COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
New York, 28-29 March 2012

ACTIVITIES OF ECLAC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES
AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN SUPPORT OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED
WITH INTEGRATION IN THE REGION

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Twenty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole
ECLAC

The context

Achievements
“ECLAC should function as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination”. 
What do we do?

- **Research and advisory services** on public policy tailored for Governments
- **Technical cooperation activities** for development
- Promotion of **South-South cooperation**
- **Training** and capacity-building
  - *(Summer school, School of innovation managers)*
- Multisectoral forum for **regional dialogue** *(Regional Conference on Women, Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, among others)*
- Reliable source of economic, social and environmental **statistics** based on **comparable indicators**
- **Inter-agency cooperation** at the regional level
- Follow-up on **global conferences**
- **Technical support** to countries for formulating regional **positions**
With whom?

Global level

United Nations system

- General Assembly
- ECOSOC
- RCM

Collaboration with other bodies in the United Nations system

Regional level

- Inter-American system: OAS-IDB-ECLAC
- Tripartite Committee

National level

- Member States
- ECLAC
- UNDG LAC
- UNDP
- Cooperation partners

Member States

Cooperation partners
How do we do it?

Financing
(Millions of dollars)

- Regular budget: 116.3
- Regular programme for technical cooperation: 35.9
- Development account projects: 4.7
- Extrabudgetary sources: 5.6
Increase in financing from sources other than the regular ECLAC budget

- United Nations
- Other multilateral agencies
- Bilateral
  - Latin American and Caribbean Governments
  - Other Governments
  - NGOs

2008-2009
US$ 34.5 million

2010-2011
US$ 35.9 million
The Commission’s main cooperation partners

European Commission - EuropeAid

German Agency for International Cooperation

Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

International Development Research Centre

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

Government of France

Cooperazione Italiana
International economic fragilities are worsening

- The economic outlook for the Euro zone is scarcely encouraging.
- The response to the debt crisis in several European countries is revolving around fiscal adjustment, with no policies to boost growth.
- There are some positive growth signals in the United States, but political gridlock has prevented the adoption of measures to stimulate a stronger economic recovery.
- Global coordination (monetary and fiscal), which was crucial during the 2008-2009 crisis, is now weaker.
The global economy continues to show two-tier growth, with the developed countries expanding more slowly than the emerging economies.

**WORLD GROWTH RATES, 2009-2012**

*(Percentages)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Developing countries</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Developed countries</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Euro zone</th>
<th>Japan</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
<td>-3.7</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-5.5</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>-3.7</td>
<td>-4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
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<td>2011e</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>-0.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<td>2012p</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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</table>

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the World Bank.

*e* Estimates.

*p* Projections.
The current global governance system does not reflect the emerging economies’ rising relative share in the global economy.

**RELATIVE SHARE OF THE ADVANCED AND EMERGING ECONOMIES IN GLOBAL GDP, 1996-2015**

*(Percentages)*

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of International Monetary Fund (2011).
Economic context in Latin America

Growth in the region has slowed, but remains above the global average

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: GDP GROWTH, 2011 AND 2012a
(Percentages)

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

a Some figures for 2011 are estimates and the figures for 2012 are projections.

b Projection of the Government of Cuba.
Social context in Latin America

A step in the right direction: towards reducing poverty…

LATIN AMERICA : POVERTY AND INDIGENCE, 1980-2011a
(Percentages and millions of persons)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys conducted in the relevant countries.

* Estimate for 18 countries of the region plus Haiti. The figures in the upper part of the bars represent the percentage and total number of poor (indigent plus non-indigent poor). The figures for 2011 are projections.
... And closing the income gap

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys conducted in the relevant countries.

- a The survey year used differs from country to country. The period 1990 corresponds to the most recently available survey between 1989 and 1992, the period 2002 to the most recently available survey between 2000 and 2002, and the period 2009 to the surveys available between 2006 and 2009.
- b Greater Buenos Aires.
- c Urban areas.
- d Data for the Plurinational State of Bolivia are those published by the Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE). The figure for 1990 corresponds to 1996.
But there are clear cracks and omissions in the region’s social protection systems

**LATIN AMERICA (14 COUNTRIES): PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO SOCIAL SECURITY AFFILIATION AND NOT IN RECEIPT OF PENSION PAYMENTS OR PUBLIC WELFARE TRANSFERS, BY INCOME QUINTILE, 2009**

(Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys conducted in the relevant countries.
Trade context in Latin America

Despite a deterioration in the external situation, groups of countries in the region benefited to varying degrees from favourable external conditions for a large part of 2011.

