Report on the activities of the Commission 2021
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List of abbreviations

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO International Labour Organization
ILPES Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning
IOM International Organization for Migration
PAHO Pan American Health Organization
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNECE Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
UNRSF United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund
UN-Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP World Food Programme
Introduction

The report on the activities of the Commission for 2021 highlights its key achievements and contributions throughout the year and is hereby submitted for the consideration of member States in accordance with the accountability and transparency framework adopted by the United Nations.

Since 1948, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has been fully committed to supporting the countries of the region in achieving sustainable development. The Commission has continued to offer its value proposition to member States through its think tank and thought leadership role in performing analytical, normative and knowledge management work, supporting intergovernmental platforms that provide a space for policy dialogues, consensus-building and peer learning, and providing policy advice and technical cooperation, at the request of member States, to implement capacity-building activities at the regional, subregional and national levels.

Latin American and Caribbean countries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though the region’s growth was higher than expected in 2021, profound challenges remain. A decade of progress was lost during the crisis, in particular for women’s labour market participation, adding to the region’s increasingly complex economic and social circumstances. Structural problems such as low productivity, fragmented social protection systems and lack of access to basic public goods have been aggravated. Pandemic recovery has also been affected by global challenges resulting from geopolitical conflicts, the disruption of supply chains, increases in the prices of fuel, fertilizers and food and the emergence of high inflation rates. In this context, poverty and extreme poverty levels increased and the slow decrease in inequality showed a reversal. Against this backdrop, ECLAC continued to support governments, decision-makers, the business community and civil society in the region by providing analysis and proposals geared towards a transformative recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to leave no one behind and avoid setbacks in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Throughout the year, the Commission continued to serve as technical secretariat for various subsidiary bodies, including in areas such as statistics, women and development, population and development, planning and public management, social development, South-South cooperation and development cooperation in the Caribbean. ECLAC also continued to fulfil its role as a universal and impartial forum to foster public policy debate and the exchange of best practices and peer learning and for the promotion of regional positions in global forums and regional and interregional high-level meetings and summits. Further, the Commission reiterated its commitment to supporting the agenda for small island developing States, reinforced by the ECLAC “Caribbean first” strategy, and continued to give a voice to the only least developed country in the region and to its landlocked developing countries.

Lastly, ECLAC would like to express deep gratitude to its member States for their continuous support and trust in the work of the Commission.
The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)—the Spanish acronym is CEPAL—was established by 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 for 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, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Montevideo, as well as a liaison office in Washington D.C. The 46 member States of ECLAC are comprised of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean plus several Asian, European and North American countries that have historical, economic and cultural ties with the region. Fourteen non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members of the Commission.

Mission statement

“ECLAC should 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, 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
Report on the activities of the Commission, 2021

46 member States, including 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
14 associate members

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Highlights of 2021

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

At the meeting (held virtually), representatives of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, 24 intergovernmental organizations, 21 financial institutions, the private sector and academia, and more than 440 representatives of civil society, parliaments and local authorities from the region reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to confronting the impacts of the crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with the aim of building forward better.

At the meeting, which featured the participation of Carlos Alvarado, President of Costa Rica, Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council, ECLAC presented the fourth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled “Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This document presents estimates of progress made and what remains to be done to meet the Goals and targets and contributes to policymaking and to the challenge of addressing structural problems in the region, which have been compounded by the urgent needs arising from the impact of the pandemic. The 94-paragraph intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021, held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, called on the international community to reinforce actions to address specific challenges that hindered the achievement of some SDG targets with a 2020 deadline, such as those to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, foster youth participation, and enhance the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries.

Enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to process census data

Since 1985, the retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) statistical software has been supporting the processing of vital statistics and microdata from population and housing censuses and surveys, among other data sources. Developed by the Latin American and Caribbean
Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population and Development Division of ECLAC, and available at no cost, REDATAM has been used by 27 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as by 5 countries in Africa and 5 in Asia. REDATAM is continuously updated to enhance the support provided to national statistical systems. In 2021, this software was revamped for compatibility with Linux and macOS operating systems in addition to its existing Windows functionality, allowing it to reach a broader audience and increasing the number of beneficiary institutions and users. Moreover, the REDATAM website was completely overhauled, providing more user-friendly access to the different national portals that process, analyse and disseminate statistical information using the online REDATAM platform.

Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, concerted efforts are required at the regional level to increase resilience and health self-sufficiency and to strengthen or create new scientific, technological and productive capacities in Latin American and Caribbean countries. To face these challenges, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) requested that ECLAC prepare a plan for self-sufficiency in health matters for the region, not only assessing and analysing the situation but also advancing lines of action for strengthening capacities to produce and distribute vaccines and medicines in CELAC countries. The plan for self-sufficiency in health matters was unanimously endorsed at the sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Mexico City, with the ultimate goal being the development, expansion and competitive strengthening of research, development and production capacities for vaccines and medicines regionwide, and with three specific objectives: to provide a stable, large-scale market that gives clear signals and certainty for firms to invest in; to encourage and facilitate research and development in innovative projects; and to support local production and integration into regional production chains.

“Caribbean first” strategy

The “Caribbean first” initiative, a strategy put forward by ECLAC in 2018, recognizes the specific difficulties and circumstances of Caribbean countries relating to economy, finance and climate vulnerability. Technical support was delivered to countries in the subregion in areas such as mitigating the impact of the pandemic, the preparation of voluntary national reviews, statistics, climate change and disaster risk indicators, gender, social development, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the framework of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC organized a high-level meeting on the challenges faced by associate members of the Commission, providing a space to share experiences, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Advances were also made regarding the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative advocated by ECLAC, with a proposal on essential elements of the ECLAC Caribbean Resilience Fund, in particular, the creation of a segregated portfolio Caribbean resilience trust fund.
Entry into force of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement)

The required number of ratifications having been reached on January 22, 2021, the States parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean —the Escazu Agreement— celebrated the treaty’s entry into force on April 22, 2021. To date, 24 countries in the region have signed the Agreement and 12 have ratified it, becoming States parties to the treaty. The event was inaugurated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Epsy Campbell, Vice-President of Costa Rica. Subsequently, a high-level dialogue was held, in which António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (via pre-recorded video message), Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, and foreign ministers, ministers and high-level authorities from other States parties participated. Special guests included Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE, Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and civil society representatives.

Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico

On 15 April 2021, the Executive Committee approved the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico as the innovative United Nations system-wide strategy and cooperation platform for addressing the structural causes of migration and forced displacement with a medium- and short-term vision. To ensure inter-agency coordination and cooperation, the Plan was coordinated by ECLAC with input from 20 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system in Latin America and the Caribbean and in cooperation with the resident coordinators of the four countries and the regional office of the Development Coordination Office. The Plan, which was drafted in response to a request from the four countries, has four major pillars: economic development; social well-being; environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; and comprehensive management of the migration cycle. The final version of the Comprehensive Development Plan was presented to the four member States and formally endorsed at the Sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC in September 2021.
Linking regional statistics and geospatial information on Latin America and the Caribbean

CEPALSTAT is the main gateway to the statistical information compiled and systematized by the Commission, and the main portal for accessing statistical information on the countries of the region. As part of the implementation of innovative solutions for the dissemination of data from Latin America and the Caribbean, both at the regional and national levels, and in line with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere launched by the United Nations, ECLAC revamped the CEPALSTAT platform. The new CEPALSTAT interface improves access to comparable statistics in the region, completely integrating sociodemographic, economic and environmental statistics with geospatial information. The portal also presents new features enabling access to interactive tables, maps and charts, and regional and national profiles, based on a set of key indicators in the economic, social and environmental spheres, and includes complementary information resources as well as links to other follow-up and review mechanisms. The new version of CEPALSTAT was launched in October 2021.

Spotlight on financing for development and international cooperation with middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Throughout 2021, ECLAC continued to develop and promote innovative proposals for policy action on financing for development and international cooperation with middle-income countries, based on the “development in transition” paradigm. Middle-income countries in the region face limitations in mobilizing domestic and external resources and, despite facing challenges and vulnerabilities similar to those affecting low-income countries, they have been given access to less multilateral resources than during other crises, such as the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. ECLAC has put forward innovative proposals through thematic policy briefs and its flagship publications. It has also convened regional intergovernmental discussions, such as the high-level dialogues held in the framework of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC.
In the context of the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level, ECLAC developed its strategy to further support the roll-out of the reform, emphasizing the development of a knowledge management hub, the enhancement of its data strategy, and strengthening the role of the Regional Collaborative Platform, the regional-national nexus and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (through the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico) and collaboration with the regional office of the Development Coordination Office and the resident coordinators.

The Regional Collaborative Platform in Latin America and the Caribbean was established in November 2020. It is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and its Vice-Chairs are the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Regional Director of UNDP. In 2021, the operational and working methods of the Regional Collaborative Platform were consolidated. Through its issue-based coalitions, activities were focused on climate change and resilience, crime and violence, equitable growth, governance and institutions and human mobility. The themes of gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and young people were addressed across these five areas. In response to a request from United Nations resident coordinators, a sixth issue-based coalition, on financing for development, was established during the fourth quarter of the year.

