ECLAC: Report on the Latin American and Caribbean regional process to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6

Regional inputs for the mid-term review of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028" and the United Nations Water Conference 2023

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Water and Energy Unit

Division of Natural Resources

Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean

CONTENT

1. Introduction

Regional Context

Latin America and the Caribbean countries (LAC) have a water supply per inhabitant that is four times higher than the world average. Still, its reserves and flows are unevenly distributed, and its access is not yet universal. There are a growing number of situations of high hydric stress that correspond mainly to the most populated areas, which concentrate at the same time an essential economic activity, and in the most arid or desert territories (AQUASTAT, 2016), seeing a decrease in the amount of water per inhabitant per year from 28,000 cubic meters to less than 500 cubic meters in these cases (Applied (IIASA) and the World Data Lab (2019)). At the same time, there are significant increases in pollution of all water bodies and coastline, which causes the loss and degradation of water-related ecosystems. Likewise, in the last four decades in LAC, water-related disasters have doubled (EMDAT/CRED). An apparent decrease in the area covered by permanent snow and glaciers in the region has also been observed between 2000 and 2018, a period in which several of these have completely disappeared (WGMS, 2018). Additionally, there is a trend in the region to coupling and low efficiency in water use, which demonstrates the existence of high pressure on water resources in the region.

In this context of scarcity, competition for the use of water and its overexploitation is increasing, which consequently generates conflicts over the use of the resource in an increasing way, estimating that conflicts of this type initiated between 2000-2019 quadruple those initiated between 1980-1999 (ICTA, 2021).

On the other hand, significant coverage gaps persist in the region regarding access to quality drinking water and sanitation. In this regard, 1 in 4 people do not have access to safely managed drinking water (161 million people) and even more worrying is that 7 out of 10 do not have access to safely managed sanitation (431 million people). Quintile 1 (most vulnerable in terms of income) has 25% less access to these services and at the same time pays for water, proportionally up to 2 times more than the wealthiest quintile.

Finally, the analysis of the available data regarding SDG6 shows progress that is too slow in the region and even a trend away from achieving the expected results. According to estimates by UN-Water, in the region we should increase current investment efforts by 14 times to accelerate implementation and achieve the goals of SDG 6 by 2030.

ECLAC proposal for a Sustainable and Inclusive Water Management Transition in LAC

In this context, to change this situation and its inertia throughout the value chain of water for human use, ecosystems and economic activities, ECLAC proposes to the member states of the region a sustainable and inclusive water transition based on four pillars of action:

1. **Guarantee the human right to safely managed drinking water and sanitation by promoting investment in the sector, leaving no one behind.** To achieve SDG 6 and close the coverage gap in LAC by 2030, a significant investment boost is needed in these services. Financing is required to achieve this, given that countries face multiple needs and the economic crisis of the pandemic has diminished both public budgets and private investments. It is crucial to undertake this investment to universalize access to safely managed water and sanitation because it generates important additional benefits, such as the creation of direct and indirect green jobs and, of course, the improvement of public and environmental health. The universalization of access also reduces pollution and methane emissions from wastewater (in line with the commitment recently made by the countries at COP 26). Therefore, it is essential to view water as a common good requiring both public and private financing efforts.
2. **Promote regulatory and normative changes to enhace equitable and affordable access and thus eradicate water poverty:** In addition, to guarantee the human right to drinking water and sanitation, it is necessary to ensure greater equity in the affordability of the service,

transforming regressive tariffs into progressive social taxes and subsidies for the most vulnerable segments. At the same time, it is necessary to work on incentives that ensure responsible consumption of water, particularly in the most affluent parts, and its efficient use in economic activities.

3. **Reverse the growing negative externalities associated with pollution, overexploitation and socio-environmental conflicts:** derived in part from insufficient regulation and control. Reduce the overexploitation of water resources and the ever-increasing conflicts over use through greater control and the introduction of instruments such as fines and charges for pollution and regulations (including subsidies) that promote more sustainable use of water, improvement in productivity and increasing resilience to climate change.
4. **Move from linear management to circular management to reduce pressure on water resources, establishing a trend towards decoupling between water extraction and GDP,** in harmony with the natural hydrological cycle of water and with an approach where the integrity of our ecosystems and their environmental services are restored and ensured for current and future generations.

