water management, mobility, mining and energy. A regional workshop on river logistics policies in South America (*Taller Regional sobre Políticas de Logística Fluvial en América del Sur*) was held in Rosario, Argentina, in April 2019. At the event, which was attended by 720 participants from the agro-industry and infrastructure sectors of Argentina and neighbouring countries, ECLAC presented an analysis of the impact of the development of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, as well as policy recommendations for a coordinated institutional framework among countries that are part of this river basin. The work of the Commission was acknowledged by the Deputy Minister of Transport of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, who thanked ECLAC for its support.

With a view to strengthening intersectoral work on road safety and to sharing road safety experiences regarding transportation policies, infrastructure, legislation and data management in Caribbean countries, ECLAC worked with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Jamaica's Ministry of Transport and Mining and the National Road Safety Council, to organize the *Caribbean Road Safety Regional Workshop*, held in Kingston in August 2019. This event brought together international experts and representatives from eleven Caribbean countries to discuss stronger regulatory and enforcement frameworks, data management to improve planning and policymaking, and best practices for vehicle safety.

In May 2019, the Commission, with the support of Germany, facilitated a methodological exchange between Chile and Peru which resulted in the Ministry of Energy and Mining of Peru planning different initiatives to improve mining statistics. As a follow-up, at the workshop on advances and recommendations in the management of mining environmental liabilities

<sup>12</sup> LC/TS.2019/94.



and mine closure in Andean countries (*Avances y Recomendaciones en la Gestión de Pasivos Ambientales Mineros (PAM) y Cierre de Minas en los Países Andinos*), held in Lima in August, concrete results were presented by these countries regarding the construction and analysis of indicators assessing the efficiency of using water and energy in mining processes (copper, silver and other minerals). Technical assistance was provided to the Secretariat of Mining Policy of Argentina, which acknowledged the support received in developing a system of indicators of environmental sustainability in mining to inform the formulation of evidence-based public policies. With the support of the programme “Regional cooperation for the sustainable management of mining in the Andean Countries (MINSUS)”, technical assistance was also provided to the Office of Environmental and Social Affairs of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia, to develop a strategy to mainstream gender in the mining and energy sectors, in line with the country’s Human Rights National Strategy 2014–2034.

“Thanks to the technical support provided by ECLAC, the Secretariat of Mining Policy has strengthened its knowledge and capacities to advance towards the formulation and monitoring of public mining policy based on information that contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.”

*Diana Carolina Sánchez, Secretary in the Secretariat of Mining Policy,  
Ministry of Production and Labour, Argentina*

ECLAC maintained its support for the landlocked developing countries of the region in 2019. At its headquarters in Santiago in June 2019, the Commission hosted the [Midterm review meeting](#) of Latin American countries preparatory to the comprehensive midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries the Decade 2014–2024. At the event, participants discussed the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the SDGs in the Latin American region, in areas such as transit policy, infrastructure, information and communications technologies, energy, trade facilitation and regional integration.

Through a series of activities within the framework of the Regional Observatory on Sustainable Energy (ROSE), ECLAC provided support to Argentina, Cuba, Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to achieve SDG 7. The Commission organised a regional training programme in Panama in May, and provided support to the country’s National Secretariat of Energy to improve the management of databases and indicators for the formulation of evidence-based policies. During the year, workshops and training programmes were also organized in Argentina to enhance national capacities in this area. Similarly, the third Forum for Energy Planners, which was supported by German cooperation, was held in Peru in October. This event focused on accelerating collective efforts towards further regional integration based on the complementarity of renewable energy resources.

Finally, ECLAC published *La bonanza de los recursos naturales para el desarrollo: dilemas de gobernanza*,<sup>13</sup> which provides an analysis of the regional context since the occurrence of the commodities super cycle, when the boom in prices and incomes failed to translate into a virtuous transformation of production or movement towards equality.

<sup>13</sup> LC/PUB.2019/13-P.



## The public management and statistics dimension

In 2019, under subprogramme 9, Planning of public administration, ECLAC provided technical assistance to countries in the region and conducted applied research and training to support member States in their planning and public management processes. The Commission convened the sixteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the *seventeenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning*, which were held in Montevideo from 28–30 August 2019. The events were attended by national planning authorities from 18 countries of the region, with a strong Caribbean presence (7 countries), to discuss relevant issues on territorial planning, planning for resilience, information systems and the financing of territorial development policies. Planning authorities reaffirmed the importance of the mandate of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and requested the Institute to continue strengthening capacities in planning and public management from the national to local levels.

National plans  
in Latin America  
and the Caribbean



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en>.

Technical assistance was provided to: Costa Rica in the implementation of data interoperability processes under the framework of its national digital transformation strategy; to Chile to facilitate the identification of key elements

for the development of a regional development policy; to Ecuador in the implementation of the country's first open government action plan; to Panama, in tools and methodologies to strengthen national capabilities in planning and public management; and to Paraguay, in the updating of the national development plan, its operationalization, the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda and its localization. Technical support was also provided to the province of Catamarca, Argentina, in local development strategies in the context of the 2030 Agenda; and to the municipality of Renca, Chile, in the development and implementation processes of its open government action plan. Finally, technical support provided to Uruguay helped to formulate an intersectoral development strategy for the provinces of Durazno and Tacuarembó.