**Issue-based Coalitions for the Latin America and Caribbean region**

The Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) for Latin America and the Caribbean unites all UN entities working on development in the region to jointly respond to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, addressing key challenges that transcend country borders. The RCP is currently prioritizing join efforts around seven areas, with gender and youth as crosscutting issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue-based Coalitions for LAC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change and resilience</td>
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<td>Equitable Growth</td>
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<td>Governance and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human mobility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime and violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing for development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thematic Working Groups**

- Youth
- Gender
The ongoing implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan is an opportunity to strengthen the role of the Platform as it relates to the regional-national nexus and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The Platform will provide strategic guidance and support for the implementation of Plan activities through agencies, funds and programmes, with a special emphasis on cross-border and subregional initiatives.

In the framework of the issue-based coalition on equitable growth, ECLAC co-organized policy-oriented webinars on employment and on decent work and productivity with ILO and UNDP, and on fiscal policy challenges for sustainable development with UNDP. As part of the collaboration between ECLAC and ILO, two joint publications were prepared, which present statistics and analysis of the main labour market indicators and trends in the region. In the context of the issue-based coalition on human mobility, ECLAC and IOM led the regional review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose key findings and recommendations informed the 2022 International Migration Review Forum. Lastly, ECLAC actively increased its support to United Nations country teams through various mechanisms and is working closely with the resident coordinator system to bring regional and cross-border issues into common country assessments and cooperation frameworks.

The 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean was presented at the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.
Figure 1
General overview of ECLAC funding by source, 2021
(Thousands of dollars and percentages of total resources)

- Projects and donor agreements: 8,654 (12%)
- Development Account: 2,965 (4%)
- Regular programme of technical cooperation: 3,695 (5%)
- Regular budget: 58,397 (79%)
Figure 2
Breakdown of extrabudgetary resources, 2021

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial resources US$ million</th>
<th>Number of projects funded with extrabudgetary resources implemented in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.79</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial resources US$ million</th>
<th>Number of projects funded with extrabudgetary resources implemented in 2021</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.79</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>7.75</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subsidiary bodies

Committee of the Whole of ECLAC
3 December 2021
At the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole, representatives of 37 member States and of 3 associate members approved the Commission’s programme of work for 2023 and reaffirmed its role as an essential component of the United Nations system for the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental—in a balanced and integrated way. Member States also approved the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would become a subsidiary body of ECLAC supporting South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

Executive meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
20 May 2021
At the meeting, which was held virtually, member States agreed to convene the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the first half of 2022.

Tenth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
18 March 2021
The meeting was held virtually within the framework of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. During the event, member States discussed challenges and opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the pandemic and a strategy for cooperation for middle-income countries, and agreed on the lines of action of the Committee for the period 2021–2022.
Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation
19 and 20 August 2021

At the meeting, held virtually, member States agreed to recommend to the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC that it approve the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
29 and 30 September 2021

The meeting, held virtually, was organized by ECLAC, as secretariat of the Conference, in coordination with UN-Women. At the meeting, member States adopted the subject “The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality” as the central theme of discussion at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to be held in 2022. As part of the meeting, the side event “The burden of unpaid care work on Caribbean women in the time of COVID-19” was organized to introduce the specific challenges faced by women in the Caribbean subregion, with a particular focus on identifying their needs based on their dual role as workers and caretakers.

Eighteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning
19–21 October 2021

At the meeting (held in hybrid format), authorities from 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean recognized the role of the State in leading the post-pandemic recovery process and called for the building of resilient institutions. The position paper Resilient institutions for a transformative post-pandemic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean: inputs for discussion was presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The document argued that stronger State institutions were needed to address the structural problems of the current development pattern. It was therefore a matter of urgency to build resilient public institutions able to cope with current crises and prepare for future ones, as the policy and investment decisions made today would lay the foundation for tomorrow. In the meeting’s final resolutions, countries requested that the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) continue its work related to applied research, technical cooperation, advisory services and training to promote the continuous mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda into planning for development across all stakeholders, sectors, and levels of government.
Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
26–28 October 2021

At the Regional Conference (held virtually), Latin American and Caribbean countries reaffirmed the importance of placing people and their rights at the centre of development, along with that of safeguarding progress in social development and preventing setbacks amid the crises unleashed by the pandemic. The meeting, jointly organized by UNDP and with support from Antigua and Barbuda, was attended by delegates from 29 ECLAC member States along with representatives from 32 United Nations entities and specialized and intergovernmental organizations, who were joined by 390 participants from civil society, academia and other sectors. ECLAC presented the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which pointed out that the pandemic had intensified the region’s structural problems—including low productivity and high informality, inequality and poverty—a situation compounded by emerging critical constraints such as migration, the digital divide and climate change, along with the impacts of disasters, which were increasingly recurrent and varied in nature and origin. At the event, member States adopted resolution 4(IV), requesting the secretariat to analyse in greater depth the challenges and public policy alternatives in terms of making progress regarding the universality, comprehensiveness, sustainability and resilience of social protection systems, particularly in relation to the vulnerability of the middle-income sector, labour informality and the new challenges in the labour market.

Twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
5 November 2021

At the meeting (held virtually), authorities from 14 member States, 10 associate members in the Caribbean and 5 member States from Latin America emphasized the importance of strategies to support the post-pandemic recovery through greater solidarity and regional integration. Participants discussed the multidimensional challenges that Caribbean States continued to face, which defined their vulnerability, and discussed innovative solutions in financial, technological and institutional matters for accelerating the recovery and strengthening economic resilience in the subregion.
Eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC
23–25 November 2021

At the meeting (held in hybrid format), representatives of 33 member States and 7 associate members of ECLAC as well as delegates from international and United Nations system organizations in the region provided a briefing on the work carried out by national statistics offices over the previous two years despite the adverse conditions caused by the pandemic. Participants reaffirmed the urgency of measuring gender gaps and quantifying the loss of natural capital and well-being and stressed the relevance of consolidating the statistical institutional framework for a post-COVID-19 recovery that would place equality and sustainability at its centre. By resolution 12(XI), member States endorsed the creation of working groups for the period 2022–2023. Five side events were held during the Conference, addressing issues such as the challenges of measuring foreign direct investment in the region; population and housing censuses in pandemic contexts; the nineteenth international meeting of specialists on time use and unpaid work; Caribbean activities related to measuring environmental, climate change and disaster indicators for policy decision-making; and Latin America and the Caribbean’s perspectives on data governance. At the closing session of the meeting, representatives adopted a resolution reaffirming their commitment to incorporating gender perspectives into statistical production and called for the strengthening of knowledge dissemination and horizontal cooperation to break the “statistical silence” for the achievement of social and gender justice.

Third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
13–15 December 2021

During the meeting (held in hybrid format), countries of the region reaffirmed their commitment to science, innovation and new technologies, emphasizing their importance in the post-pandemic recovery, and advocated for a more active and systemic role for innovation and knowledge in the policies aimed at fostering economic, productive, social and environmental development in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the event, which was attended by representatives of 21 member States and 7 associate members, ECLAC presented the document Innovation for development: the key to a transformative recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, which
revealed that science, technology and innovation systems were underfunded in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Funding was concentrated in basic and applied research activities, with major gaps in experimental development. Post-pandemic recovery plans presented an opportunity to reorient science, innovation and technology strategies in service of sustainable development and to redesign international funding cooperation. At the close of the meeting, the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2022–2023 was approved, setting three main objectives: strengthen public institutions to support the development of science, technology and innovation; improve the linkage of science, technology and innovation policies with the region’s strategic challenges; and foster regional and international cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

Preparatory meeting for the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

18 November 2021

The meeting, held virtually, was organized to present a preliminary content proposal for the preparation of the regional report, to report on progress and experiences in the process for preparing national reports on compliance with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and to address aspects related to the organization of the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons, scheduled to take place in 2022. Mexico and Peru presented their progress and experiences in the preparation of country reports and Chile was selected as the venue for the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference.
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 309 publications and technical materials in 2021. During the year, ECLAC publications were downloaded a total of 14,372,982 times.

