

Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda

Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress

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



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
31 March–4 April **2025**



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Three dots indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

A dash indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A full stop is used to indicate decimals.

The word "dollars" refers to United States dollars, unless otherwise specified.

A slash between years (e.g. 2023/2024) indicates a 12-month period falling between the two years.

Individual figures and percentages in tables may not always add up to the corresponding total because of rounding.

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Foreword

This year, 2025, marks the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the start of the 5-year countdown to 2030, and regional progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is lagging behind expectations. Projections based on the latest available data presented in this report indicate that only 23% of the SDG targets will be met by 2030; 41% are moving in the right direction, but at an insufficient pace for achievement by the deadline; and 36% have stalled or regressed relative to the 2015 baseline.

In addition, progress varies among the SDGs. For Goal 1 (No poverty), Goal 2 (Zero hunger), Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities), Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), none of the targets are on track for achievement by 2030, and several have regressed significantly. For Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation), Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), fewer targets are off track, with some showing progress. Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) and Goal 14 (Life below water) have the most even split between targets that are on track and targets that are off track. Most of the indicators under Goal 4 (Quality education), Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (Industry, infrastructure and innovation) and Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) are moving in the right direction but at an insufficient pace. Targets under Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) and Goal 15 (Life on land) display no discernible trend, be it positive or negative.

The variety of factors inhibiting speedier progress include weak institutional capacities, lack of prioritization in national development plans, and limited financing and fiscal space. Relatively slow global economic and trade growth since 2014–2015 has also contributed to a less than

favourable environment. Inevitably, progress slowed and structural inequalities deepened during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the cascading crises that ensued. Despite the subsequent recovery, most targets remain at or below pre-pandemic levels.

Hence the fundamental question we should ask ourselves for 2025, as alluded to in the title of this report: how can the region steer the transformations to accelerate progress?

The United Nations system and its Member States have emphatically and repeatedly raised this very question since the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 2023. At the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), we are convinced that the answers lie in five key areas of governance, institutional frameworks and financing for all the SDGs: (i) governance and collaboration arrangements among stakeholders for each SDG; (ii) the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of the institutions responsible for policies relevant to each SDG; (iii) spaces for social dialogue among the institutions and key stakeholders involved in each area; (iv) the political economy of reforms and transformations (i.e. how to form coalitions to support transformations and overcome resistance to the needed changes); and (v) the challenge of financing, which encompasses domestic resource mobilization to expand fiscal space, and possible reforms to the international financial architecture to increase financing for development and investment needs related to the SDGs. A thorough explanation of this conceptual framework is provided in the position document of the fortieth session of ECLAC, entitled *Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them*.¹

The special focus of the present report is on how to manage transformations, guided by the simple but formidable conceptual framework described above. This question can only yield concrete answers when considered in the economic, social, environmental, political and institutional context of each country, which in turn requires a certain level of detail and granularity.

In 2025, the global economic and geopolitical landscape is more complex than it has been in decades. Global economic uncertainty has been heightened amid a reshaping of geopolitics, with weak economic growth among the region's major trading partners the resurgence of

¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them* (LC/SES.40/3-P/-*), Santiago, 2024.

protectionism and a move to reduce development aid in some countries and for certain purposes, among other trends and characteristics.

Burdensome debt service and tight fiscal space in most countries leave little room for manoeuvre to finance the more ambitious public policies and investments needed in many areas. Meanwhile, environmental sustainability is under threat from climate change and environmental degradation, with effects on productivity and quality of life for the most vulnerable groups.

Faced with this unfavourable global outlook, the countries and the region must not give in to excuse-making or defeatism but, rather, use it as motivation to redouble efforts, looking to the past to build a better future rather than waiting for a miracle cure from the global economy. The countries should define clear objectives—turning to the 2030 Agenda as a valuable road map—, conclude broad agreements to accelerate progress towards development objectives and strengthen their institutional and financial capacities to that end. This pursuit, and the willingness to transform, are more important than ever.

It was in that spirit that, in 2024, the international community adopted the Pact for the Future, which represents a shared vision and a mechanism for regional and global cooperation to overcome sustainable development challenges. The aim of the Pact is to strengthen international cooperation through multilateral agreements to facilitate technology transfer and access to financing for development. The Pact—itself an exercise in multilateralism— calls for cooperation among nations to support the implementation of a sustainable development model based on social justice and equity. Thus, it represents important values and constitutes a mechanism for guiding development towards the achievement of sustainable development targets.

I hope that this report will contribute to deliberations and discussions among the many key stakeholders in every country to better understand the progress and obstacles of the last 10 years but, more importantly, to identify more effective, pragmatic, mutually supportive and clear options and pathways to accelerate progress towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future.

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

Executive Secretary

Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Introduction

This eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*, aims to document and analyse the progress and challenges faced by the region in implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as to propose and examine strategies to better manage transformations and accelerate the pace of progress towards achieving the SDGs in the region.

The report contains four chapters and a section of conclusions and recommendations. Chapter I provides a detailed analysis of the three pillars of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental— in the global and regional context and the institutional framework underpinning them.

Chapter II presents progress in implementing the SDGs in the region, taking into account subregional differences and possible scenarios to 2030. A traffic light system is used to rank indicators for which behavioural trends can be established.

Chapter III analyses progress and challenges in the implementation of five SDGs: Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 14 (Life below water) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It examines trends in recent years and offers an assessment based on the most up-to-date data, along with proposals for measures and policies to accelerate progress.

Chapter IV examines the participation of non-governmental and other actors in the 2030 Agenda —civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments and parliaments, among others— and the critical role they can play in implementing and monitoring action to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. It also presents recommendations to strengthen cooperation between these stakeholders and national governments.

The report concludes with a summary of key findings, conclusions and policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

I. Latin America and the Caribbean: the challenges of low growth capacity, high inequality, lack of environmental sustainability and weak institutional capabilities

A. Global and regional economic challenges: low economic and employment growth

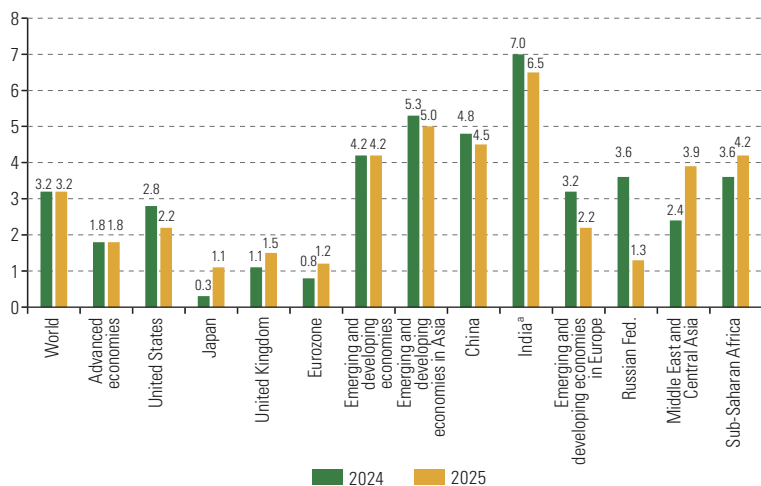
Global gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at an average rate of 3.2% in 2024, and the same is expected for 2025 (see figure I.1). Following a modest increase of 0.8% in 2023, global trade grew by 3.1% in 2024 and is projected at 3.4% for 2025 (ECLAC, 2024b). In 2024, lower inflation rates prompted a downward trend in monetary policy rates, boosting global liquidity.

The global economy and international trade are expanding at a modest pace.

Average growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was 2.2% in 2024 and the Commission estimates that this figure will increase to 2.4% in 2025 (see figure I.1). Weak growth in regional economic activity is reflected in weak employment generation. Employment growth in the region is estimated to have been 1.7% in 2024, with a slight rise to 1.8% projected in 2025.

The region is caught in a trap of low growth capacity.

Figure 1.1
Selected regions and countries: GDP growth rate, projections
for 2024 and 2025
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook: Policy Pivot, Rising Threats, Washington, D.C., October 2024.

^a The fiscal year begins in April and ends in March the following year.

The region's political economy faces considerable challenges.

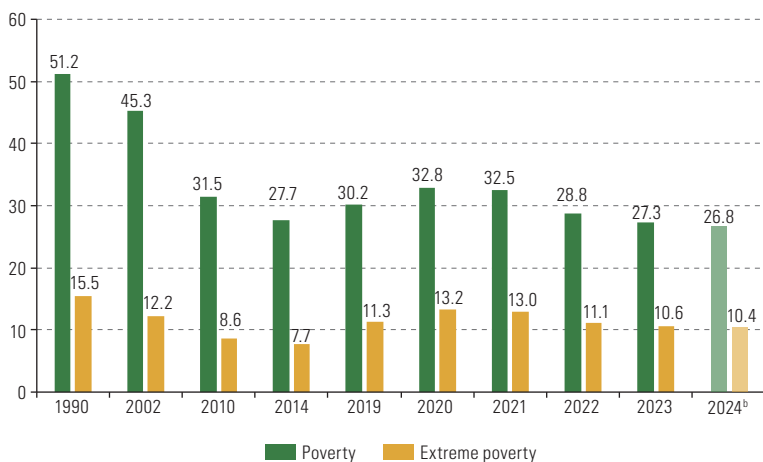
Factors such as low GDP growth, high interest rates, exchange-rate depreciations, the debt-service burden, the occurrence of disasters and other extraordinary events may affect fiscal policy space and operations (ECLAC, 2024b). On the monetary policy front, lower inflation and increased global liquidity are expected; however, the appreciation of the dollar and possible capital outflows would limit the scope for additional rate cuts and increased stimulus to domestic credit. With respect to trade policy, the United States' threat to raise tariffs could lead to future tariff wars.

B. Global and regional challenges for inclusive social development: poverty and inequality

The world is beset ever more frequently by crises of different kinds, including violent conflicts and increasingly intense extreme weather events (United Nations, 2024a), which hinder gains in inclusive social development, upend the progress made and, in particular, limit the attainment of the social targets of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

A number of challenges are hampering the achievement of the SDGs in the region, especially Goal 1 (No poverty). The path of rapid poverty reduction achieved between 1990 and 2014 has never been regained (see figure I.2), and this is exacerbated by the low GDP growth (averaging 0.9% annually) registered between 2014 and 2023.

Figure I.2
Latin America (18 countries):^a people in poverty and extreme poverty, 1990–2004
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

^a Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

^b Projections.

Income inequality remains high, as illustrated by the Gini index for a set of 14 countries in Latin America: at a simple average of 0.452 in 2023, the index far exceeded that of other world regions. Although these figures have come down slightly in recent years, it is apparent that no meaningful progress has been made towards achieving Goal 10 (reduced inequalities) (ECLAC, 2024c).

The region faces a trap of high inequality and low social mobility and social cohesion.