Throughout the year, meetings of experts were organized on topics such as the creation of public value in learning communities, the relevance of networks, and methodological tools for the strengthening of sustainable, inclusive and participatory institutions. The Regional Observatory on Planning for Development, supported by the Spanish and the German cooperation programmes, consolidated its knowledge management offering by publishing and analysing 153 land management and urban development policies, as well as all open government plans of the countries in the region and their linkages to the respective national development plans. Meanwhile, the PlanBarometer was applied to eight countries at the national and/or subnational levels.

Applied research was undertaken on territorial development —with a proposed analytical model to consolidate territorial development policies— and on multilevel planning, providing an analysis of the complexity of localizing public policies through the interconnection of different planning instruments from the national to local levels. The Commission continued to develop capacity-building activities in 2019, delivering more than 10 training courses to strengthen the capacities of national officers in open government, logical frameworks, project management, territorial planning, participatory planning, formulation and evaluation of public investment projects and gender mainstreaming.

Throughout 2019, the activities of subprogramme 10, Statistics, helped to advance the integration of statistical and geospatial information. An initial assessment of the integration of this information in the countries of the region was presented at the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Technical assistance was provided to several countries, resulting in better coordination among the relevant national counterparts. The [first international workshop on operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework](#) was hosted by the Commission and held in Santiago from 9–11 September, to address the availability and accessibility of geospatial information.

In November 2019, ECLAC convened the [tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas](#), at which country representatives adopted the *Proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America*, as a regional model for countries that are interested in formulating or reformulating the legal basis for the functioning of their national statistical systems and the production of official statistics. At the request of member States, the Conference successfully restructured the mechanism for approval of working groups for 2020–2021. The Commission led a consultative process in which countries identified regional priorities of statistical development, then selected the most relevant activities to address them. Eleven working groups were approved for this period to strengthen statistical work in the region, owing to their closer alignment with high-priority subject areas and

a clearly defined outcome, such as regional guidelines or best practice compilations. In addition, ECLAC launched the website of the Knowledge Transfer Network (<https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/>), to share and disseminate the outputs and documents of the working groups of the Conference, and to provide information on upcoming events and relevant materials.

“The Office sees the exchanges as positive, and that they have an impact on the increase in the capacity of technical staff and on the ONEI in general.”

*Marlon Milián Monzón, Acting First Deputy Chief of the National Office of Statistics and Information, Cuba*

In 2019, ECLAC carried out capacity-building activities in SDG environmental indicators. National training programmes and courses were organized in Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay, on topics such as environmental statistics and indicators, disaster risk reduction, and disaster risk indicators. As a result of technical assistance provided by ECLAC, the Plurinational State of Bolivia prepared a national plan for the development of environmental statistics and indicators, thus providing evidence-based monitoring of the implementation of the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda and its national policies. Countries of the region participated in at least one of the four webinars organized through the regional network on environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, which brings together more than 150 professionals and plays an important role as an informal collaborative tool for integration and institutional and technical strengthening in the region through the curated contents of the network’s platform.<sup>14</sup>

Technical assistance was also provided in other statistical areas. In partnership with the World Bank, ECLAC provided technical assistance and promoted activities for the effective implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in Latin America and the Caribbean. The programme activities included a technical meeting, held in Guyana in June, to assist Caribbean countries in the preparation and revision of special surveys and national accounts in the context of the ICP. Jointly with ILO, ECLAC provided advice to Chile on the improvement of the National Employment Survey. Moreover, it provided methodological guidelines for the aggregation of monthly employment surveys in Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and for enhancements to the household expenditures surveys of Costa Rica and Jamaica. Technical support was provided throughout the year to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in relation to consumer price indices and economic statistics. Finally, thanks to the technical support received under the subprogramme, Paraguay published a new series of national accounts (annual and quarterly data), as well as supply and use tables, and Guatemala compiled quarterly national accounts.

## The subregional dimension

Under subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico worked in closed collaboration with governments of the subregion to shape the conversation on pertinent issues. Throughout the year, ECLAC provided the Government of Mexico City with comprehensive technical

<sup>14</sup> See [online] <https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/es>.

assistance regarding social, environmental, fiscal and planning affairs. In this regard, technical studies have been prepared to provide authorities with a better understanding of local income distribution and labour market structures, including proposals for possible sources of innovation for dynamic growth in Mexico City and the metropolitan area.

In Guatemala, which applied the methodology of critical links and nodes and which successfully coordinated the 2030 Agenda with the National Plan, ECLAC worked with the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) to implement a workshop on leaving no one behind on the path to development in Guatemala in 2019. The work focused on identifying ways to achieve the SDGs on the basis of logical frameworks, allowing national authorities to identify public policy interventions aimed at effectively accomplishing the goals. The preparation of the 2020 public budget, jointly delivered by SEGEPLAN and the Ministry of Public Finance, was based on this work.