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

- Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
- Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
- Social Panorama of Latin America, 2021
- Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
- Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
- International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
## Downloads of the flagships launched in 2021

*(Three months following the launch)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flagship</th>
<th>By language</th>
<th>By gender</th>
<th>By source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Spanish 17,978</strong></td>
<td><strong>61% Female</strong></td>
<td><em>ECLAC Website 11,969</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Spanish 17,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>59% Female</strong></td>
<td><em>ECLAC Website 18,122</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Spanish 13,41</strong></td>
<td><strong>60% Female</strong></td>
<td><em>ECLAC Website 8,739</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Spanish 11,644</strong></td>
<td><strong>51% Female</strong></td>
<td><em>ECLAC Website 11,840</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Panorama of Latin America, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Spanish 19,084</strong></td>
<td><strong>52% Female</strong></td>
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<td>Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Bilingual English/Spanish 12,644</strong></td>
<td><strong>52% Female</strong></td>
<td><em>ECLAC Website 11,624</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Downloads

- **19,521**
- **11,969** (ECLAC Website)
- **320** (Digital repository)
- **7,232** (Google)
- **17,041** (Spanish)
- **1,410** (English)
- **133** (Portuguese)
- **61% Female**
- **39% Male**
- **59% Female**
- **41% Male**
- **60% Female**
- **40% Male**
- **51% Female**
- **49% Male**
- **52% Female**
- **48% Male**
- **52% Female**
- **48% Male**
Support for subsidiary bodies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
March 2021

Santiago Commitment: a regional instrument to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with gender equality
February 2021

A decade of action for a change of era: fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
March 2022

Guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
November 2021

ECLAC Review and other institutional publications

CEPAL Review

Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean – No. 2
January 2021

Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery
December 2021

Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021
April 2021
Selection of thematic publications

El Acuerdo de Escazú sobre democracia ambiental y su relación con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible
November 2021

Towards a care society: the contributions of the Regional Gender Agenda to sustainable development
September 2021

Gender equality in the midst of climate change: What can the region’s machineries for the advancement of women do?
October 2021

Hacia una estrategia de mercado digital regional en la Alianza del Pacífico
October 2021

Afrodescendants and the matrix of social inequality in Latin America: challenges for inclusion. Summary
May 2021

Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico. Summary
September 2021

Joint publications with other agencies

The prolongation of the health crisis and its impact on health, the economy and social development
October 2021

The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2022
September 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic: the right to education of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean
November 2021
COVID-19 publications

Persons with disabilities and their rights in the COVID-19 pandemic: leaving no one behind
January 2021

Policies to protect labour relations and hiring subsidies amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, No. 25
November 2021

United Nations survey on Latin American and Caribbean youth within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
June 2021

The impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples in Latin America (Abya Yala): between invisibility and collective resistance
March 2021

Development in transition: concept and measurement proposal for renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean
September 2021

An innovative financing for development agenda for the recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean
December 2021

Post pandemic COVID-19 economic recovery: enabling Latin America and the Caribbean to better harness e-commerce and digital trade
May 2021

People of African descent and COVID-19: unveling structural inequalities in Latin America
January 2021

Multilateral development banks in Latin America: recent trends, the response to the pandemic, and the forthcoming role
May 2021
The **Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the 2030 Agenda** in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) —developed by ECLAC, in collaboration with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes with a presence in the region— is a one-stop shop for comprehensive information on the SDGs. It has two complementary components: one with general information and content on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels, including voluntary national reviews, the work of the United Nations development system at the regional level and work done by national governments and civil society in support of the SDGs; and another dedicated to the statistical follow-up and review of the SDGs.

The **COVID-19 Observatory** of Latin America and the Caribbean tracks the public policies that the 33 countries of the region are implementing to limit the impact of the pandemic and offers analyses of the economic and social impacts that these policies will have at the national and sectoral levels.

**CEPALSTAT** is the gateway to all the statistical information on the countries of the region that is collected, systematized, calculated and published by ECLAC. Data permitting, the information included in CEPALSTAT normally pertains to the 33 Latin American and Caribbean member States and 14 associate members of ECLAC.

The **Gender Equality Observatory** for Latin America and the Caribbean was created in 2007 to coordinate the efforts of United Nations agencies and cooperation organizations, national machineries for the advancement of women and national statistical institutes of countries of the region; to analyse the fulfilment of international gender-equality goals and targets, increase their visibility and deliver periodic reports on inequalities; and to provide annual assessment reports of the inequalities between women and men in key areas.

The **Observatory on Principle 10** in Latin America and the Caribbean analyses legislation, policies, jurisprudence and treaties that guarantee the rights of every person to access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
The **Regional Observatory on Planning for Development** in Latin America and the Caribbean is a dynamic space for providing analysis, disseminating information and collectively producing knowledge for governments, academia, the private sector and civil society on planning for development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean** comprises several digital platforms developed by ECLAC and provides information from countries of the region, including on portals and databases for social investment, non-contributory social protection programmes, young people and social inclusion, social institutions, and regional and subregional commitments on social development. The Observatory also offers brief country profiles and analytical documents relating to the databases.

The **Regional Broadband Observatory** was created in response to a request by the Regional Broadband Dialogue, whose 10 participating countries are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. The Observatory aims to provide a relevant and timely source of information to help the region’s countries devise and follow up on public policies for the universal provision of broadband.
The economic dimension

Under subprogramme 1, International trade, integration and infrastructure, ECLAC continued to work to improve regional integration, logistics and infrastructure in order to promote full and equitable development and strengthen the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in international trade and the global economy. Progress was made in revitalizing the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) through the organization of the seventh MERCOSUR Business Forum, and whose focus was the productive integration of the pharmaceutical sector. Due to its relevance, an analysis of this topic was included in the *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021*.

The use of input-output tables, a tool for the development of public policies and the promotion of global and regional value chains, was expanded, as new input-output tables were implemented in Panama and the Dominican Republic and related technical assistance was provided to the Plurinational State of Bolivia and El Salvador. The information included in the tables was expanded through the addition of data on employment, wages, level of qualification and gender. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the input-output tables could be utilized in the context of subregional and interregional cooperation efforts. Input-output tables for the Andean Community (CAN) and the Pacific Alliance were launched at a meeting in December 2021, while regional input-output tables were connected into the Regional Integration and Value Chain Analyzer with support from ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The importance of e-commerce has grown in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. ECLAC worked with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on a study on harnessing e-commerce and digital trade for economic recovery and delivered three related virtual courses. ECLAC also collaborated with other regional commissions to deliver the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, which underpinned the publication *Digital and sustainable trade facilitation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report 2021*.

At the fifth session of the Global Services Forum, co-organized with UNCTAD, participants explored the economic role of services in structural transformation and diversification to reduce vulnerability to economic shocks and promote a more resilient post-pandemic recovery. ECLAC supported the Dominican Republic in the creation of the first National Strategy for the Export of Modern Services. The strategy proposes concrete actions across five pillars: capacity-building, regulatory and institutional framework, investment and financing, and ecosystem and market promotion.
ECLAC also responded to requests to support better transportation connections in the region. An initial proposal was prepared to improve regional connectivity in the Caribbean through high-speed ferry service and airships. The rail connection between Argentina and Chile was analysed, as was the “Capricorn axis” running through Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile, with a view to improving infrastructure service planning between those countries.

Another important area of cooperation was strengthening regional supply chain and logistics infrastructure. The infrastructure investment web portal, jointly coordinated with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and IDB, is a unique regional initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean. Under subprogramme 1, technical assistance was provided on setting up cold chain logistics along southern Brazil, Paraguay, northern Argentina and northern Chile, and Panama received support in examining the feasibility of linking some inland waterways in South America (Amazon and Orinoco basins, and Paraná and Rio de la Plata basins) for vaccination campaigns. Further topics explored included a shift to sustainable transportation technology through the proposed use of airships for humanitarian aid and cargo distribution. The technical assistance provided to national authorities included an analysis of cold storage capacities, logistics infrastructure, and related strengths and weaknesses to inform the design of policies and mechanisms for government COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

“I wish to extend my sincere thanks to ECLAC for its cooperation in recent months in a variety of events to deliver training and collaborate on best practices, with a view to taking positive steps to promote business and gender equality in El Salvador.”

Salvador Gómez Góchez, President of Export and Investment Promotion Agency of El Salvador (PROESA)

Under subprogramme 2, Production and innovation, the Commission continued to provide capacity-building and training opportunities focused on the region’s economy. A key achievement in that regard was the successful conduct of the twenty-second session of the School of Latin American Development Studies (held virtually), attended by 47 students from 17 countries. The training covered a number of issues related to transforming production for structural change and also addressed economic diversification through digital technologies.

Support was provided to various governments in the development of strategies and policies to promote the use of digital technologies, in particular to enable post-pandemic economic recovery. Through the provision of technical assistance on digitalization to the countries of the Technical Commission for Telecommunications in Central America (COMTELCA) a proposal for a Mesoamerican digital agenda was developed. In addition to the support provided at the subregional level, technical assistance was provided to Chile in the development of a digital transformation strategy.

The contributions of ECLAC to public policy design in science, technology and innovation were also welcomed. The third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies
of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean presented an opportunity to review the main strengths and weaknesses of innovation systems in countries of the region and to explore ways to find common ground and foster joint action aimed at developing regional production and technological systems in strategic sectors.

Policy actions available to countries of the region to improve social protection mechanisms and increase social inclusion were also addressed under the subprogramme. Work focused on fostering regional integration and strengthening industrial strategies, as well as rethinking the social contract to restore trust and empower citizens at all stages of the policymaking process. The *Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery* (LEO 2021), an annual publication of ECLAC, the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), CAF and the European Union, explored these areas and stressed the need to promote sustainable and adapted macroeconomic frameworks to finance the pandemic recovery, as well as the importance of renewing international cooperation to support these policy actions.