To reduce poverty and inequality, steps must be taken to revitalize labour markets in order to close productivity gaps; strengthen social protection systems, ensuring that they are universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient; reinforce education and health systems and care policies; and strengthen gender equality and institutional

capacity-building measures, enabling the required action to be taken. Tax policies to support social investment will also be crucial, given the persistent constraints on resources for this purpose and the lack of substantial increase in social spending over the past two years. Moreover, spending needs to be more progressive—and more effectively and efficiently managed—if the region is to meet commitments relating to coverage, sufficiency (quality) and financial sustainability, and tax collection also needs to be more progressive, which compounds the challenges for the region (ECLAC, 2024a). ECLAC has recommended the establishment of a public investment standard in the region to support the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the SDGs linked to social issues (ECLAC, 2025a).

C. Global and regional environmental sustainability challenges: a climate change tipping point or point of no return

The year 2024 was declared the warmest year on record (WMO, 2024). This marks the end of a decade that has seen the 10 hottest years on record and that, at times, exceeded the 1.5 °C threshold of average global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels, as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. The impact of this temperature increase and of other extreme climate-related shifts has reverberated around the world.

Various environmental sustainability challenges exist in response to the effects of climate change.

Latin America and the Caribbean has experienced heatwaves, fires, droughts and flooding. In addition to causing loss of life and livelihoods, particularly among the most vulnerable, extreme weather events generate economic impacts that undermine the region's growth capacity, dampen productivity, widen income gaps within and between countries, and increase systemic risks by creating feedback loops between the economic costs of climate change and biodiversity loss, additional borrowing and the inability to obtain financing for development (ECLAC, 2024d).

The transition to more sustainable, low-carbon economies requires a productive and structural transformation of unprecedented scope and speed (IPCC, 2023). Among other things, this transformation requires fostering dynamic sectors such as the energy transition, sustainable mobility, the bioeconomy, the circular economy, sustainable tourism and water management to drive a big push for sustainability

(ECLAC, 2024d). The nationally determined contributions to be submitted by the world's countries in 2025 present a unique opportunity for linkages with national development strategies and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda to achieve ambitious, efficient and effective transitions.

D. Regional challenges in institutional strengthening and capacity-building

There are significant disparities and a decline in State capacities and governance in the region (Herre and Arriagada, 2023). Latin America and the Caribbean ranks far below the high-income countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the World Bank governance index (World Bank, 2025). Between 2012 and 2022, key indicators such as government effectiveness, regulatory quality and control of corruption deteriorated in the region.

The region faces a trap of weak institutional capacities and ineffective governance.

Weak institutional capacities are a structural barrier for the implementation of effective public policies and they limit government capacity to respond to social demands and provide essential services. To respond to these challenges and accelerate progress towards the SDGs, ECLAC (2024a) proposes 11 transformations in development models of Latin America and the Caribbean. The successful management of these transformations can be analysed on the basis of four major components: the characteristics of effective governance; the technical, operational, political and prospective (TOPP) capabilities of the institutions responsible for each transformation; the spaces for social dialogue; and the political economy of each transformation and its corresponding reforms.

In addition, the proposed approach combines a strategic focus with flexible implementation. Change requires iteration, continuous learning and adjustments based on circumstances. In this context, social dialogue is a critical tool for coordinating diverse interests, mitigating conflict and ensuring that all State and non-State actors are included in the transformation process. The political economy of transformations also plays a critical role. Structural changes, such as those linked to achieving the SDGs, generate tensions among stakeholders that must be managed with sensitivity and pragmatism. Doing so requires visionary State leadership backed up by robust institutional capacities to overcome resistance to change and ensure that the benefits of transformation are distributed in a way that fosters social progress.

II. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goal targets in Latin America and the Caribbean: prospects for achievement by 2030

A. Mechanism for follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and projections for 2030

Efforts to produce statistical information have enhanced the quantity and quality of indicators that can be measured and therefore used to define future trends with greater precision. This has been achieved through the projection of a future scenarios for 2030 —using statistical modelling based on available data, statistically significant relationships and comparison with established thresholds— that provides a forward-looking perspective of the region as a whole to analyse trends and assess the likelihood of achieving the Goals.

The analysis included 183 indicators, or 66% of those identified in the universe of analysis. The set of indicators made it possible to assess the likelihood of achievement by 2030 for 132 (78%) of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs for which the smallest proportion of indicators have been assessed are Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

The methodology uses a traffic light system representing three types of situations: (i) for statistical series in the green group, the targets

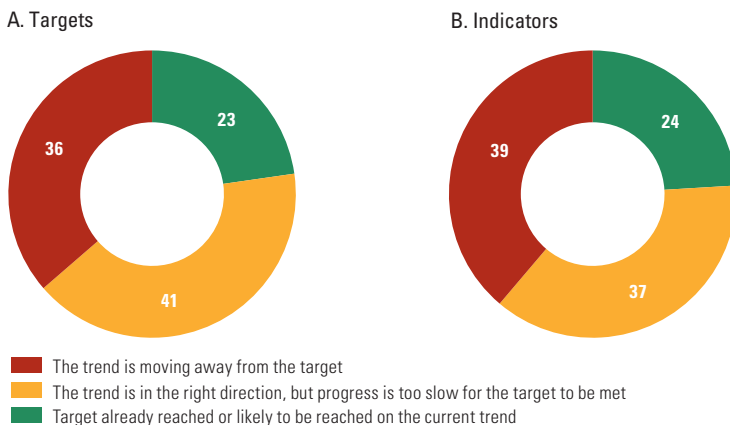
For the statistical series with sufficient information, the distance between the projection and the corresponding target's defined threshold is calculated.

that have already been achieved or will be by 2030 if the current trend and pace are maintained; (ii) for series in the yellow group, the targets are on track but the pace of progress is too slow to ensure that thresholds will be achieved by 2030; and (iii) for series in the red group, targets will not be achieved by 2030 unless ambitious public policies are implemented to reverse the negative trend.

B. Likelihood of achievement of the 2030 targets in Latin America and the Caribbean

According to the calculations of the methodology applied, the percentage of indicators and targets for which the outlook is positive remains very low (24% and 23%, respectively).² Approximately 37% of the indicators and 41% of the targets are moving in the right direction but at an insufficient pace. In contrast, 39% of the indicators and 36% of the targets are not progressing or are moving in the wrong direction, meaning that they are further from achievement than they were in 2015 (see figure II.1).

Figure II.1
Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators, by likelihood of achievement by 2030, 2025
(Percentages)

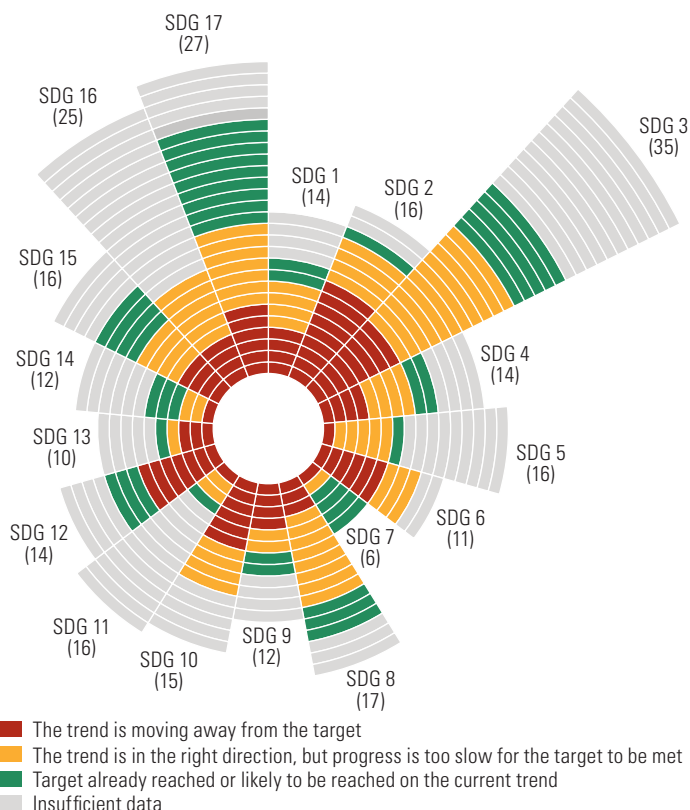


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

² The methodology implemented in the present analysis differs from previous years, primarily in the method of calculating estimates for 2030 and the number of statistical series included. For details on the methodology, see United Nations (2024d).

Figure II.2 offers a graphic representation of the SDG indicators, using the traffic light system, by likelihood of achievement by 2030. Indicators shown in grey do not have sufficient data for the calculation of projections.³

Figure II.2
Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal indicators, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold by 2030, 2025
(Number)



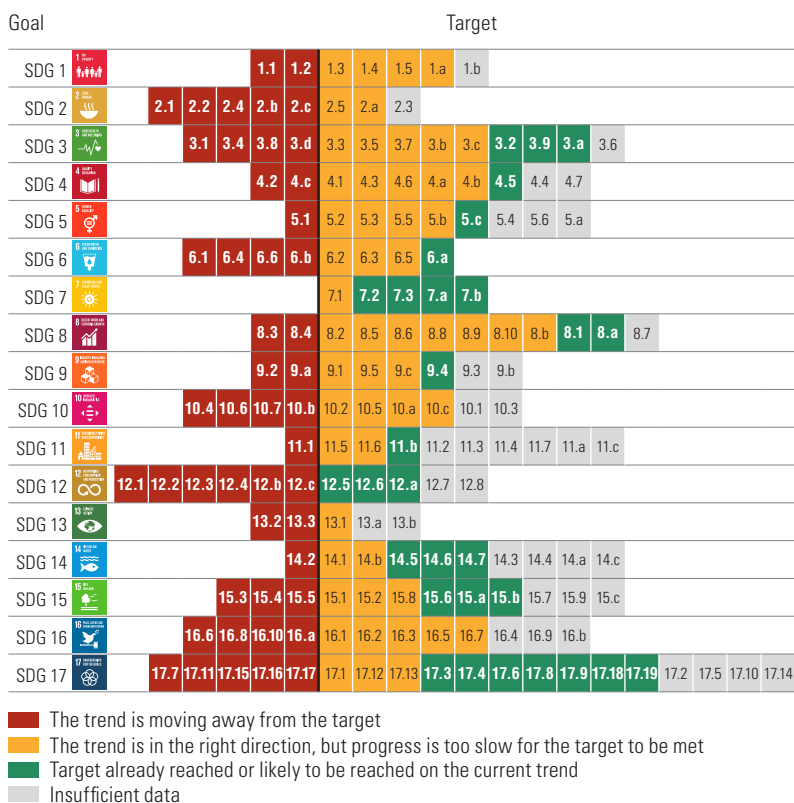
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: Includes 28 additional indicators prioritized for the region. Repeated indicators are included in all relevant SDGs.