Together with this water transition proposal from ECLAC and also considering the global acceleration framework of SDG 6 promoted by UN-Water, five pillars of action are defined to promote progress towards achievement of SDG 6 in the region:

1. **Financing:** An investment of 1.3% of the regional GDP annually until 2030 would make it possible to universalize access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation, which could generate up to 3.4 million green jobs a year.
2. **Data and information:** timely, reliable and standardized information on the water is required. Similarly, it is necessary to generate disaggregated data to deepen the analysis. Finally, there is a need to share information transparently within and between water-related sectors, as well as across borders.
3. **Capacity development:** better-qualified individuals and institutions improve service and management levels while fostering the creation and retention of jobs in the water sector.
4. **Innovation**: it is crucial to seek efficiency in the water use and realize the decoupling between extraction and GDP by promoting practices and technologies that improve water management.
5. **Governance:** institutions must be strengthened at technical, authority and political hierarchy levels; while intra- and intersectoral coordination mechanisms are established.

2. Regional process to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6

Considering the context described in the previous section and the framework of the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, and with the aim of contributing to the acceleration of the achievement of SDG 6 in LAC, as well as achieving the proposed sustainable and inclusive water transition necessary for this purpose, during the current year 2022, ECLAC has led the development of the following initiatives:

a) Annual Water Dialogues 2022

On April 28, ECLAC organized the "Annual Water Dialogues 2022" (https://www.cepal.org/en/events/april-28-eclac-organized-2022-regional-water-dialogue-towards-inclusive-and-sustainable-water). This event constituted a space for exchange for the collection of inputs for the regional report of the mid-term review of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". In addition, it served to identify the main courses of action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 based on a sustainable and inclusive water transition. 2,868 people from 41 countries registered for the event.

The event began with a speech by Jeannette Sánchez, Director of the Natural Resources Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), who presented the main challenges of water management in LAC and her regional proposal for a sustainable and inclusive water transition. Next, the experiences in terms of water resources and the initiatives and efforts being carried out to comply with SDG 6 in six countries of the region were shown: the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia and Panama. Following this, Silvia Saravia Matus, Economic Affairs Officer of the Water and Energy Unit at ECLAC, presented the opportunities for accelerating SDG 6 in LAC and thus highlighting the urgency of advancing initiatives for the achievement of the Agenda 2030. Finally, 15 experts in water resources from the region participated, who responded to concerns on the matter.

National experiences. Main messages of the intervention of the LAC countries

Intervention of the Dominican Republic. Main messages

Miguel Ceara Hatton, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic

Gilberto Reynoso, Executive Director of the Water Cabinet

In the Dominican Republic, multiple indicators demonstrate the vulnerability of the water bodies that the country faces: drought, salinization, contamination, and lack of access, mainly to sanitation, among others. It is recognized that the solution to the aforementioned problems depends as much on the existence of financial and technical resources as on the creation of coordination mechanisms. In this regard, and to unite all the actors related to water management and improve inter- and intra-sectoral coordination, the Water Cabinet was formed in the country, a body that, due to its high level, converts the national water policy into a State policy, generating a new governance structure for decision-making. The high level of the Water Cabinet is reflected in weekly meetings led by the President of the Republic, where water resource problems are evaluated and discussed. The Water Cabinet has recognized that, in the country, a public investment program of more than 8,500 million dollars accumulated until the year 2030 is required, which is equivalent to 7% of the GDP in 2022. The triple dimension of water as a human right, economic resource and natural resource is recognized through this cabinet.

Intervention of Mexico

Victor Bourguett Ortiz, General Director of the Basin Organization "Aguas del Valle", of Mexico

In Mexico, there are many challenges related to access to drinking water and sanitation. Proof of this is that only 64% of the population has access to safely managed drinking water and less than 52% of the water is treated. There are also basins in deficit and overexploitation of aquifers.

In this context, the country included the human right to water and sanitation in its Constitution. In addition to this, a national water program aligned with the achievement of SDG 6 was created, as well as a technical committee specialized in Sustainable Development. Mexico has also adopted numerous commitments, being a member, for example, of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program or developing Voluntary National Reports. Especially noteworthy are the actions that the country has carried out for the reuse of treated water for irrigation and the "Rain Harvest Program" for families with water scarcity in low-income neighbourhoods.

Intervention of Costa Rica

Roberto Jiménez, General Regulator of the Regulatory Authority for Public Services (ARESEP) of Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, a combination of social, academic and political concerns prevails, reinforcing the idea of water as a fundamental right. Thus, the country recognizes access to drinking water as a constitutional right.