Technical support was delivered in response to requests for assistance to develop national plans for productive transformation. National officials from Colombia benefitted from three technical workshops on territorial strategies for productive development, while three workshops of the Community of Practice on productive development and innovation at the subnational level provided an opportunity for officials from Argentina, Chile and Colombia to exchange experiences and best practices with national officials from Portugal and Spain. Advisory services and technical assistance were also provided to the Plurinational State of Bolivia to identify suitable economic sectors and goods for the promotion of an import substitution strategy over the medium and long term, focusing on the analysis of recent experiences in the region and of the situation of different stakeholders, data and statistics generation, and analysis of trade, value chains and productive sectors. The results and proposals were presented in eight workshops to national authorities and policymakers from the Ministry of Development Planning, the Ministry of Production Development and Plural Economy, and the National Statistical Office, with a view to identifying key aspects for policy design and implementation.

“We extend our thanks and acknowledgement to ECLAC and its team for the valuable technical support they have provided in implementing the project entitled “Productive development and spatial heterogeneity in Latin America: institutions and capacity-building in regional productivity policy programming and implementation”. On behalf of the National Planning Division, we thank ECLAC for the extremely valuable contributions made to regional and subregional economic development.”

Alejandra Botero Barco, Director-General, National Planning Department, Colombia
Under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, ECLAC provided an analysis of current and emerging macroeconomic trends and of the challenges generated by the COVID-19 crisis. Through real-time analysis of the evolving macroeconomic impact of the pandemic in 2021, stakeholders were provided with details on emerging trends for key indicators, including growth, employment and investment. Work done by ECLAC informed policymaking in the region in fiscal and monetary matters and in financing for development through the Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, ECLAC, OECD, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and IDB worked together to publish the 2021 edition of the Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean report and database, which has become a key regional resource for fiscal analysis.

Through the year, under the subprogramme a series of policy recommendations for achieving a transformative recovery was outlined in “The Recovery Paradox in Latin America and the Caribbean. Growth amid persisting structural problems: inequality, poverty and low investment and productivity”, COVID-19 Special Report, No. 11, a publication that was widely discussed among policymakers in the region. The ongoing series of joint reports released by ECLAC and ILO on labour market trends and issues also played an important role in underlining the challenges that the region faces in creating quality employment, in particular for women and young people. Technical cooperation was also provided to Colombia and Uruguay on labour market issues.

A major thrust of ECLAC policy advice in 2021 focused on the role that the public sector must play in ensuring a transformative recovery in the region. The Commission’s knowledge products outlined the crucial importance of active fiscal policies in driving sustainable and inclusive development. The Commission positioned public spending as a key tool for development, advocating for a strategic approach favouring investments with significant social and economic returns. To support continuously active fiscal policy, ECLAC argued for the creation of a fiscal sustainability framework based on the strengthening of public revenues. The Commission also worked to create spaces for South-South discussion of fiscal policy issues, including a virtual meeting of high-level fiscal policy authorities that brought together representatives of 15 countries as part of the thirty-third Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy.

Significant advances were made in the discussion of regional challenges in financing for development. Through knowledge products and discussion forums, the Commission supported countries in analysing policy options to enhance resource mobilization for financing sustainable development. The tenth COVID-19 Special Report, “Financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond”, highlighted the need to incorporate regional financing needs into the international discussion to ensure that developing countries, including middle-income countries, have access to the financing necessary to maintain an active fiscal policy. Together with IDB, ECLAC announced the creation of a Community of Practice on financing for development, which will promote knowledge and information exchange on challenges and opportunities
related to financing for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, facilitate collaboration among development finance professionals, and foster dialogue with other financial institutions and public policymakers.

**The social dimension**

Under subprogramme 4, Social development and equality, ECLAC organized the First Regional Seminar on Social Development, which focused on the restructuring of education systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 700 people attended the seminar, which was held virtually and organized jointly with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, chaired by Antigua and Barbuda, marked the first time a Caribbean country served in that capacity.

Under the subprogramme, the Commission continued to support Haiti in the implementation of its National Social Protection Strategy and technical assistance was also provided to the Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay in developing the Social Registry of Households, a tool to support the national plan for poverty reduction. A virtual seminar organized on the middle class and social cohesion in times of crisis in Chile was an opportunity to discuss the main findings of a report published with support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. Chile also benefited from technical support to estimate the cost of providing a secure income for families with children, and, jointly with Mexico, received technical assistance to improve the availability of information on labour informality at the subnational level, which included capacity-building for national officers. Lastly, ECLAC organized the national capacity-building workshop “Social policies, management and institutional frameworks for equality in Honduras” jointly with the Ministry of Social Inclusion and Development.

In the context of the 2021 Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, support was provided through the subprogramme for the organization of the Regional Roundtable for Latin America and the Caribbean, where young people from the region shared their views on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They advocated increased youth involvement in decision-making, including to promote an inclusive and green energy transition, address corruption, impunity and violence, and improve access to reproductive and mental health services for LGBTI groups.

In addition, and in the framework of the Virtual Expert Group Meeting on inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional breakout session for Latin America and the Caribbean, “Effective strategies to eradicate poverty and hunger (Part II): social protection systems and floors” was convened. This provided a venue...
for participants to share experiences, challenges and opportunities related to eradicating poverty and hunger in the region in the context of the pandemic.

Work under the subprogramme also focused on supporting the development and implementation of measures to enhance inclusion in social development initiatives for both children and adults with a disability. In that regard, technical support was provided to Argentina to introduce innovative means for the collection, processing and use of data for monitoring the impacts of early childhood policies and socioeconomic changes on children with disabilities.

“...We are deeply grateful for this significant contribution to the discussion on creating a holistic protection system for children, adolescents and families.”

Blanquita Honorato Lira, Deputy Minister for Children, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Chile

Under subprogramme 5, Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development, a comprehensive schedule of work was delivered to improve the collection and utilization of gender statistics in the region. The Guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the creation of an advisory group on gender mainstreaming of the Statistical Conference of the Americas were endorsed by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eleventh meeting. Training was also provided in the region to provide key support for these contributions. A training course on gender statistics and indicators was delivered to the Ministry of the Economy of Argentina, to strengthen knowledge, capacities and skills in the production, analysis and use of gender statistics in the planning, implementation and monitoring of public policies.

Advocacy conducted by ECLAC on gender issues also targeted the need for a transition to a society of care. At the sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commission presented the document Towards a care society: The contributions of the Regional Gender Agenda to sustainable development, which calls for the pace of efforts to be stepped up to achieve economic, climate and gender justice and for a move towards a care society that prioritizes the sustainability of life and care for the planet, guaranteeing the rights of both the persons that require care and those who provide it.

A response to the urgency of the world’s changing climate was also provided through the design of a gender and climate change agenda. The agenda addresses the link between gender equality and women’s autonomy in the context of climate change and aims to ensure the full participation of women as actors in climate matters at the regional, national and local levels. A related achievement was the publication of the document Gender equality in the midst of climate change: what can the region’s machineries for the advancement of women do?, Gender Affairs series, No. 159, with recommendations for actions to enhance gender mainstreaming in public policy instruments and implement actions related to climate change.
In collaboration with the Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO) and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP, ECLAC committed to improving the measurement of gender-based violence and femicide-feminicide in the region. A course for national officials emphasized the importance of collecting quality information on gender-based violence against women, improving interoperability among the institutions responsible for its measurement and ensuring comparability between countries.

"Participating in the course on quantifying gender-based violence against women and femicide-feminicide was a very enriching experience, which contributed to my learning and to my work as a technical delegate of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador to the Group for strengthening statistics on femicide. We have strengthened the inter-agency coordination mechanism, improved the quality of the quantitative statistical data produced from administrative records, and improved dissemination, providing timely and high-quality official information for decision-making."

Verónica Cuzco, Analyst, Directorate of Sociodemographic Statistics, National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, Ecuador

Under subprogramme 6, Population and development, ECLAC worked with countries in the region to implement and report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Seventeen countries presented their first report on its implementation and on progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The report of the regional review meeting on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean was also finalized and disseminated to countries. The work on the Global Compact pointed to an urgent need to strengthen migration-related statistical systems. Steps taken by ECLAC in national capacity-building to improve the collection and use of international migration data included the development of a skills assessment questionnaire, which included sections on the impacts of the pandemic on migration data and statistics and was distributed to countries in the region. The report resulting from that work, entitled “Assessment of national capacity for the production of data on international migration. Regional report by the member countries of the working group on migration”, was presented at three webinars, held in September, October and November 2021, respectively, to provide further analysis of countries’ capacity to collect data on international migration.

Work done under subprogramme 6 also informed public policy and decision-making by highlighting the positive contributions of recent migration to sustainable development. With support from a United Nations Development Account project, national studies on Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru were published, providing evidence that safe, orderly and regular migration can only be achieved if migrants are informed, assisted and protected. In Chile, the results of the national study were presented at a webinar whose attendees included 40 participants from the government, academia and civil society.
ECLAC also provided technical assistance to national statistical institutes in 12 countries to improve population estimates and projections and to foster the adoption of inclusive practices focused on identifying indigenous peoples, Afrodescendant populations, persons with a disability and persons of varying gender identities and sexual orientations.