Figure II.3 shows the likelihood of achievement by 2030 of the targets for each SDG.

³ One Goal 13 indicator and two Goal 17 indicators are not included, as they pertain to commitments made by developed countries.

Figure II.3
 Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal targets, by likelihood of achievement by 2030, 2025



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

The results show insufficient progress in general, as well as differing results among the various SDGs.

The overall outlook is very similar to last year's results, which suggests that member States must urgently fulfil public policy implementation commitments to make the necessary changes in order to achieve the targets agreed in 2015, with support from regional and international cooperation and through strategic partnerships among key stakeholders.

C. Differences and similarities among the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean

In general, South America and the Central America and Mexico subregion are in similar situations, which differ from the situation in the Caribbean. The first two subregions have a higher proportion of targets expected to be achieved on time, at 23% and 24%, respectively —10 percentage points higher than the Caribbean (13%).

Forecasts also vary among the subregions, in terms of both overall progress and specific targets.

For all three subregions, approximately 40% of the targets are making progress but at an insufficient pace to reach the thresholds established for 2030. Meanwhile, as 35% of targets in Central America and Mexico, 37% in South America and 45% in the Caribbean have stalled or regressed, which jeopardizes the realization of the 2030 Agenda (see figure II.4).

Figure II.4
Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal targets by likelihood of achievement by 2030, by subregion, 2025

A. South America

Goal	Target																				
SDG 1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.a	1.b														
SDG 2			2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.a	2.b	2.3	2.c											
SDG 3			3.1	3.3	3.8	3.d	3.4	3.7	3.b	3.c	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.a	3.6						
SDG 4				4.2	4.c	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.a	4.5	4.b	4.7								
SDG 5					5.1	5.2	5.5	5.b	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.a	5.c								
SDG 6		6.1	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.b	6.2	6.5	6.a												
SDG 7						7.a	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.b											
SDG 8			8.3	8.4	8.9	8.a	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.10	8.b	8.1	8.8	8.7							
SDG 9				9.2	9.3	9.a	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.b	9.c										
SDG 10	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.a	10.b	10.c	10.2	10.5	10.1	10.3											
SDG 11						11.1	11.5	11.6	11.b	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.7	11.a	11.c						
SDG 12	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.b	12.c	12.5	12.6	12.a	12.7	12.8										
SDG 13						13.2	13.3	13.1	13.a	13.b											
SDG 14			14.2	14.6	14.b	14.1	14.7	14.a	14.5	14.3	14.4	14.c									
SDG 15				15.1	15.4	15.2	15.3	15.5	15.8	15.6	15.a	15.b	15.7	15.9	15.c						
SDG 16			16.2	16.6	16.8	16.1	16.3	16.5	16.7	16.4	16.9	16.10	16.a	16.b							
SDG 17			17.1	17.7	17.11	17.12	17.13	17.17	17.3	17.4	17.6	17.8	17.9	17.18	17.19	17.2	17.5	17.10	17.14	17.15	17.16

- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend
- Insufficient data

D. Fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

Progress on the targets of each SDG is characteristically heterogeneous in the region. The SDGs that are most likely to have at least 50% of their targets met by 2030 are Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) and Goal 14 (Life below water). The SDGs that are least likely to meet that 50% threshold are Goal 2 (Zero hunger), Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation), Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities), Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and Goal 13 (Climate action).

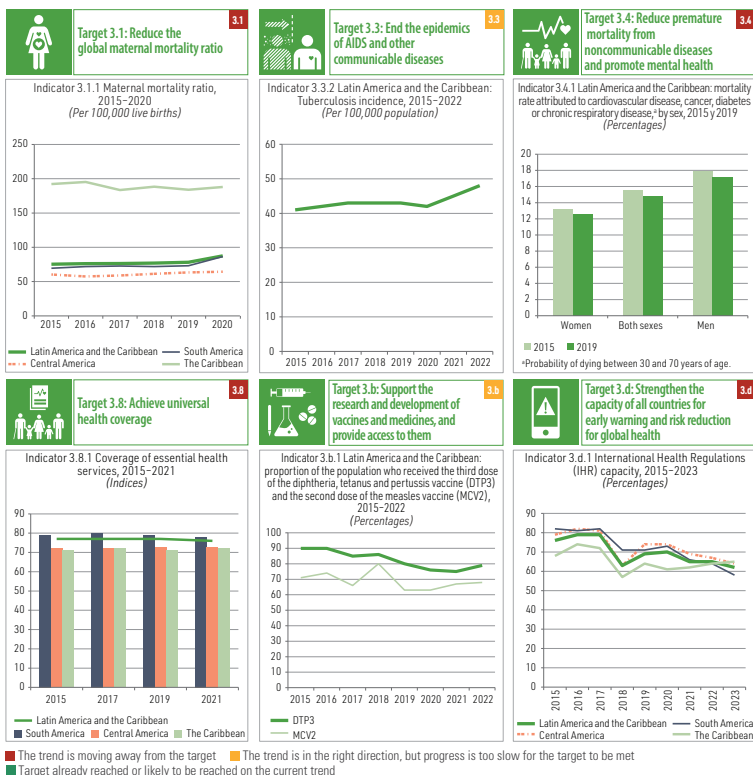
For Goal 1 (No poverty), Goal 4 (Quality education), Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the majority of the targets are progressing, but many are doing so at an insufficient pace for achievement by 2030.

It is not possible to discern a clear positive or negative trend for the targets of Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) and Goal 15 (Life on land).

The results of this analysis clearly demonstrate the need for a redoubling of efforts to fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and to advance economic growth, equality and sustainable development.

III. Progress in relation to Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

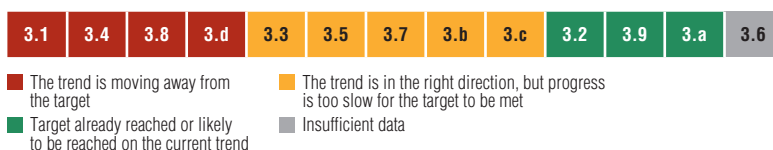


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: Each indicator comprises one or more statistical series, which partially or fully cover the corresponding indicator. In the figures presented here, one or more statistical series were used for the respective indicator.

Diagram III.1

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 3 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold in 2030



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

1. Maternal mortality (target 3.1)

In the 2010s, the maternal mortality ratio in the region remained in a range of 74–78 deaths per 100,000 live births. However, in 2020, there was a significant rise to almost 88 deaths per 100,000 live births. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was a decisive factor in this increase (ECLAC/PAHO, 2020).

Strategies to prevent maternal mortality include access to sexual and reproductive health services along with maternal health (in particular, professional and timely care throughout the prenatal, delivery and postpartum cycle), the functional integration of health networks, and the elimination of unsafe abortion.

2. Infant and neonatal mortality (target 3.2)

Infant and neonatal mortality have been declining systematically in the region.

Under-5 mortality fell from an average of 33.1 per 1,000 live births in 2000 to an average of 15.8⁴ per 1,000 live births in 2022.⁵ In addition, the average neonatal mortality rate declined from 16.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to nine per 1,000 live births in 2022.

Infant and neonatal mortality levels in the region can be further reduced by prioritizing child health in public policies and implementing measures aimed at the most vulnerable social groups, such as the poor, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, and the rural population.

⁴ This level of infant mortality is also lower than the 27.9 per 1,000 live births recorded worldwide.

⁵ Latest data available from the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database Indicators [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>.

3. End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases (target 3.3)

At the regional level, there has been a reduction in the rate of new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections per 1,000 uninfected population, which fell from 0.27 in 2000 to 0.19 in 2022. Malaria has also retreated significantly in the region over the past two decades, from 13.1 cases per 1,000 population in 2000 to 3.6 per 1,000 in 2022. In contrast, the incidence of tuberculosis, which had fallen from 54 to 41 cases per 1,000 population between 2000 and 2015, had crept back up to 48 cases per 1,000 in 2022.

Primary healthcare plays a fundamental role in prevention, diagnosis, access to treatment and reduction of stigma, mainly in the case of people living with HIV.

4. Premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (target 3.4)

The mortality rate attributed to noncommunicable diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean has trended down, dropping from 18.7% in 2000 to 14.8% in 2019; however, the pace of reduction (1.15% per year in 2015–2019) has been insufficient to achieve target 3.4 (PAHO, 2024a). Meanwhile, the suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population has remained broadly stable in the region, albeit edging up from 6.0 to 6.2 between 2015 and 2019 (PAHO, 2023a).

Noncommunicable diseases are among the leading causes of death in the region.

One of the key recommendations for reducing deaths from noncommunicable diseases involves strengthening primary healthcare, through disease prevention, health promotion and early diagnosis, treatment and continuous monitoring.

5. Prevention and treatment of substance abuse (target 3.5)

Over the past two decades, alcohol consumption has decreased slightly. In the period spanning 2000–2019, consumption declined from 6.8 litres per capita to 6.2 litres per capita, although there are marked differences between countries.

Here again, primary healthcare is a key factor in strengthening the prevention and treatment of addictive substance use. Its scope of action makes it possible to implement strategies to prevent consumption, and to provide access to treatment and comprehensive care.

6. Deaths and injuries caused by road traffic accidents (target 3.6)

Approximately 110,000 people die and over 5 million are injured as a result of traffic accidents in the region each year (Pinto and others, 2023). In 2021, the regional mortality rate from road traffic injuries averaged 15 per 100,000 population.

It is essential to implement comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of accidents, such as greater investment in road safety, development of a safer and more efficient public transport system, increased road safety education, the application of highway infrastructure standards and improvements, and the strengthening of regulations and enforcement (PAHO, 2019; United Nations, 2020).

7. Access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services (target 3.7)

The region suffers from a number of structural obstacles to accessing sexual and reproductive health services.

In Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay, the adolescent fertility rate fell by more than 40% between 2010 and 2023, with Chile recording a drop of almost 90% in that period. Despite these achievements, the adolescent fertility rate in the region (51 per 1,000 women in 2024)

is 31% above the world average and the fertility rate of the 10–14 age group is higher in more excluded social groups.

Overcoming these persistent challenges requires the recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and the formal provision of specialized and suitable services and spaces to provide broad-ranging, timely and quality counselling and comprehensive care, focused on the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights.

8. Universal health coverage and access to essential healthcare services (target 3.8)

The universal health coverage service coverage index rose from 58 to 77 points between 2000 and 2015, since when it has remained stable. While coverage rates are positive, significant barriers to health access persist in the region. In 2022, almost 30% of the population in 15 countries, equivalent to approximately 295 million people, had unmet healthcare needs. In addition, nearly 10% of households in the region incur catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenses (PAHO, 2023b).

