2020 system-wide results report of the United Nations development system in Latin America and the Caribbean

Contribution of the United Nations system

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

16 March 2021
1. THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE RESULTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
   2.1 Key United Nations joint responses to the COVID-19 pandemic
   2.2 Joint actions to address structural causes of inequality and to promote a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability
   2.3 Examples of partnerships to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the region

3. NEXT STEPS: A WAY FORWARD
1. THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
The Framework: ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2020/23 (July 2020)

Following its 2020 Operational Activities Segment, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution E/RES/2020/23 in July 2020, endorsed in General Assembly Resolution 74/297, which, inter alia:

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to conduct and rely on, in the course of the implementation process, transparent and inclusive United Nations consultations with all countries concerned at all levels, in particular the countries of the region through further deliberations of the ECOSOC with input from existing processes within regional economic commissions and other United Nations regional assets to ensure that the longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations be addressed on a region-by-region basis and in accordance with the region’s specific needs and priorities.

2. Reaffirms that the regional repositioning be conducted with the support of regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and regional offices of the Development Coordination Office, while preserving and reaffirming their respective roles and mandates.

3. Looks forward to further deliberations in the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment, and requests the Secretary-General to continue regular follow-up, monitoring and reporting, including to the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment.
I. Creation of United Nations regional collaborative platforms that would absorb existing duplicative coordination mechanisms and foster collaboration on sustainable development among United Nations development system entities operating at the regional level.

II. Establishment of strong knowledge management hubs in each region by pooling policy expertise currently scattered across various entities.

III. Enhance transparency and results-based management at the regional level, including through annual reporting on United Nations system-wide results at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda.

IV. Launch of a region-by-region change management process to consolidate existing capacities with regard to data and statistics.

V. Identification of administrative services that could be provided more efficiently to regional offices through common back offices, similar to efforts that have been made at the country level.
Progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s recommendations

**Highlights**

1. Establishment of the RCP
   - RCP established in Nov. 2020

2. Knowledge Management Hubs
   - SDG Gateway launched

3. Enhance transparency
   - Transitional annual results report prepared

4. Data and statistics
   - Mapping of UN expertise and technical assistance

5. Regional Efficiencies
   - Regional OMT revamped

- Self-assessments of IBCs and WGs to take stock of progress
- Content Management System developed and piloted
- Reporting session at the RFSD scheduled
- SDG data and statistics integrated in SDG Gateway
- Regional BOS in progress

- Consultation with RCs on RCP workplan and IBCs’ priorities
- Initial set of criteria and areas of the rosters of expertise defined
- Partnerships and Communication group established
- Collaboration with SDG Statistical Coordination Group of SCA
- Support to UNCTs/OMTs on BOS-related issues
Background on the 2020 system-wide results report

- Developed in response to recommendation three of the United Nations Secretary-General
- Aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and results-based management at the regional level
- **Transitional report**, as the United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) was only established in November 2020
- Reflects the results of the work conducted by the initial Issue-Based Coalitions and Working Groups and by other joint inter-agency initiatives that have had a direct contribution to the COVID-19 crisis response and the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the region
- The first annual results report of the RCP LAC will be presented to Member States in 2022
Regional Collaborative Platforms: 12 Key Functions

Provide criteria and guidelines to prepare the regional System-Wide Results Report

Foster collaboration on sustainable development

Promote joint actions to address gaps in SDG implementation, including those identified through the regional forums on sustainable development and High-level Political Forum

Discuss regional strategic developments and issues, pathways to addressing them and align regional and global agendas

Promote regional coherence with the policies agreed at global level, including UN Sustainable Development Group

Promote inter-agency joint actions, strategies, coalitions and exchange of staff and expertise across entities, in support of regional integration and collaboration (including subregional and transboundary issues)

Foster inter-agency cooperation/collaboration on sustainable development to ensure or improve implementation of internationally and regionally agreed frameworks, norms and standards.