Under the subprogramme, work was also undertaken on the fourth review and appraisal of the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**. Technical support was provided to 18 countries in the region in the framework of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on guiding the preparation of country reports. Participants at the preparatory meeting for the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference, held virtually, included more than 120 representatives from 30 countries, regional civil society organizations for older persons and academia. Lastly, ECLAC, PAHO and Chile jointly organized the regional launch of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030).

ECLAC worked on improving **statistical inclusion and visibility for Afrodescendant and indigenous peoples** in health information systems in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, three technical papers were presented at the Meeting of Afro-descendant Parliamentarians of Latin America and the Caribbean and the II Meeting of High Authorities of Ibero-America with Indigenous Peoples, among other high-level meetings. The three reports highlighted the differentiated impact of the pandemic on those peoples owing to existing **structural factors**, and the challenges to a recovery that guarantees indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples’ **inclusion** and **collective rights**.

“We are pleased to convey our thanks for your statements delivered at the meeting of the Committee on Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants and Ethnic Groups of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, which will serve as a touchstone and a guide for the members of the Committee to conduct a serious analysis of its approach to contributing to the work of the respective parliaments of Committee members.”

Norma Calero, Latin American and Caribbean

**The environmental dimension**

Under subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements, support to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean was focused on matters of the **Escazú Agreement**, which entered into force on 22 April 2021. The **Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean** continued to be constantly updated to support the implementation of the Agreement
through increased knowledge, dissemination and implementation of rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. In 2021, the Observatory continued to prove its value as an information clearinghouse, which saw an 86% increase in site visits from the previous year, with a total of 2.1 million.

“Having the opportunity to converse with and to receive guidance from you and the team that you lead from the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean has been an enormous privilege for us and has made a valuable contribution to our goal of drafting a fitting and relevant proposal that will enable our country to enact robust environmental liability legislation.”

Luciano Grisales Londoño
Representative of Congress for Quindio, Colombia

ECLAC also worked to effectively promote climate action in the region. It actively supported Chile as President of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25) to fulfil the commitments the Paris Agreement. The collaboration was crucial to delivering 30 initiatives on topics such as climate finance, the green hydrogen industry and carbon dioxide removal technologies, among others. The subprogramme also supported the EUROCLIMA+ programme country dialogues with six countries, with a focus on the energy transition, climate change scenarios, climate risk and adaptation and the incorporation of climate change into countries’ development planning.

Efforts were also undertaken to support the monitoring of urban development in the region and to promote capacity-building and sharing of experiences among national practitioners. Under subprogramme 7 and in the context of a United Nations Development Account project, the Urban and Cities Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean was developed. Members of the Executive Committee of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean were in attendance for the Platform’s soft launch and it was subsequently presented at numerous high-level meetings. The Platform presents consolidated information on cities and urban areas from the 33 countries of the region and hosts a digital forum to build capacity and foster cooperation between diverse actors on urban issues. It also provides a space for rigorous follow-up and assessment of the regional implementation of the New Urban Agenda and for the fulfilment of the urban dimension of the SDGs at the national and subnational levels.

ECLAC members have also valued a regional methodology for the identification of gaps in urban policy that was developed and adapted for three target cities: Havana, Quito and San José. A regional methodology has also been developed to support policymakers in developing plans for future interventions.
Under subprogramme 8, Natural resources, support was provided to countries in the region to **address their energy challenges** and in the attainment of Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy. In 2021, the Regional Observatory on Sustainable Energy (ROSE) was launched. Developed in collaboration with governments, key regional and global renewable energy stakeholders, United Nations regional commissions and other United Nations agencies, its work includes strengthening the technical capacity of countries in the region to produce relevant and comprehensive data sets for Goal 7. Argentina, Guyana and Panama have already implemented new tools to collect energy data that can be used to guide their energy policy decisions. In addition to the launch of ROSE, the **regional energy profile** and regional energy poverty report were launched in the framework of the Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. The **methodology for understanding energy poverty** has already been applied by Argentina, Panama and Uruguay.

Several member States were also supported in drafting **improved agriculture and bioeconomy policies**. ECLAC assisted with the development of the national bioeconomy strategy of Guatemala and with the bioeconomy satellite account in Costa Rica. As no internationally agreed methodology exists for creating bioeconomy satellite accounts, the work completed in Costa Rica is unique and highly relevant for other countries in the region. These experiences were shared by ECLAC in *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2021–2022*. The report is also evidence of the successful 12-year partnership between ECLAC, FAO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The **South-South cooperation initiative** on biodiversity between Mexico and Chile, which was facilitated by ECLAC and ran for more than three years, was concluded in 2021. The main outcome of the bilateral cooperation initiative was Chile’s implementation of a Biodiversity Information System inspired by Mexico’s system. However, the relationship also enabled the exchange of good practices on sustainable use, sustainable tourism and restoration and integrated management of protected areas. The outcomes were published in a series of awareness-raising materials.

The Commission continued to focus throughout the year on **guaranteeing the availability of water** and sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC worked with the Federal Government of Germany to deliver the *Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean*. More than 3,000 participants from a variety of economic, social and environmental sectors in the region registered for the virtual event, which was co-organized by ECLAC, the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) of Mexico and the Federal Government of Germany to exchange information on how to speed up the achievement of Goal 6. In addition, under the subprogramme, more than 15 other regional events on various topics were organized, including water and sanitation and
the food-water-energy nexus. Finally, Mexico and Costa Rica, building on the Commission’s work, championed a regional agreement for cross-sectoral actions to achieve Goal 6 in support of the broader efforts of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028.

In 2021, the Commission also provided information and insight to decision-makers in countries in the region on the sustainable management of mining activities. In August, ECLAC organized a technical workshop and a thematic panel with experts, technical teams and policymakers from Argentina, Chile and the Plurinational State of Bolivia on innovation, development and value addition in the exploitation of lithium. These seminars were opportunities to influence public policies, incentives, regulations and research and development. In addition, ECLAC supported the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia in launching a communications strategy for the promotion of human rights, gender equality and territorial development in regions with mining and energy operations.

“I am writing to express our thanks for the technical assistance received from ECLAC throughout 2021, in particular the work of the Energy Unit of the Natural Resources Division and the support from the Regional Observatory on Sustainable Energy. The support provided to develop an energy efficiency baseline and report will serve to create the national monitoring report on energy efficiency in Bolivia.”

Javier Alex Suárez Irusta, Director, Energy Efficiency Division, Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

The public management and statistics dimension

In 2021, ECLAC took a holistic approach to enhancing planning and public management processes in the region for the advancement of equitable and sustainable development. The pandemic turned a spotlight on the key role of the State in providing public goods and services. Under subprogramme 9, Planning and public management for development, ECLAC, with the cooperation of Panama, organized the eighteenth meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES).

ECLAC also conducted capacity-building initiatives with ministries and institutes responsible for planning in the region. The Directorate of Territorial Development and Planning Institute of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Panama benefitted from a tailored capacity-building training programme on planning and public investment. Similarly, in Costa Rica, the capacity of the territorial teams in the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy was improved to support the design of the recently approved regional development law Ley de Desarrollo Regional de Costa Rica (núm 10096). ECLAC also concluded three years of support provided to the Technical Planning Secretariat for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay to better align national and territorial development plan priorities with the SDGs.

ECLAC supported member States in implementing results-based management systems for planning purposes. In that context, a results-based management
system was implemented by the Technical Secretariat of Planning of Paraguay, and in the Dominican Republic and Panama, results-based management capacities were strengthened to assist in the implementation of national sustainable development strategies.

The role of citizens in public policy and sustainable development was also a focus of the technical work of ECLAC in the context of subprogramme 9. The document on sustainable territorial development and new citizenships urged countries in the region to consider policies promoting collaboration between their citizens and government in order to solve increasingly complex public problems. The subsequent report on citizen participation in public affairs explored opportunities to ensure the active participation of citizens in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the report presented a set of methodological instruments to develop an effective citizen participation strategy.

“We acknowledge the support provided by ILPES and ECLAC to update the national development plan. Through ILPES, ECLAC has supported the Technical Planning Secretariat through several phases of the process. A team with members from several divisions assisted with the technical review of the plan, which resulted in the inclusion of a set of recommendations. Support was also provided in linking specific goals in the national development plan with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.”

Viviana Casco, Minister and Executive Secretary of the Technical Planning Secretariat for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay

Under subprogramme 10, Statistics, ECLAC continued to develop information systems centralizing economic, social and environmental data from across Latin America and the Caribbean. The new CEPALSTAT interface was launched, with new open-source data formats, integrated geospatial data and more disaggregated country data at the subnational level. CEPALSTAT will support national statistical offices that have plans to redesign their national data hubs and geospatial solutions and will serve as a new regional benchmark and a reference for international standards. In 2021, the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020 was made available in a new HTML format, in addition to the traditional PDF version. Updates were also made to map content in the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, with new solutions for viewing ECLAC projects. Alongside changes to the regional databases, improvements were made in the methodology to estimate poverty levels and poverty rates.

