A decade of action for a change of era

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

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
7 March 2022
Messages

1. Growing global asymmetries between developed and developing countries.
2. Economic, social and political effects: Latin America and the Caribbean is the region hardest hit by COVID-19.
3. The State has played a central role in taking on the short-term economic and social costs.
4. The recovery has followed a development model that has already shown its structural limitations, and which entails growing costs and movement away from achieving the SDGs.
5. ECLAC strengthened its evaluation capacities on progress of the SDGs towards 2030:
   • 2019: 19 statistical series of indicators
   • 2022: 359 series (111 targets, 73 of which correspond to priority indicators for the region)
6. Conclusion: 68% of targets remain unlikely to be achieved by 2030; almost one third of these reflect trends moving in the wrong direction.
7. These results reinforce the need for a decade of action to transform the development model based on efficient multilateralism.
Global asymmetries: the cost of not committing to the future

Developed countries are redesigning societies post-COVID-19 with an emphasis on greater sustainability, new industrial policies and a push for greater national or regional self-reliance.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
Unequal access to vaccination

The region has vaccinated almost 70% of its population, showing major progress but with large differences between countries.

Some countries have acquired vaccines in excess of their needs. The European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan account for 39% of procurement commitments, but have only 12.9% of the world population.\(^a\)

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**Source:** ECLAC, COVID-19 Observatory, on the basis of Our World in Data [online] www.ourworldindata.org.

**Note:** Record for countries reporting the breakdown of doses administered (first and second) by 4 March 2022 or latest date available.

\(^a\) Source: ECLAC, COVID-19 Observatory, on the basis of Duke Global Health Innovation Center, "Launch and Scale Speedometer", Duke University, 2021 [online] https://launchandscalefaster.org/covid-19
The hardest-hit region in 2020, short-lived euphoria in 2021

EMPLOYMENT IN 2020
(Index: 2019=100)

World 2020 2021 2022 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean 100 92 100 104
High-income countries 100 101 102 103
Low-income countries 100 97 100 102

GDP (Percentages)

World 2020 2021 2022 2023
Latin America and the Caribbean -6.8 -6.2 -3.9 -2.1
United States -3.4 6.0 4.6 4.2
Eurozone -6.3 5.2 4.6 5.2
Developed economies -4.5 5.2 4.2 4.9

-8.8%
Debt exacerbates the problems of external constraint and reduces fiscal space.

**SELECTED REGIONS: TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE**
(Percentages of goods and services exports)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>59.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging and developing economies in Asia</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>50.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing economies in Europe</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and Central Asia</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE CARIBBEAN: SERVICE OF TOTAL DEBT, AVERAGE 2010–2019**
(Percentages of government income)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2010–19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook, Washington, D.C., October 2021.
Inflation is increasing as labour markets continue to be affected by the crisis and estimates point to a return to weak growth in the region from 2022 onwards.

A complex phenomenon:

• An overreaction could compromise growth and the employment recovery.

• A timid response may lead to an acceleration in inflation.

• Convergence towards central bank targets towards the end of 2022 is possible.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official information.
In 2021, poverty and extreme poverty rose compared to pre-pandemic levels and the slow reduction of inequality was reversed.

- In 2021, poverty would have increased without emergency transfers, despite per capita GDP growth.
- In 2021, transfers amounted to US$ 45.271 billion (half the amount announced in 2020).
- Governments face limited fiscal space and growing uncertainty about external conditions.
- Inflation may worsen the situation of households and public finances even further.
- The challenge in the next few years will be to maintain pro-growth public spending in a context of fiscal sustainability.
- Some countries are replacing social transfers with employment support.

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

Inequality edged up by 0.7 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, reversing the downward trend since 2002.
Gender inequalities: one in two women remains outside the labour market

In 2020, a setback of 18 years in women’s labour market participation

UNEQUAL RECOVERY. Masculinized sectors are recovering more quickly and women are facing higher unemployment rates

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures and projections.

* Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). 2019 figures do not include the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.


* Projected values for 2022 in the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021.
Trend in SDG indicators
Only one third of the 111 targets on course and at the right pace

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS AND LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS BY 2030

The trend is moving in the right direction, but too slowly for the target to be met

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

The trend is moving in the wrong direction
On course, slowing progress and setbacks: mixed regional performance

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: NUMBER OF SDG INDICATORS ANALYSED (146), BY POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING TARGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N. de Indicadores</th>
<th>Resultados esperados</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend**
  - 54

- **Target likely to be reached only with public policy intervention**
  - 58

- **The trend is moving in the wrong direction**
  - 34

Greater quantity of statistical information available for monitoring the 2030 Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistical series</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress on quality education, gender equality and marine and terrestrial ecosystems

