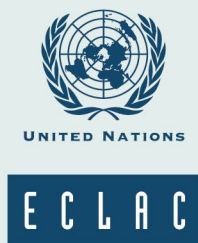


# Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and recommendations for acceleration

Sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda  
for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs  
Executive Secretary

26 April 2023



Forum of the Countries  
of Latin America and  
the Caribbean on  
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
Santiago 25–28 April **2023**

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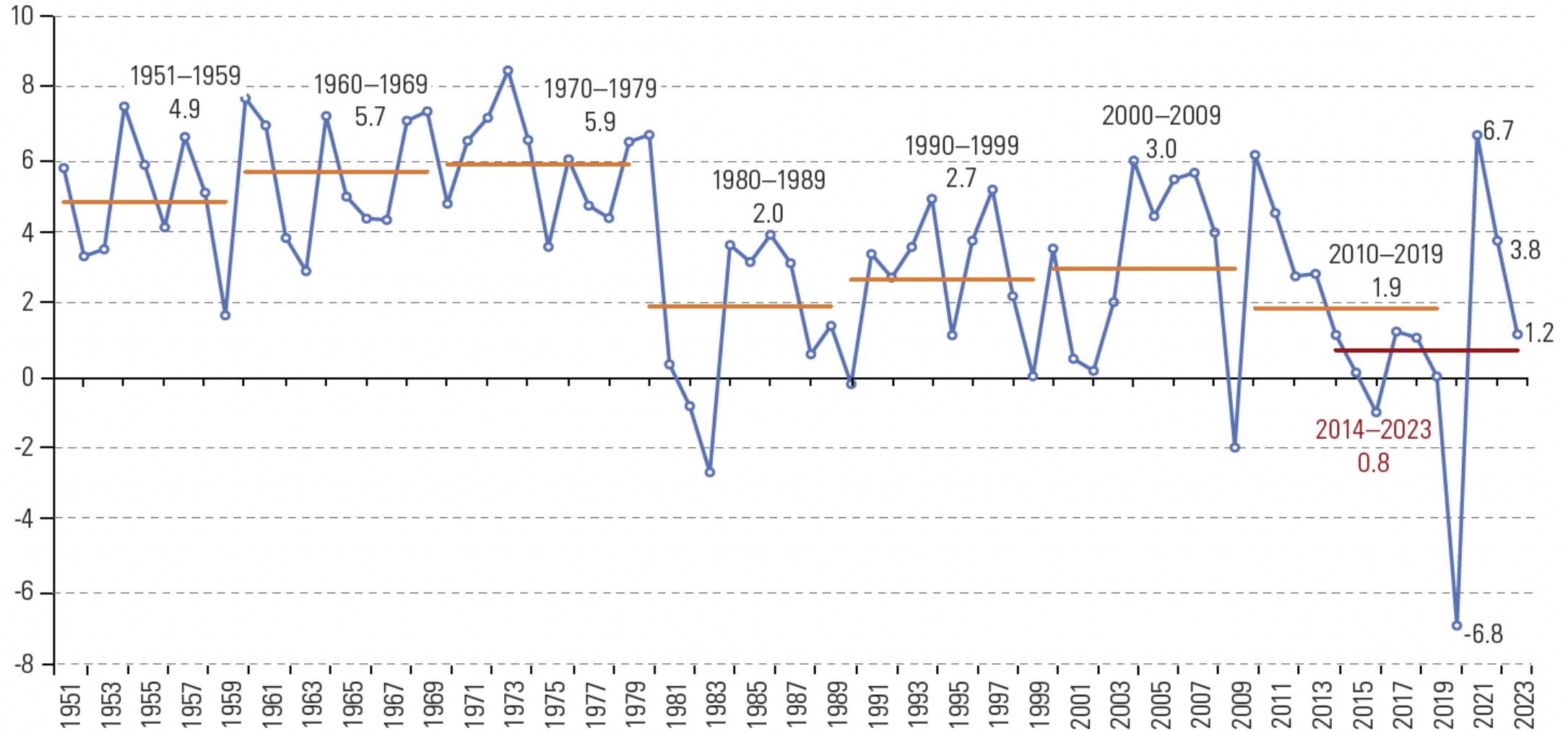
- I. Latin America and the Caribbean: cascading global shocks and a development crisis
- II. Institutional progress on means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- III. Measuring progress towards the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals
- IV. Looking towards the future: proposals for acceleration and final reflections