Throughout the year, technical support was provided to six countries on methodological issues related to small area estimations, household surveys, sampling analysis and statistical indicators for access to justice. Moreover, five countries benefitted from technical assistance in areas related to national accounts and creating input-output tables.

National statistics offices in the region face the enormous challenge of stepping beyond their role as data producers to become effective coordinators of national statistical systems. The integration of statistics and geospatial information continues to be an essential goal to strengthen the dissemination
and use of statistics and their usefulness for public policies. In a context of rapid methodological and technological change, national statistics offices need to strengthen human resources and technical capacities to implement new methodologies and work with non-traditional data sources. ECLAC has responded to demands from countries to achieve these ambitions with technical assistance and through monitoring of the progress of collaboration between national statistics offices and national geospatial information agencies. Collaboration has increased since 2019, with national statistics offices and national geospatial information agencies in 19 countries now working in a coordinated manner or under a formal agreement.

Lastly, ECLAC has continued to support countries in the framework of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) by providing technical assistance to the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

“The technical advice provided by ECLAC has enabled the Colombian judiciary to obtain detailed statistics on justice-related needs in the country (municipalities), which would not be possible with traditional sampling methods. This enabled us to generate novel results for municipalities that had not initially been considered a priority…gain an awareness of the reality of the justice needs in those municipalities and expand on the data gathered in the 2020 Survey on Community Living and Citizen Safety in the chapter on problems, disagreements, conflicts and disputes. Going forward, the Ministry of Justice and the Law and the National Planning Department will work together to apply the statistical technique of the small area methodology in the analysis we conduct in 2022, working together with the National Administrative Statistics Department of Statistics, on the 2022 Survey on Community Living and Citizen Safety.”

Luis Eduardo Alvarado Rosado, Coordinator of the Group of Local Justice Systems, Directorate for Alternative Conflict Resolution Methods, Ministry of Justice and the Law, Colombia

The subregional dimension

Under subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, ECLAC worked to strengthen institutions across Central America in key sectors such as tourism, disaster prevention, sustainable energy and public investment, with a focus on risk management, climate change and economic recovery.

Technical assistance was delivered to tourism institutions in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Industry 4.0 and the COVID-19 pandemic continued to drive the need for increased technical skills and business model innovation in the tourism industry in the region. Support provided by ECLAC focused on improving the digital maturity of Central American micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism sector through the use of tools that included a self-assessment and by promoting the use of digital tools to increase competitiveness. The design of non-discriminatory policies, in partnership with countries in the subregion, was also a focus for
ECLAC in 2021. In this vein, technical support was provided to Mexico in the health, education and social protection sectors, and Costa Rica benefited from a training course on the promotion, protection and exercise of the human rights of the elderly.

ECLAC played a key role in acting on climate change in the region and responding to the impact of natural disasters. After the 2021 earthquake in Haiti, the Commission conducted an assessment of its economic and social impacts alongside other international organizations. ECLAC also supported the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) in the preparation of the seminar on climate change and vulnerability in the countries of Central America. The event served as input for the preparation of the report of the IPCC working group focused on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Public planning and policy financing also formed a significant part of the subprogramme’s work in selected countries in 2021. ECLAC, jointly with UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba, provided technical support to the Ministry of Economy and Planning of Cuba to develop an integrated national financing framework for the SDGs. The framework identified the policy and resource gaps that must be closed to achieve the Goals, as well as a “menu” of potential innovative solutions tailored to the Cuban context. Lastly, advice was provided to several countries to address the issue of new rurality. With support from a project with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a methodological proposal to identify, characterize and measure structural gaps in the region was published.

“ECLAC facilitated contact with institutions and the sharing of relevant documents and provided comments and contributions to various documents, including the evaluation of the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the common country analysis and the Peacebuilding Fund project document on the economic transformation initiative.”

Bruno Lemarquis, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti

Under subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, ECLAC convened key stakeholders to advance the subregional development agenda. The twentieth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee provided an opportunity for senior government officials to explore ideas, including a comprehensive discussion on the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases among Caribbean populations, a factor that exacerbates vulnerability to COVID-19. Particular consideration was given by the Committee to the economics of preventing and controlling those diseases.

Direct bilateral technical assistance was also provided in the context of country efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. ECLAC assisted Antigua and Barbuda in the preparation of its first voluntary national review (VNR) by supporting stakeholder engagement, report drafting and multimedia content creation. The work culminated in the presentation of the country’s VNR at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York in July 2021. Following the presentation, ECLAC provided assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration in developing
a citizen’s engagement communication strategy and an SDG website that are expected to positively contribute to increased national ownership and enhanced implementation of the promotion and implementation of the SDGs. Within the framework of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC organized a technical capacity-building workshop to support other countries of the region in drafting their VNRs as a part of their 2030 Agenda implementation strategies. Participants in the regional workshop, which was jointly organized with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, included representatives from 9 of the 11 countries of the region that presented their VNRs at the high-level political forum in 2021. The workshop was also attended by representatives of United Nations resident coordinator offices, and agencies, funds and programmes in the region and by representatives of civil society.

ECLAC also provided important guidance to countries to finance the achievement of the SDGs. Support focused on highly indebted middle-income Caribbean countries that had conducted VNRs. The assistance included an analysis of market and non-market factors and institutional arrangements affecting the amount and quality of financing for selected Goals. The study adds to the literature on financing for the Goals in the Caribbean and provides policy guidance on increasing the quantity and quality of financing for Goal 4, on inclusive and equitable quality education, and Goal 9, on industry, innovation and infrastructure. It also provides insight into how the subregion can leverage innovative financing mechanisms that are better tailored to country needs for long-term affordable financing to achieve the Goals. Under the subprogramme, support was also provided for the organization of the Caribbean Regional Table as part of the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2021.

Concessional financial relief remains an important issue for the countries of the subregion. In this regard, and in the context of the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative for Caribbean small island developing States, ECLAC proposed the creation of a segregated portfolio trust fund Caribbean Resilience Fund (SPCRF), with a focus on resilience-building, growth and competition, liquidity enhancement and debt reduction across the Caribbean. This work was underpinned by research highlighting the cases of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Recommendations emphasized the need for increased fiscal space, debt reduction and additional investment opportunities to build climate-resilient infrastructure and productive activities, including green industries.

Finally, the subprogramme has been at the forefront of the Commission’s work to both prepare and respond to disasters across the Caribbean. At the request of Guyana, ECLAC, in coordination with the Resident Coordinator Office, spearheaded a damage and loss assessment (DaLA) after widespread flooding in June 2021. The assessment revealed substantial damage across five regions, which would require significant investment in reconstruction, and provided data for the government’s evidence-based appeal to international donors for assistance in recovery and future resilience-building. In Trinidad and Tobago, ECLAC participated in the working group for the development of the country’s comprehensive disaster management policy, which is expected to be completed in 2022 and subsequently submitted for government approval and for the drafting of the corresponding legislation.

DaLA Coordinator, Mr. Omar Bello, meeting with the Director-General of the Civil Defence Commission of Guyana, Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig, and Mitigation and Recovery Manager, Ms. Allana Walters.
Grenada took a major step in its national ownership of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with the drafting of a new National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2020–2035 that mainstreams the SDGs in national development. We are grateful for the technical assistance provided by ECLAC in the preparation of the Plan.”

Oliver Joseph, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs, Grenada

Subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, contributed to enhancing the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons regarding integration processes in the region. That work was highlighted at the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. A total of 14 associate members of ECLAC participated in the Forum for the first time, sharing their progress and challenges regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs. In the agreed intergovernmental conclusions and recommendations, member States took note with appreciation of the fifth report on regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. The meeting was attended by 9,608 people who connected virtually, 3,400 who participated by videoconference and 6,200 who followed the proceedings through social networks.

South-South cooperation continued to play a central role in the Commission’s activities. In 2021, an extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation was held to examine ways to enhance the functioning of the Committee. Later in the year, at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, member States approved the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The change reflects the recognition of the work of the Committee over the years as well as countries’ demand for discussion of multilateral issues, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic. ECLAC also contributed to the discussion on South-South cooperation by publishing a number of reports that evaluated South-South cooperation in six selected countries in the region. ECLAC also participated in a side event in the context of the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, bringing to the discussion the efforts undertaken by all five regional commissions to foster South-South and triangular cooperation.

Under subprogramme 13, technical assistance was provided to enhance national capacities to assess the impacts of natural disasters and other shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on national economies. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, assistance was provided to Guatemala and Honduras in the form of a damage and loss assessment. The exercise,
which was conducted jointly with the relevant resident coordinator’s offices, resulted in two reports that were presented to the highest national authorities and that informed the investment plans and reconstruction programmes in the affected areas. Panama also benefited from technical assistance to assess the effects and impacts of the pandemic on the tourism and retail services sectors. That exercise, carried out jointly with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Panama, informed the actions taken and measures adopted by the Tourism Authority of Panama. Technical support was provided to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines after the eruption of the La Soufrière Volcano, and to the Dominican Republic to assess the impact of the pandemic. The support provided to those countries was delivered in the context of the post-disaster needs assessment exercise led by the World Bank, the European Union and UNDP.