In the last decade, ministries of finance of Central American Integration System (SICA) countries and ECLAC have collaborated on an initiative relating to the economics of climate change, and established a fiscal policy agenda including public investment, incentives or subsidies, budgeting, risk retention or transfer, and climate funding. In 2019, technical cooperation with these countries received a boost thanks to the negotiation of financial support from the Government of Switzerland for an initiative to strengthen the design of public investment projects on disaster risk reduction, sustainable and inclusive adaptation to climate change and opportunities to implement technologies targeting sustainable low emissions.

Throughout the year, ECLAC provided extensive technical cooperation services to countries in the subregion. In the context of a Development Account project, technical assistance was provided to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama in the preparation of input-output tables. The compilation of these tables represented an important milestone. As a result of the project, a subregional input-output table was compiled for the first time, providing relevant indicators on regional value chains and regional integration, providing data and contributing to the formulation of evidence-based industrial and international trade policies. Technical cooperation services were also delivered to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala regarding the design of strategies aimed at fostering economic and social upgrading in rural value chains through family remittances, increasing financial inclusion and diaspora investment in productive initiatives in rural development contexts. In addition, Guatemala benefited from capacity-building activities. An online course was designed jointly with the Presidential Commission on Racism and Discrimination against Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala to strengthen national officers' capacities to identify discriminatory practices in public services, health and education, in order to eradicate them and to build an institutional order in compliance with cultural diversity and indigenous rights.

ECLAC continued its work on social protection in Haiti. A workshop was held in Port-au-Prince in June 2019 at the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to discuss the preliminary draft of the national social protection and promotion policy, and support was also provided to prepare a study on the cost of the proposals. Technical assistance was also provided to Cuba regarding its National Economic and Social Development Plan for 2030.

“I would like to thank ECLAC for giving its support and commitment in the training provided in value chains and partnerships for productivity from 6–7 August in San José. For this Ministry, organizers and participants, this event provided an enriching forum for knowledge and learning and showed us, public sector institutions, the importance of working together to take successful action in this field.”

*Laura Pacheco Ovares, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs,  
Industry and Commerce, Costa Rica*

In 2019, ECLAC worked with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) to organize a seminar on integration, attended by representatives of all the integration schemes in Latin America and the Caribbean, namely, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Andean Community (CAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), MERCOSUR and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), as well as representatives of regional institutions (CAF, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL)) and of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, a meeting on universal access to clean cooking fuels in SICA countries, including proposed action plans for Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, was held in Antigua, Guatemala, in June, to discuss the road map to achieve universal access to fuel and clean technologies for cooking food, in line with SDG 7.1. Another meeting organized by the Commission in Mexico City in June focused on women and energy, and was attended by professional women working in different areas of the energy sector in Mexico. Under subprogramme 11, the Commission's main development partner was the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This collaboration included a project to scale up the productive inclusion model based on a previous IFAD project on the social economy in Mexico. Another initiative to better understand the new rurality focused on persistent structural gaps in order to reduce rural poverty and inequality and foster structural transformation in middle-income countries in Latin America.

Following work done under subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, there is increased interest in using trade policies for economic development and achieving SDGs in the Caribbean region. In 2019, Trinidad and Tobago launched its new trade policy, which examines avenues for economic diversification, expanding existing and new markets for exports of goods and services, and achieving trade-related SDGs. Other countries in the subregion have expressed interest in following suit. In July 2019, ECLAC presented at the thirtieth meeting of Heads of CARICOM Social Security Organizations the findings of the study *Inclusive social protection and demographic change: the implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean*,<sup>15</sup> to sensitize participants to the long-term implications of population ageing for Caribbean economies and public expenditure on pensions, health and education. In 2019, the Commission published a [study](#) on the impact of upgrading and diversifying tourism goods and services in the Bahamas, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Bahamas is actively using this study to guide the development of its tourism sector and Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis found the study useful for the implementation of national tourism

<sup>15</sup> LC/TS.2017/153 - LC/CAR/TS.2017/14.

policies. Other studies were also published. *Using universal service funds to increase access to technology for persons with disabilities in the Caribbean*<sup>16</sup> served as the basis of the discussions in a meeting of experts on the topic held in Port of Spain in August, and of a training session on increasing access to technology for persons with disabilities, which was held in Port of Spain in October, and attended by representatives of several Caribbean countries. Additional studies prepared by the Commission include *An economic analysis of flooding in the Caribbean: the case of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago*,<sup>17</sup> which provides evidence of the economic impact of recurrent floods, and *Gender mainstreaming in national sustainable development planning in the Caribbean*,<sup>18</sup> which assesses the status of gender mainstreaming in the policy framework of Caribbean countries.

In 2019, ECLAC continued to support the countries of the subregion in the drafting of their national development plans. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acknowledged the Commission's technical advice regarding its National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 in which goals and targets are aligned with the SDGs and budgetary allocations are dedicated to strategies for their attainment. ECLAC also supported Grenada in the drafting of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035, integrating the SDGs and the SIDS agenda. Technical support from the Commission helped Dominica to achieve policy coherence through the realignment of sectoral plans to operationalize the National Resilience Development Strategy – Dominica 2030. Saint Lucia also received support in the preparation of an SDG road map and in the preparation of the its voluntary national review, which was presented at the 2019 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) held in New York.