The strengthening of primary healthcare has been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as the main strategy for achieving universal coverage, since it is the most inclusive, equitable, cost-effective and efficacious approach to improving the population's health (WHO, 2023).

9. Deaths and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (target 3.9)

In 2019, the mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution in the region was 41 deaths per 100,000 population. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2023b), one out of every six children in Latin America and the Caribbean lives in areas exposed to high or extremely high levels of water scarcity; and climate change threatens to make this situation even worse. Data from PAHO (2024b) show that 338 million people in the region still lack safely managed sanitation services, and approximately 7,600 children under 5 years of age die from diarrhoeal diseases annually.

Many of the region's cities exceed the maximum levels of air pollution recommended by WHO.

To meet the health challenges associated with water and air pollution and exposure to hazardous substances, it is essential to have adequate information on emissions and to be able to monitor them continuously.⁶ This will make it possible to formulate and follow up public policies and standards on emissions and engage all stakeholders in the development of preventive measures.

10. Research and development of vaccines and medicines against communicable and noncommunicable diseases (target 3.b)

In 2022, 79% of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean had received the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (DTP3); but take-up has been declining since 2016, when about 90% of people had received the vaccine (UNICEF, 2023a). In 2022, 68% of the target population was immunized for the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2), while for the third dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV3), 75% of the target population had completed the full vaccination schedule. In the case

⁶ According to PAHO data (2024a), more than 250 million people in the region live in cities for which there is no information on air quality.

of human papillomavirus vaccine, 63% of the target population was covered in 2017, after which there was a fall-off; in 2022, coverage was 52% of the population.

Both research and development of vaccines and drugs and primary healthcare should be strengthened in order to guarantee universal access to vaccines and prevent the reappearance of diseases that had already been eradicated in several of the region's countries.

11. Health financing and training of the health workforce (target 3.c)

Although there is insufficient information to identify trends in this area and conduct a meaningful analysis to formulate recommendations, it is essential to optimize and transform health systems in order to achieve the Goal 3 targets.

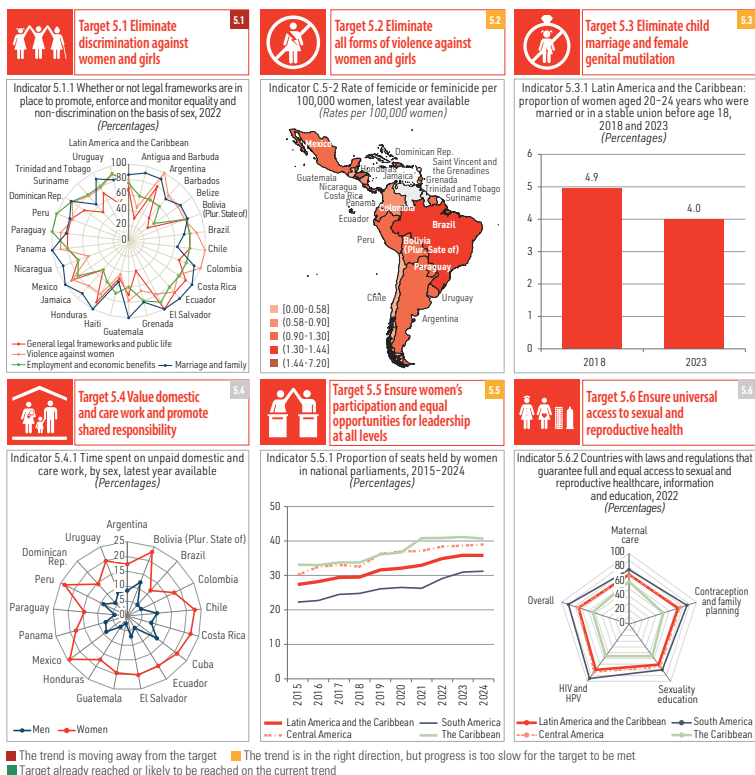
Countries need to develop health systems that ensure financial protection, coverage and access under a universal approach that is sensitive to differences, guaranteeing commitments on coverage, sufficiency (quality) and financial sustainability, both for current and future generations (Arenas de Mesa, 2023).

12. Early warning, risk reduction and health risk management capacities (target 3.d)

The International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 50% to 62% between 2000 and 2023. The countries of the region have faced several outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as those caused by the dengue and chikungunya viruses, or COVID-19, which have tested their capacities to contain the spread among the population.

It is essential to strengthen this dimension of health systems, to increase their resilience and their capacity to detect and prevent future outbreaks of communicable diseases, and to respond to them effectively and efficiently, without triggering a disruption of health services or a health crisis such as that experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



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

Note: Each indicator comprises one or more statistical series, which partially or fully cover the corresponding indicator. In the figures presented here, one or more statistical series were used for the respective indicator.

Diagram III.2 Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 5 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold in 2030



- The trend is moving away from the target
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend

- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Insufficient data

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

1. End discrimination against women (target 5.1)

Regulatory frameworks have been established in the region to address specific forms of gender-based violence.

Thirty-six countries and territories in the region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (ECLAC, 2025b). In 2024, 18 countries⁷ had constitutional and legislative mandates in place to promote women's representation at the national or local level, and 9 of them⁸ had adopted gender parity laws (ECLAC, 2023c).

Femicide or femicide has been criminalized in the legislation of 19 countries and territories (either through amendments to the Penal Code or in specific laws),⁹ and child marriage has been prohibited without exceptions in 14 countries.¹⁰ In addition, eight countries have passed laws creating national care systems or policies¹¹ (ECLAC, 2025c).

It is essential to strengthen regulations on gender equality in the labour sphere, in issues such as the explicit prohibition of gender-based discrimination in employment and the guarantee of equal pay for work of equal value.

2. Violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres (trafficking, sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation) (target 5.2)

Between 63% and 76% of women have experienced some type of gender-based violence in their lifetime. At least 3,897 women were victims of femicide or femicide in 2023, which means that at least 11 women and girls die every day because they are women (ECLAC, 2024e).

One fundamental issue for progress towards this goal concerns the promotion of transformations in patriarchal cultural patterns, by fostering co-responsible and non-violent masculinities and implementing laws, policies, comprehensive and multisectoral action plans, and educational awareness-raising programmes to prevent, address, punish

⁷ Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

⁸ Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

⁹ Argentina (2012), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2014), Brazil (2015), Chile (2010), Colombia (2015), Costa Rica (2007), the Dominican Republic (2014), Ecuador (2014), El Salvador (2012), Guatemala (2008), Honduras (2013), Mexico (2012), Nicaragua (2012), Panama (2013), Paraguay (2016), Peru (2013), the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2013), Puerto Rico (2021) and Uruguay (2017).

¹⁰ Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago.

¹¹ The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay (see Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/es/leyes>).

and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, in different areas and manifestations.

3. Harmful practices: child, early and forced marriage, and genital mutilation (target 5.3)

Data for 2023 show that, on average, 4% of women aged 20–24 in 26 of the region's countries and territories¹² were in unions before the age of 15, and 21.2% before the age of 18 (United Nations, 2025).¹³ Information on the prevalence of child marriages and unions in 11 of the region's countries indicates that it is higher in lower-income households.

Child marriage and early unions remain systematic and persistent in the region.

Work is needed on three fronts: enacting laws to prohibit child marriage, without exceptions; breaking the statistical and social silence on this problem; and strengthening public policies and services for the comprehensive development of girls and adolescent girls.

4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4)

Women work at least as many hours per week as men. However, in all cases, women spend fewer hours in paid work than men, as they devote more time to unpaid domestic and care work. The countries of the region have developed promising practices for monitoring compliance with this target: 23 Latin American countries have measured time use at least once, and 5 have developed satellite accounts on unpaid domestic and care work based on official statistics.

In addition to recognizing, measuring and ascribing value to unpaid care work, it is essential to implement public policies to reduce and redistribute it, in accordance with the principles of universality, intersectorality, intersectionality and co-responsibility between genders and between households, the State, the market and communities (ILO, 2024; ECLAC, 2022a; United Nations, 2024b). It is also crucial to professionalize, certify and formalize those who work in the care economy, while recognizing and strengthening community and rural work (ECLAC, 2024c).

¹² Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Uruguay.

¹³ This indicator has limitations for estimating the prevalence of this harmful practice, since the measurements are retrospective and not all countries apply data collection instruments regularly, representatively, or with the relevant disaggregation to calculate the prevalence in the target population. There is also underreporting, since informal unions are more prevalent than marriages in the region and are not necessarily reported in surveys or shown in administrative records (ECLAC, 2023f).

5. Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership (target 5.5)

Women held an average of 35.8% of seats in national parliaments in 2024 and 27.2% of local government decision-making positions in 2023. In 2022, only 36.3% of leadership positions were held by women.

The strengthening of intersectionality in quotas and of gender institutions in electoral bodies and political parties remains a key challenge for achieving parity in decision-making, and for preventing and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination that hinder women's participation in public and political life (ECLAC, 2025c).

6. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (target 5.6)

In 2022, 75% of 21 of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had laws and regulations that guaranteed access to sexual and reproductive health. However, in the Caribbean, this indicator stood at 54% (United Nations, 2025). Seven of the region's countries¹⁴ had information on contraceptive decisions in the period spanning 2006–2018. In the case of voluntary interruption of pregnancy, some Latin American and Caribbean countries have legislation and health services that guarantee access to this service. At present, eight countries in the region prohibit abortion under any circumstances, while six guarantee it without restriction on the grounds.

It is essential to make further progress in implementing the Buenos Aires Commitment (ECLAC, 2023b) in promoting the autonomy of women, adolescents and adolescent girls, through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance and investment in infrastructure and essential services. This will aim to ensure universal access to comprehensive health, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, access to information and education on sexuality, and access to safe and quality abortion services in cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized in national legislation.

7. Reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources (target 5.a)

The results in the four countries for which the relevant data are available for this indicator show that the proportion of the agricultural population

¹⁴ Information for different years is available for the following seven countries: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Panama.

with ownership or secure rights to agricultural land is generally low and subject to large gender disparities. The lack of information and the absence of updated cadastres is one of the main barriers to tackling this problem.

In many contexts and countries, reforms are needed in areas such as the creation of legal regulations on property, land registration, family law and inheritance law.

8. Use of information and communications technologies and other technologies to empower women (target 5.b)

Information available for 19 countries and territories in the region¹⁵ shows that the proportion of people who owned a mobile phone in 2023 was 83.8%, with no significant differences between women (83.8%) and men (83.7%) (United Nations, 2025). While these data are positive, the pace of progress is insufficient to meet the target. Some studies show that women access the Internet in more precarious conditions, owing to poor connection quality, inability to access it on a regular basis, lack of a suitable device or insufficient mobile data (ECLAC, 2023c).

Countries need to update their regulatory frameworks to make it possible to monitor and combat online sexual exploitation and harassment, and the generation, through artificial intelligence, of content related to child sexual abuse.