ECLAC national offices

Throughout 2021, the ECLAC office in Washington, D.C. focused on monitoring the economic situation and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and its effect on the economic relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean. The analytical inputs of the office contributed to a better understanding of the region’s economic linkages with the United States and other global partners. The office also provided policy options in the context of the pandemic and the ongoing evolution of international financial markets. Activities included an expanded analysis of access to bond markets by the Caribbean and Central American economies and further analysis of the role of multilateral development banks in Latin America and the Caribbean. Other important contributions included the study on supply chain resiliency in the United States and the role that could be played by Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard, and another study on the impact of China’s exports to the United States on Latin American and Caribbean exports to that market. The gender perspective was included in all regular publications.

The office also played an important role in managing and strengthening partnerships and in continuing outreach to government agencies in the United States, including Washington-based international agencies, and to Canada. The office presented the regional economic and social outlook in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic at nine seminars, including to the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State, Army War College, Air War College, National Defense University, Syracuse University and Georgetown University.

“"The ECLAC representative really helped our panel end on such an important note – I have listed “subtle and multilateral” as a key message for our participants to think about the role of the Government of the United States in the region.””

Rosana Resende, Regional Chairperson for Western Hemisphere Area Studies, Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, United States
The **ECLAC office in Bogotá** shared the Commission’s analysis and recommendations in order to best address the economic and social consequences of the pandemic in Colombia. ECLAC, through the office, participated in more than 30 different virtual events for the analysis of economic and sectoral public policies, convened by government authorities, academic institutions and civil society organizations. One was the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) Committee of Experts, where ECLAC joined discussions on updating the methodologies for measuring economic and multidimensional poverty. The specific expertise of ECLAC was applied to the crafting of a multidimensional poverty index for children, an exercise conducted with the National Planning Department.

In Bogotá, ECLAC applied its comprehensive approach to the design and implementation of social policies to the Mission of Educators and Citizen Wisdom to guide education policy actions to 2038, with a particular focus on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

ECLAC also focused on territorial inequality and rural-urban linkages as part of its contribution to the peacebuilding agenda in Colombia. Its primary contribution was in developing the strategy for rural-urban interrelationships, as seen in this video, which was used to support regional networks for constructing inclusive development policies in the two territories most affected by the conflict. The office also participated in the **Visión Colombia 2050** exercise initiated by the National Planning Department to highlight the importance of the rural-urban link in sustainable development. At the community level, the office’s workshops in Tolima highlighted the participation of women and young people. In the department of Meta, ECLAC also worked with DANE and other partners on a workshop related to territorial linkages and regional tourism.

"We extend our gratitude for the opportunity to participate in one of the most important projects of this administration: the Mission of Educators and Citizen Wisdom. Despite the challenges experienced by the country and the city over the past year, the Mission managed to create a variety of spaces to hold a democratic, rational and open discussion to identify the aspirations of teachers, the educational community and citizens and to gather proposals on how education should happen in Bogotá."

Claudia López Hernández, Mayor of Bogotá and Edna Cristina Bonilla Sebá, District Minister for Education

The **ECLAC office in Brasilia** has been advocating for a transformative recovery in Brazil underpinned by principles of equality and sustainability. Through the “big push for sustainability” proposal, ECLAC expanded the understanding of the potential of sustainable and low-carbon investments to generate quality jobs in Brazil. The report, the result of technical cooperation between ECLAC, the Inter-Union Department
of Statistics and Socioeconomic Research (DIEESE) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FEF), was launched in September. The office also published a report on the gender dimension in the big push for sustainability in Brazil, which was presented at a side event at the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

The office has also been effective in leading regional initiatives. At the high-level international seminar Just Transition: Strategies for a Sustainable Recovery, parliamentary leaders from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, the European Union and the United States discussed climate justice as an explicit component of sustainable recovery strategies around the world. In addition, the ECLAC office in Brasilia coordinated the announcement of the regional Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition at COP26. A total of 15 parliamentarians from 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean signed the group’s joint declaration in a side event supported by the European Union through the EUROCLIMA+ program.

The Brasilia office has also played an important role in other EUROCLIMA+ activities, including the Energy Big Push 2.0 to support Brazil’s efforts to accelerate the use of sustainable alternative energies as part of their membership of Mission Innovation, an initiative launched alongside the Paris Agreement in 2015. Lastly, a partnership with the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) focused on a green patents initiative to promote an exchange of protocols between Latin American patent offices with a view to identifying sustainable technologies for patenting and accelerating the issuance of patents.

“I acknowledge the importance of the “big push for sustainability” that ECLAC has been promoting to support countries in the region in shifting towards sustainable economic, social and environmental development patterns, and applaud the activities we have jointly conducted in the framework of the Subcommittee for the Big Push for Sustainability.”

Jaques Wagner, Senator, Brazil

The ECLAC office in Buenos Aires contributed to the regional effort to raise awareness of the predominant role of women in unpaid care work. In Argentina, the office’s advocacy centred on supporting the design and implementation of care policies and programmes for dependent populations. ECLAC worked with the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity in Argentina to develop the federal map of care. The virtual platform aims to provide public access to the care services offered by public, private and community-based organizations. The platform also works as a source of information for care workers. In keeping with its purpose, the map takes into full consideration issues of gender and disability through the use of inclusive language and accessibility functionalities.

Within the framework of the cooperation agenda with the Federal Public Revenue Administration (AFIP) and the Ministry of Economy, the office delivered technical assistance through studies on taxation in the digital economy and in environmental policy. These studies included analysis of alternative
means to tax the income generated in Argentina by large digital services companies as well as recommendations to reverse existing deficiencies and enhance the environmental effectiveness of the current tax regime. Finally, technical support was provided to strengthen national capacity to enhance financial inclusion and design public policies to incentivize the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Among other institutional innovations, this assistance informed the creation of the National Council on Guarantees, established by resolution 545/2021 of the Ministry of Production Development. The Council, a public-private institution whose purpose is to guide the design and monitoring of financial inclusion policies and credit promotion instruments and to evaluate and design public policies, plans and actions to enhance SME access to credit and financing, was launched by the Minister for Productive Development and the President of the Central Bank of Argentina in a ceremony held in October 2021.

“The map is not only important for citizens to be able to organize their lives based on the availability of both public and private care, but also for policymakers, to organize the way in which we build, publicly, what the market cannot create on its own, and to rebuild an Argentina in which inequalities are addressed and opportunities are provided everywhere in the country. I congratulate those who were able to conduct such generous teamwork.”

Victoria Tolosa Paz, President, National Commission for the Coordination of Social Policy

The ECLAC office in Montevideo played a leading role in discussions related to the proposal of the Commission for a transformative recovery in Uruguay. The office was active in publicizing and discussing the proposals that ECLAC set forth in the documents Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability and A decade of action for a change of era, as reflected in seminars, conferences and meetings held with government officials and civil society representatives. The office was also part of the Research Network in Social Science to Face the aftermath of the Pandemic (RISEP), which invited other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Academy of Sciences, universities and research centres in Uruguay to consider how research could contribute to the country’s recovery from the pandemic. The office also delivered a seminar on policies for the biopharmaceutical sector in Uruguay, during which a publication was presented on the opportunities and challenges for Uruguay in the value chain. Finally, meetings organized by ECLAC with the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency were used to promote good practices in South-South cooperation.

Towards the end of 2021, several initiatives were agreed with the Government of Uruguay, including a technical cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for the creation of a database and an observatory combining compatible data from multiple different sources.
In 2021, ECLAC strengthened its alliances with cooperation partners, building upon its significant assets, including its multidisciplinary approach, multi-stakeholder networks, and in-depth knowledge of the development challenges facing countries in the region, built over decades. On that basis, ECLAC offers an attractive value proposition to development partners of middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: in times of competing financial priorities, investing in cooperation at the regional level through the Commission is an efficient course of action to produce a sustainable impact on development while using fewer resources.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Commission implemented US$ 8.6 million in extrabudgetary resources during 2021, an amount 32% higher than in 2020 and just 7% below the figure for 2019, the last year prior to the pandemic. Regarding resource mobilization, the Commission’s swift response to the pandemic and efforts to reach out to non-traditional partners and broaden the project portfolio, made it possible to mobilize extrabudgetary resources specifically aimed at supporting countries in facing the major shock of the pandemic and laying the foundations for a transformative recovery.

Nevertheless, the challenging environment of decreasing inflows of official development assistance (ODA) to the region, which is mainly composed of middle-income countries, compounded by the significant fiscal shock worldwide from the pandemic, had a significant impact on the level of resource mobilization. While the number of framework agreements that did not involve transfers of resources signed during 2021 was just 20% below of that of 2020, indicating that development partners continued to be interested in working with ECLAC, there was a significant reduction in the number of projects signed and in the total value of new resources mobilized. Since partners often require a framework agreement prior to signing specific agreements to finance joint activities, it is expected that the level of resource mobilization will gradually return to pre-pandemic levels in the coming years.