The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean conducted scenario analyses on debt sustainability as part of the ECLAC Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative. As a result, practical debt reduction options were developed for Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which provide a basis for discussions and negotiations with multilateral and bilateral creditors. In addition, the debt for climate adaptation swap strategy was reformulated to incorporate the launch of a Caribbean Resilience Fund, which is designed to attract large-scale funding for climate resilience-building while addressing debt reduction in the Caribbean.

“On behalf of the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and Investment, I wish to place on record my profuse thanks to you and ECLAC for your display of leadership and fraternity in assisting us with mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into our National Development Plan, and further reviewing and facilitating alignment between the National Resilience Development Strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals and the sectoral strategic plans.”

*Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning,  
Economic Development and Investment, Dominica*

<sup>16</sup> LC/TS.2019/59 - LC/CAR/TS.2019/2.

<sup>17</sup> LC/TS.2019/55 - LC/CAR/TS.2019/1.

<sup>18</sup> LC/TS.2020/2 - LC/CAR/TS.2019/10.

In 2019, the subregional headquarters continued to prioritize support for the implementation of the small island developing States (SIDS) agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. The *Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action*<sup>19</sup> was used as a supporting document to inform the outcomes of the San Pedro Declaration for Caribbean SIDS, and the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Ongoing advocacy with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and other regional partners resulted in the positioning of the SIDS agenda as a priority for all development partners at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. In this context, ECLAC, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), organized the international competition “I am a Youth of a Small Island”, which raised youth awareness on the SIDS agenda for sustainable development. ECLAC also convened a meeting with key stakeholders aimed at revitalizing regional coordination mechanisms as a critical vehicle for identifying SIDS priorities, developing SIDS-SIDS cooperation, and facilitating more effective synergies in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Caribbean SIDS agenda through the SAMOA Pathway.

ECLAC also provided support to countries in the subregion for their upcoming census rounds. In this regard, and jointly with UNFPA, ECLAC organized the regional workshop “[Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Census and SDGs in the Caribbean](#)”, which was held in Kingston, in April 2019. The event, which was attended by participants from over twenty Caribbean countries and territories, provided a space to share lessons learned and best practices and strengthened national statistical offices’ capacities in census planning, particularly regarding the adoption of new technologies for data collection. In addition, training on REDATAM was provided to several Caribbean countries to facilitate dissemination of their data from the 2011 census round.

In September 2019, ECLAC conducted a disaster assessment in the Bahamas following the passage of Hurricane Dorian. Training was also provided to the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) on disaster risk management, building the capacities of national officers to conduct smaller disaster assessments independently and to participate more effectively in damage and loss assessment exercises.

Under subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, ECLAC initiated in 2019 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. The first meeting of the Network was convened in Havana on 27 May 2019, and the second in Mexico City from 28–29 November 2019. At the meetings, countries of the region recognized the importance of the Network to the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation and agreed on the activities to be carried out in 2020 in the areas of institution-building, statistics and cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, advisory services were provided to Cuba in its capacity as Chair

<sup>19</sup> See [online] [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20949\\_Caribbean\\_SAMOA\\_Pathway\\_Midterm\\_report\\_18\\_Oct.2018\\_final\\_draft1.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20949_Caribbean_SAMOA_Pathway_Midterm_report_18_Oct.2018_final_draft1.pdf).



of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, prior to the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of that Committee in April 2019 and to the meetings of the Network.

Within the framework of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, various contributions focused on the theme of integration. In this regard, a side event was organized with the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) to strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach as a contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ECLAC contributed to the discussions held at the first international seminar on the regional challenges of implementing the SDGs in the parliaments of MERCOSUR countries (PARLASUR), held in Montevideo in June, to exchange views on the integration of the SDGs into the work of parliaments.

The seventeenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Tuxtla Mechanism for Dialogue and Coordination, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 21–23 August 2019, provided an opportunity to liaise with several integration mechanisms that are part of the Inter-Institutional Technical Group of the Mesoamerica Integration and Development Project to foster synergies and future collaboration. Costa Rica benefited from technical advice regarding alternatives for the creation of a technical secretariat for the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) in its capacity as President of MINURVI. In support of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), held in Buenos Aires in March 2019, ECLAC prepared the document *15 años del Comité de Cooperación Sur-Sur de la CEPAL (2004-2019): compendio de resoluciones y acuerdos*<sup>20</sup> for the Chair of the Committee on South-South Cooperation.