The Regulatory Policy developed by ARESEP is especially noteworthy. This policy generates instruments to ensure economic accessibility to water resources through a tariff system designed to consider a progressive payment regime, ensuring access to drinking water for consumers with fewer economic resources through subsidies. Subsidies are generally self-financed and in very few cases are public. The regulation also seeks a balance of costs, technical criteria for the eligibility of people who will access the benefits of the subsidy. A maximum subsidized consumption was also defined. The application of a social tariff based on the regulatory principles of solidarity and gender equity also provides economic signals that promote the rational use of the service and the resource.

Finally, in Costa Rica, the importance of replicating the best international practices in water matters is recognized, carrying out an integrating approach to the local level, where working with community organizations is especially important.

Intervention of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Marissa Castro Magnani, General Director of Limits, Frontiers and Transboundary International Waters of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

In Bolivia, water management has been defined through a network of alliances and comprehensive work of ministries, governorates and local governments, among others, with facilitation, strengthening and comprehensive management managers of different basins.

Transboundary basins are especially relevant in the country, not only because of their importance in terms of resources, but also because of their recognition as an area of great water vulnerability and the challenges posed by their use (such as the need for integration and work in a shared environment). Historically, cooperation has been promoted in transboundary basins, but as the availability of water resources decreases, conflicts over their use increase. Transboundary water governance must improve the link between public interventions and management from the national level, also reaching local scales. To address this, a focus has been placed on the creation of alliances and integration work that improve local, national and regional management, recognizing the need to strengthen institutional capacity. Currently, there are already several organizations to improve the management of transboundary basins in the country, the main challenge being the strengthening of management at the local level.

Intervention of Colombia

Alejandro Becker Rojas, Advisor to the Vice Minister of Water and Basic Sanitation of Colombia

In Colombia, the need to close the gaps related to SDG 6 has been recognized. There are considerable differences in water coverage and it is estimated that it is necessary to redouble efforts to overcome them. Despite the outstanding achievements, it is necessary to close a gap with the rural populations in relation to the coverage of drinking water and basic sanitation, this is very demanding in monetary, technical, innovation and research resources.

The country has worked on four actions so that "no one is left behind" in meeting the goals of SDG6: 1) Massify sectoral information systems to make decisions on time; 2) Strengthen gap-closing programs to reach the most complicated areas of the country, reaching not only with infrastructure, but also with cultural persuasion strategies in places where the codes related to water are informal; 3) Allocate more subsidies to those who need them most, improving their targeting; 4) Implement new technologies for particular contexts.

The will to comply with the exposed actions is demonstrated by the increase in monetary and fiscal resources and the training of suitable technical personnel. The keys to ensure the investment record in the area are: 1) ensure resources within the Nation's budgets, 2) diversify the sources of financing, 3) promote public-private partnerships, 4) provide technical assistance in the plans of investment of the operators and 5) to strengthen capacities.

Intervention of Panama

Guillermo Torres Díaz, Technical Secretary of the National Water Council of Panama

The Panama Canal Authority has implemented programs with economic incentives for environmental protection in the canal's watershed. Together with the intervention of the government and private institutions, these programs have made progress in recovering forest cover, which directly affects the conservation of the basin that supplies drinking water to 50% of the country's population. The Authority has also implemented incentives for the use of green technology.

The Panama Sanitation Program "Environmental Recovery of the Bay of Panama" is the leading investment program in environmental health in the country. Technologies for the use of sludge in treatment plants and biogas production systems from wastewater and cogeneration stand out.

The Government of Panama has also initiated the water security plan raised to the highest decision-making levels. This plan includes the sustainable use of watersheds, multipurpose for ecotourism, sustainable agriculture and drinking water. Likewise, rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in urban areas in support of areas with difficulties in the drinking water supply. Within this plan, the National Water Culture Program is also created, made up of twelve institutions coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of the National Water Council, to make the population aware of the importance of water in nature, seeking: punctuality in payment services, promote the conservation of hydrographic basins, reduce excessive water consumption (through the creation of new regulations, prevent leaks, among others).

In addition, to maintain a space for high-level exchange to face the challenges in terms of water resources in the region, ECLAC will begin preparing the next Dialogues on Water 2023, where the most relevant issues will be addressed, and concerns will be resolved collected from the participants both in the 2022 Water Dialogues and in the regional consultation on water resources developed by ECLAC.

