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2030 Agenda for Latin America, Caribbean at critical point

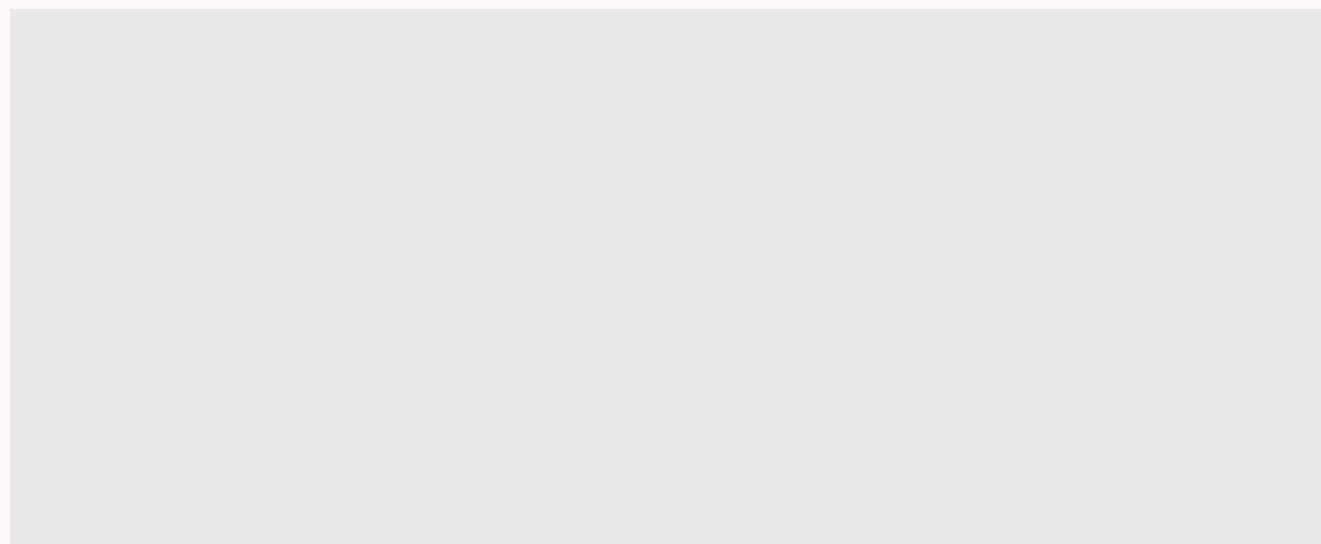
Alicia Bárcena 14 hrs ago 2 min to read



The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have undertaken a huge commitment to the 2030 Agenda with important advances in the implementation of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nevertheless, trends reveal that compliance with this global roadmap to 2030 is at a critical point in the region.

Nearly four years after its approval, 29 of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean now have institutional mechanisms for the coordination and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, grounded in legal instruments that define the scope and objectives of this work.

In contrast, the diversity in scope of some of the SDGs has put the integrity of the 2030 Agenda at risk. Thus, while some goals have been reached at the regional level, others would only be attainable with high levels of growth or strong distributive changes, and others appear unattainable under any circumstances.



Among noteworthy advances achieved in the region, we can highlight the reduction in the mortality rate for children under five to less than 25 per 1,000 live births; and there is a positive trend in the percentage of internet users.

However, it seems very difficult for the region to grant universal and equitable access to potable water at an affordable price for all. Meanwhile, the trend in access to secondary education is inadequate for all boys and girls to complete that level on time by 2030. Moreover, the positive trend shown in the region with regard to the prevalence of malnutrition has stalled.

Recent economic and distributive performance, meanwhile, is insufficient to eliminate

extreme poverty: in the past ten years, GDP in Latin America has grown by less than two per cent annually (1.7 per cent). And the Gini index—which measures income distribution—fell by 0.9 per cent annually over a period of ten years, although in the past three years, the rate of reduction was just 0.6 per cent annually.