## ECLAC national offices

Throughout 2019, the **ECLAC office in Washington, D.C.** provided relevant and timely analysis of developments in the United States economy and global financial markets to assist Latin American and Caribbean countries in evaluating key analytical and policy issues. Significant progress was made in monitoring access to international financial markets, particularly through the analysis of the recent trends in access to capital markets in Caribbean countries, which involved a detailed examination of the characteristics of this subregion, including resilience challenges. Gender mainstreaming was a focus, reflected in the participation in the task force on women's empowerment and leadership, along with other United Nations entities, and in the preparation of inputs on gender and innovative financing mechanisms. The office continued to update the database of the Observatory of Latin American and Caribbean Bond Issuance, Spreads and Credit Ratings. Finally, it also disseminated ECLAC publications and policy recommendations at events and conferences, in academic settings and to think tanks.

In 2019, the **ECLAC office in Brasilia** gave priority to the environmental big push, which aims to encourage more and better public and private investments in sustainable energy with an emphasis on innovation, contributing to an energy big push in Brazil. To that end, the office organized events in Brasilia and São Paulo, in addition to a side event at the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development



**WORKSHOP**  
**Grande Impulso**  
**Energia**

<sup>20</sup> LC/TS.2019/79.



held in Santiago, to allow partners and experts to work together to create proposals. Several studies on the energy big push were published. All these activities resulted in the creation of a repository of more than 130 possible sustainable investment projects in Brazil. In 2019, the office continued its key collaboration with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) on numerous events and studies. Finally, *Alternativas para o desenvolvimento brasileiro: novos horizontes para a mudança estrutural com igualdade*<sup>21</sup> was published. This document is the result of the contributions of young Brazilian researchers to the analysis of the future of their country's economy, based on the analyses and proposals put forward by ECLAC.



The **ECLAC office in Bogotá** continued its support for national and local authorities to better plan the allocation of resources and development efforts. In the context of a Development Account [project](#) on rural-urban linkages for inclusive development in Colombia, the office organized dialogues featuring experts to analyse territorial interdependencies and explore different approaches to territory. Technical assistance was provided in the implementation of development plans with a territorial approach, and in tax reform for subnational governments. The office also organized technical sessions of the new committee of experts formed to provide advice to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) in updating and measuring monetary and multidimensional poverty, which resulted in the presentation of monetary and multidimensional poverty data for 2018. In addition, the office collaborated with the United Nations country team in Colombia by sharing its expertise on the country and the region.

The **ECLAC office in Buenos Aires** supports the development and regional integration of Argentina. As part of a Development Account project, the office organized a workshop on the use of input-output table techniques aimed at Argentine public officials. A seminar on productive integration and value chains was held in August and convened academics, experts and government officials. Furthermore, the second issue of the *Boletín de Comercio Exterior del MERCOSUR*, a new annual publication prepared by the ECLAC office in Buenos Aires in coordination with the ECLAC offices in Brasilia and Montevideo, was published in 2019. Finally, a [study](#) on the production structure in the province of Buenos Aires was published, thanks to the provision of technical assistance to the governments of the provinces of Buenos Aires and Formosa in structural development gaps.

In 2019, the **ECLAC office in Montevideo** provided technical assistance to Uruguay in the development of a computable general equilibrium model for the country's economy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Office of Planning and the Budget. Technical assistance included training activities relating to methodological issues. The office implemented activities that facilitated a better understanding of the scope and impact of changes in social protection in Uruguay, provided analysis based on poverty levels and public social expenditure, included a gender perspective and covered various countries in the region. Finally, the office established a new form of collaboration with the resident coordinator, integrating itself into the new structure by contributing its technical knowledge, along with the rest of the United Nations system in Uruguay.

<sup>21</sup> LC/TS.2019/27 – LC/BRS/TS.2019/3.

# partnerships

## Strategic partnerships for development

In 2019, ECLAC reinforced its efforts to better respond to the growing needs and demands of the member States deriving from the structural challenges still faced by middle-income countries in terms of the sustainability of comprehensive development. These challenges have become more evident as the socioeconomic landscape of the region has evolved, characterized by a generalized economic slowdown coupled with growing social demands and pressures to reduce inequality and improve social inclusion, which have emerged with unusual force in certain countries of the region.

In view of the above, and compounded by the complex situation ECLAC faced in 2019 owing to the budgetary constraints experienced by the United Nations, the Commission had to strengthen alliances with various strategic partners in order to expand its technical cooperation activities. ECLAC contributes its significant endowment of institutional capabilities to these strategic partnerships through its: (i) recognized capacity to generate public policy proposals from a comprehensive analysis of regional development firmly anchored in empirical evidence; (ii) power to convene and to promote shared visions and regional consensus through intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder dialogues that are sectoral and cross-cutting, at both the technical and policymaking levels, and thus facilitating regional cooperation and the generation of regional public goods and services; (iii) capacity to coordinate broad multi-stakeholder coalitions for regional or subregional initiatives such as the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico and (iv) capacity to translate all of the above into operational activities in the form of technical assistance and training aimed at strengthening national capacities. Two additional relevant dimensions of these strategic partnerships for development are their optimization of the Commission's capacity to respond to emerging issues on the regional and global agenda and the opportunity for innovation they provide in the search for solutions to complex and multifactorial problems.