**LATIN AMERICA: TERMS OF TRADE, 2005-2011**

*(Index: 2005=100)*

[Bar chart showing terms of trade for different regions and years (2009-2012)]

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.
With a growth rate of 23.5%, owing primarily to the price factor, the region’s exports expanded by slightly more than imports in 2011.

**LATIN AMERICA: ANNUAL RATES OF VARIATION IN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS BY VOLUME AND PRICE, 2011**

*(Percentages)*

### EXPORTS

- **Latin America**: 4.5% Volume, 19.0% Price
- **MERCOSUR**: 2.1% Volume, 24.2% Price
- **Mineral-exporting countries**: 1.4% Volume, 17.8% Price
- **Hydrocarbon-exporting countries**: 6.1% Volume, 29.2% Price
- **Central America**: 14.9% Volume, 10.2% Price
- **Mexico**: 4.7% Volume, 12.2% Price

### IMPORTS

- **Latin America**: 10.3% Volume, 12.9% Price
- **MERCOSUR**: 11.2% Volume, 15.9% Price
- **Mineral-exporting countries**: 14.4% Volume, 12.9% Price
- **Hydrocarbon-exporting countries**: 14.2% Volume, 14.5% Price
- **Central America**: 11.3% Volume, 12.1% Price
- **Mexico**: 7.0% Volume, 9.8% Price

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

*a Estimates.*
Intra-subregional trade remains below its historic highs, with the Central American Common Market recording the highest levels.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: EXPORTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN REGIONAL GROUPINGS, 1986-2010**
*(Percentages of the total exports of each group)*

- **Andean Community**: 13.5%
- **Caribbean Community**: 23.0%
- **Central American Common Market**: 34.7%
- **MERCOSUR**: 23.0%

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures from the regional integration groupings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andean Community</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>Central American Common Market</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
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<td>MERCOSUR</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
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**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: VOLUME OF INTRAREGIONAL EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES, 2010**
*(Percentages of total manufactures)*

- **Andean Community**: 16.7%
- **Caribbean Community**: 23.0%
- **Central American Common Market**: 34.7%
- **MERCOSUR**: 23.0%

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of information from the United Nations Commodity Trade Database (COMTRADE).

- **Excluding Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.**
- **Excluding Bahamas and Haiti.**

*a The data for Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago correspond to 2009.*
Foreign investment context

FDI inflows increased by 40% in 2010, reaching 113 billion dollars, and they are forecast to have grown by 15%-25% in 2011

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INFLOWS BY SUBREGION, 1990-2010
(Millions of dollars)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official data.
The challenges of the new international scenario

**New global equilibria:** the changing role of China and the rest of Asia-Pacific in world production, trade and foreign direct investment

Increased demand for **competitiveness** and **innovation** for participating in global value chains and the intensity of technological change

New patterns of production with a **low-carbon footprint** are required to tackle climate change

Need for new forms of **governance** and a redefinition of the **State–market–society** relationship

More selective conditions of access to **external financing** and possible restructuring of national and international financial architecture
Global challenge for development: Millennium Development Goals

- Assistance to **member States** in monitoring their progress towards the Goals
- **Methodological contributions** for comparable measurement at the regional, national and subnational levels and assessing the cost of “failing to achieve these goals”
- **Disseminating and sharing** experiences among countries of the region and with other regions (Africa)
- Reflecting on the achievement of the Goals in a middle-income region
- Support **tools**
  - *Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, censuses, CEPALSTAT (time-series databases)*
Main gaps to be closed

Inequality
For the first time in recent history, there have been advances in combating inequality.

Investment
Investment, at 23% of GDP, is insufficient for development.

Productivity
Closing the external gap (with the technological frontier) and the internal gap (between sectors and stakeholders).

International integration
Risk of “reprimarization” of the export structure with low value added and little investment in technology.

Taxation
Regressive tax systems; weak non-contributory pillar.
The challenges still pending in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Limited capacity to implement countercyclical policies for reducing vulnerability
- Persistent gaps in innovation and productivity for growth with equality
- Slow progress in reducing poverty and inequality
- Regressive tax systems
- Changes in demographic trends
- Gender equality agenda
- Climate change and the need to develop low carbon economies
- Increase in energy efficiency and use of renewable energies
ECLAC

The context

Achievements
Over 280 publications were produced on social and economic development, climate change, sustainable development, and gender and population affairs.