Regional Collaborative Platform for LAC
Chair: DSG
Vice-Chairs: ECLAC, UNDP

Facilitate development of regional common back-office plans and effective and efficient management at the regional level

Coordinate and transparently share policy-relevant tools and knowledge products

Promote change management process to consolidate existing capacities for data and statistics

Facilitate demand-driven integrated policy advice, normative support and technical capacity

Promote coherent regional policy dialogues and responses to challenges related to SDG achievement

Regional Collaborative Platform for LAC
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Regional Collaborative Platform for LAC Structure

**Substantive Engagement**
- Climate Change and Resilience
  - UNDRR / UNEP
- Financing for Development
  - ECLAC / UNDP
- Governance & Institutions
  - UNDP / UNODC / UNOPS
- Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls
  - UN Women
- Youth
  - UNDP / UNFPA

**Programmatic and Operational Effectiveness**
- Equitable Growth
  - ECLAC / ILO / UNDP
- Human Mobility
  - ECLAC / IOM / UNHCR / UNICEF
- Partnerships & Communication
  - Group
  - UNDP / UNFPA
- Peer Support Group (M&E)
  - DCO
- SDG Data & Statistics Group
  - UNICEF / UNFPA / UN Women
- Knowledge Management Hub Steering Committee
  - ECLAC / UNDP

**AFPs**
- Chair: DSG
- Vice-Chairs: ECLAC/UNDP

**Strategic direction and decision making**

- **#2 (knowledge management hub)** In coordination with ECLAC
- **#4 (data & statistics)**
- **#5 (operational effectiveness)**

**RCP LAC Joint Secretariat**

**DCO/ECLAC/UNDP**

**#3 (reporting)**

**Regional Collaborative Platform LAC (RCP LAC)**

**Regional OMT**
- UNDP / UNFPA

**ECLAC**

**UNDP**

**UNFPA**

**UNICEF**

**UNODC**

**UNHCR**

**ILO**

**UN Women**

**IOM**

**UNDRR**

**UNEPA**

**UNOPS**
2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE RESULTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
Highlights of the **United Nations system-wide results** at the regional level

- Supported Member States, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), and United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs) to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Launched new inter-agency initiatives to provide integrated responses to challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Addressed the structural causes of inequality and promote a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs
- Fostered cooperation and leveraged partnerships to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs
2.1 KEY REGIONAL UNITED NATIONS RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Evidence-based policy guidance

Member States received evidence-based policy guidance to support decision-making to respond to the COVID-19 crisis

- Disaster risk management and climate action to build resilience
- Employment
- Food security and nutrition
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment and autonomy
- Health surveillance, infection prevention and control, clinical management and risk communication
- Health and the economy
- Health and human mobility
- Social protection

- Impact of the pandemic on women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, domestic workers, people of African descent, indigenous peoples, those with HIV/AIDS, migrants, refugees and other displaced persons
- Online learning modalities and support for the safe reopening of schools
- Safe infrastructure
- Sustainable and inclusive business production
- Violence against women and violence against children and adolescents
Capacity building support

Member States, United Nations Country Teams and United Nations Resident Coordinators received capacity building support *to facilitate response to the COVID-19 crisis*

- **Direct health emergency response to ministries of health** and other national authorities.
- **Training for health workers**, including on first-line support for helpline responders, as well as **border control authorities, shelter centers and regional humanitarian workers** on prompt care to vulnerable groups.
- **Knowledge sharing and peer learning** on sectoral areas and key issues, including education, disaster risk management and climate change, violence against women and girls, and violence against children and adolescents; youth engagement, and the impact of COVID-19 from a population and development perspective.
- **Training, support, and peer learning** for the preparation and implementation of the United Nations socio-economic response plans (SERP).
Regional knowledge sharing and communication platforms established to disseminate data and analysis on the COVID-19 response

- The COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean: economic and social impact.
- Social Development and COVID-19 Observatory.
- The Latin America Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE).
- The Regional Observatory on prices for medicines recommended by WHO for the treatment of COVID-19.
2.2 JOINT ACTIONS TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF INEQUALITY AND TO PROMOTE A TRANSFORMATIVE RECOVERY WITH EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY
## Climate Change and Resilience

- Advanced the regional discussion regarding the design of long-term strategies towards net zero emissions and green recovery
  - **Climate Promise**: 11 countries from the region submitted updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that show greater ambition and inclusiveness, an important step towards the next Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to be held in 2021. Initiative led by UNDP in close collaboration with ECLAC, FAO, UNEP and UNICEF, along with other partners.
  - **Latin American Regional Platform on Low-Emission Development Strategies** (LEDS LAC) and **NDC LAC tool** implemented by UNDP, IDB, GIZ, and ECLAC.

