The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly recognizes volunteer groups as stakeholders to achieve the 17 SDGs.

New analysis puts the global volunteer workforce at 109 million full-time equivalent workers, a number exceeding that of many major global industries. Of this 109 million, 30 per cent of this volunteering takes place formally through organizations, associations and groups. More difficult to capture and often less visible to mainstream, the majority of global volunteer activity (70 per cent) occurs directly through informal engagement between individuals (SWVR 2018).

The UN Resolution "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond", adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in November 2015, recognizes that volunteering can be a powerful means of implementation for the SDGs. Through the collective efforts of all stakeholders, the Plan of Action seeks to strengthen people’s ownership of the 2030 Agenda, integrate volunteering into national and international strategies, and improve measurement of the impact of volunteering. The General Assembly called upon Member States, the UN system and a wide range of stakeholders to support and resource the Plan, and recognized UNV as the appropriate UN entity to support its implementation.

On December 17, 2018, the UN General Assembly through the resolution A/RES/73/140 reaffirmed volunteerism’s powerful role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, stating how it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies, engage people in the national planning and implementation of the SDGs, and localizing the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions.
This event will bring together the perspectives from: Member states, Private Sector, Academia, International Humanitarian Organizations and civil society around the main findings of the Regional Synthesis Report on Volunteerism.

It aims to provide a space for Plan of Action stakeholders from the LAC region to share experiences and good practices geared to unlock volunteerism’s great potential as an SDG accelerator and a solutions provider to the region’s main development challenges.

The discussion and contributions from the Regional Consultation on Volunteerism will feed into further dialogues on the Plan of Action and inform a global synthesis report for the Global Technical Meeting to be held at the 2020 High Level Political Forum, co-chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the United Nations Volunteers Programme.

During the event, translations will be available to both English and Spanish.

**PROGRAMME**

**Opening remarks**
Ms. Emma Morley  
Chief of Volunteer Advisory Services Section, United Nations Volunteers Programme HQ

**Presentation of "A Plan of Action Synthesis Report on Integrating volunteering into the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean"**
Ms. Piera Zuccherin  
Regional Programme Analyst for Volunteer Advisory Services Section  
United Nations Volunteers Programme, LAC Regional Office

**Panel Discussion: “Unlocking volunteerism’s great potential to accelerate SDGs progress in Latin America and the Caribbean”**
- Mr. Carlos Alberto Pereira Olmedo, Ministry-Executive Secretary for the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning, Government of Paraguay.
- Mr. Arnaud Peral, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ecuador.
- Mr. Mirko Salfate, Director of the National Youth Institute, Government of Chile.
- Mr. Arturo Torres Gutierrez, Secretary of Human and Social Development, Municipal Government of Queretaro, Mexico.
- Mrs. Isabel Ramos, Teaching Coordinator. FLACSO Ecuador.
- Mr. Jesús Andrés Zarate Santa on behalf of the Civil Association for Corporate Social Responsibility, CentraRSE Guatemala.
- Ms. Alessandra Scalioni Brito, Researcher on Work and Performance. IBGE, Brazil.

Moderator: Ms. Lita Paparoni, LAC Regional Manager, UNV Programme.  
Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Mareike Eberz, Programme Specialist UNV/ECLAC

**Closing Remarks and next steps**
ECLAC Representative