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE INITIATIVES PRESENTED BY COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2022 WATER DIALOGUE

Country	Action	Contribution to SDG 6	Pillar of the water transition
Dominican Republic	Water cabinet	Strengthening governance and investment	All pillars
Mexico	Human right to water in the Constitution National Water Program Rain Harvest Program	Strengthening governance and access to drinking water	Pillar 1 (access)
Costa Rica	Social rates	Access to drinking water	Pillar 2 (affordability)
Plurinational State of Bolivia	Transboundary Basin Management	Strengthening governance	Pillar 3 (externalities)
Colombia	No one gets left behind The will translates into resources Regional companies are the protagonists Colombia advances toward sustainability	Access to drinking water and sanitation, investment and the environment	Pillar 1 (access) and Pillar 3 (externalities)
Panama	Economic incentives for environmental protection	Environment	Pillar 3 (externalities)

b) Consolidation of the Regional Water Expert Group

Within the framework of the preparations for the United Nations Water Conference in March 2023, under the auspices of UN-Water, the consolidation of regional expert groups in the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations System is being promoted. In the case of LAC, ECLAC was in charge of creating and coordinating this group whose mandate is to join efforts to promote achievement of SDG 6, exchange relevant information, including seminars, training, publications and studies in development and explore opportunities for collaboration to support the countries of the region.

The Regional Water Expert Group in LAC comprises representatives from 20 of the most prestigious institutions related to the subject in the region (See Table 1). Its consolidation was carried out through a virtual meeting in May (https://www.cepal.org/en/events/eclac-promotes-consolidation-regional-expert-group-water-resources-latin-america-and) and its official presentation took place during the "Annual Water Dialogues 2022" event, where the experts participated in the "rain of solutions" section, answering questions of regional interest distributed in ten themes: providers of drinking water and sanitation services, gaps water and gender, circular economy, governance , investment and financing, integrated water resources management, transboundary water resources management, groundwater, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services, and resilience and adaptation to climate change. All these topics were questions raised by the almost 3,000 participants who registered for the event.

Table 1. Members of the Regional Water Expert Group in LAC.

Name	Institution	Logo
Oscar Pintos	ADERASA	
Gonzalo Meschengieser, Malena Galmarini	ALOAS	
Raúl Castillo, Sergio Campos	BID	
Franz Rojas, Florencia Pietrafesa	CAF	
Claudia Cabezas	CAN	
Rayén Quiroga, Silvia Saravia Matus, Marina Gil	CEPAL	
Alberto Manganelli	CEREGAS	
Mar Gracia, Concepción Marcuello Olona	CODIA	

Name	Institution	Logo
Soledad Bastidas	FAO	
Fernanda Thomaz, Rossana Polastri	FIDA	
Fabiola Tábora	GWP Centroamérica	
Luis Suescun	IAH	
Guillermo Donoso	IWRA	
Andrés Sánchez	OEA	
Julián Báez, Rodney Martínez	OMM	
Alexandra Moreira, María Apostolova	OTCA	
Kifah Sasa	PNUD	
Raúl Artiga	SICA/CCAD	
Fernando Miralles	TNC	
María Laura Piñeiros	UICN	
Miguel Doria	UNESCO PHI	

Name	Institution	Logo
Midori Makino	WBG	WORLD BANK GROUP

In addition, a joint calendar was created of the most relevant activities in which the experts will participate linked to the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, which was published on the ECLAC website (https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/calendario.pdf).

Finally, ECLAC will organize two annual meetings for the group of experts and will distribute a quarterly information bulletin on the publications and activities carried out by each institution.

c) Online regional consultation on water priorities

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized an open consultation to gather stakeholders' views, experiences, and proposals regarding potential topics for the 2023 United Nations Water Conference. With this, ECLAC was in charge of developing the LAC consultation to discover the region's priorities on water resources. The consultation was conducted through an open online form between April and June 2022. It is intended to collect contributions from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholder groups as contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Water Conference 2023. Each participant chose three actions related to water resources as priorities. The form is attached in Annex 2.

Consultation results

The consultation had a total of 1,628 participants (until May 31) from 24 LAC countries, with responses distributed in the following percentages by subregion: South America (65%), Central America (including Mexico) (30%), the Caribbean (3%)[1].

