

DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSITION

Dialogues to chart new paths for
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



EXPERTS MEETING EU FACILITY JOINT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

2-20 JULY 2021

AGENDA

The COVID-19 crisis has hit Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) harder than any other emerging region in the world. In economic terms, the region has suffered a 7.7% drop in GDP, and in human terms, over a million lives have been lost. With around 60% of informal workers and 40% of all workers in the region surviving without any form social safety net before the pandemic hit, the most vulnerable members of society are bearing the brunt of the crisis today.

Furthermore, a series of pre-existing development traps, outlined in **the Latin American Economic Outlook 2019**, have accentuated the toll of the crisis in the region. As LAC countries chart the path to recovery, development models need to evolve to break the vicious cycles that held the region back even before the crisis struck. We have also seen that national responses alone are not enough to overcome a crisis of global scale; new international partnerships and international co-operation on an equal footing are essential to ensuring a long-term recovery for the region.

At this critical juncture for Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU Regional Facility on Development in Transition is engaged in a series of efforts under the Program “Fostering sustainable development models in LAC countries: A multidimensional approach to the post-COVID-19 world”. Partners including the OECD and its Development Centre, ECLAC and the European Commission (INTPA) have joined forces with key regional institutions to contribute, through analysis and debate, to shaping new development models for a sustainable and inclusive recovery in LAC.

The “Development in Transition Days” will be a first milestone in this effort. A series of discussions will help assess the policy priorities for LAC in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, especially in the fields of regional integration and global value chains; social protection systems; gender; primary healthcare, and regional and international partnerships. Latin American and European economic and political leaders will take part of the discussion for paving the way of the recovery. There will also be a focus on the specific cases of key countries in the region: Brazil, Panama, and Paraguay.

Through these discussions, the EU Facility on Development in Transition aims to take stock of the valuable assessments, experiences and ideas that can help regional and European actors to jointly determine the post-COVID strategic priorities and line of action for a sustainable and inclusive recovery, beyond just the recovery phase. An endeavour that will also contribute to strengthening the longstanding partnership between both LAC and Europe towards the common goal of improving people’s well-being.



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Fostering sustainable development models in LAC countries

Time Schedule

Tuesday, 6
July:

16h00-17h30
(Paris)

10h-11h30
(Santiago)

Webinar: Regional integration is key for economic recovery

Many developing countries benefitted from rapid international trade and global value chain expansion from the nineties until the first decade of the present century. These countries increased their share and number of exports in world trade through the access to new technologies. However, Latin America and the Caribbean has mostly lagged behind and has missed these opportunities. The pandemic has had a negative impact in both the volume and diversification of its export basket, which leaves the region more vulnerable to external shocks and the volatility of international prices.

The deterioration of intraregional trade is especially worrisome considering its negative impact on the development of the productive and export capacity of the region given that this trade is based mostly on manufactured goods and a high participation of small and medium-sized enterprises. This panel will analyze the production networks within the different integration schemes and potential dynamic sectors. It will also explore strategic relations outside the region, especially the European Union. This discussion will provide elements for a new type of cooperation within and outside the region which would help the region reduce the structural gaps with other countries of similar income levels and more developed countries.

LAC needs to break from the traditional trade and production patterns in order to escape the middle-income trap through an innovative type of international cooperation and take a more robust, resilient, and sustainable development path.

This panel will address the following questions:

- **What is the state of intraregional trade within your integration scheme? What weaknesses has the pandemic exposed?**
- **What opportunities has the pandemic brought about and how do you see that regional value chains can be strengthened to promote a more resilient and sustainable development?**
- **What opportunities do you see to strengthen global value chains with other regions and transform them from the traditional supply of primary products to more productive backward linkages?**

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Setting the Scene (10 min): Regional productive integration and recovery prospects
(Presentation)



Moderator:

Mario Castillo, Director of Integrational Trade, and
Integration Division (ECLAC)

Panelists (7 min each):



Rodolfo Ostolaza, Head of Trade Statistics Unit
(OECD)



Annalisa Primi, Head of Economic
Transformation and Development Division, OECD
Development Centre.

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José Manuel Rueda Cantuche, Chief Scientific Officer. Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.



Mónica Martínez. Adjunct Secretary General of Lesser Developed Countries, (LAIA)



Diego Caicedo, Director General 2 (Andean Community)

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Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretary General (Association of Caribbean States)



Adela Maestre, Director of Regional Coordination and Integration Mechanisms (Pacific Alliance)



Luiz Gonzaga Coelho, Director of the Administrative Secretariat (MERCOSUR)



Melvin Redondo, Secretary General (SIECA)

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Meeting information

Topic: Webinar: Regional integration is key for economic recovery

Date: 06 Julio 2021 / 10:00 horas CLT

Meeting Number: 965 1012 2152

Meeting Password: 443410

[Register Here](#)

Contact person at ECLAC:

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