Past and upcoming milestones related to the 2030 Agenda at global and regional levels

Meeting of the Community of Practice for Caribbean countries that present their Voluntary National Review

Virtual Meeting
12 October 2021
Content

GLOBAL
1. 76th session of the UN General Assembly
   • SDG Moment
   • General Debate
   • Food Systems Summit
   • High-level Dialogue on Energy
2. UN World Data Forum
3. UNCTAD 15

REGIONAL
1. Extraordinary meeting ECLAC of Committee on South-South Cooperation
2. Sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. VI Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC
The SDG Moment (20 September)

• From the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, 6 Heads of State participated via video messages: Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Guyana and Panama.

• Over the course of the event, the following topics were highlighted:
  • Equitable access to vaccines against COVID-19;
  • Climate change / COP 26;
  • Gender equality and women’s empowerment;
  • Participation of diverse actors, particularly young people taking the wheel;
  • Localization of the 2030 Agenda;
  • Access to digital technologies; and
  • Multilateralism and enhanced cooperation.

• Mark the Decade of Action via the transformative change urgently required to make the SDGs a reality.
The General Debate (21-27 September, New York)

- **Hybrid format** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA
- **100 Heads of State, 52 Heads of Government, 3 Vice Presidents, and 34 Ministers** (of them, only **18 women**)!
- **Key issues**: equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine; climate change / COP26; peace and security; greater collaboration, solidarity and strengthened multilateralism.
- "**Our Common Agenda**" of the UNSG offers **90 recommendations** to reinforce multilateralism and close the gaps related to the pandemic, climate, peace, poverty, gender, digital access, asking young people to take a seat at the table.
The voices of Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Debate

The prolonged impacts of the pandemic

• **COVID-19** has uncovered the **shortcomings of the international system** and reversed the achievements of the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development.

• There was a strong call for **equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine** and for **transnational companies** lifting their **vaccine patents**.

• According to ILO forecasts, **205 million people** in the world will be **unemployed** in **2022**. It is necessary to establish **universal, progressive and redistributive social protection schemes**, including **quality medical care**.

• **Closing the technology gap** and **equitable internet access** are urgently needed.
The voices of Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Debate

The fight against climate change and for financing for development

• Leaders of small island developing states (SIDS) took center stage, stating that their nations face an existential threat if rich countries fail to deliver on their promises to reduce global warming.

• Greater resources and political will are needed to tackle the climate crisis.

• Official Development Assistance (ODA) should be considered as reparation for past environmental damage.

• Developed countries must fulfill their commitment to contribute USD 100 billion annually to support developing countries.

• The demand to address the reclassification status of countries by the OECD and the creation of a multidimensional vulnerability index by 2022.
The voices of Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Debate

The crisis of multilateralism

• **Disappointment** at the **insufficient response of the multilateral system** to ensure **equitable access to vaccines** against COVID-19.

• All the tools are available to **build back better** after the pandemic, from having an **interconnected planet** to being able to use a wide variety of **technological innovations**, but what is lacking is **political will**.

• The crisis cannot be overcome by **isolated unilateral action**, but by **renewed cooperation** and **global solidarity**.

• The need for **urgent, global, moral, and strategic leadership**.
The Food Systems Summit (23 September)

- The “People's Summit” was the culmination of an **18-month process** to review and transform the entire spectrum of food, including its production, shipment, consumption and disposal, involving more than **100,000 stakeholders**, including farmers, indigenous peoples and consumers. **National Dialogues** were held in **148 countries**.
- **USA** announced **$ 1 billion USD to end hunger and invest in food systems** around the world.
- The final document identified **5 areas for action**: 1) **Nurture all people**; 2) **Promote nature-based solutions**; 3) **Promote equitable livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities**; 4) **Foster resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses**; and 5) **Acceleration of the means of implementation**.
High-level Dialogue on Energy (24 September)

• It was the **first General Assembly Summit on Energy** in 40 years.

• The event generated **140 “Energy Compacts”** and **voluntary action commitments**, the majority of which were announced by the private sector and other stakeholders and amounted to **$400 billion USD**.

• The **UNSG** will present a **global roadmap** with recommended actions and milestones to accelerate the achievement of **SDG 7** on affordable and clean energy.

• In a side event of the five UN Regional Commissions, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted that "The impacts of climate change require actions not only at the national, but also at the **regional and global level.**"
UN World Data Forum (3-6 October, Switzerland)

• The Forum concluded with the announcement of the Bern Data Compact for the SDG Decade of Action, a clear call for action and commitment to invest in data capacities and partnerships to leave no one behind, invest and build trust in data to achieve the 2030 Agenda and measure the SDGs.
  • Leaving no one behind: greater collaboration and coordination; increased capacity of national statistical offices; inclusion and access for people with disabilities.
  • Investing in data: capacity building; financial support to improve data security; accountability.
  • Building trust in data: good data governance; better dialogue to avoid misuse of information.
Call for reducing global asymmetries by Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados

Policy is crucial to ensure that new technologies and data drive economic recovery, reduce inequality, and foster sustainable development.