This value proposition, together with its significant capacity to widely disseminate the results and impact of such cooperation, has enabled ECLAC to consolidate its role as a cost-efficient and effective implementing entity of international and regional cooperation. Through these strategic alliances with ECLAC, member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, multilateral organizations, academic centres and universities, foundations, private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) leverage the impact of their own contributions to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, creating synergies with their other activities. In addition, cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean through ECLAC provides some actors that have seen their bilateral official development assistance for middle-income countries reduced with the opportunity to maintain their engagement with countries of the region in relation to development issues.

Within this framework, a high level of activity was maintained in 2019, in terms of both the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources and in the execution of projects financed with these resources. ECLAC was able to mobilize approximately US\$ 13.5 million for 42 projects, most of which were multi-year (some planned to run until 2022). Although not all partnerships involve the transfer of financial resources, they contribute to the exchange of knowledge and to the identification and dissemination of good practices, and are thus a valuable support to the implementation of the programme of work.

## Framework agreements and technical cooperation projects in 2019

Table 1

Shows the number of framework agreements signed in 2019. These agreements were signed with governmental and non-governmental agencies and institutions in order to initiate a working relationship that does not involve the transfer of financial resources.

ECLAC framework agreements of technical cooperation signed in 2019	
Bilateral agreements	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	23
Governments outside the region	4
Non-governmental organizations	2
Academic institutions of the region	1
Academic institutions outside the region	5
<b>Total bilateral agreements</b>	<b>35</b>
Multilateral agreements	
Agencies of the United Nations system	8
Development banks	0
European Commission	0
Intergovernmental organizations and others <sup>a</sup>	7
<b>Total multilateral agreements</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total new framework agreements</b>	<b>50</b>

Table 2

Shows the number of technical cooperation projects signed in 2019. These projects involve the transfer of financial resources from the donor institutions. In 2019, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) was incorporated as a new ECLAC donor with a multi-year project of US\$ 3.6 million.

ECLAC technical cooperation projects signed in 2019	
Bilateral projects	
Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean	10
Governments outside the region	15
Non-governmental organizations	2
Academic institutions of the region	0
Academic institutions outside the region	0
<b>Total bilateral projects</b>	<b>27</b>
Multilateral projects	
Agencies of the United Nations system	12
Development banks	1
European Commission	1
Intergovernmental organizations and others <sup>a</sup>	1
<b>Total multilateral projects</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total new framework projects</b>	<b>42</b>

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

<sup>a</sup> Forum of Presidents of Legislative Branches of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), among others.

At the bilateral level, in 2019 ECLAC continued to consolidate its cooperation with the countries of the region, including Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay, which were joined in 2019 by Colombia, with whom the Commission signed a multi-year agreement to encourage cooperation among the countries of the region in the fields of big data, administrative records and statistical capacities in general, directly related to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. This agreement is particularly relevant as it serves as an example of South-South cooperation.

ECLAC also continued to strengthen partnerships with countries outside the region, such as France, Germany, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and now Switzerland, with which a multi-year agreement was signed to support the Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN) in their efforts to protect public investments in infrastructure resilient to natural disasters and climate change, which affect this subregion with increasing frequency.

Cooperation has been expanded and diversified in several cases. The cooperation programme with Germany supported initial efforts to update and revamp REDATAM, software developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC which has been used for data processing and dissemination of statistics and censuses in more than 40 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. In addition, the programme “Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Management of Mining in the Andean Countries (MINSUS)” was renewed and will continue funding, among others, the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC is working with Spain to implement a new project on social cohesion through the Spanish Cooperation training centre in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Commission agreed on two lines of work with Norway, one linked to regional preparations for the United Nations Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 2–6 June 2020) and the other concerning activities in Central America. With regard to cooperation with the Republic of Korea, in addition to the partnership in the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) Trust Fund —of which the Republic of Korea is the largest donor and Co-Chair— a new annual bilateral programme was signed which combines elements of continuity with new themes, and ways to diversify cooperation in the next triennial programme are being explored.

In terms of multilateral cooperation, the strategic alliance with the European Union was consolidated, which allowed both institutions to support the presidency of COP25 within the framework of EUROCLIMA+. This support will continue until the beginning of the next Conference of the Parties. ECLAC also continues to play an important role in the implementation of the European Union-led programme AL-Invest 5.0 by supporting the countries of the region in designing and implementing better policies in support of micro, small and medium enterprises.

In addition, together with the European Union and OECD, ECLAC has continued to deepen the debate on the need to adapt development cooperation to the needs of middle-income countries. Through the Regional Facility for Development in Transition to promote pilot programmes of the new cooperation model that are more suited to the reality of middle-income countries, ECLAC has broadened the scope of involvement in the fields of statistics, gender, social stratification, productive development at the territorial level and sustainable agriculture, among others.



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



**FEALAC**

Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation



**WORLD BANK GROUP**







Another innovative multilateral cooperation mechanism which has been gaining ground is the FEALAC Trust Fund, managed jointly by ECLAC and ESCAP. According to the Declaration of the ninth Foreign Ministers' Meeting of FEALAC (Santo Domingo, 9 November 2019), this Fund is the most effective channel to strengthen cooperation between East Asia and Latin America. As a result, new contributions to the Fund have been made by Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Korea.