9. Policies and laws to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women (target 5.c)

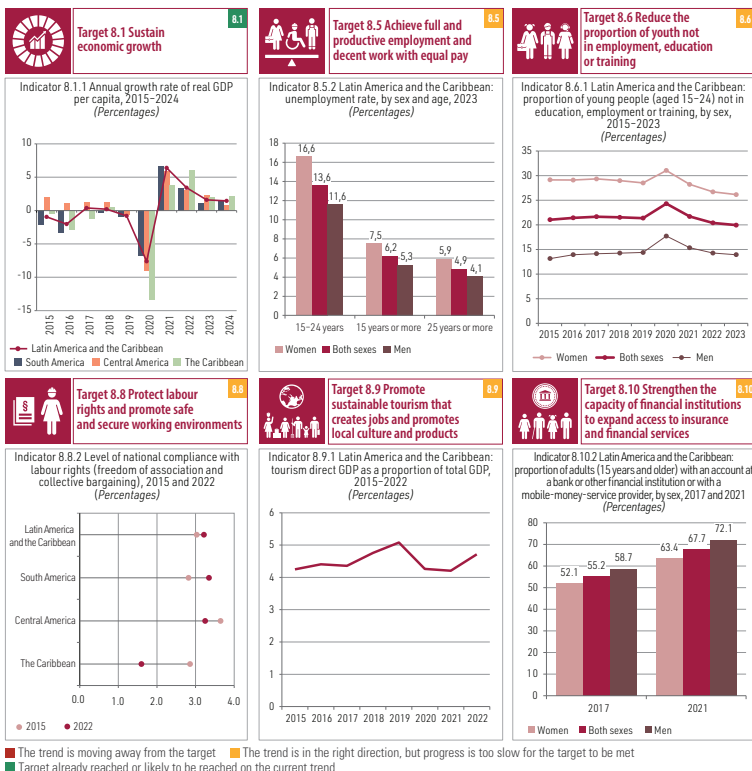
Thirteen percent of Latin American and Caribbean countries have systems in place to monitor gender equality and women's empowerment, and they allocate public funds for this purpose. Although these advances are important, they are insufficient to mainstream gender into macroeconomic policies and close the financing gap.

In Latin America, 70% of the national machineries for the advancement of women currently have a high hierarchical level, but in the Caribbean the proportion is just 11.1% (ECLAC, 2025d).

In addition to financing, enabling conditions must be in place to achieve substantive equality.

¹⁵ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Uruguay.

C. Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



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

Note: Each indicator comprises one or more statistical series, which partially or fully cover the corresponding indicator. In the figures presented here, one or more statistical series were used for the respective indicator.

Diagram III.3
Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 8 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold in 2030



Red: The trend is moving away from the target

Orange: The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met

Green: Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend

Grey: Insufficient data

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

1. Per capita economic growth (target 8.1)

In the 1950s and 1970s, the average per capita growth rate rose steadily from 2.1% to 3.4%. In the 1980s, per capita GDP contracted by 0.1%, and despite a rise in the following decades, the decade averages were low. Average growth between 2016 and 2025 is estimated at 0.4%.

Breaking out of the low-growth trap requires a major mobilization of financial resources and policies to boost investment and productivity.

ECLAC has advocated for macroeconomic and financial policies, supported by productive development and transformation, that stimulate investment, to thus escape the trap of low growth capacity and stagnating productivity in the region (ECLAC, 2024f).

2. Productivity, diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (target 8.2)

In the 15 years preceding adoption of the SDGs, labour productivity in the region increased by an average of 0.8% per year. Since then, it has essentially flatlined, posting an average annual growth rate of 0.0% between 2016 and 2023. As a result of stagnating productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean, despite no actual decline, there are no signs of progress towards target 8.2.

Productivity is crucial for economic growth and, consequently, for the well-being of the population, so it is important to resolve inefficiencies and promote policies that boost productivity in the region (ECLAC/ILO, 2022).

3. Policies that support productive development, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation, the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and access to services (target 8.3)

The figures do not show informal employment declining in the region. According to the most recent progress report (United Nations, 2025), in 2015, informal employment accounted for 51.6% of total employment in Latin America and the Caribbean, while in 2023, the figure was 51.8%.

High-impact, low-cost productive development policies are needed to improve production, productivity and decent work. This includes policies for territorial development, such as cluster initiatives, local production arrangements, production chains and business and labour associations in general.

Productive development policies must be implemented more decisively to speed up productive development.

4. Efficient production and consumption of global resources, and the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation (target 8.4)

The region's material footprint continues to expand, but at a slower rate; it grew from 2.8 gigatons in 1970 to 7.9 gigatons in 2021, notwithstanding macroeconomic fluctuations. Domestic material consumption increased from 9.5 tons per person in the 1970s to more than 15 tons per person in recent years, placing the region behind North America alone.

The circular economy can drive sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as it optimizes resources and materials and decouples economic development from their use (ECLAC, 2024a).

5. Full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.5)

The pace of growth in the number of employed persons in the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean has slowed since the 1980s.

Between 2014 and 2023, the average growth in the number of persons employed in the region was 1.3%, just one third of the 3.9% recorded in the 1970s. The sectors with the lowest labour productivity are those that have generated the most employment, so changes in the sectoral structure of employment have contributed to the maintenance of low productivity in the region. In the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, more than half of employed people have informal jobs. An analysis of trends in informal employment by sex shows that there was a larger increase among women (22.8%) than among men (15.7%).

Efforts to increase the formalization of workers should be centred on a productive development strategy that gives clear signals of the efforts being made to stimulate growth in sectors and industries that drive formal job creation and promote worker productivity. Combining labour, production and education policies would make it easier for young people to obtain their first job and enable older workers to re-enter the formal labour market.

6. Young people who are not in employment, education or training (target 8.6)

In the region, the average percentage of young people aged 15–24 who are not employed, studying or in training has fallen over the last two decades. In 18 Latin American countries, the average proportion

of young people who are neither studying nor in paid employment fell by 3.6 percentage points between 2000 and 2023. While this mainly reflects the drop in this indicator among the female population, significant gender gaps persist.

Investing in reducing the inequalities that affect young people, particularly during their transition from school to work, is essential to enable the region to overcome the current crisis and build a more prosperous future. In this context, countries need comprehensive strategies that harness education, employment and social protection policies.

7. Measures to eradicate forced labour, contemporary forms of slavery, trafficking and child labour (target 8.7)

Approximately 8.3 million children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean were engaged in child labour in 2020, representing 6% of the regional population between 5 and 17 years of age (ILO/UNICEF, 2021). The number of children in this situation fell by 5.8 million between 2008 and 2020, indicating that despite the progress made, it remains insufficient.

Policies to reduce child labour in the region have focused on broadening the scope of social protection to alleviate the poverty and economic uncertainty that foster it, while also ensuring free and quality education up to the minimum age of employment. Labour inclusion has also been promoted, encouraging entry into formal jobs with social protection and fair wages for young people and adults, placing special emphasis on the transition from the informal economy to decent working conditions. Accordingly, it is important to strengthen all these policies.

8. Protection of labour rights and promotion of a secure working environment (target 8.8)

The indicator for the level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation reveals that although modest progress has been made in the region, it is insufficient to ensure the target will be met. The indicator that measures the frequency of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers trended downward in all the region's countries between 2010 and 2020, but progress has stalled in recent years.

These problems reaffirm the need to increase access to social protection through formal employment, which means creating productive,

economic and social conditions that make it possible to expand full employment, together with robust labour institutions that facilitate the implementation of active labour market policies.

9. Promotion of sustainable tourism (target 8.9)

Tourism is an important sector throughout the region, representing, on average, 2.5% of GDP in South America, 5% in Central America and 8% in Mexico. In the Caribbean, tourism accounts for around 20% of GDP, albeit with significant differences between countries (UN Tourism, 2024). Tourism also accounts for 6% of employment in Latin America and 35% in the Caribbean, and the sector is marked by gender issues. While women hold an average of 62% of jobs in the food and accommodation sectors, they tend to hold lower-paying positions in the services sector overall.

Given the importance of tourism for the countries of the region, making the industry more sustainable is critical. To achieve this, institutional capacities must be strengthened in areas such as sustainability, tourism management and data management, and inter-agency work must be promoted between all levels of government, encouraging policy monitoring and evaluation.

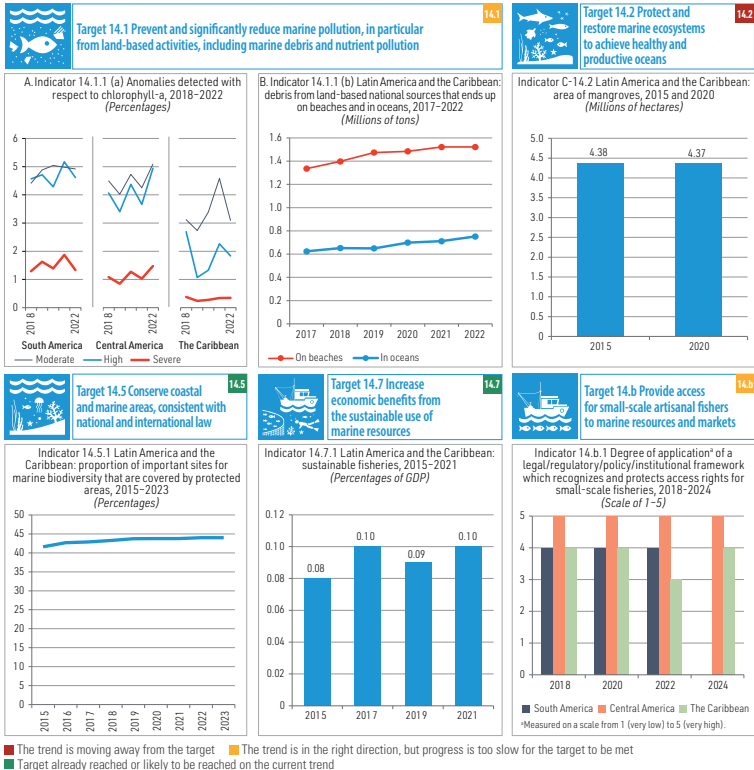
10. Capacity-building and expansion of access to financial services (target 8.10)

The productive sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean have limited access to the financial system.

Most enterprises in the region, whether small, medium-sized or large, have access to the formal financial system, with 89.0%, 94.3% and 96.6%, respectively, having a chequing or savings account. However, on average, just 40.9%, 56.7% and 69.0% of small, medium-sized and large enterprises, respectively, have a bank loan.

The region should prioritize financial inclusion as a means of mobilizing resources for development. This requires coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors to strengthen economic institutions, macroeconomic stability, legal security and the creation of new instruments for the management of economic and financial risks.

D. Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



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

Note: Each indicator comprises one or more statistical series, which partially or fully cover the corresponding indicator. In the figures presented here, one or more statistical series were used for the respective indicator.

Diagram III.4
 Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 14 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold in 2030



- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend
- Insufficient data

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

1. Prevention and reduction of marine pollution (target 14.1)

While the plastic flowing into the region's oceans has marginally decreased, waste accumulating on beaches from land-based activities continues to increase.

The proportion of land-based debris accumulated on the region's beaches and along its coastlines rose from 62% to 67% between 2017 and 2022, while the proportion of waste in the oceans fell from 38% to 33% (United Nations, 2024c). Intensive fertilizer and pesticide use in Latin America and the Caribbean has significantly increased the levels of nutrients like nitrogen in marine ecosystems.

Reducing marine pollution requires integrated monitoring and analysis systems to detect pollution sources, assess their impact and design solutions based on scientific data. It is essential to implement innovative technologies for waste management, improve sanitation infrastructure and strengthen recycling and circular economy systems.

2. Restore ocean health and productivity (target 14.2)

According to the Ocean Health Index (Halpern and others, 2012),¹⁶ ocean health is declining in the region, although not homogeneously. The index in question, which evaluates 10 socioeconomic and environmental dimensions, fell from 71 in 2015 to 68 in 2024, although the subindicators have trended heterogeneously in the last decade: some have not changed, others have improved, and in some aspects—especially those related to tourism—there have been setbacks.

Improving this situation will require fostering greater diversification of alternatives that are friendly to marine ecosystems, that use cleaner energies, that have a greater linkage with other national sectors, and especially, that articulate the heightened sense of place at the local level, as part of biocultural heritage and as an enabling condition for cross-cutting and lasting actions.

3. Minimize ocean acidification (target 14.3)

The problem of ocean acidification continues to worsen.

Between 1985 and 2021, ocean acidity increased by 15%, altering marine chemistry and generating impacts on key ecosystem services such as fisheries, tourism and coastal protection (Copernicus Marine Service, n.d.). In 2023, more than 90% of oceans experienced heat waves, resulting in

¹⁶ The Ocean Health Index, developed in 2012 by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Conservation International Foundation and other scientific partners, assigns scores on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 indicating optimal condition, considering the ocean's current state and future trends.

the second coral bleaching event in the last decade (United Nations, 2025b). The consequences were most severe in the wider Caribbean region, home to the world's second-largest coral reef, which has suffered estimated net erosion of 37% because of marine acidification.

Key actions to monitor and reduce ocean acidification include the implementation of continuous ocean chemistry monitoring programmes, the promotion of sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices and the reduction of CO₂ emissions. Collaboration between governments, scientific communities and productive sectors is essential for protecting marine ecosystems and local economies.

4. Effectively regulate fish harvesting and end overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (target 14.4)

There are three fishing zones in the seas of Latin America and the Caribbean in which the proportion of fish stocks exploited at biologically sustainable levels was below the global average of 64.6% in 2019. Moreover, in the south-east zone of the Pacific Ocean, which has coasts spanning Chile to Colombia, the situation is very worrying, since only 33% of stocks were not overfished in 2019, compared to 58% in 2006, making it the least sustainable fishing area in the world. The overfishing trend increased in each of the region's 10 large marine ecosystems between 1990 and 2019.

The sustainable management of fishery resources requires harmonizing national legal frameworks with international commitments, promoting collaboration between countries to establish joint protocols to address illegal fishing in shared and international waters, involving fishing communities in sustainable management, and strengthening maritime surveillance and monitoring using advanced technologies.

5. Conservation of coastal and marine areas (target 14.5)

An average of 22.9% of coastal and marine areas are protected, placing the region among the most advanced in that regard. Despite this situation, progress is highly heterogeneous. In 14 countries of the region with access to the sea, less than 2% of the marine area is protected, and in 21 countries, the figure is less than 8%.

Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in the conservation of coastal and marine areas.

It is essential to have tools, technical capacities and resources to ensure effective management, redoubling efforts in lagging countries and resourcing already declared marine protected areas to achieve effective and equitable compliance. It is also necessary to implement advanced monitoring technologies and establish innovative financing mechanisms, such as blue bonds (TNC, 2023).

6. Fisheries subsidies (target 14.6)

Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for only 6% of the total global fisheries subsidies. Nonetheless, the region's fishing communities and resources are disproportionately affected by the existence of heavily subsidized foreign fleets that fuel overexploitation by reducing the cost of fishing operations artificially (Skerritt and Sumaila, 2021; ECLAC/The PEW Charitable Trusts, 2021; Sumaila and others, 2019). In 2021, the region's 31 coastal countries granted a total of US\$ 1.346 billion in fisheries subsidies (Skerritt and Sumaila, 2021).

On 17 June 2022, the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies prohibiting harmful subsidies was adopted (WTO, 2022). Although this agreement is highly beneficial for Latin America and the Caribbean, only one third of the countries have formally accepted it (WTO, 2025).

7. Small island developing States (target 14.7)

Sustainable fishing is important for SIDS, given the role it plays in food security, livelihoods, income and employment.

Aquaculture activity grew by 191% between 2000 and 2022 worldwide, and by 397% in Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO, 2024a). However, in the region's SIDS, this activity has contracted significantly in recent decades, retreating by around 42% between 2014 and 2022 (FAO, 2024b).

It is necessary to prioritize economic diversification and policy instruments that promote resilient and sustainable tourism by creating quality jobs and fostering sustainable fishing and aquaculture—economic activities that are crucial for boosting SIDS development. It is also essential to enhance sustainability in the fishery value chain, as well as investment in health controls and infrastructure for maintaining the cold chain and distribution, which will enable better processing and conditions for consumption.

8. Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for healthy oceans, and enhance development (target 14.a)

The most recent data show that the average for national investment or spending on ocean science and technology (excluding Ecuador and Peru) is around 0.1%, well below the world average of 1.1% in 2021.

Leveraging the region's various comparative advantages through cooperation for scientific and technological development, as well as in human resources, would be a very worthwhile and productive endeavour.

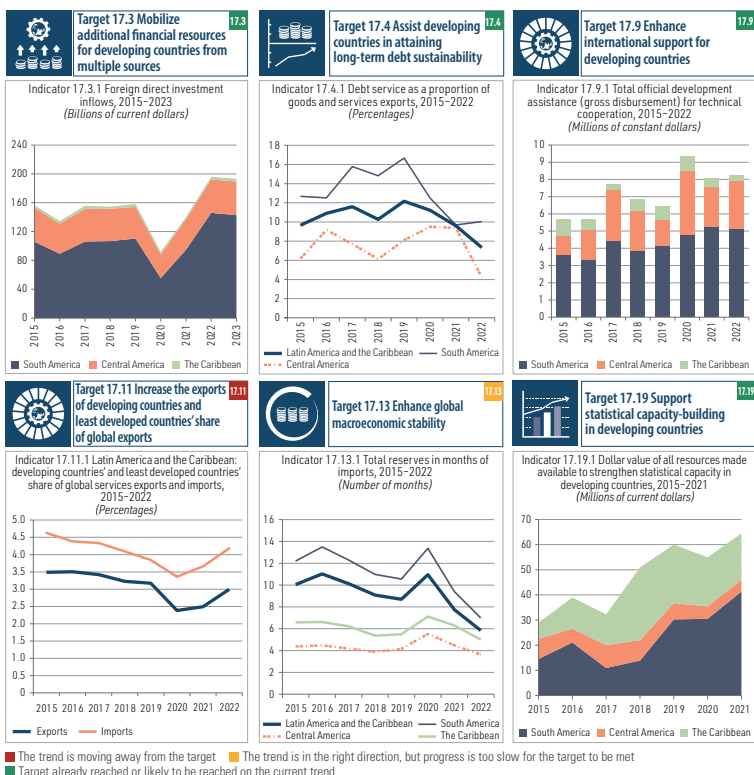
9. The importance of artisanal fishing (target 14.b)

In Latin America and the Caribbean, artisanal fishing opportunities¹⁷ increased between 2015 and 2024, to surpass the world average by almost 5 percentage points (see NCEAS, 2023). However, there are major differences between subregions. In the Caribbean, artisanal and subsistence fishing account for 63% of total fishing, compared to less than 33% in South America. Some countries depend almost exclusively on this activity (Pauly, Zeller and Palomares, 2020).

The importance of artisanal fishing in the region means that robust legal frameworks are essential for ensuring equitable access to fishery resources for artisanal and subsistence fishers.

¹⁷ Artisanal fishing opportunities are measured by NCEAS at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as part of the Ocean Health Index, through a subindex that takes values between 0 and 1, depending on the demand for artisanal fishing and the institutional support given to this activity in different countries.

E. Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



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

Note: Each indicator comprises one or more statistical series, which partially or fully cover the corresponding indicator. In the figures presented here, one or more statistical series were used for the respective indicator.

Diagram III.5

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 17 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold in 2030



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

1. Mobilization of domestic and additional resources for sustainable financial development (targets 17.1 and 17.3)

In 2022, regional average tax revenue amounted to 21.5% of GDP, close to the 2015 average of 21.3%. Tax systems continue to be regressive in structure, based mainly on taxes on goods and services. In 2023, tax evasion caused losses of US\$ 433 billion, equivalent to 6.7% of GDP, so reducing this is essential (ECLAC, 2024g). Moreover, tax expenditures are forgone revenue, equivalent to an average of 3.7% of Latin America's GDP (ECLAC, 2023d).

Domestic resource mobilization remains a key challenge for the region, as tax revenue has flatlined.

In the medium term, it is crucial to forge the social and economic agreements needed to strengthen direct taxation of income and property, which represents the main gap between the region and OECD.

2. Official development assistance (target 17.2)

Developed countries have pledged US\$ 655 million to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, and an extra US\$ 115 million to mobilize additional funds for loss and damage. However, the corresponding financial needs are estimated at between US\$ 290 billion and US\$ 580 billion per year by 2030. Regional financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, have made progress in terms of capitalization.

International cooperation is crucial in resource mobilization.

To implement resource mobilization initiatives successfully, in addition to capitalizing financial institutions, it is necessary to identify bankable projects, make productive use of public expenditure and expand lending capacity, and make the financial system more inclusive.

3. Debt sustainability (target 17.4)

Having risen sharply since 2014, the level of public debt in the region has stabilized. In 2024, general government gross public debt reached an estimated average of 69.4% of GDP. The increase in gross public debt, in a restrictive monetary and financial environment, has added to the burden of interest payments, which limits the countries' capacity to finance priority expenditures. In 2023, interest payments in Latin America and the Caribbean were equivalent to 70% of public expenditure on education, 86% of spending on health and 57% of expenditure on social protection (ECLAC, 2024g).

It is essential to strengthen domestic resource mobilization to guarantee the sustainability of public debt and make room for public policies aimed at productive, inclusive and sustainable development.