- Provided technical assistance at request of Member States to assess the impacts of disasters and other hazards
  - Damage and Loss Assessments (DaLA) led by ECLAC with UN entities conducted in Guatemala and Honduras
  - Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) anchored in UNDP adapted for COVID-19 impact assessment in Dominican Republic, Ecuador and El Salvador

- Supported the development of public policies for circular economy and sustainable consumption and production/Regional Circular Economy Coalition

- Fostering cooperation for the implementation of internationally and regional standards on environmental protection, with workshop organized by ECLAC, OHCHR, and UNEP.

- Promoted the reduction of risks to health caused by environmental factors. Initiative led by PAHO/WHO-UNEP Joint Action Plan on Environment and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020–2021)
Crime and Violence

**Latin America Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative** implemented by UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women, with other UN entities

- **Generated evidence** on the intersections between violence against women and femicide/feminicide and new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability in 18 countries in the region
- **Promoted the adaptation and adoption of the Latin American Model Protocol** for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide)
- **Virtual regional Community of Practice on Essential Services** established in response to violence against women and girls

**Violence against women and violence against children and adolescents** (ECLAC, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNODC, and other partners)

- **Produced new regional evidence, data and knowledge** on violence against women and violence against children and adolescents
- **Continued advocacy** to promote strategies to end violence against women and children
Equitable Growth

- Provided policy support to Member States and UNCTs on issues related to employment, decent work and informality, SMEs, among others (ECLAC and ILO)

- Supported a strategy to address the high debt-low growth dilemma of the Caribbean while fostering sustainable investment in climate adaptation: Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap Initiative spearheaded by ECLAC with several partners

- Offered capacity building assistance to a wide range of stakeholders to advance sustainable social protection systems and new national care systems (ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN-Women)

- Implemented joint initiatives to accelerate the shift to more inclusive green economies and sustainable production and consumption patterns (ECLAC, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, and UNITAR)

- Promoted the strengthening of food systems, e.g. 2020-2021 Multi-sectoral Response Plan and Appeal for the Eastern Caribbean (FAO, UNDP, ILO and UN-Women) and promoted agriculture and food trade (ECLAC, FAO, IFAD, and WFP)
Governance and Institutions

- **Produced policy recommendations** to support effective governance in the region:
  - Presentation of the report on “Effective Governance, beyond recovery” at the XII Ministerial Forum for Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDP/ECLAC)
  - Study on "Efficient Public Procurement in Latin America", supported by UNOPS with, ECLAC, DPPA, UNDP, and UNODC

- **Continued to raise awareness on the protection and promotion of civic space**, with joint UN-civil society online consultation

- **Generated tools to increase youth political participation and understanding of democratic values**, with open online course, led by UNESCO and other entities
  - “Global Citizenship Education: Youth, Human Rights and Participation in Latin American and the Caribbean”

- **Developed new tools and implemented advocacy initiatives on human rights due diligence for the private sector** (OHCHR and UNDP)
Human Mobility

- Within the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela co-led by IOM and UNHCR
  - 151 partners implemented the 2020 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan covering 2.2 million persons in the region; and supported the Quito Process.
  - Projects implemented in the areas of education, food security, health, humanitarian transport, integration, non-food items, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

- Advanced in the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, led by IOM and ECLAC.

- Development of the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico to address structural causes of migration; coordinated by ECLAC with inputs from 19 UN entities, DCO, UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in the four countries covered by the plan.
• Generated evidence on the cross-cutting theme of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including care systems (ECLAC/UN-Women), and domestic workers (UN-Women/ILO/ECLAC). Other joint recommendations, updated data and statistics were included in the ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

• Provided region-specific solutions to address the causes and consequences of child marriage and early unions in six countries in the region through the Joint Programme “For a Region Free of Child Marriage and Early Unions: 2018–2022 Initiative” (UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Women).