# I. Latin America and the Caribbean: cascading global shocks and a development crisis



# From 2014 to 2023, the region grew more slowly than during the lost decade of the debt crisis

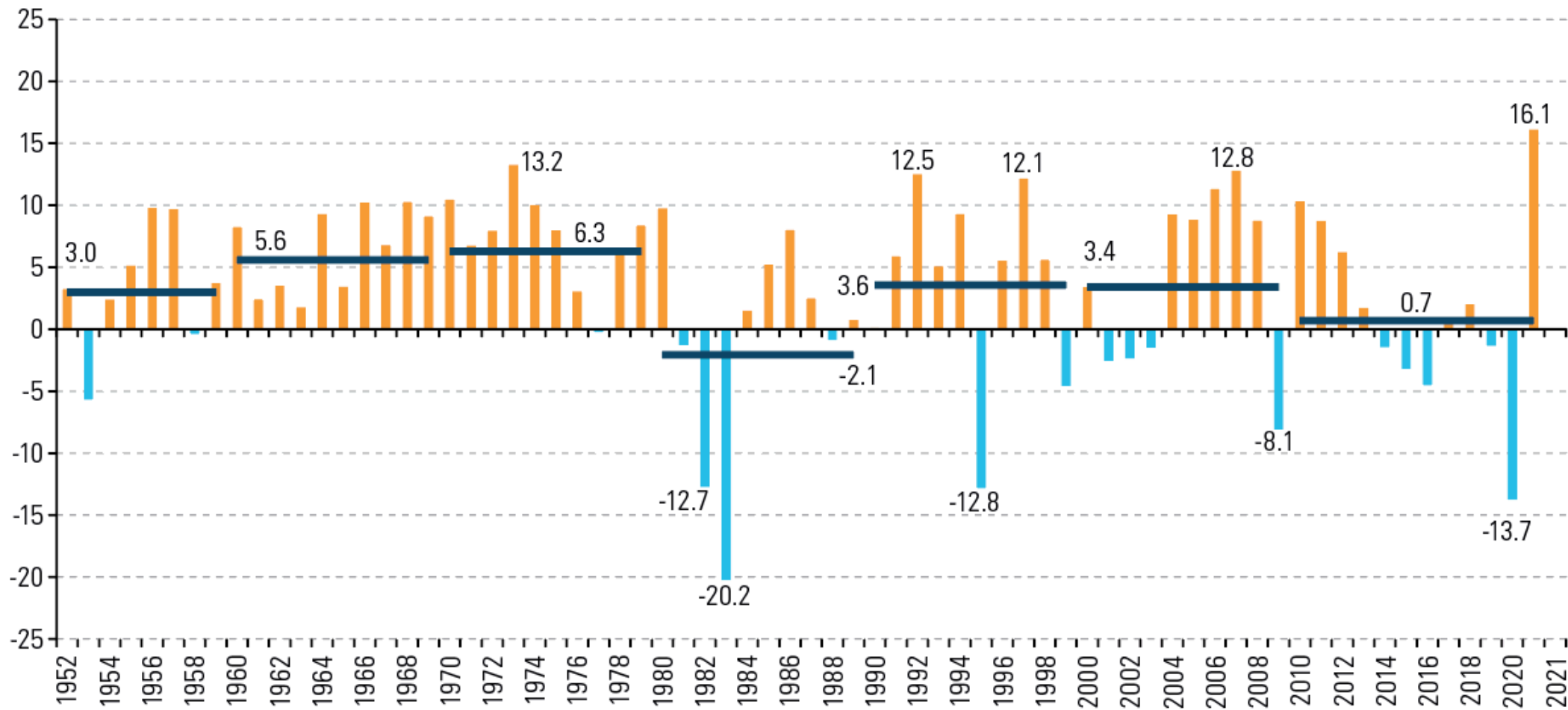


**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

**Note:** The figure for 2022 is an estimate and that for 2023 is a projection.