4. Investment for the least developed countries (target 17.5)

Investment rates in Latin America and the Caribbean are lower than in the rest of the emerging economies, and investment growth has also been very sluggish, especially since the 1990s (ECLAC, 2022b). In low-income and lower-middle income countries,¹⁸ investment rates are below the regional average.

To reactivate GDP and investment growth, it is essential to increase the economic capacity to mobilize domestic financial resources effectively. This will make it possible to strengthen resilience to economic fluctuations and reinforce productive capacity in the medium and long terms, through efforts to increase productivity, foster investment in productive capital and create quality jobs.

5. Knowledge-sharing and development of environmentally sound technologies (targets 17.6 and 17.7)

Investing in low-carbon activities contributes to the big push for sustainability.

There is a lack of systematized data on investment in sectors related to renewable energy, e-mobility, the circular economy or the high value added bioeconomy, among other areas. Between 2005 and 2022, more than 500 FDI projects related to renewable energy were announced in the region, for a total of close to US\$ 170 billion (ECLAC, 2023e). Latin America and the Caribbean exports relatively few environmentally sound technologies and is a net importer of them. The share of imports in the region is already around 9% of the total and has been increasing to double the share of exports.

Combining trade and investment policies with those of productive development can help to incorporate environmentally sound technologies in the region and expand their application. Regional integration can boost associated value chains and reduce their implementation costs (for example, energy integration facilitates the expansion of renewable energies).

¹⁸ For comparability, the 2013 classification is used (low income countries: Haiti; lower-middle income countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Plurinational State of Bolivia).

6. Capacity-building to support national plans to implement the Goals (target 17.9)

On the basis of an ECLAC analysis of 12 national development plans,¹⁹ in particular the special considerations incorporated in these instruments for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the following five challenges²⁰ were identified as those most frequently mentioned in the countries' proposed strategic axes: political-administrative decentralization; modernization of government institutions; accountability and transparency; digitalization of processes; and investment in research, development and innovation.

One of the ways to address these challenges is to strengthen the TOPP capabilities proposed by ECLAC for the countries of the region.

7. Exports of the least developed countries (targets 17.10 and 17.11)

The developing economy share in world goods exports increased by 1.8 percentage points between 2015 (the year in which the 2030 Agenda was adopted) and 2023, rising from 42.2% to 44.0%. The Latin American and Caribbean share of world services exports, meanwhile, fell from 3.7% in 2015 to 3.2% in 2023, after dropping below 3.0% in 2020 and 2021, owing to the collapse of international tourism in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Geopolitical tensions and burgeoning protectionism are calling into question the globalization model that has prevailed in recent decades.

To diversify goods and services exports and make them more knowledge-intensive, productive development policies (for example, those based on a cluster approach) should be implemented, promoting public-private collaboration and forging a close link with the territories in which the different economic activities are carried out (ECLAC, 2024a and 2024h).

8. Policy coherence for sustainable development (target 17.14)

In 2025, 10 years on from the adoption of the Paris Agreement, all the countries are due to submit their updated nationally determined contributions. The Agreement has offered an opportunity for countries

¹⁹ The plans analysed are those of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (see Regional Development Planning Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/plans>).

²⁰ Artificial intelligence was used to identify the challenges established in the strategic axes of each of the national plans analysed, taking into account target 17.9.

to work together to keep global temperature rise below 2 °C. Keeping temperature rise below the 1.5 °C target would require a 29%–45% reduction in emissions by 2030. Moreover, climate change is already having a major impact in the region, so new, more ambitious nationally determined contributions are needed that focus not only on mitigation, but also on resilience and unavoidable adaptation.

Achieving these objectives requires profound transformations in the region's economies, increasing financial flows and directing public and private investment to sectors and activities that have the capacity to contribute to economic growth, increase productivity, create jobs and, at the same time, support climate objectives.

9. Effective partnerships in the public, public-private and civil society spheres (targets 17.16 and 17.17)

The indicator that tracks targets related to development partnerships shows a lack of progress both in terms of multi-stakeholder development effectiveness and resources committed to public-private partnerships.

Accelerating action to meet the SDGs can be enhanced through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

10. Statistical capacity-building in the least developed countries and small island developing States (targets 17.18 and 17.19)

Latin America and the Caribbean continues to consolidate statistical processes and operations to make reliable and quality data available on a timely basis.

The increasing trend of regulatory framework updating since 2019 made it possible, in 2023, for 21 of the region's countries to have national legislation on statistics aligned with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (United Nations, 2014). In 2023, 25 of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had conducted at least one population and housing census in the previous 10 years, and in 2020, 74.5% of the countries of the region had around 90% of births and 82.3% of the countries had registered at least 75% of deaths. By 2024, 22 countries had formally established geospatial data infrastructure.

In order to stabilize national strategies for independent and quality statistical programmes, it is essential to continue investing in national statistical systems, and thus be able to meet the needs of the institutions that produce the data needed for statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, and to build basic statistical capacity in developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States.

IV. Participation of other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in accelerating and monitoring progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

A. Civil society participation

Civil society organizations have been critical in fostering inclusive and sustainable development, and have strengthened some of the capabilities needed to manage relevant transformations. In the framework of the 2030 Agenda, they have consolidated their role in three key areas: (i) promotion of human rights and social inclusion; (ii) monitoring and evaluation; and (iii) innovation and technology.

These organizations' impact in the region is limited by the following major challenges: (i) financial sustainability; (ii) restrictive environments; (iii) internal fragmentation; and (iv) technological adaptation.

In the framework of its participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, civil society has reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and called for concrete action to address economic, social and environmental crises. The main appeals and recommendations issued by civil society pertain to the following areas: (i) effective participation; (ii) human rights and social protection; (iii) transformation of extractive economies; (iv) gender equity and care; (v) global governance and multilateralism; (vi) education and technology; and (vii) climate action and biodiversity.

Civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean play a fundamental role in monitoring and accelerating progress towards achievement of the SDGs.

These organizations' capacity for adaptation and innovation, together with their commitment to social change, position them as key actors in addressing global challenges and building a more equitable and sustainable future.

To maximize their impact, there is a need to guarantee their sustainability, foster their inclusion in decision-making processes and strengthen their TOPP capabilities. In doing so, these organizations will continue to drive change in a region that seeks to bridge gaps and overcome development traps.

B. Private sector participation

In light of its capacity to invest, create jobs and drive the necessary economic, social and environmental transformations, the private sector is central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To maximize its contribution, a strong institutional environment is required to foster multisectoral collaboration and the development of innovative strategies.

The private sector in the region has integrated the SDGs into its business strategies through sustainable investments, corporate social responsibility initiatives and ethical standards. Its most notable contributions include the promotion of sustainable value chains, support for small enterprises, the strengthening of financial inclusion and the development of cluster initiatives to boost strategic sectors through public-private partnerships. This approach has contributed to progress on decent work (Goal 8), technological innovation (Goal 9), gender equality (Goal 5) and environmental sustainability (Goal 13). Cooperation among businesses, governments and civil society has created new opportunities for SDG achievement.

To maximize the private sector's contribution to 2030 Agenda implementation, ECLAC proposes the following strategies: (i) fostering public-private partnerships; (ii) strengthening institutional frameworks for productive development; (iii) optimizing multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms; (iv) strengthening TOPP capabilities; (v) aligning business incentives with the SDGs; (vi) reinforcing the central role of the private sector; (vii) strengthening territorial productive coordination initiatives; (viii) establishing clear and predictable regulatory frameworks; (ix) promoting ethics and corporate responsibility; (x) combating corruption and enhancing integrity; and (xi) promoting diversity and inclusion.

When it comes to private sector action, the “what” and the “how” are equally important. By focusing on the “how”, this approach underlines the importance of strengthening TOPP capabilities and fostering collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Thus, the private sector has the opportunity to not only contribute, but to lead the way towards more productive, inclusive and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The private sector is a key stakeholder in the region's productive transformation and sustainable development.

C. Academic sector participation

The academic sector is pivotal to progress towards the SDGs, given its central role in generating and disseminating knowledge, moulding professionals who are committed to sustainability and conducting public policy research. Through education, research and institutional governance, academic institutions can speed up the transition to a more sustainable and equitable development model.

The sector fulfils four core functions that are closely related to the 2030 Agenda: (i) education and knowledge generation; (ii) research; (iii) organizational governance, culture and operations; and (iv) leadership for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Universities have developed various ways to collaborate with other stakeholders, including partnerships with governments, businesses and civil society organizations. These initiatives have strengthened sustainable development policies and brought about structural changes in higher education to incorporate the principles of the 2030 Agenda into the academic sphere. They have also strengthened regional and international cooperation networks and facilitated the exchange of experiences and the adoption of best practices related to education, research and institutional governance.

The sector's capacity to generate knowledge, train professionals and design public policy makes it indispensable to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Given that cooperation with governments and non-governmental entities further amplifies the academic sector's contribution, collaboration among stakeholders should be broadened, diversified and strengthened, and new modalities developed. The ongoing global transformation calls for academic institutions to play an enhanced role in the region's pursuit of sustainable development.

The academic sector is a key driver of the cultural change and scientific advancement that SDG achievement will require.

D. Local government participation

SDG achievement requires the active participation of subnational governments (at the intermediate and local levels) as they have the closest ties to communities and can adapt the SDGs to territorial realities. Territorializing the SDGs means adapting the goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda to the needs, capacities and resources of each region.

Subnational governments have made progress in multilevel coordination, working with national governments and non-governmental stakeholders. Tools like voluntary local reviews have contributed to the monitoring and evaluation of the pace of progress on the SDGs.

The governance arrangements adopted by local governments in the region do not always replicate the national model, and the institutions and mechanisms that are responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda are diverse. The preparation of voluntary local reviews has been crucial in strengthening inter-institutional coordination and fostering collaboration among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. These reviews help to increase transparency and accountability, align national and local goals with the SDGs, encourage coordination among levels of government and sectors, enhance the participation of civil society and other stakeholders in planning and implementing measures, and identify challenges and gaps with regard to SDG achievement.

Considering that 92% of the SDG targets are directly or indirectly related to human rights, their achievement calls for a human rights approach. It is also crucial to integrate a human rights approach in the preparation of voluntary local reviews to collect data on marginalized populations, align human rights processes—like the universal periodic review—with the SDGs, and enhance citizen participation and equitable territorial development (see UNDP/OHCHR/DCO, 2022).

There is also a need to ensure citizen participation in the preparation of voluntary local reviews within the framework of the Pact for the Future guidelines, which will make it possible to build future scenarios that take due account of the dreams and fears of children and adolescents.