For all these reasons, and given that the trends of many indicators show that the goals of various SDGs will not be reached, the policies for implementing the 2030 Agenda are more necessary today than ever. Likewise, assessing the impacts of these policies is crucial when it comes to determining whether they are reverting negative trends and reinforcing positive ones.

The 2030 Agenda requires a new multilateralism that will strengthen confidence in international cooperation and collective action for the provision of global and regional public goods; increase resilience in the face of financial, trade and technological shocks; universalise welfare states and protect the rights of minorities; bolster the diverse interests of the majority over those of organised groups or where capital and technology are concentrated; and shore up the capacities for deliberation, transparency and informed debate of all citizens.

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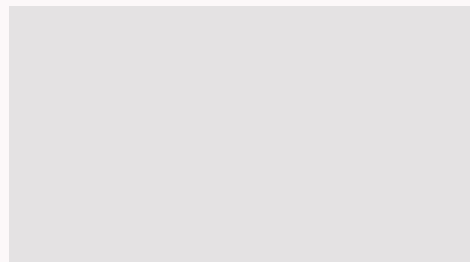
The high-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, taking place at United Nations headquarters in New York on July 9-18, invites member countries to present their progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and exchange experiences in the construction of more resilient societies.

This forum is the ideal stage for the countries of the region to reinforce their commitment to comply with the agenda of civilising transformation that the world has set for 2030 and an opportunity to take greater and better strides toward combating the stigma that has historically marked our identity: inequality.

—Alicia Bárcena is

executive secretary of ECLAC

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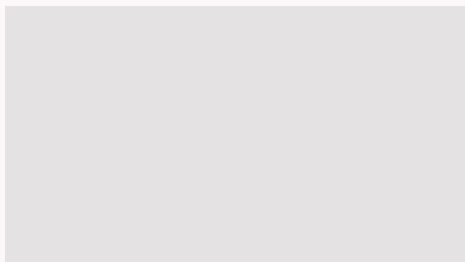
Back to the drawing board for Windies

The West Indies hardly dominated opponents consistently prior to the ICC's World Cup One Day International (ODI) tournament currently being played in England and Wales.

Prevent hotspot at Oropune Gardens

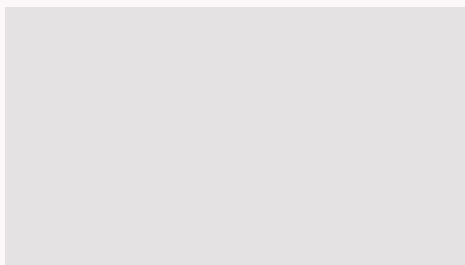
Like a socially awkward dinner guest who knocks down the glass of water, Colleen Holder and her committee have disrupted the myth of public housing management.

Oropune Garden



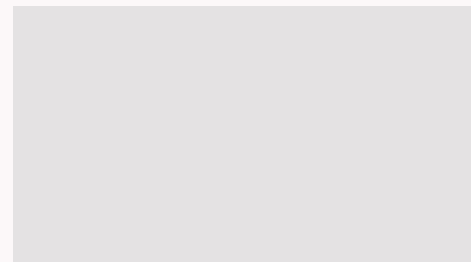
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Learning from losing Isaiah

As we mourn the loss of three young children, with two more fighting for their lives in the space of one week, the grief and confusion that consumes us as a nation also confronts us with our own shortcomings.



Slow progress on unity train

TWO years ago, in Grand Anse, this matter was said to be so urgent as to be past due for acceptance and implementation. Its framers said it was among the variety of major challenges awaiting full embrace. They said: "The greatest worry ought to focus on the risks and consequences of failure to act now, and decisively."

Remember to put the people first

It was heartening to listen to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government as he piloted the Local Government Reform Bill in Parliament recently. That bill, he stated, is intended to promote the sustainable development of local communities via the use of local small and medium-sized contractors.

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