In 2022, an in-depth review of five Sustainable Development Goals

Three “silent crises”:
- The loss of more than a year of classroom schooling for an entire generation of students
- The increase in gender-based violence and in the unequal distribution by sex of care burdens
- The exacerbation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity destruction as a result of illegal activities, often combined with killings of environmental defenders
The risk of a lost generation: school closures affecting comprehensive development of children and adolescents

- Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions of the world with the longest disruptions to face-to-face classes: an average of around 56 weeks of full or partial closures
- This has opened gaps in development of cognitive skills, led to learning opportunities being missed and created a risk of increased school dropout (3.1 million)
- Above all, school closures have worsened women’s excess burden of care tasks
- A safe return to face-to-face classes in 2022 is urgent
- 85 million children and adolescents missed out on school meals

**LENGTH OF FULL OR PARTIAL CLOSURES IN THE FACE-TO-FACE EDUCATION SYSTEM, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND HIGHER LEVELS, 16 FEBRUARY 2020–30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

(Number of weeks)

Gender equality is central to fulfilment of the SDGs

**Economic autonomy**

Women spend three times the amount of time that men do on domestic work and unpaid care work.

**Physical autonomy**

One in three women has been a victim of physical, psychological or sexual violence.

**Decision-making autonomy**

33.6% of seats in parliament are held by women (SDG indicator 5.5.1.a).

The burden of domestic and care work has increased, disproportionately affecting women.

Moving towards a care society that prioritizes care of people, the planet and self-care.

The exposure of women and girls to situations of violence in the home grew, with more restricted access to support networks.

The UNiTE Campaign aims to strengthen public, collective, systematic action to end violence against women.

Promoting women’s participation in national parliaments, management positions and local governments, to address the specific characteristics of each territory.

Women remain the minority in the most senior positions.

Substantive equality

From a concentration of power to parity democracy.

ECLAC
The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality

Caring for those who need it and for those who provide care, promoting self-care and care for the planet

Transformative potential

- Equitable distribution of power, resources and time between women and men
- Investing in the care economy:
  - Frees up women’s time
  - Increases productivity, employment and tax collection
  - Improves well-being and capacities

Transformative economic recovery with more jobs for women in strategic sectors

Universal access to high-quality care services, especially for children aged 0–6 years

Co-responsibility between the State, private sector, community, families and men and women
The region of the world with the highest number of marine ecoregions (18% of the total)
- Mesoamerican Reef System, the second largest in the world
- A fourth of the world’s mangroves

The region with the highest number of terrestrial ecoregions (24% of the total)
- 23% of the world’s forests
- Highest average for biomass
- 20% of landmass inhabited by indigenous peoples

Main causes of biodiversity loss and degradation
- Land-use changes
- Overexploitation of natural species and resources
- Climate change
- Invasive alien species
- Pollution

Goal 14
- Half of the targets before 2030
- Goal with third lowest level of data
- Latin America and the Caribbean has achieved target 14.5

Goal 15
- Only one third of 2020 targets met
- None of targets met
- Two targets for obtaining resources
- Nature-based solutions
Loss of forested area

(Millions of hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Loss (Millions of hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plur. State of)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Loss:** 138 million hectares of forest lost over the past 30 years.
- **Annual rate of deforestation** has slowed to almost half its previous level (2000–2020), but remains high.
- **Land-use change:** >50% of changes represent a threat to vertebrates. Soybean and livestock farming are key drivers of deforestation.
- **Forest areas are still in danger:** in 15 countries, deforestation grew over the past decade.
- **South America:** 97% of forest plantations are of introduced alien species.
- **Incentives** to promote biodiversity are equivalent to 17%–20% of potentially damaging incentives.

*Source:* ECLAC, on the basis of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAOSTAT [online database]
Opportunities for use and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and their natural resources

Effects of the pandemic

- **Environmental sector**: more severe structural weaknesses (too little power, a lack of political commitment, a paucity of financial and human resources and institutional capacities) and violent environmental conflicts.

- **Environmental budgets cut** in 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries by 35% between 2019 and 2020.

- **Increase in illegal activities**: illicit crops, illegal mining, timber theft in indigenous territories and protected areas.

- **“Green reconstruction” with biodiversity a pending task**. The largest economies in the world announced less than 0.4% in resources for “natural capital”.

Regional opportunities

- **Caribbean First**: debt swap for climate action

- **Escazú Agreement**: entered into force in April 2021.

- Better metrics with **environmental and ecosystem accounts**.

- **An agroecological transition**: progress on nature-friendly production.

- **Territories of indigenous peoples**: 80% forest (well protected).

- **Mainstreaming of biodiversity and nature-based solutions**: blue and green agendas.