Local governments have the capacity to adapt policies to territorial realities and are therefore central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Key local government attributes for SDG achievement include: (i) territorial knowledge; (ii) autonomy and specialized capacities; (iii) a multiscale approach; and (iv) collaborative learning. Local governments have an opportunity to lead the sustainable, inclusive and equitable development transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean and actively contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

E. Legislative branch participation

The legislature is a key player in promoting more productive, inclusive and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the essential work of parliaments, which encompasses three main areas: (i) enacting legislation, approving budgets and ensuring accountability; (ii) collaborating and creating synergies with other development actors; and (iii) supporting the development of regular reviews related to national and subnational SDG achievement.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the parliaments of the region have contributed to the achievement of the SDGs through the following action: (i) reviewing existing legislation, proposing amendments, drafting and adopting new laws, and ensuring that legal frameworks are in place to achieve the SDGs; (ii) reviewing and, where appropriate, approving budget allocations for the achievement of the SDGs; (iii) overseeing implementation of the 2030 Agenda through various parliamentary committees; and (iv) maintaining communication with constituents and identifying gaps and weaknesses regarding SDG achievement.

There are examples in the region of strong partnerships between parliaments and other relevant stakeholders that aim to achieve the SDGs, including the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and collaboration between ParlAmericas²¹ and ECLAC. Parliamentary initiatives have included the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition, the parliamentary forum convened within the framework of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the First Regional Conference of Parliamentary Committees of the Future.

There remain various areas in which considerable legislative potential could be further harnessed to effectively deliver on the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, collaborate with other stakeholders and support governments in their preparation of voluntary national reviews. Parliaments can ensure that a sufficient budget is allocated to SDG-related initiatives, as they have an overview of—and must approve—the national budget.

Legislatures have played a critical role in SDG progress and monitoring, which could be further leveraged.

²¹ ParlAmericas is an institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system through political dialogue and cooperation among parliaments. Based in Ottawa, it is made up of 35 national legislatures from North America, South America, the Caribbean and Central America.

In order to foster a culture of active and meaningful parliamentary participation to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs in the region, concrete action should be taken in four areas: (i) making the work of parliaments visible; (ii) expanding training, institutional development and financial resources; (iii) building indicators for success, monitoring and evaluation; and (iv) encouraging greater participation of parliaments in the voluntary and national review processes.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Latin America and the Caribbean is mired in three development traps compounded by a geopolitical scenario with new and complex challenges

Most Latin American and Caribbean countries are caught in three traps that limit their ability to move towards more productive, inclusive and sustainable development and to achieve the SDGs: (i) low capacity for growth; (ii) high inequality with low social mobility and weak social cohesion; and (iii) low institutional capacity and ineffective governance.

These internal structural factors are currently compounded by a highly complex global scenario with trends that could dampen the prospects for inclusive and sustainable growth. Geopolitical conflicts, the neoprotectionism of economic powers, extreme natural events, renewed inflation risks and environmental crises will continue to affect development and hamper the attainment of the SDG targets.

This situation calls for novel approaches to transformative action to overcome development traps and move closer to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Steering transformations to break out of development traps and accelerate progress towards the SDGs

The effectiveness and durability of structural transformations will hinge on the robust support afforded by effective governance, inclusive social dialogue, the strengthening of the TOPP capabilities of institutions and a political economy that can identify and enhance the alignment of positions and effectively manage conflict, and on renewed mechanisms for sufficient, timely financing. This approach will help to arrive at a shared vision of development, fostering cooperation and reducing tension among development stakeholders to channel efforts towards common objectives.

It will be essential to consider local context and institutional circumstances, incorporating the interactions between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders required to build consensus, legitimize decisions and ensure the effectiveness of public policies.

Efforts to achieve the SDGs must be tied to the structural transformations needed to overcome development traps, with data-driven formulation of technically and politically feasible policies that further social dialogue and stakeholder cooperation. Steering these transformations is a highly complex political, social, financial and institutional challenge that calls for a comprehensive approach that prioritizes effective governance, strengthens institutional capacity and enables the active and meaningful participation of all development stakeholders.

C. Progress towards the SDGs remains slow and uneven in Latin America and the Caribbean

Progress on most targets remains insufficient to ensure that they will be met by 2030 and is significantly uneven across subregions. Foresight analysis indicates that many targets will not be met without substantial additional efforts, including in the areas of financing, public policies and improved governance to implement them—with stronger monitoring and evaluation mechanisms—, enhanced cooperation among countries and sectors, and greater participation and coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

ECLAC estimates indicate that only 23% of the targets have been achieved or are expected to be achieved by 2030; for 41% of the targets, although the trend is moving in the right direction, the pace will be insufficient to reach the thresholds; and for the remaining 36%, progress has stalled or reversed compared with 2015.

In-depth analysis of five Goals shows that five years from the deadline of the 2030 Agenda, some progress has been made in specific areas despite the significant difficulties the region faces in achieving many of the established targets.

A package of public policy actions is urgently required to accelerate progress towards the targets, with support from regional and international cooperation, through strategic partnerships among development stakeholders for the required change, and the participation of all levels of government and stakeholders in the territories.

D. The Summit of the Future and its outcome documents present new opportunities for progress on the 2030 Agenda

The Summit of the Future, held in September 2024 by the United Nations, was an opportunity for global dialogue to redefine international cooperation and renew the commitment to the SDGs. Its key outcome was the Pact for the Future, which sets forth a shared vision for sustainable development based on equity, resilience and innovation and seeks to strengthen both social and economic inclusion and environmental justice.

The Pact for the Future contains two annexes setting out objectives and actions that also advance the SDGs. The Global Digital Compact aims to close the digital divide, facilitate technological innovation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs, further cybersecurity and data protection as part of digital governance, and foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure global digital space.

The Declaration on Future Generations establishes principles to ensure that decisions are taken bearing in mind the well-being of future generations, who can play a key role in fostering peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, and whose needs and interests must be safeguarded.

Implementation of these instruments in Latin America and the Caribbean must bring together governments, enterprises, academia, civil society and the legislative branch. The strategies, policies and actions agreed must consider each country's circumstances, challenges, priorities and alignment with the SDGs, along with the need for improved governance, inclusive social dialogue, TOPP capabilities and an enabling political economy.

E. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a catalyst for action on the Pact for the Future and for progress with the SDGs

The eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is centred on dialogues on global, regional and national action to agree on coordinated steps to advance the Pact for the Future and the SDGs, in view of the clear interdependence between them. The segment on global impact is intended to foster a shared vision to build consensus in a region that is heterogenous and highly polarized on some issues. In the segment on regional impact, dialogue will centre on steering transformations to accelerate the pace of progress in achievement of the SDGs. In the segment on national impact, successful country experiences in achievement of the SDGs will be shared.

Spaces like the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development can be instrumental for reaching agreement on mutually reinforcing actions to drive simultaneous progress in implementation of the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, the Declaration on Future Generations and the SDGs.

F. Acceleration towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda requires multi-stakeholder participation in all territories

Beyond national government action, achievement of the SDGs requires the coordinated, effective participation of civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, local governments and the legislative branch, across the entire territory. Each of these stakeholders has contributed to progress on the 2030 Agenda, but face significant challenges that must be addressed if they are to maximize their effects, especially in the context of joint initiatives, which have a far greater impact than individual efforts.

Civil society organizations have played a pivotal role in advancing the SDGs because they advocate respect for human rights and social inclusion and give voice to the demands of vulnerable groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples and rural communities. The private sector has incorporated the SDGs into its business strategies through

sustainable investment, corporate social responsibility initiatives and sustainable value chains. Academic institutions have been instrumental in generating and disseminating knowledge related to the 2030 Agenda, incorporating the SDGs into their curricula and research and governance plans and promoting inclusive, quality education (Goal 4) and interdisciplinary research.

Subnational governments play a crucial role in the localization of the SDGs. They have undertaken voluntary local reviews to assess progress with the SDGs and encourage subnational multi-stakeholder participation. The region's national parliaments and legislatures have contributed to achievement of the SDGs by enacting laws, approving budgets, and establishing oversight and accountability mechanisms.

G. Concluding remarks

Overcoming development traps is critical for accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will require higher and more inclusive and sustainable growth that is underpinned by broad-based transformations, reduces inequalities and strengthens institutions. Financing remains a major obstacle, in light of limited public investment and insufficient international cooperation flows. Mobilizing private sector resources will be critical to close this gap.

Governance and State capacities must be strengthened, prioritizing effective mechanisms for planning, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and fostering greater transparency and accountability. All development stakeholders must strengthen their TOPP capabilities to improve the planning and implementation of sustainable public policies. There is a need to train technical teams with expertise in sustainable development. Enhancing anticipatory governance would improve long-term planning, the assessment of future scenarios and the design of evidence-based strategies.

The region needs to boost investment in strategic sectors that drive growth, and foster innovation in health, education, renewable energies and digital technologies. Recommended measures include fostering diversified productive development models; lowering dependence on extractive industries and promoting economies based on knowledge, advanced manufacturing and renewable energy; and encouraging digitalization and innovation to improve productivity, reduce gaps in access to essential services, strengthen education and encourage the use of emerging technologies in public management.

Climate action must be mainstreamed into all sustainable development strategies, focusing on mitigation and adaptation to strengthen the region's resilience to the risk of disasters caused by extreme natural events and other environmental risks. Efforts to shift towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy, the energy transition, more sustainable production models and the circular economy must be intensified.

Lastly, emphasis should be placed on strengthening international and regional cooperation and multisectoral partnerships, facilitating the transfer of knowledge and sustainable technologies, and establishing platforms for countries and regions to exchange best practices. At the regional level, the Pact for the Future offers a new opportunity to facilitate coordination and cooperation with a view to fostering regional integration and accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

In sum, ECLAC is calling on the region to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, echoing the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the international community. There is an urgent need to accelerate structural transformations to break out of from development traps. Political will and the joint efforts of national and subnational governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, the legislative branch and international organizations are essential to achieve the SDGs and ensure a more just and sustainable future for all.

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Five years from the deadline for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, progress has fallen short of expectations a decade ago when the journey began. Many factors have impeded better progress: weak institutional capacities, limited financing and fiscal space, low growth for major trading partners, the shock of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and subsequent cascading crises. In 2025, these factors have been compounded by geopolitical tensions and disruptions that may pose new obstacles for achievement of the SDGs, as well as new opportunities.

Amid this complex landscape and five years from 2030, countries must urgently pick up the pace of their efforts, which requires a combination of internal and external action.

Internally, it is imperative to increase the capacity to manage transformations by strengthening governance mechanisms in all policy areas; the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of relevant institutions; and social dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders: national and subnational governments, the private sector, civil society, the legislature, academia and international cooperation agencies.

Externally, countries must work together in international forums on the themes outlined in the Pact for the Future, especially on the reform of the international financial architecture to mobilize resources for financing development and the investment needed to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