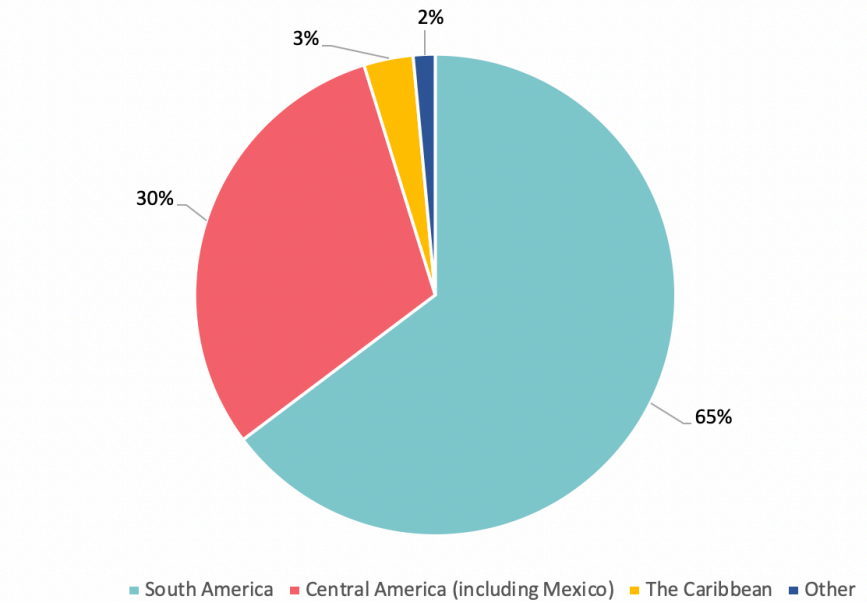

Figure 1: Distribution of responses by subregion

[1] The low participation of Caribbean countries is due in part to the fact that the survey was conducted in Spanish and an online consultation in English is currently being designed specifically for the English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Most of the respondents self-identified as representatives of the public sector (28.7%), followed by academia (25.8%); private sector (21%); civil society (13.9%); NGOs (7%); international organizations (2.9%) and other sectors (0.7%).

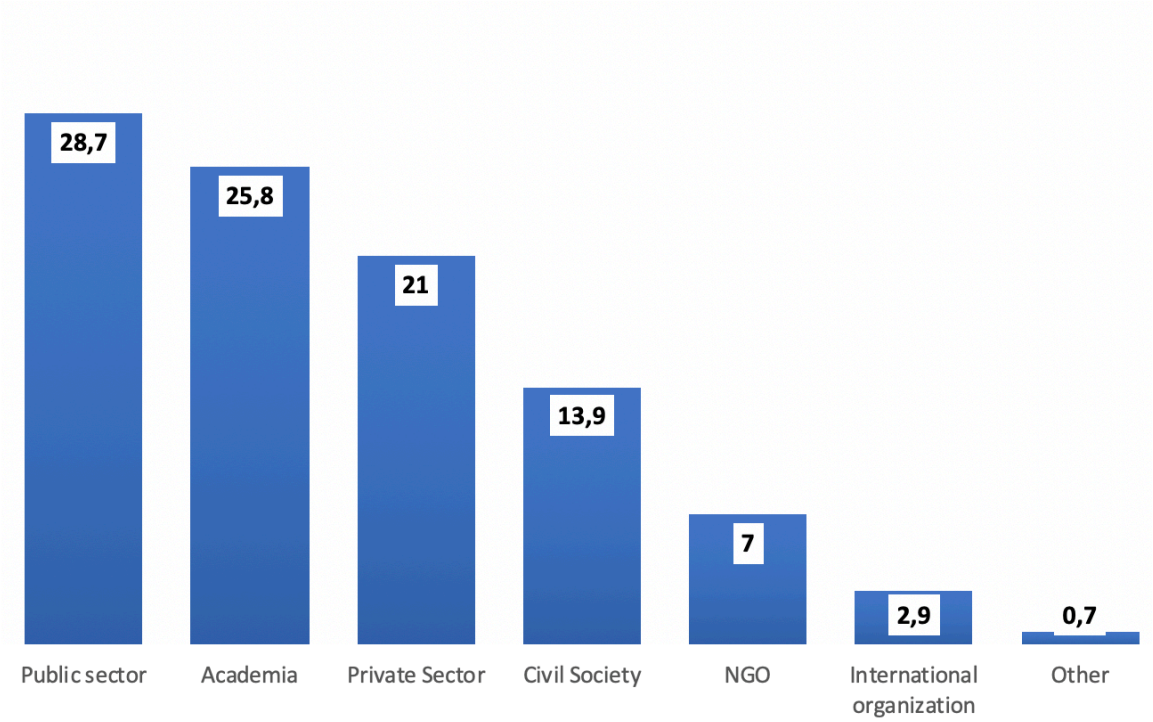

Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by sector (%)

Regarding gender, 62.3% of the participants self-identified as male, followed by 36.9% as female, 0.1% as non-binary, and 0.7% preferred not to answer.

