



## **Connecting the Productivity Challenge with Productive Development Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Raúl Prebisch Hall, ECLAC, Santiago de Chile**

How can Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) overcome the challenge of low productivity levels and productivity growth, in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs?

Productivity is a crucial element for the development of people and societies worldwide. Studies have shown that monetary income is one of the main determinants of well-being, with labor productivity being its primary determinant. In LAC poor productivity has led to the last decade (2014-2023) to be worse in terms of economic growth than the infamous 'lost decade' of the 1980s.

Against this backdrop, UNU-WIDER and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) partner for a discussion on the potential of productive development policies (PDP's) to address this challenge.

ECLAC has been promoting the escalation and better implementation of productive development policies (PDPs) as part of the policy toolkit to increase the region's productivity. However, many challenges and questions remain with regards to 'what to do' and 'how to do it'. UNU-WIDER's research and policy analysis provides valuable insights to support the work of ECLAC and can assist in answering such questions.

The event will begin with a presentation by UNU-WIDER Director, Kunal Sen, presenting research and policy analysis on productivity and varieties of structural change, with a focus on the LAC region, drawing from [a recent publication](#) and the UNU-WIDER's report, *[Towards peace, decent work, and greater equality](#)*. It will continue with a presentation by ECLAC's Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, on LAC's productivity challenge and on the need to scale-up productive development policies in the region to address this challenge.

In the panel discussion experts from international organizations, academia, and policy networks will exchange diagnostics on the region's main productivity problems and will discuss ideas on how to progress towards productive development in the region across two panel discussions.



## Programme

09:00-09.10	<b>Welcome address</b>  <b>Kunal Sen</b>   Director UNU-WIDER <b>José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs</b>   Executive Secretary, UN-ECLAC
09:10-09:30	<b>Productivity and Varieties of Structural Change in LAC</b>  <b>Kunal Sen</b>   Director, UNU-WIDER
09:30-09:50	<b>The Need to Escalate Productive Development Policies in LAC</b>  <b>José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs</b>   Executive Secretary, UN-ECLAC
09:50-11:10	<b>Panel 1: The Productivity Challenge of LAC</b>  Chair: <b>Kunal Sen</b>   Director, UNU-WIDER  <b>William Maloney</b>   Chief Economist, Latin America and Caribbean, The World Bank <b>Daniel Samaan</b>   Senior Economist, Research Department, International Labour Organization <b>Javiera Petersen</b>   Under-secretary of Economy and MSMEs of Chile <b>Andrés Solimano</b>   President, CIGLOB
11:10-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:50	<b>Panel 2: Productive Development Policies to address LAC's productivity challenge</b>  Chair: <b>Marco Llinás</b> , Director, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, UN-ECLAC  <b>Juan Carlos Hallak</b>   Professor, University of Buenos Aires <b>Tommaso Ciarli</b>   Researcher, UNU-MERIT <b>Chiara Criscuolo</b>   Head of the Productivity Innovation and Entrepreneurship (PIE) Division, OECD <b>Felipe Correa</b>   Researcher, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, UN-ECLAC
12:50-13:10	Questions and discussion with audience
3:10-13:15	Final remarks