# The trend in investment is a structural problem

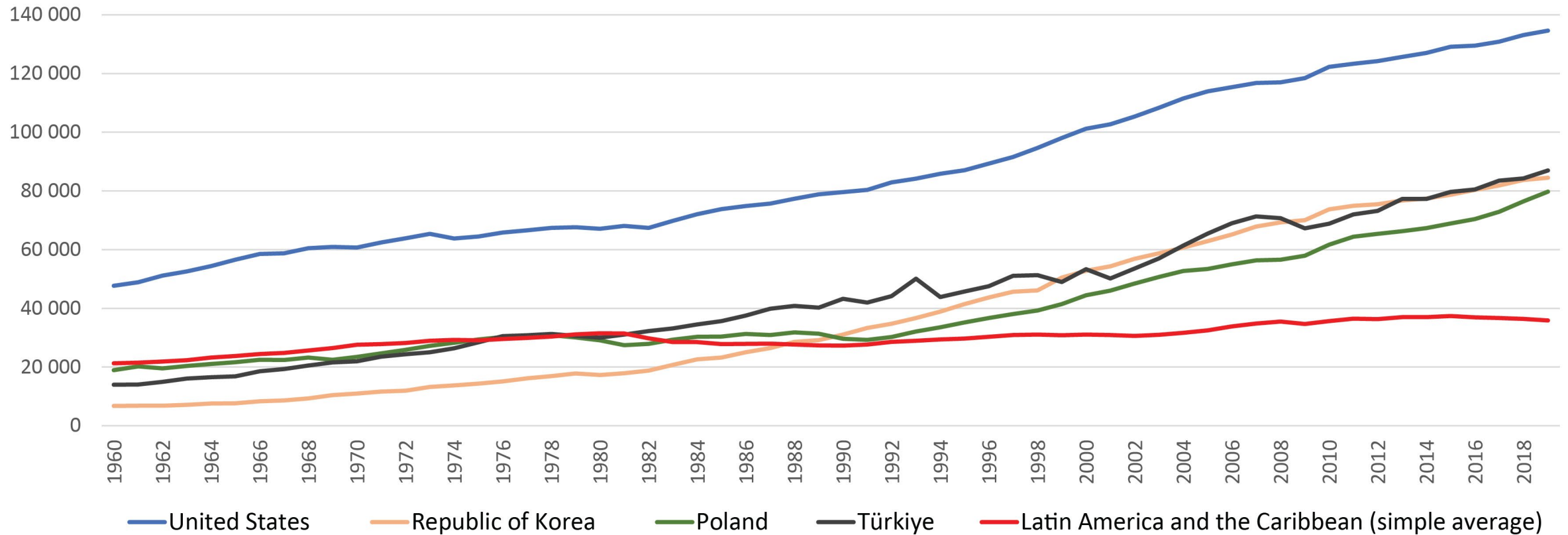
Latin America and the Caribbean: annual growth rate of real gross fixed capital formation, 1951–2021  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

# The region is lagging and productivity gaps are widening

Selected countries: labour productivity, output per worker, 1960–2019  
(Thousands of dollars at constant 2019 prices)