Regarding the answers on the priorities in water resources of the region, 57% of the respondents have chosen as the main one the "strengthening of governance for the integrated management of water resources" as one of their three main water priorities for the region. "Ensuring access and affordability to safely managed drinking water and sanitation" is the preference of 53%, and 47.9% consider the "incorporation of solutions based on the nature of water ecosystem services" as of highest priority. The first two are in line with the progress presented by the countries in the "Regional Water Dialogue 2022", however, nature-based solutions are identified as an innovative mechanism to advance toward various aspects of SDG6. The "increase of resilience and adaptation to climate change in the face of water scarcity" was considered necessary by 36% of all respondents while almost 32% of the participants considered it necessary to "expand investment and financing mechanisms to achieve water security". Nearly the same number of people (30.8%) would like to "increase the circular economy approach in the use of wastewater". Only 18% consider it a priority to "promote the management of transboundary water resources". The two topics that aroused the least interest among the participants were "improving groundwater management" (7.0%) and "addressing gender and water gaps" (5.3%).

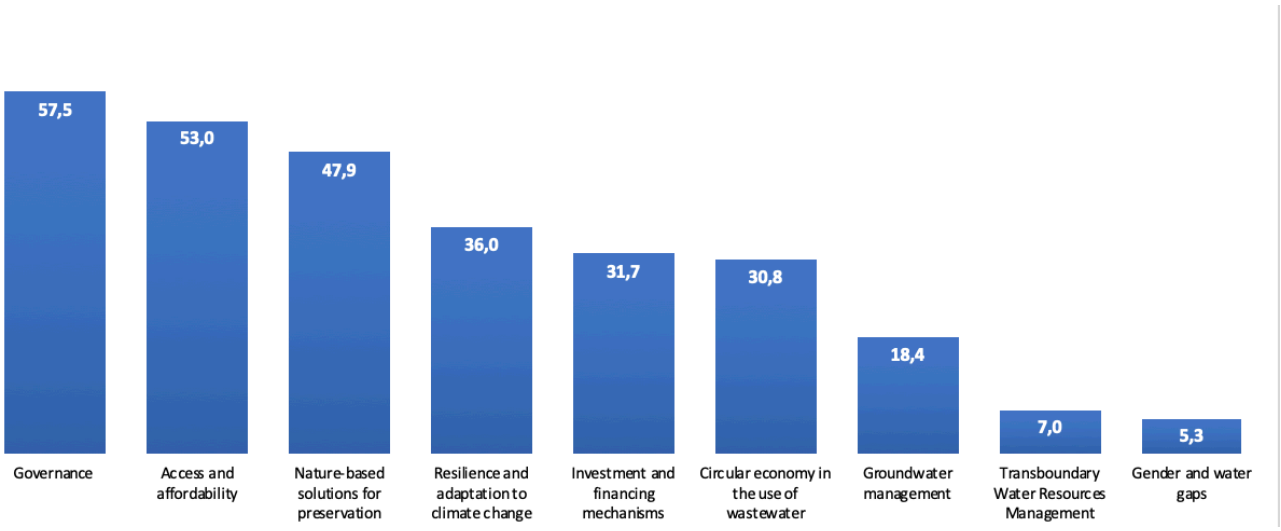

Figure 3: Water priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean (%)

It is interesting to note that 10.5% of all women chose gender and water gaps as the main issue to prioritize in the water sector in LAC, while only 2.7% of men considered it a priority.

Among women, "ensuring access to and affordability of safely managed drinking water and sanitation" was the most selected topic, with more than 58%. The main priority chosen by the men was "strengthening governance for the integrated management of water resources" with 64%. "Promoting the management of transboundary water resources" was the issue that was least prioritized by women (6% of women chose it as a priority) while the same issue was selected by 8% of men.

As for the countries, "strengthening governance for the integrated management of water resources" was chosen as a priority by 73% in El Salvador, 68.1% in Paraguay, 68.9% in Guatemala and 68. 6% in Chile. However, in some countries, access to drinking water and sanitation was chosen most of the time as a priority: the Dominican Republic (65.8%), Venezuela (64.7%) and Brazil (63.8%). The results show that the participants from Honduras are not considering the access and affordability of drinking water and sanitation as important as the other countries; only 42% of the participants have selected this as one of the main priorities for the region.

