

The “SDG Moment”: key messages from Latin America and the Caribbean



Meeting of the Community of Practice on Voluntary National Reviews for Caribbean Countries



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María Ortiz Pérez
Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC
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The SDG Moment: the launchpad for the Decade of Action

- The first SDG Moment of the Decade of Action, on 18 September 2020, is mandated by the UN General Assembly and convened by the UN Secretary-General
- The SDG Moment was the “**curtain raiser**” to the UN General Assembly in its 75th anniversary. Focus on **poverty/inequality, gender inequality and climate change**
- The SDG Moment brought together **20 Heads of State and Government**, nominated by the regional groups, civil society, local authorities, international organizations and the private sector to generate **a renewed sense of urgency, ambition and accountability** as the world embarks on a Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs.
- UN Secretary General, António Guterres:
 - Highlighted **COVID-19 as the greatest challenge of our times**, and how the pandemic has exposed our shortcomings on delivering on the 2030 Agenda.
 - Called **for social protection, infrastructure** (education, health, internet), to place **women at the center** of decision-making, and a **green transition** that can lead to better jobs while preserving the environment.
 - Insisted that **political will, financing, and COVID-19 recovery** as particularly important to meet the SDGs by 2030.

The SDG Moment: messages from LAC

From Latin America and the Caribbean, the Prime Minister of Barbados and the Presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela intervened during the SDG moment.

- **Barbados:** fight poverty and provide a sustainable development pathway. **Climate Change is putting a huge pressure on SIDS and middle-income countries. Ambition for the 2030 Agenda to be real, but no funding or fiscal space.** “It's all right to say to a man that he should lift himself by his own bootstraps. But it's a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he should lift himself by his own bootstrap” (as stated by Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- **Colombia:** during the pandemic, thousands of houses were connected to the water system and care beds and ventilators doubled. Progress on **providing ICT connection for rural communities , so that all students can access education.** Committed to climate change and protection of biodiversity. Colombia aims at **closing social inequalities and building equity with sustainable and legal peace.**
- **Ecuador:** strongly committed to the SDGs as demonstrated in the National Plan "Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2017-2021 Toda una Vida", meant to **accompany people throughout the cycle of life.** Presented VNR twice. The gender wage gap fell, provided housing and included persons with disabilities in the labor market. **All progress is insufficient without solidarity and multilateralism, with common but differentiated responsibilities in terms of climate goals and with concessional funding for developing countries.**
- **Peru:** A **critical juncture of multilateralism, for the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.** Ensuring **universal, timely and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.** Pandemic **revealed the fragility of our system and increased inequalities.** Economic and social reactivation plan will tackle social inequalities, including a strong health system, quality education, economic growth, justice and fighting (extreme) poverty.
- **Venezuela: Defense of our sovereignty and right to sustainable development.** Despite COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring food security, decent and comfortable housing units, protection to older persons, and education. Thanks to investments made over the last 20 years, **guaranteed free State-provided medical care.** Great commitment to the meet the SDGs by 2030.
- Further details: SDG moment microsite- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdg-moment/microsite/>

Where will Latin America and the Caribbean be in 2030?

GOAL 1

- 1.1 International poverty
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.a Resources for poverty programs
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 2

- 2.1 Undernourishment and food security
- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

GOAL 3

- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution

GOAL 4

- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.a Education facilities
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.7 Sustainable development education
- 4.b Scholarships

GOAL 5

- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.c Gender equality policies
- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.b Technology for women empowerment

GOAL 6

- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.4 Water-use efficiency
- 6.3 Water quality
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.

GOAL 7

- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy
- 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure

GOAL 8

- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.1 Per capita economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.3 Formalization of SMEs
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.5 Full employment & decent work
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.a Aid for Trade
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment

GOAL 9

- 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.b Domestic technology development
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.3 Small-scale industries access to financ
- 9.a Resilient infrastructure

GOAL 10

- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & politica
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance
- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.c Remittance costs

GOAL 11

- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanization
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 12

- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste & losses
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies

GOAL 13

- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 14

- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.a Research capacity & marine technology
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 15

- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.2 Sustainable forests management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.6 Utilization of genetic resource
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

GOAL 16

- 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws

GOAL 17

- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.18 National statistics availability
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD
- 17.17 Partnerships (public, private, CSO)

- Target already met
- Target likely to be met
- On regression
- Target which is not met in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Target which is not met in Latin America and the Caribbean

The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda is at risk in Latin America and the Caribbean. Out of the 169 SDG targets, Latin America and the Caribbean is likely to meet 14 at the current progress rate.



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The SDG Moment: the regional perspective from LAC

Ms. Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, delivered a [video message](#) along with the other Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions. She highlighted:

- As a result of the pandemic, ECLAC estimates a **-9.1% contraction in regional GDP**, with an increase in poverty affecting 231 million people (96 million in extreme poverty).
- Governments have provided emergency basic income to the poor and tax exemptions and grace periods to SMEs. ECLAC proposes **extending these measures for 9 months**.
- **A basic digital basket** composed of a laptop, smartphone, tablet, and a connectivity plan for households without Internet is proposed.
- In the region, **women are worse off than men in terms of discrimination, political exclusion and lack of economic autonomy**, and **violence against women and girls is the tragedy of inequality exacerbated in this pandemic**. Women represent more than **60% of informal labor**, and confinement is placing additional pressure on them as primary caregivers, whether paid or unpaid. Women are also on the front line of the response to this health crisis and are more exposed to infection, as **they account for 72.6% of those employed in the region's health sector**.
- A **new political and fiscal compact to ensure universal social protection**
- The region must pursue a strategy to **diversify its economic structure, enhance its productive and trade integration, while adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change through innovative financial measures**, with universal policies to combat poverty and inequality at the forefront.



Thank you



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[COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean
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