Six annual publications were produced, which were downloaded from the internet over 6 million times during this period.

More than 10 intergovernmental meetings were convened and coordinated; 86 experts' meetings were organized.

Data and statistics were disseminated via 32 online databases.

Over 75 training courses, workshops and seminars were organized, boosting the knowledge and capacity of over 3,000 participants (almost 1,500 of whom were women).

93% of those who benefited from technical cooperation said that it was useful to their work.

450 actions, policies or programmes were adopted by countries in line with ECLAC recommendations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Disaster assessment</th>
<th>Knowledge dissemination</th>
<th>Technical assistance</th>
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<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
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<td>Montserrat</td>
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<td>Former Netherlands Antilles</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
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<td>Saint Lucia</td>
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<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>Turks and Caicos Islands</td>
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<td>Uruguay</td>
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<td>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</td>
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During the 2010-2011 biennium, ECLAC had 354 ongoing technical cooperation projects—some specific, others very broad. All were financed using trust funds. Many furthered South-South and triangular cooperation.

### Ongoing projects

- **Economic sphere**: 61 projects
- **Social sphere**: 19 projects
- **Sustainable development**: 20 projects
### Support to high-level meetings

- **Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)** (Georgetown 2010; Asunción 2011)
- **Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government** *(Mar del Plata 2010; Asunción 2011)*
- **Summit of the Americas** *(Port of Spain 2009)*
- **CELAC** *(Caracas 2011)*
- **APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting and Ministerial Meeting of the Latin American Pacific Basin Initiative**
- **Preparatory meetings for world conferences** *(climate change, MDGs and Rio+20, among others)*

### Technical secretariat of subsidiary bodies

- **ECLAC Committee of the Whole**
- **Statistical Conference of the Americas**
- **Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**
- **Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**
- **Committee on Population and Development**
- **Regional Council for Planning**
- **Regional implementation mechanism of the Commission on Sustainable Development**
- **Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean**
Technical secretariat of subsidiary bodies

- ECLAC Committee of the Whole
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- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
- Committee on Population and Development
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Support to high-level meetings

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- **CELAC**
  (Caracas 2011)

- **APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting and Ministerial Meeting of the Latin American Pacific Basin Initiative**

- **Preparatory meetings for world conferences**
  (climate change, MDGs and Rio+20, among others)
Main achievements:

economic dimension
Main achievements:  
**economic dimension**

Both the flagships and the more specific publications produced over this period on the positioning of the Latin American and Caribbean region in the world economy and in world trade have captured the attention of the countries of the region. Their recommendations have been used to formulate policies and programmes.

Seven countries have taken steps to promote long-term growth policies that facilitate macroeconomic integration, in line with ECLAC recommendations.

The Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay agreed to implement measures to expand broadband access in the region. These include internet exchange points (IXP) to incorporate fibre optic into future infrastructure development.

At least eight countries adopted trade and export strategy policies based on ECLAC recommendations.
Main achievements:
social dimension
Noteworthy achievements in the social sphere

Technical cooperation to ten countries to implement methodology for measuring social expenditure and analysing public policies

New institutional social policy frameworks adopted in 13 countries

Dissemination of information on Latin American social protection programmes
- Databases on non-contributory social protection programmes
- Network of Social Institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean (RISALC)

Twelve countries in the region incorporated additional gender indicators proposed by ECLAC and six countries adopted new legislation or policies to include new indicators

21 programmes or public policies were developed in the region in response to agreements reached at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women

Technical cooperation to nine countries and capacity-building at 28 statistical offices in the region for the development of their 2010 and 2011 censuses

Support for implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing – 64 new activities by the countries of the region
Main achievements: sustainability
Noteworthy achievements in sustainable development

10 countries increased their capacities and incorporated sustainable development policies and measures, in particular in relation to climate change and human settlements.

3 governments established action plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change based on studies of the economic impact of climate change.

Technical cooperation activities helped build institutional capacity to make the sustainable management of natural resources and the provision of public services and infrastructure more efficient.