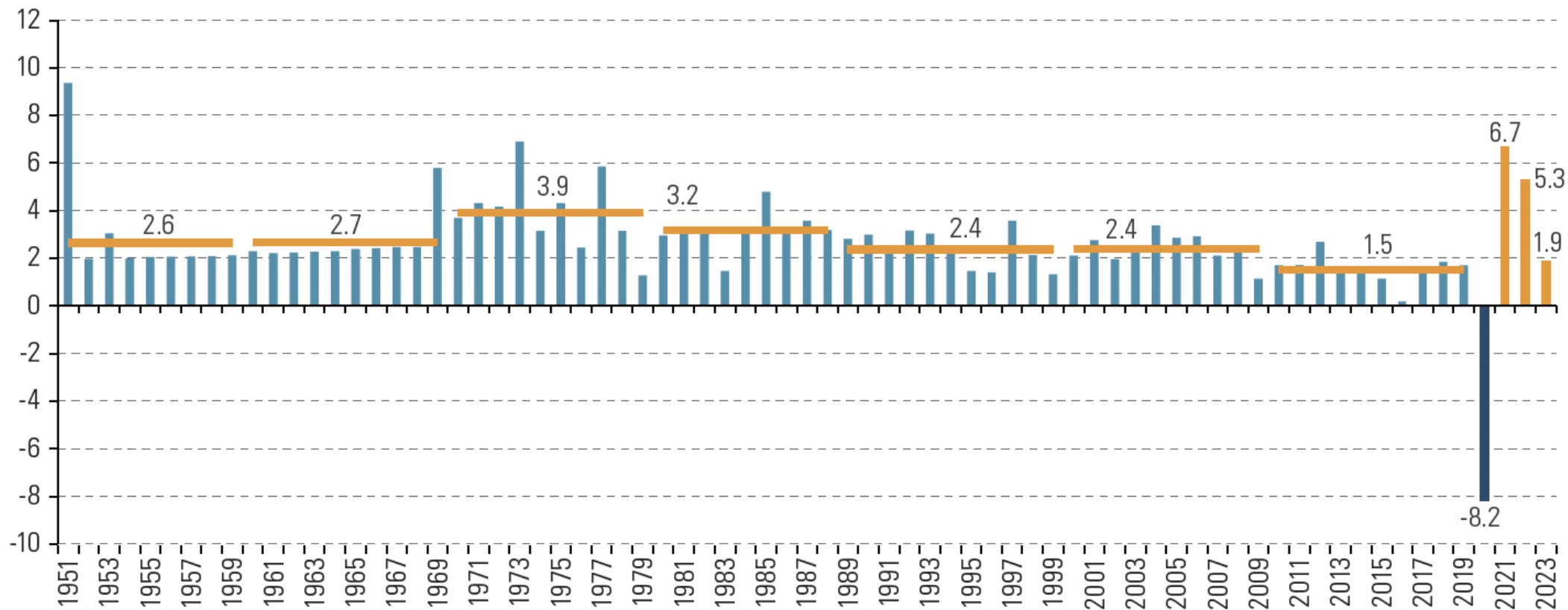


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Total Economy Database (July 2020).

# Job creation was weakest in 2011–2019

The region is facing the challenge of creating more jobs of better quality. Informality rate = 48.1%

