



# ECLAC: VALUED ASSET OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SEVENTY YEARS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC





## SEVENTY YEARS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY

- The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was founded in 1948. It is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations and the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations Secretariat in Latin America and the Caribbean, acting as a bridge between the global and national levels in the development field. Its main headquarters are in Santiago and it has two subregional headquarters: one for Central America, located in Mexico City, and one for the English-speaking Caribbean, in Port of Spain. The Commission has 46 member States and 13 associate members.
- Over the course of its 70-year history, ECLAC has supported the development of the countries of the region and has reflected on the opportunities and limitations of each momentous period. It has carried out analysis and proposed strategies, policies and instruments during the rise and decline of import substitution industrialization, during paradigm shifts in the economic and social development model triggered by the globalization of production and finance, and during the present decade of uncertainty about the future of globalization, increasing inequality and the global environmental crisis.
- Throughout its history ECLAC has raised and examined new concepts, which the region subsequently endorsed: economic integration, the multiplicity of development models, the integrated vision of the economic, social and environmental dimensions, closing technological gaps, the diversification of production structures and gender equality.

## AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL IDEAS AND ACTION PLATFORM

- ECLAC combines applied knowledge and action. It has developed an analytical framework to support national and regional strategies and policies to promote a model of sustainable development with equality.<sup>1</sup> Since its creation, ECLAC has been generating ideas and thinking to forge a regional approach to economic, social and environmental development with equality. Its proposals as a think tank, which originally formed the basis for industrialization policies and tools for their implementation and evaluation, has been updated regularly and covers the latest major issues: economic growth and employment, governance in the face of the globalization of trade and finance, the technological revolution, rising inequality and the environmental crisis.
- As the unified voice of its member countries in global and regional forums, ECLAC has drawn attention to the specific circumstances of middle-income economies, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Caribbean, particularly Haiti. That voice has been heard clearly on crucial issues for the region, such as the external debt crisis of the 1980s, international financial governance, financing for development in middle-income countries, external debt relief for Caribbean countries, combating illicit financial flows and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Commission works in concert with its member countries, so it has the power to bring together government officials, business leaders, academics and civil society representatives. It engages in ongoing dialogue with heads of State and Government and ministers to analyse and put forward comprehensive and multidisciplinary lines of action.



<sup>1</sup> The mandate of ECLAC is set out in its resolution 553(XXVI): "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".



ECLAC

# 70 YEARS OF ECLAC

## VALUED ASSET OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES**

1945	1948	1951	1957	1962	1966	1972	1976	1984	2015	2017	2018	
The United Nations is founded at the San Francisco Conference	The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) is established on 25 February, with its headquarters in Santiago	The ECLA subregional headquarters in Mexico are set up	The Latin America and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CLEADE) is established, becoming the Population Division of ECLAC in 1997	The Latin America and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) is created	The ECLA subregional headquarters for the Caribbean are set up in Port of Spain	The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment lays the foundation for future United Nations conferences on the environment and sustainable development	The CEPAL Review is launched. Its first Director is Raúl Prebisch	ECLA is renamed the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	The General Assembly adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	First meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development	Events held to mark 40 years of the Regional Gender Agenda	ECLAC commemorates 70 years of contributing to the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean
	Gustavo Martínez Cabañas	Raúl Prebisch		José Antonio Mayobre	Carlos Quintana	Enrique V. Iglesias		Norberto González	Gert Rosenthal	José Antonio Ocampo	José Luis Machinea	Alicia Bárcena
	1948	1950		1963	1967	1972		1985	1988	1998	2003	2008

### Centre-periphery approach

1950s

Bring about development in Latin America by promoting State-led industrialization policies to narrow the gaps between developed economies and developing economies

### Structural reforms for regional development

1960s

Undertake agrarian reforms and implement income redistribution policies that reduce structural heterogeneity and dependency to boost development

### Development patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean

1970s

Establish development patterns with environmentally- and socially-sustainable means of production, consumption and distribution, and promote regional exports of manufactures

### The debt crisis: Latin America's "lost decade"

1980s

Renegotiate external debt and make macroeconomic adjustments to return to economic growth, and implement policies to mitigate the social costs of the debt crisis

### Equitable changes to production patterns

1990s

Combine strategies for economic growth, distributive equity and competitive integration with the international economy by incorporating technological progress into the production structure

### Globalization, development and citizenship

2000s

Balance globalization's asymmetries to bring about development based on changing production patterns, distributive equity, and social protection and cohesion