It is observed that Costa Rica is the country furthest from the regional trend. While governance was seen as a top priority by the majority of respondents for each country, only 44% of Costa Rican respondents chose governance and as a top priority in LAC.

Participants from Mexico are the ones who have most chosen nature-based solutions for the preservation of water ecosystem services as a water priority.

Climate change was prioritized equally in the different countries, but special attention was paid to this issue in Honduras (50%), El Salvador (45.5%) and Costa Rica (44%). Participants from the Dominican Republic and Guatemala reported the lowest interest at 24% and 29%, respectively.

It is observed that with respect to "fostering the circular economy in the use of wastewater" there is considerable variability between countries. Participants from Panama prioritized this topic more (up to 52%), while only 17% of participants from Brazil and Guatemala chose it.

Finally, and in relation to the priorities selected by the different sectors of participants, it is observed that both the majority of the participants from the private sector and NGOs consider access to drinking water and sanitation a priority, with the former being the ones that mostly prioritized this item while only 35.8%

of the social organizations chose this topic as a priority. For their part, international companies prioritize the need to strengthen governance (76.9% of the participants in this sector). Regarding nature-based solutions, NGO representatives showed the greatest interest, while only 20.8% of the public sector considered it a priority for the region. The participants belonging to international organizations consider investment as a priority, compared to 25.2% of the academy.

Groundwater management is clearly a priority of interest for the public sector (49.8%) while NGOs do not consider it an urgent issue (7%). Civil society was in line with regional averages.

3. Conclusions

Despite having a significant endowment of resources, LAC faces multiple challenges related to water management, with increasing stress. There are still gaps in access to drinking water and sanitation, the most vulnerable quintile of society being the most disadvantaged, significant increases in pollution are observed, the frequency and impact of disasters have increased and there is an increase in conflicts related to water. Additionally, the analysis of regional progress towards the achievement of SDG 6, based on ECLAC estimates, show that it is far from being fulfilled. According to UN-Water, current investment efforts must be increased 14 times to achieve the goals to the year 2030.

To solve the above, ECLAC is promoting a sustainable and inclusive water transition that guarantees the human right to water and sanitation, in a fair and affordable way, reversing negative externalities associated with the use of water and also tends to a circular management of the resource. This transition goes through the generation of initiatives in 5 pillars of action: promotion of financing, generation and communication of data and information, development of capacities, promotion of innovation and strengthening of institutions.

In this context and in the framework of the 2023 United Nations Water Conference and the mid-term review of the Decade of Action for Water (2018-2028), ECLAC has developed the following initiatives that aim to give a boost to the progress towards achievement of SDG 6 by 2030:

Annual Water Dialogues, consolidation of the Regional Water Expert Group and an Online regional consultation on water priorities. From which the following key messages are extracted:

- Among the actions that the countries are developing to comply with SDG 6, the following stand out: the strengthening of governance with the development of intersectoral water institutions; the inclusion of the human right to water in the Constitution of the States; the generation of intergovernmental agreements; the creation of national water policies and programs, the establishment of social tariffs, the development of economic incentives for the protection of the environment and the promotion of innovation and green technologies.
- It is recognized that large investment efforts are required:
    - According to ECLAC: an annual investment of 1.3% of regional GDP between now and 2030 would make it possible to universalize access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation, which could generate up to 3.4 million jobs per year. A similar figure is estimated by CAF, indicating that 25 billion USD in CAPEX and 26 billion in OPEX are required, equivalent to 79 UDS/person (1.2% of GDP) until 2030.
    - As a national example, the Dominican Republic has estimated that more than 8,500 million dollars are required accumulated until the year 2030, which is equivalent to 7% of GDP in 2022.
    - According to UN-Water, current investment efforts must be increased by 14 times to accelerate implementation and achieve SDG 6 by 2030.
- The priority issues for the different actors in LAC are strengthening governance for the integrated management of water resources and guaranteeing access and affordability to safely managed drinking water and sanitation.

Annex

1. Annual Water Dialogues Agenda 2022

Towards an inclusive and sustainable water transition in Latin America and the Caribbean - Preparatory meeting for the United Nations Water Conference 2023

Via Webex - Thursday, April 28, 2022

(12:00-14:30 Chile time, GMT -4)

INTRODUCTION

The year 2023 will mark the first water conference at the United Nations since 1977, and it will focus precisely on progress towards SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) in the framework of the mid-term review of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". An important factor in achieving SDG 6 will be the ability of institutions, within and outside the water community, to come together in partnerships and cooperation that will accelerate progress on its implementation.