Collaborate with development banks, which are strategic partners of both ECLAC and member States, is very important to the Commission. Thanks to the success of the projects implemented in 2018 and 2019, new agreements were signed with the World Bank and IDB on statistical matters and institutional strengthening of the ministries of finance of the region, respectively. Similarly, joint activities were carried out with CAF. ECLAC efforts to engage with development banks are not limited to those from the Latin American and Caribbean region; discussions have begun with the French Development Agency (AFD) to sign the first cooperation programme in 2020.



In the light of the United Nations development reform, in 2019 ECLAC redoubled its efforts to optimize synergies with activities carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean by sister entities of the United Nations system. In that regard, it consolidated joint work with IFAD, UNFPA, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UN-Women, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), WFP, UNDP, UNCTAD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Another important milestone in 2019 was the decision by the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to select an inter-agency initiative from ECLAC, UNICEF, UNDP and ILO to support the Government of Argentina in the implementation of the National Plan for Early Childhood, as part of the activities of the United Nations country team.



The multidisciplinary nature of various cooperation projects, especially the larger ones, such as EUROCLIMA+, the Regional Facility for Development in Transition and those financed by Germany, Norway and Spain, has led to significant progress in interdivisional work within the Commission. This has in turn generated important synergies, resulting in a greater impact on the implementation of the extrabudgetary project portfolio as a whole.

The persisting and deepening structural gaps faced by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean confirm the urgent need for the international community to maintain its commitment to development cooperation with the region based on criteria which go beyond per capita GDP. Given the current global environment of weaker economic momentum and growing multifactorial vulnerability which make these challenges even more complex, it is essential to strengthen multilateralism as a tool for dialogue and for the construction of collective solutions in all areas.

The Commission will continue to work with the countries of the region and the international community through its increasingly diverse partnerships, using its entire endowment of institutional capabilities and its intergovernmental architecture to promote innovative ideas and policy dialogue for sustainable development.



## ECLAC technical cooperation missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, by type of mission, 2019



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

# Results-base

## Results-based management and outreach

In 2019, in the context of the implementation of the annual budget cycle in the United Nations starting in 2020, ECLAC presented at the thirty-fourth session of the Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 15 October 2019, the *Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2021 and the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2018* to its member States.

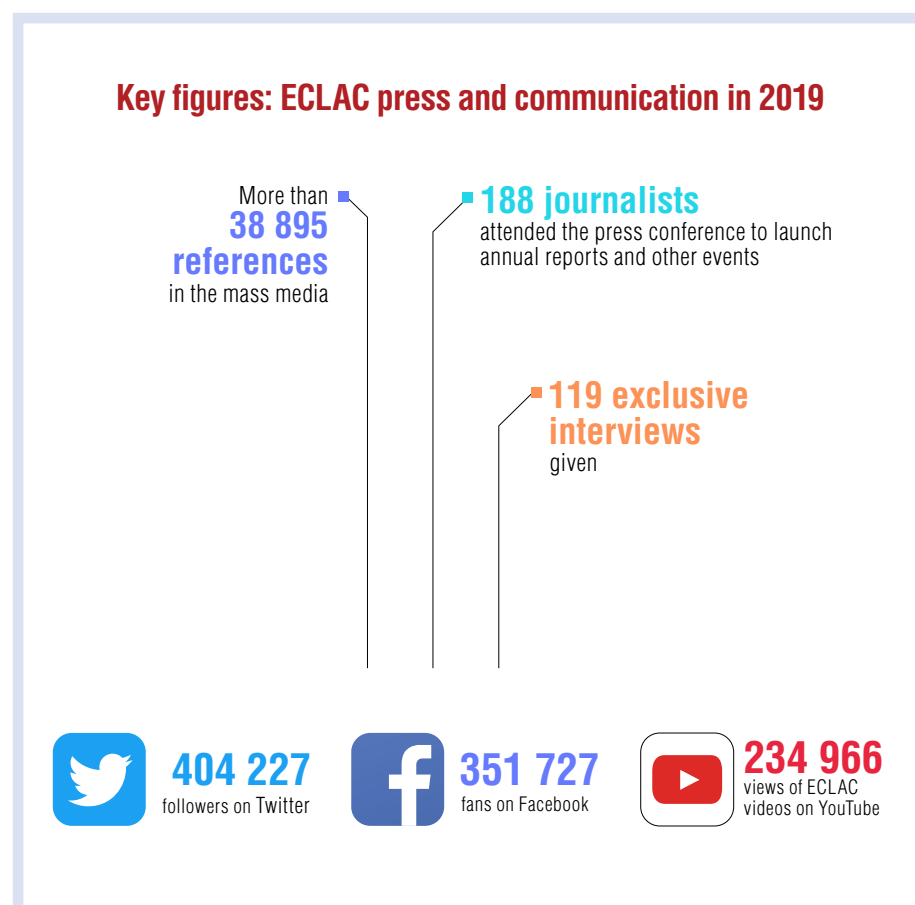
Throughout the year, the senior management of the Commission continued to convene regular strategic planning meetings with the ECLAC substantive divisions, subregional headquarters and country offices. This allowed for the continuous assessment of the implementation of the programme of work from a substantive and financial standpoint, which was particularly crucial in view of the complex financial situation faced by the organization. More than ever, this process encouraged synergies in activities, and between divisions and offices, to continue to implement the 2030 Agenda and work towards achieving the SDGs.