- **Strengthening of institutional capacities**.

- **Halting the loss of biodiversity** entails changing the production and consumption pattern.
Institutional progress on the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Voluntary national reviews in Latin America and the Caribbean

All the countries in the region have the institutional framework to implement the 2030 Agenda

- 17 countries have institutions at the level of the office of the president, ministries or agencies
- 15 countries have ad hoc mechanisms

From 2016 to 2021, 28 voluntary national reviews were submitted to the high-level political forum by Latin American and Caribbean countries, and 14 corresponded to countries that have submitted more than one review.

Countries due to submit reviews in 2022: Argentina, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Uruguay.

The ECLAC Community of Practice is a regional space for countries to discuss voluntary national reviews.
The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development: a space with high and diverse participation

### Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First, 2017, Mexico City</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second, 2018, Santiago (ECLAC headq.)</td>
<td>1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third, 2019, Santiago (ECLAC headq.)</td>
<td>1 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth, 2021, virtual</td>
<td>1 368</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SUBREGIONAL GROUPS
- Central America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Mexico
- The English- and French-speaking Caribbean
- Andean Zone
- Southern Cone

#### STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
- Children, adolescents and young people
- Women
- Persons of African descent
- Older adults
- Persons engaged in small-scale farming activities, living in rural and coastal areas
- Persons with disability
- Persons with HIV and persons affected by HIV
- Human rights defenders and territories
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGTBI)
- Migrants and persons displaced by disasters or conflicts
- Indigenous peoples
- Networks, collectives, organizations and platforms of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Trade unions and working people, domestic workers and female sex workers

#### THEMATIC GROUPS
- Social and solidarity economies
- Education, academia, science and technology
- Ecological and environmental justice
The central role of data for policymaking: SDG Gateway and CEPALSTAT

- Periodic statistics and indicators and metadata for data-based policymaking
- Thematic regional, national and territorial statistic profiles
- Publications and analytical studies
- Methodological recommendations, international standards and classifications
- Integration of statistical and geospatial information: inclusion of a Geoportal
- Integration of international databases

- Reference gateway for all information on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the region
- Provides specialized knowledge that enables responses to emerging national requirements linked to the 2030 Agenda
- Facilitates statistical monitoring and follow-up of progress towards the SDGs at the regional and national levels
- Promotes collaboration on sustainable development among regional and global entities in the United Nations system
Regional digital agenda

In 2020, 21 member States of the region agreed on a new digital agenda towards 2022, with 39 targets and 9 areas of action.

- **Basic digital basket**: Support for the design of a basic digital basket to ensure access to digital technologies in the poorest households.
- **Technical assistance**: Support for the preparation of digital agendas and strategies: Ecuador and Chile.
- **Regional digital market**: Technical support for analysis of potential and design of strategies within the Pacific Alliance, MERCOSUR and Central America.
- **Data repository for measurement**: Digital Observatory and preparation of standards for measuring the digital economy with Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Brazil.
- **Regional political dialogue**: In 2020, 21 member States of the region agreed on a new digital agenda towards 2022, with 39 targets and 9 areas of action.
A new international financial architecture to support policy and investment spaces

- Trust fund for middle-income countries (primarily funded through SDRs)
- Multilateral funds (FACE)

EXPAND AND REDISTRIBUTE LIQUIDITY

- Expand instruments for allocating resources
- Increase lending capacity, requiring higher levels of capitalization

STRENGTHEN DEVELOPMENT BANKS

INTERNATIONAL DEBT

- Reform of the multilateral debt system
- Credit rating agencies

CREATE NEW INSTRUMENTS

- Contingency clauses (hurricane bonds)
- Bonds linked to GDP and national income

INTEGRATE LIQUIDITY MEASURES WITH DEBT REDUCTION

- Caribbean Resilience Fund

CREATE NEW INSTRUMENTS

- Caribbean Resilience Fund
Towards the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda

**Systemic approach of ECLAC**

**RECOVERY STRATEGIES**

**EMPLOYMENT**
Create high-quality jobs, invest in formalization of SMEs, particularly for women

**PRODUCTIVE Capacities**
Industrial policy, investment in innovation and technology, links with the private sector, academia and civil society

**DIGITIZATION**
Universal access to digital technology, digitization of the productive sectors, enabling infrastructure

**RIGHTS**
Health and education systems and universal social protection
Progressive, sustainable taxation

**SUSTAINABILITY**
Ensure environmental protection, favour green sectors and renewable energy

**MULTILATERALISM**
Move towards a regional agenda in multilateral spaces
Rethink how multilateralism works

**CROSS-CUTTING GENDER APPROACH**
A decade of action for a change of era

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