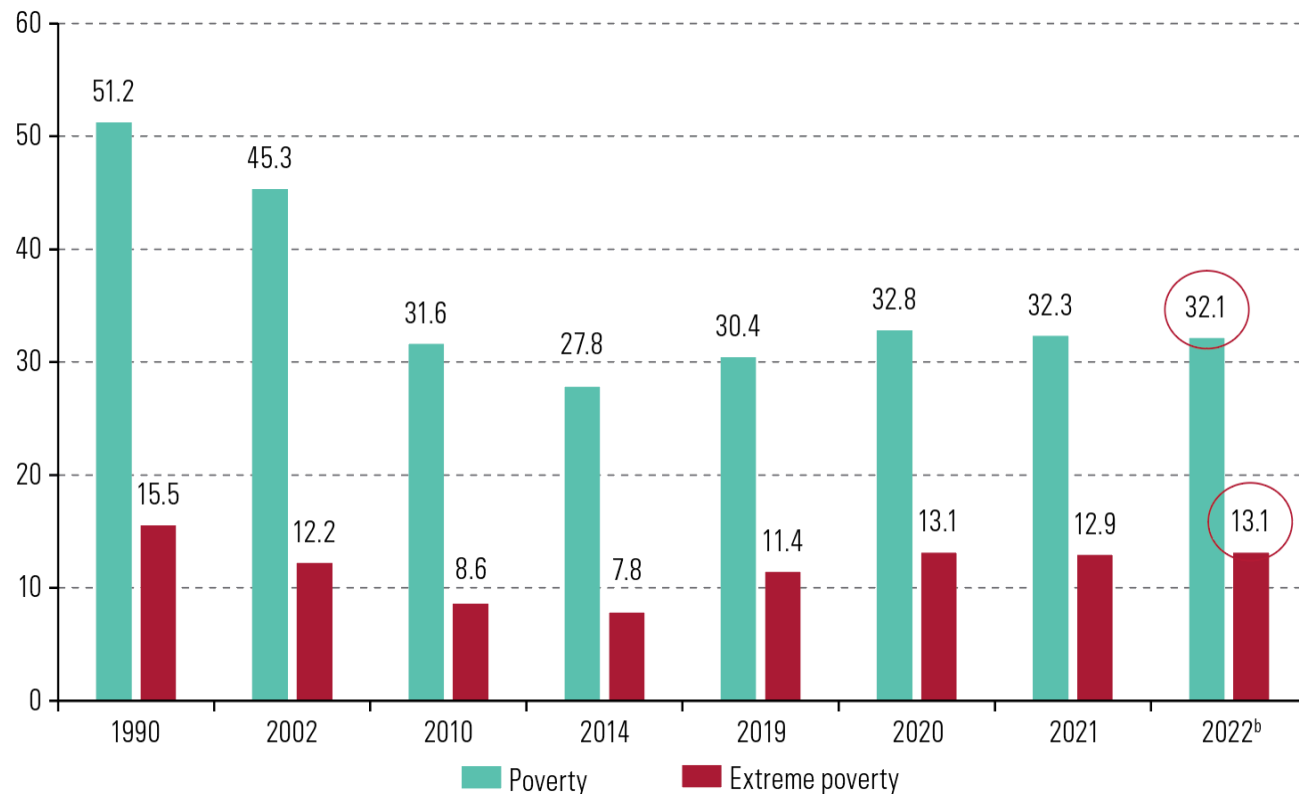
Latin America: rate of growth of employment, 1951–2023  
(Percentages)



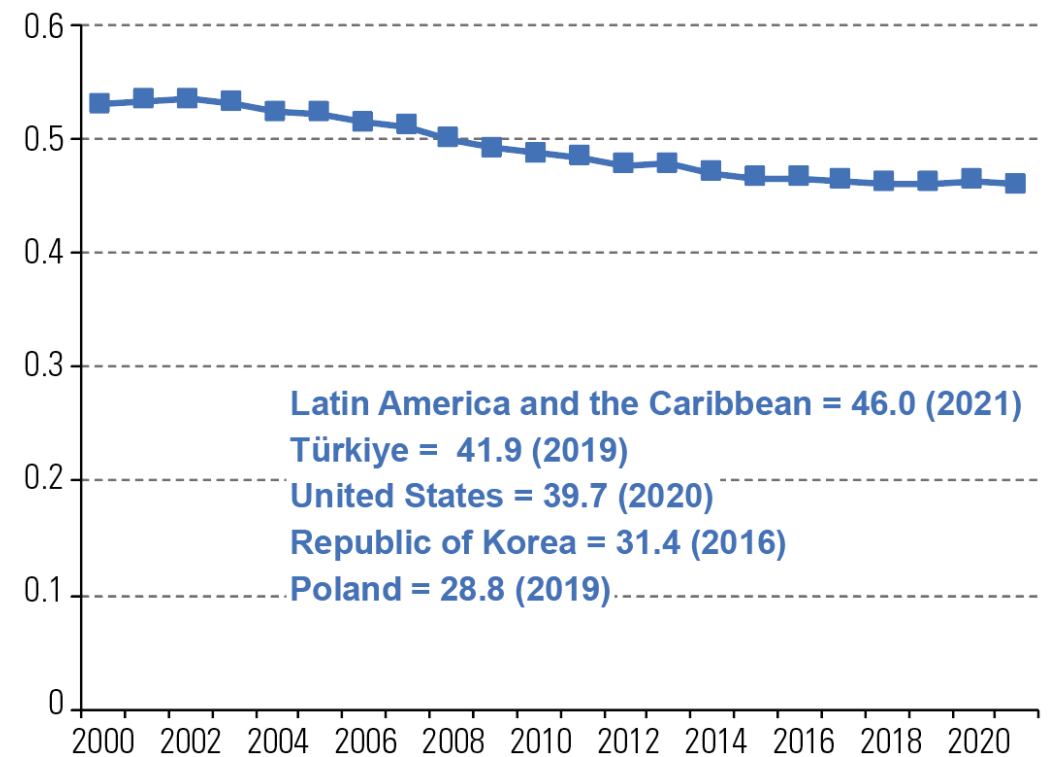
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures and data from the International Labour Organization (ILO); figures for 2022 are estimates; figures for 2023 are projections from ECLAC, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022* (LC/PUB.2022/18-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2023.