Science has enabled the development of COVID-19 vaccines at an unprecedented rate, but there remains a giant inequality in vaccine access. The pandemic has accelerated digitization, which requires rethinking education, training, human capital, and digital skills.

Regional cooperation offers the possibility of building back better. Regional trade agreements can create opportunities for local businesses.

Innovative and flexible financing is required for developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, and increased investments in technological infrastructure, such as high-speed broadband connectivity and stronger digital capabilities in vulnerable economies.

Greater national policy efforts are required in developing countries to build research, technology and innovation capacity and reduce cybercrime.

More international collaboration is required to close digital divides, address ethical issues and develop regulatory frameworks to guide fair, green and responsible development.

The issue of gender equality and women’s empowerment played a key role in this event.
Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of ECLAC (19-20 August)

- Despite the economic growth expected for 2021 and 2022, there is a recovery paradox, because it will not be able to alleviate poverty, inequality, unemployment and informality in the region.

- The COVID-19 crisis has revealed enormous asymmetries in terms of access to vaccines, concentration of wealth, the fight against climate change and financing for development. Within the region, there are countries where 69% of the population has their complete vaccination, other countries do not reach 1%.

- Most of the Latin American and Caribbean countries are middle-income countries (MIC), requiring equitable access to external financing, regardless of income level. Within this framework, ECLAC promotes a multidimensional measurement of development.

- The draft document “Development in transition. Concept and measurement proposal for renewed cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean” was presented by ECLAC, together with the European Commission and the Development Center of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which contains valuable inputs to continue reaching a consensus with a single voice of the region in multilateral spaces.
VI Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC
(18 September, Mexico)

• The UNSG stressed that the leaders of the region demonstrated their commitment to the renewal of CELAC as a space for strengthening regional cooperation.

• CELAC countries approved guidelines and proposals for the health self-sufficiency plan, a programmatic route presented by ECLAC to strengthen the production and distribution of medicines, especially vaccines, in the countries of the region and reduce external dependence. ECLAC was mandated to advance its implementation.

• To develop this initiative, ECLAC carried out an exhaustive follow-up of the progress and problems for equal access to vaccination, constituted a working group made up of more than 20 experts from different countries in the region, carried out an inventory and diagnosis of capacities of regional governments in the field of health, formulated recommendations for strategies and seven lines of action for the short, medium and long term, and identified strategic actors and institutions.
The motivation for the plan: unequal access to vaccines

The region will not be able to vaccinate 80% of its population in 2021

Acquisitions in some countries exceed their vaccination needs. European Union, United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Japan account for 39% of purchase commitments, with only 13% of the world population.

Note: Record for countries that report the breakdown of administered doses (first and second), as of 15 September 2021 or latest available date. Purchase commitment data as of 31 August 2021.
# Plan for self-sufficiency in health matters

## Short term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/Objectives</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed up vaccination processes</td>
<td>Improve access to vaccines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Medium and long terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>:Objectives</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen/generate technological and productive capacities</td>
<td>Ensure a large, stable market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Lines of Action

1. Regulatory convergence and recognition mechanisms
2. Regional clinical trials platform
3. Regional vaccine procurement mechanisms
4. Consortiums for the development and production of vaccines
5. Regulatory flexibilities for access to intellectual property
6. Public procurement mechanisms for regional market development

## Inventory of Capabilities

- Ongoing vaccine development and research in the region
- Capacities for vaccines production
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Chambers and associations
- Regulatory systems
- IPR flexibilities
- Primary sponsors of clinical trails
- Primary health-care systems
61st meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (29-30 September)

- The theme of the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in 2022 in Argentina, was agreed: "The care society: horizon for a sustainable recovery with gender equality."

- Among the agreed commitments are recovery plans with affirmative actions that promote comprehensive systems of care, decent work and the participation of women in strategic sectors of the economy.

- Response policies to the pandemic must incorporate a gender perspective and include the participation of all women and girls in their design and implementation, considering intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination.

- The urgency of an effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda was reaffirmed.
Upcoming 2030 Agenda milestones

**Global level**

- 15th meeting of the UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP 15) (11-24 October, China)
- The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference (14-16 October 2021, China)
- G-20 Summit (30-31 October, Italy)
- 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (1-12 November, Scotland)
- 12th Ministerial Conference of WTO (30 November-3 December, Geneva)
- Sustainable Energy for All Forum (11 January 2022, Rwanda)
- 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 15) (9-21 May, Côte d’Ivoire)
- UN Ocean Conference (27 June-1 July 2022, Portugal)

**Regional level**

- 18th meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES of ECLAC (19-21 October 2021)
- 4th meeting of Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC (26-28 October 2021, Antigua and Barbuda)
- Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas and the Caribbean (PR21) (1-4 November)
- 20th Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of ECLAC (CDCC) (5 November)/ Seminar on NCDs (4 November)
- 11th meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (23-25 November)
- XX General Assembly of the Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) (22-23 November, Colombia)
- 36th session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC (30 November)
- 3rd session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies (13-15 December)

... and the 10th session of the HLPF (5-15 July 2022, New York)

... and 5th meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (8-10 March 2022, Costa Rica)
Thank you