ECLAC consolidated a process of coordinating and harmonizing subregional and regional policies on the sustainable management of natural resources and infrastructure, working with 24 institutions.
Main achievements: public administration and statistics
Achievements in public administration and statistics

Capacity-building in planning, budgeting and local development
- 21 international and 36 national courses
- 44 workshops
- 4,587 professionals trained

Ten countries in the region are implementing new policies or measures on planning and budgeting
Eight countries in the region are implementing new policies or measures on local development

Building technical capacity in national accounts estimates - 24 countries reported satisfactory progress in the implementation of the System of National Accounts (1993) in the region
Building national capacity to monitor the MDGs: 28 countries have made progress on producing indicators

The statistical information portal CEPALSTAT is continually updated
Progress has been made on developing a multidimensional method for measuring poverty and environmental statistics
Main achievements: subregional dimension
Achievements of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico (Central America)

The subregional headquarters in Mexico offered advice and boosted capacity in four countries, thanks to which policies and measures were adopted in the areas of poverty eradication and economic development.

Relations were consolidated with the council of finance ministers of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic. At their request, a strategic vision document was drawn up regarding a Plan for Investment and Financing for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

85% of those who participated in ECLAC workshops rated the services as useful or very useful.

Six Central American countries adopted policies and measures in the areas of trade, integration and sustainable development, based on ECLAC recommendations.

Technical support to the Mesoamerica Project in the Inter-institutional Technical Group, regarding transport, which was recognized in the Cartagena Declaration during the summit of Heads of State and Government of the Mesoamerica Project.

Supported the preparation of the draft Tourism and Climate Change Strategy and the report for the COP16 of the UNFCCC, which was adopted by the Central American environment ministers.
Achievements of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Port of Spain (Caribbean)

- Supported implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the **Mauritius Strategy**
  - Seven countries reported significant progress in establishing monitoring mechanisms

- Agreements reached at the First Meeting of the Caribbean Development Round Table

- 26 sectoral studies in 14 countries of the region estimating the cost of climate change to 2015

- Assessment of the socioeconomic impact of natural disasters and proposals to mitigate this
Main achievements: national offices
Achievements of the national offices

The Colombia office worked on (i) poverty and living conditions; (ii) social protection and (iii) competitiveness. At the request of the Government, it also supported preparation of the Development Plan 2010-2014 and headed the exercise to value the socioeconomic and environmental effects of the rainy season.

The Brazil office contributed to several studies on progress in international negotiation processes and their impact on the Brazilian economy, in addition to a study on the effectiveness of Brazil’s public sector strategy to drive faster growth and trade flows between Brazil and the Southern Cone.

The Argentina office provided technical cooperation to the Ministries of Health, Labour, Employment and Social Security, Trade, Finance and Foreign Affairs and to the central bank, together with the subnational governments of Chaco, Buenos Aires, Jujuy and Santa Fe.
Programme structure of the ECLAC draft strategic framework, 2014-2015

- International trade and integration
- Production, productivity and management
- Economic development
- Financing for development

Economic development

- Social development
- Women and development
- Population - CELADE

Social development

- Sustainable development and human settlements
- Natural resources and infrastructure

Sustainable development

- Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
- Statistics and Economic Projections Division

Training and statistics

- ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico (Central America)
- ECLAC subregional headquarters in Port of Spain (Caribbean)
- National offices

Activities with a subregional focus
Proposed strategic priorities, 2014-2015

**Economic development**

- Improve macroeconomic stability and policies aimed at reducing vulnerability and mitigating the impact of the economic and financial crises.
- Boost the region’s access to financing for development, and improve the financial architecture at the international, regional and national levels.
- Increase the region’s productive potential and narrow the gaps, placing emphasis on innovation and technology.
- Improve the region’s positioning in the world economy through trade, regional integration and cooperation.

**Social development**

- Promote a social pact that will improve social equality, reduce social risks and strengthen gender mainstreaming in public policies.

**Sustainable development**

- Improve sustainable development policies and energy efficiency and address the impact of climate change, taking into consideration the outcomes of Rio+20 to facilitate its implementation.

**Training and statistics**

- Strengthen public administration to enhance the role of the State, in particular through progressive taxation policies.
- Improve institution-building in relation to the management of cross-border matters and the provision of global public goods at the regional level.
Progress towards the THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
San Salvador, August 2012

• **Theme:** *Importance of structural change for long-term growth and how this is tied to three key problems in the region’s development pattern: unstable growth, short-lived upswings, and persistent inequality.*

• A return to the source and validity of structuralist thinking at ECLAC and its ability to adapt to changing times.

• Underline the issues raised in “Time for equality”.