# Poverty and inequality have declined but remain high

Latin America: poverty and extreme poverty, 1990–2022  
(Percentages)



Latin America and the Caribbean: inequality as measured by the Gini Index, 2000–2021  
(Simple averages)



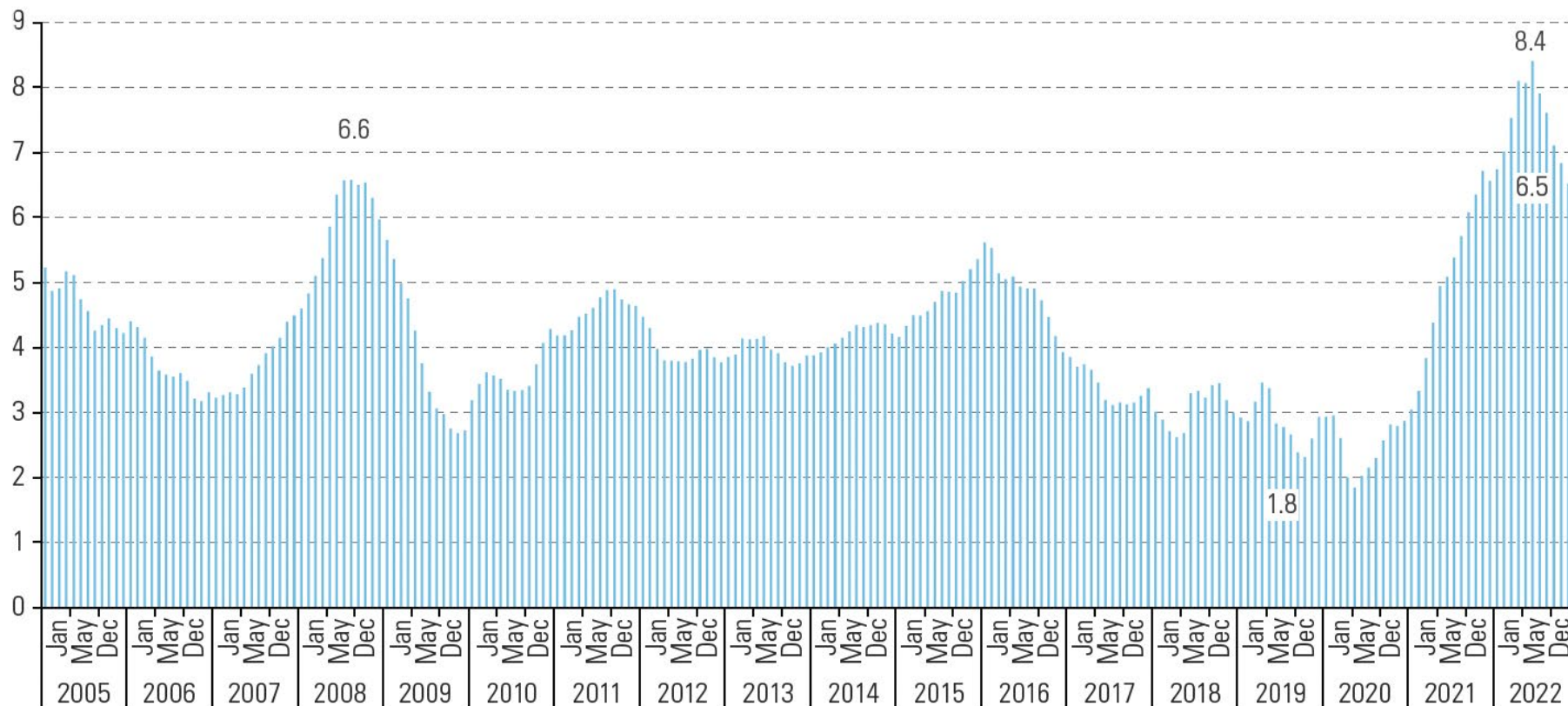
**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