### The 2030 Agenda and equality at the centre of sustainable development

2010s

Promote sustainable development through progressive structural change, an environmental big push and compacts for equality based on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals



## CUTTING-EDGE THINKING ON DEVELOPMENT: FROM THE SOUTH TO THE WORLD

- ECLAC thinking is structured around issues such as the relationship between central and peripheral countries in the world economy, a reassessment of productive specialization based on static comparative advantage, the persistence of restrictions imposed by the external sector, structural change that incorporates technology, and regional and international integration in the areas of production, trade, technology, finance and infrastructure.
- The Commission's analytical work has focused on examining long-term trends affecting the region's development — arising from the specific characteristics of its production structures— and on the international economic relationships between developed and developing countries. Of the ideas put forward, the most notable are providing more and better public goods, strengthening public institutions and civil society, and redefining the State-market-society equation.
- Its method of analysis, which underlines structural factors and historical trends, has proven to be consistent in its key findings and flexible enough to address new realities.



## TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

- ECLAC provides technical cooperation at the regional, subregional and national levels to strengthen the capacities of governments and other economic and social actors.
- It promotes an environmental big push (i.e. the coordination of environmentally sustainable investments), as a strategy for moving towards a new development paradigm. To that end, the Commission supports capacity-building to diversify the productive structure by incorporating new technologies that reduce carbon emissions linked to production and consumption activities and energy generation.
- It also supports the implementation of policies to ensure high-quality education, achieve gender equality by strengthening women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, redistribute unpaid and care work, make social protection universal and create jobs with rights.
- The subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, in coordination with the rest of the United Nations system and other regional and subregional forums, play a crucial role in monitoring global and regional agreements. Under the mandates received from its member countries, the Commission serves as the technical secretariat for various intergovernmental initiatives, such as committees, strategies, action plans and conferences.
- By adopting an approach of open regionalism, ECLAC promotes regional integration and the creation and strengthening of institutional frameworks, convergence between integration blocs, the strengthening of multilateralism, cooperation between central banks and the development of a regional digital market.
- The Commission is a source and repository of economic, social and environmental data and statistics that are comparable among its membership. It supports strengthening regional and national data ecosystems, in particular the adoption of digital technology and open data, the incorporation of non-traditional sources into statistical work, and the use of geographical and geo-referenced information. It is also home to observatories that provide data and analysis, collect good practices and identify effective policy instruments.

### Subsidiary bodies of ECLAC

Regional Council for Planning

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies

Committee on South-South Cooperation

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

## A CATALYST FOR INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION

- ECLAC supports South-South and triangular cooperation. It has developed methodological tools and networks for assessing damage and losses caused by natural disasters, processing and analysing census and demographic data (REDATAM), and measuring the cost of hunger and undernutrition. It also produces documents for interregional summits of Heads of State and Government and Ministers, such as the CELAC-European Union and China-CELAC summits, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum and Ibero-American conferences.
- Every year, ECLAC convenes and chairs the meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean, established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to promote inter-agency work. It thus ensures a collaborative approach to the regional follow-up to the United Nations global development agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the future global compact on migration. It also supports resident coordinators and country teams by providing technical advice on matters such as macroeconomics for development, social policies, technological development and the environment.



## IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- The Commission's member States established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2016, as a regional mechanism to follow up and review annually the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Bringing together governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, development banks, United Nations agencies and regional integration blocs, this Forum provides opportunities for peer learning and — thanks to the close cooperation between ECLAC and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs — is a key contributor to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.



Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
Santiago 18-20 April **2018**

- In particular, ECLAC provides technical assistance and cooperation to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, and incorporating them into national development plans and budgets. It is also involved in designing the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, providing a regional and subregional analytical framework on matters such as financing for development, trade, science, technology, innovation, and partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society.



# REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development



<sup>a</sup> Due to space considerations some names have been abbreviated. For a full list of subsidiary bodies of ECLAC visit <http://www.cepal.org/en/organos-subsidiarios>.

<sup>b</sup> UNEP/ROLAC acts as secretariat to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Forum has also an Interagency Technical Committee composed of UNEP, UNDP, ECLAC, IDB and the World Bank.

<sup>c</sup> This is a non-exhaustive list. For a complete list of specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations visit <http://www.unsceb.org/content/unssystemchart-dpi-2015>.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development", resolution adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, 27 May 2016.



ECLAC

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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)  
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