



United Nations
Global Compact

**SDG Business Forum in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021:
Public and Private Sector Strategies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery
Fourth Meeting of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

Monday, March 15, 2021

10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (Costa Rica) / 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. (Panama) / 12.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. (New York) / 1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. (Chile) - Online format

Since the first Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2017, ECLAC and United Nations Global Compact have been organizing joint annual meetings to analyze and promote the role of the private sector and public-private collaboration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted further the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration both in emergency responses to fight the health crisis and in addressing its severe economic and social impacts.

The pandemic has deepened the region's structural problems, including its high levels of inequality and informal labor. In the context of a 7.7% contraction of regional GDP in 2020, ECLAC estimates that 2.7 million formal firms have closed, and the unemployment rate has reached around 10.6%. Levels of poverty and extreme poverty have also increased, by late 2020 reaching 33.7% (209 million people) and 12.5% (78 million people), respectively.

Economic and social impacts differ between women and men, according to age and ethnicity and with regards to digital technology access, among other factors. Given the gendered segmentation of the labor market, women's employment is concentrated in sectors that face higher risks regarding job losses and falling incomes. By late 2020, women's unemployment rate has reached 15.2% and women have left the labor market at higher rates than men, reflecting the larger and unequal pressure of care giving duties. Further, the region's already high youth unemployment rate has increased from 27.3% in the second trimester of 2019 to 30.8% in the same period in 2020.

The crisis has also accelerated technological change and deepened the consequences of unequal access to digital technologies. More than 40 million households lack digital connectivity, half of which concentrate in the two poorest quintiles and over a third of the region's countries does not have sufficient download speeds to enable simultaneous high data consumption activities.

In this context it is clear that recovery measures need to drive the creation of quality employment with inclusion and that the region needs to close its gaps in social protection, public services and access to technology and digital services, which have amplified the effects of the pandemic.

In order to respond to these impacts and to address the looming crisis of climate change, ECLAC's position document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*



United Nations
Global Compact

(2020) identified priority productive sectors as the basis of an inclusive and low-carbon recovery: renewable energy, sustainable mobility, digital revolution for sustainability, health-care manufacturing, bioeconomy, circular economy and sustainable tourism. These productive sectors have the potential to drive job creation, inclusion, the strengthening of technological capabilities and reducing environmental impacts and emissions.

For its part, United Nations Global Compact has launched its campaign *Business Ambition for 1.5°C* to motivate companies to commit to concrete and science-based objectives, in order to contribute to limiting the rise of global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Building on the analysis and initiatives of ECLAC and UN Global Compact, the meeting will promote a dialogue between public and private sector representatives to analyze the main challenges and opportunities to strengthen partnerships for an inclusive and green recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. The dialogue will focus on key sectors that can catalyse a sustainable recovery, with quality employment, greater social and digital inclusion, and technological innovation. The forum will also address how to foster policies and strategies to lay the foundations for low-carbon growth, in keeping with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement

Preliminary Program

10.00 a.m. -10.15 a.m. (Costa Rica time) Opening session

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

10.15 a.m. – 11.05 a.m. (Costa Rica time) Panel 1 – Public-Private Cooperation for the Green Recovery and Transition

Moderator: Teresa Moll de Alba, Senior Manager, United Nations Global Compact

- Pilar Garrido, Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica
- Marcos Matias, President of Schneider Electric Brasil, Brazil
- Verónica de la Cerda, CEO of Triciclos, Chile
- Gabriel Sommerfeld, CEO of Le Parc Hotel, Ecuador
- Esteban Barrientos, CEO of ENSA - Elektra Noreste S.A., Panama

11.05 a.m. – 11.55 a.m. (Costa Rica time) Panel 2 – Public-Private Collaboration for an Inclusive Digital Recovery

Moderator: Sebastián Rovira, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovation and New Technologies Unit, ECLAC

- Julio Muñoz, Deputy Minister of Information Technology and Communications of Ecuador
- Maryleana Méndez, Secretary General, Inter-American Association of Telecommunications Companies (ASIET)



United Nations
Global Compact

- Lucas Gallitto, Director of Public Policies for Latin America, GSMA
- Raúl Echeberría, Executive Director, Latin American Internet Association (ALAI)

11.55 a.m.- 12.00 p.m. (Costa Rica time)

- Romain Zivy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Connection details

Mar 15, 2021 10:00 San José/ 11:00 Panamá/ 12:00 PM NY/ 01:00 PM Santiago

<https://zoom.us/j/93049250621?pwd=TGljR2tNL25lVzNGdkRCNHBUemZ0Zz09>

Passcode: 324412