ECLAC, through the Water and Energy Unit of the Natural Resources Division, is working to promote a proposal for a sustainable and inclusive water transition that supports the countries of the region to:

i) guarantee the human right to water and sanitation, leaving no one behind

ii) increase equity of access and affordability, eradicating water poverty

iii) eliminate negative environmental externalities (conflicts, pollution and overexploitation)

iv) develop circular economies throughout the water value chain

In this context, the 2022 Annual Water Dialogues for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is proposed as a space for exchanges that will allow the collection of valuable inputs for the regional report of the mid-term review of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". Likewise, it has a "Rain of solutions" space by the members of the Regional Water Expert Group, to respond to specific problems in the region.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify main courses of action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 based on a sustainable and inclusive water transition.
- Exchange knowledge and experiences in the progress of LAC countries in fulfilling the International Decade for Action for Water 2018-2028 commitments to present them at the next United Nations Water Conference that will take place in March. 2023 in New York.

Time	Activity
12.00-12.10	Opening remarks, a review of the water challenges in LAC and a proposal for a water transition in the region, by Ms Jeannette Sánchez, Director of the Natural Resources Division, ECLAC.
12.10-13:10	Presentation of NATIONAL EXPERIENCES – challenges, solutions and commitments adopted by the countries (in alphabetical order): • **Dominican Republic – Mr Miguel Ceara Hatton,** Minister of Economy, Planning and Development and **Mr Gilberto Reynoso,** Executive Director of the Water Cabinet • **Mexico** – **Mr Víctor Bourguett Ortiz**, General Director of the Aguas del Valle de México Basin Organization. • **Costa Rica** – **Mr Roberto Jiménez**, General Regulator of the Public Services Regulatory Authority • **Plurinational State of Bolivia– Ms Marissa Castro Magnani**, General Director of Limits, Frontiers and International Transboundary Waters. • **Colombia** – **Mr Alejandro Becker Rojas**, Advisor to the Vice Minister of Water and Basic Sanitation. • **Panama** – **Mr Guillermo Torres Díaz**, Technical Secretary of the National Water Council.
13.10-13.20	Presentation: **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SDG 6 IN LAC by Ms Silvia Saravia Matus**, Economic Affairs Officer of the Water and Energy Unit of the Natural Resources Division, ECLAC
13.20-14.20	Section: **RAIN OF SOLUTIONS** in charge of the members of the Regional Water Expert Group. The following topics will be addressed: PROVIDERS OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES - Gonzalo Meschengieser - Asociación Latinoamericana de Operadores de Agua y Saneamiento (ALOAS) GENDER AND WATER GAPS - Fabiola Tábora - Global Water Partnership (GWP) - Laura Imburgia (UNESCO) - Fernanda Thomaz- Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) CIRCULAR ECONOMY - Marina Gil – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) GOVERNANCE - Concepción Marcuello - Conferencia de Directores Iberoamericanos del Agua (CODIA) - Mauricio Cerna- Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) INVESTMENT AND FINANCING - Franz Rojas - Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES - Guillermo Donoso - International Water Resources Association (IWRA) TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - Alexandra Moreira - Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA) - Raúl Muñoz Castillo - Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) GROUNDWATER - Alberto Manganelli - Centro Regional para la Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas en América Latina y el Caribe (CEREGAS) NBS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - Laura Piñeiros - Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) - Rodrigo Morera - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE - Julián Báez – Organización Meteorológica Mundial (OMM)
14.20-14.30	Closing remarks by **Ms Rayén Quiroga Martínez**, Head of the Water and Energy Unit of the Natural Resources Division, ECLAC

2. Online regional consultation on water priorities

Email*

Personal Details

Name and Surname*

Gender*

- *Feminine*
- *Male*
- *Non-binary*
- *Prefer not to answer*

Sector al que pertenece*

- Public sector
- Private sector
- Academy
- Civil society
- International organization
- NGO
- Other:

Name of your institution

Country*

Water priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean

In your opinion, select the three most important *

- Strengthen governance for the integrated management of water resources
- Expand investment and financing mechanisms to achieve water security
- Ensuring access and affordability to safely managed drinking water and sanitation
- Promote the circular economy in the use of wastewater
- Address gender and water gaps
- Promote the management of transboundary water resources
- Improve groundwater management
- Increase resilience and adaptation to climate change in the face of water scarcity
- Incorporate nature-based solutions for the preservation of water ecosystem services

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