• Provided guidance on the incorporation of gender perspective in national, subregional and regional programmes on climate change and environmental protection (UNDP, UNEP and UN-Women).

• Used convening power to advance the regional discussion on gender equality and women’s autonomy: XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (organized by ECLAC and UN-Women) to discuss women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios with Member States, UNDS and other stakeholders, and resulted in the adoption of the Santiago Commitment.
Youth

- Developed educational materials for young people to get engaged in the SDGs; provided mental health support to youth through webinars and information sharing (UNICEF, PAHO)

- Launched the "UN Survey on Youth in the context of COVID-19" to generate data and evidence to guide public policy and promote youth participation and engagement in the framework of the United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy.

- Advanced regional discussions on the critical role of youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (coordinated by UN-Women with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNAIDS):
  - Regional Youth Consultation towards Beijing+25, in the framework of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
  - Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Youth presented to the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and influencing global discussions.
2.3 Examples of partnerships to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the region
Engagement with **key regional stakeholders**

Activated existing **ECLAC subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings** to discuss regional challenges and identify common solutions to overcome the effects of the pandemic while addressing the structural causes of inequalities:

- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/UN-Women)
- Regional Conference on Social Development (ECLAC/UNDP)
- Regional Conference on Population and Development (ECLAC/UNFPA)

**Strengthened multi-stakeholder networks**, for example, on women’s participation, education or climate change:

- The Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Leadership (ECLAC, PAHO, UNDP, and UN-Women, with CAF, IDB, OAS, ParlAmericas, SEGIB, and several NGOs)
- The Regional SDG-Education 2030 Latin America and the Caribbean Steering Committee (led by UNESCO, with CARICOM, CECC-SICA, OAS, OEI, UNFPA, UNICEF, and civil society groups)
- The Regional Education Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UN-Women, with other partners)

Convened multi-stakeholder **dialogues and exchanges** on issues related to COVID-19 impact and the SDGs:

- For example, between youth leaders and policy makers to advance the implementation of the recommendations in the field of citizenship education, with CECC-SICA, UNESCO and UNODC
3. NEXT STEPS: A WAY FORWARD
Opportunities moving forward in the framework of the 2030 Agenda: Key Enablers

- A region strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs
  - 9 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented to the HLPF in 2020
  - 11 VNRs will be presented to the HLPF in 2021

Continuation of government socio-economic emergency measures

Safe reopening of schools and businesses/economic units

Roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines:
  - Transparent management
  - Universal access

Financing for development:
  - Internal and external resources, to inject liquidity into micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises
Opportunities moving forward in the framework of the 2030 Agenda: Transformative Policies

Transformation towards an inclusive and sustainable development pattern that guarantees the conditions necessary for a balance between inclusion, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Accelerate policies aiming at transforming the production matrix.

Strengthening effective governance.

Universal social welfare regime, including the strengthening of health systems, and increased investments in education.

Increased access to financing.

Inclusive policies that reach the most vulnerable population.

Integrate a systemic approach to risk and contribute to building multisectoral risk governance.
## Role of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

### RESPONSE TO COVID-19
- Provide policy analysis and recommendations and technical assistance to Member States
- Deliver targeted technical assistance in response to country demands
- Support RCs and UNCTs’ efforts to address the socio-economic emergency

### STRUCTURAL CAUSES
- Facilitate joint actions to address SDG gaps
- Facilitate the positioning of key regional issues and messages in regional and global policy fora
- Foster partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation
- Provide demand-driven support to governments, RCs, and UNCTs

### SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES
- Facilitate joint actions to foster regional coherence
- Promote a coordinated approach to working with human mobility-related processes
- Support implementation of the MCO review

### REGIONAL REVIEW
- Advance the implementation of the five recommendations of the UN Secretary-General
Regional Collaborative Platform IBCs and Thematic Groups

“Maximizing the capacities, and assets in support to Member States, RCs, and UNCTs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”
THANK YOU