As a result of this consultative and collaborative process, ECLAC prepared, in coordination with the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, the proposed programme budget for 2021, which will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and will be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Programme Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC assisted other areas of the Commission regarding the implementation of its programme of work and reported on the results achieved in connection with the Commission's programme of work and projects. The Division also managed the evaluation function and produced one Development Account project assessment report for a project that addressed energy and sustainable development, and a report on the evaluation of the Commission's gender mainstreaming

strategy. In an effort to apply lessons learned from assessments to future programmes and projects, the Division also followed up on the implementation of recommendations made in previous assessment reports.

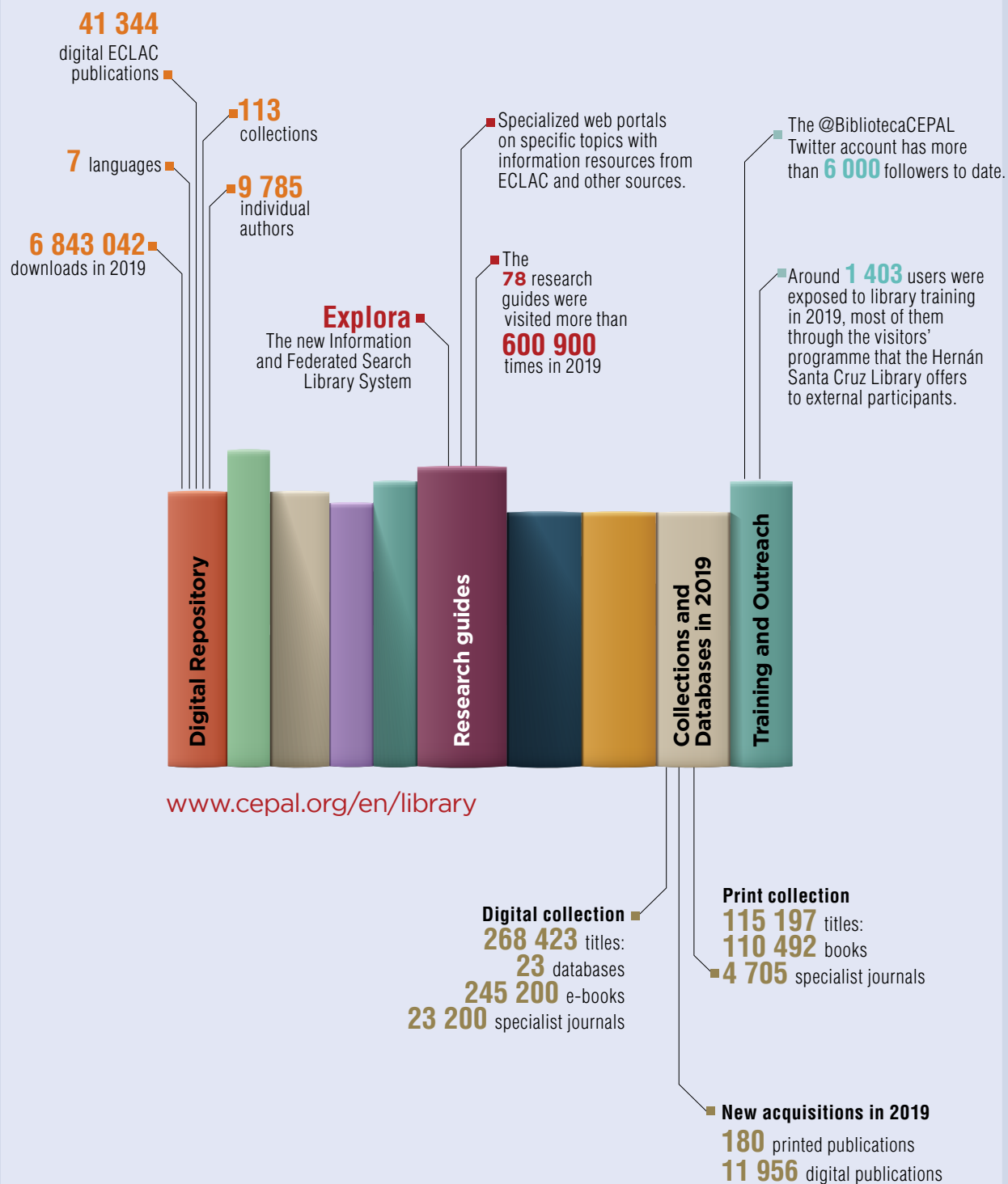
ECLAC is committed to collaborating with oversight bodies and implementing their recommendations to improve its accountability and compliance processes. In that regard, it collaborated with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and the Board of Auditors.

## Press and communication





## Key figures: Hernán Santa Cruz Library in 2019





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