Extrabudgetary resources have also played a key role in enabling ECLAC to contribute to the mainstreaming of emerging issues and concepts. Those issues include sustainable development with equality at the centre; the need for development cooperation to address the specific structural development gaps of middle-income countries; supporting ECLAC member States in confronting the migration crisis; and the adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects through innovative and multilateral tools, all in a context of close collaboration with other United Nations system entities. One example is the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and south-southeast Mexico, which aims to address
the structural causes of migration and human mobility through a regional approach that covers the whole cycle of migration, including in countries of origin, transit, destination and return.

Framework agreements and technical cooperation projects in 2021

Table 1 shows the number of framework agreements signed during 2021. 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.

Table 2 shows the number of technical cooperation projects signed in 2021. These projects involve the transfer of financial resources from donor institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>ECLAC technical cooperation framework agreements signed in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral agreements</td>
<td>Government of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governments outside the region</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organization in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organizations outside the region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic institutions in the region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic institution outside the region</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector and foundations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total bilateral agreements</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2</th>
<th>ECLAC technical cooperation projects signed in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral projects</td>
<td>Government of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>Governments outside the region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organization in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organizations outside the region</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic institutions in the region</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic institution outside the region</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private sector and foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total bilateral projects</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

In 2021, at the bilateral level, ECLAC continued to consolidate its cooperation with countries in the region, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

In the case of Brazil, the longstanding collaboration with the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) was extended for another two years with the goal of continuing to generate knowledge to promote social and economic development.
Cooperation with strategic partners from outside the region continued and was enhanced. ECLAC and Germany demonstrated the strength of their partnership in 2021 by reinforcing their collaboration in the context of the crisis generated by the pandemic. The German Government doubled its contribution to the Commission through a project entitled “Transformative reactivation: overcoming the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean”, a three-year initiative that seeks opportunities in crisis to generate structural change towards sustainability with a comprehensive approach to fiscal policy, social protection and industrial policy.

Collaboration between ECLAC and the Republic of Korea was strengthened in 2021. In addition to continuing to support the East Asian and Latin American dialogue, the Republic of Korea and ECLAC promoted new initiatives on emerging topics such as open government, the bioeconomy, and nature-based solutions for a sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery.

In 2021, ECLAC renewed its partnership with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), with a significant focus on gender issues in light of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women. The renewal will also allow for the continuation of important work on the topics of planning and public management for the implementation of the SDGs and in the context of pandemic recovery. ECLAC and AECID also advanced with pioneering work on social cohesion in the region, publishing an innovative report on the lessons and future challenges of a methodology for measuring social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2021, France supported the Commission’s work on circular economy, especially in the water, energy and construction sectors.

ECLAC also signed a Cooperation Framework Agreement with Agence française de développement to assess the economic and social effects of climate policies for a low-carbon transition in four Latin American countries.

Regarding multilateral cooperation, the strategic alliance between ECLAC and the European Union continued to be consolidated through the implementation of nine initiatives in the context of the Regional Facility for Development in Transition, including three aimed at supporting the response to the COVID-19 crisis in the areas of regional trade, social security and fiscal policy. A new phase of the EUROCLIMA+ programme was also implemented, through which ECLAC will support the drafting, implementation and evaluation of specific public policies related to climate change. Such policies will include economic public policies developed under the framework of nationally determined contributions for the creation of long-term, low-carbon development strategies and the green recovery, with a particular emphasis on fiscal, financial and investment-related issues. The Commission will move forward the climate change agenda on economic public policies and the green recovery, including through high-level strategic policy dialogues.

Successful collaboration with the World Bank and IDB led to the implementation of projects related to economic statistics and the institutional strengthening of ministries of finance in the region, respectively. Cooperation with IDB was expanded to new areas, including open government and public management,
through collaboration to promote a course, delivered in Spanish, introducing the principles of open government for designing initiatives within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. ECLAC is also collaborating with Boston University in the provision of technical inputs for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund 2022 Spring Meetings (18–24 April), Annual Meeting (10–16 October) and the 2023 Spring Meetings (17–23 April) in Washington, D.C.

Advancing collaboration across the United Nations system in Latin America and the Caribbean remained high on the agenda for ECLAC in 2021. In that regard, eight new agreements were signed with United Nations entities, covering a wide range of topics, such as health and the economy, youth and education policies, gender, migration statistics, and climate change. ECLAC partnered with PAHO, UNESCO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and WFP.

In the same spirit, ECLAC consolidated a new joint venture through the Joint Policy Fund to Advance the 2030 Agenda through Integrated Policy, with the signing of a project in the Caribbean entitled “Modernising Trinidad and Tobago’s Statistical Ecosystem through Enhanced SDG Data Development”. The project aims to strengthen national data collection and management using a technologically advanced, collaborative, empowered, cost-effective and agile national statistical architecture to obtain comprehensive, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. In addition, ECLAC is implementing a new road safety project for Colombia financed by the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (UNRSF), a complement to similar projects already being implemented in Argentina and Brazil.

Lastly, ECLAC continues to build bridges with the private sector and non-profit organizations through three new collaborations. A new project was launched with the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund to advance women’s rights and autonomy for a transformative economic recovery in Latin America. An agreement was also signed with the National Organization of the Blind (ONCE) in Spain to further develop actions to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In Asia, ECLAC signed its first agreement with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to promote relevant industrial and technology policies and the use of cleaner production techniques for a big environmental push.
Technical cooperation

Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
In 2021, the Commission’s commitment to results-based management continued in the context of managing the impact of the crisis caused by the pandemic and integrating new elements of the United Nations management and development reforms at the regional level.

Regarding planning, the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2023 was presented by ECLAC at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole. Adopted by member States, the draft programme of work formed the basis of the proposed programme budget for 2023, developed according to guidance from the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly by the end of 2022. Led by the Executive Secretary, strategic planning meetings were held with each division to take stock of the implementation of the programme of work and to lay out strategic priorities for the coming years.

Monitoring of the implementation of the programme of work, both from a substantive and financial standpoint, continued throughout the year, in close collaboration with the Programme Planning and Operations Division and all substantive divisions and offices. The Commission delivered 99.5% of all committed products in 2021 (see table 3).

Table 3
Implementation of the programme of work, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Planned</th>
<th>Delivered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary documentation</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantive services for meetings</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical cooperation projects</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars, workshops, fellowships</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and training events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical materials</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation, advice and advocacy</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including promotion of legal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>documents)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Databases and substantive digital</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materials</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach programmes, special</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>events and information materials</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In terms of reporting, the Report on the activities of the Commission, 2020 was redesigned and presented to member States of ECLAC at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole.

The Programme Planning and Operations Division also managed the evaluation function, which serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. In 2021, ECLAC produced assessment reports for two Development Account...
projects, one addressing socioenvironmental challenges and the other focused on big data, while following up on the implementation of recommendations made in previous assessment reports. Results from evaluations were shared in knowledge products, including through a new document published in 2021 on recommendations and lessons learned and through project briefing notes prepared since 2019 summarizing project achievements and evaluation.

ECLAC extended its full collaboration to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the Board of Auditors, oversight mechanisms that provide recommendations to help the Commission improve its processes, in keeping with its commitment to ensuring accountability and compliance.

Spotlight on disability inclusion at ECLAC

On December 3, 2021, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, ECLAC launched its Disability Inclusion Strategy 2021–2025 (CEPALDIS). Following the launch in 2019 of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), the ECLAC strategy is the result of a collaborative effort and builds on the work already done to advance inclusion for persons with disabilities. While ECLAC was already conducting research and providing technical assistance on disability-related matters to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and had made significant progress in the inclusion of persons with disabilities across its areas of work, an overarching strategy was lacking and initiatives were often isolated and heterogeneous. CEPALDIS places persons with disabilities, as rights-holders, at the centre and embodies the Commission’s institutional commitment in three priority areas: (i) strategic planning and results-based management; (ii) institutional commitment for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Commission’s work; and (iii) organizational culture. A series of initiatives was launched in support of the roll-out of the strategy, including several workshops to raise awareness among ECLAC staff on what is needed to become an inclusive office.
Library
Key figures: Hernán Santa Cruz Library in 2021

- Digital repository
  - 44,000 digital ECLAC publications
  - 1,085 new records uploaded
  - 14,903,891 downloads

- Library website, LibChat and LibGuides
  - 37,537 page views
  - 598 responses to online queries
  - 1,002,578 visitor uses of LibGuides

- Social Media
  - 7,664 Twitter followers
  - 737 YouTube followers
  - 389 Pinterest followers

Press and communication
Key figures: ECLAC press and communication in 2021

- Social media
  - 470,485 followers
  - 373,719 fans
  - 2,588,717 views
  - 187 exclusive interviews given

- Spanish accounts
- English accounts

- Digital repository
  - 44,000 digital ECLAC publications

- Library website, LibChat and LibGuides
  - 37,537 page views

- Social Media
  - 7,664 Twitter followers