**Note:** The figures for 2022 are projections.



# The inflation shocks of 2021 and 2022 were met with large interest rate hikes

Latin America and the Caribbean: variation in the 12-month consumer price index (CPI), January 2005–December 2022  
(Percentages)



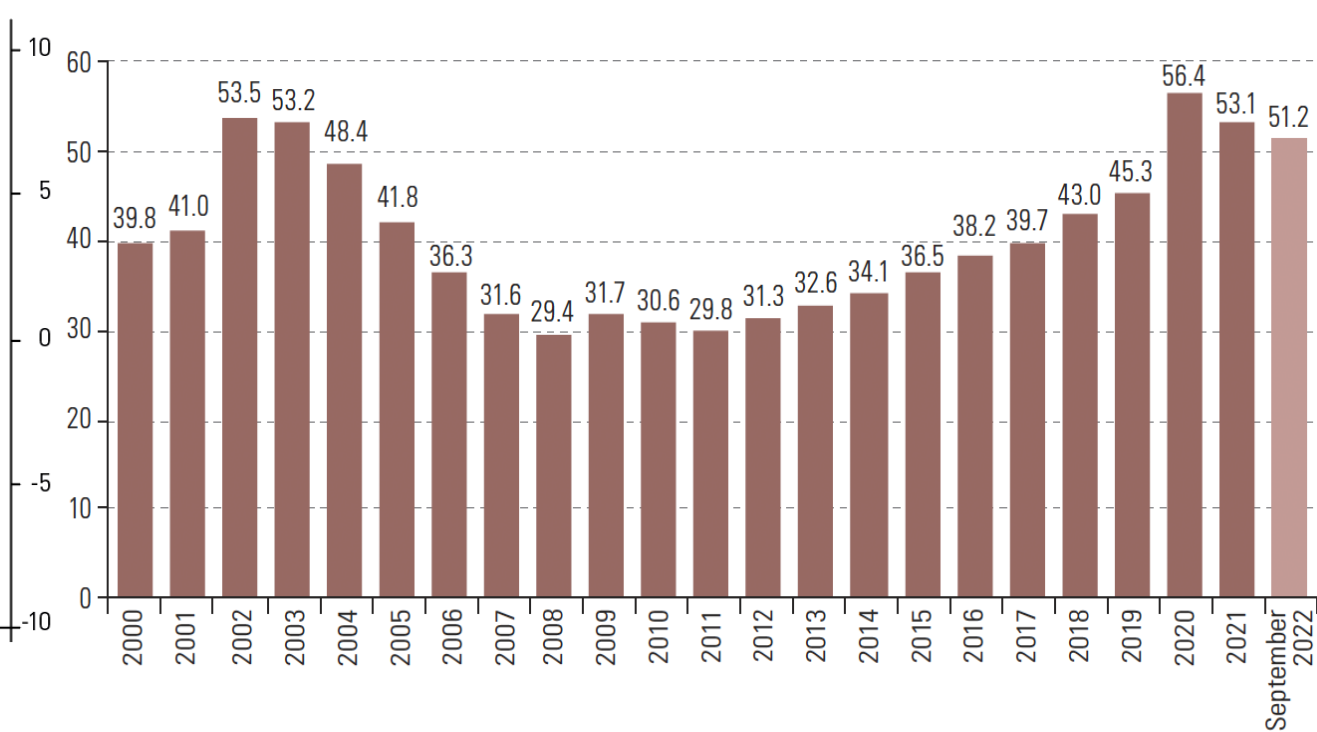
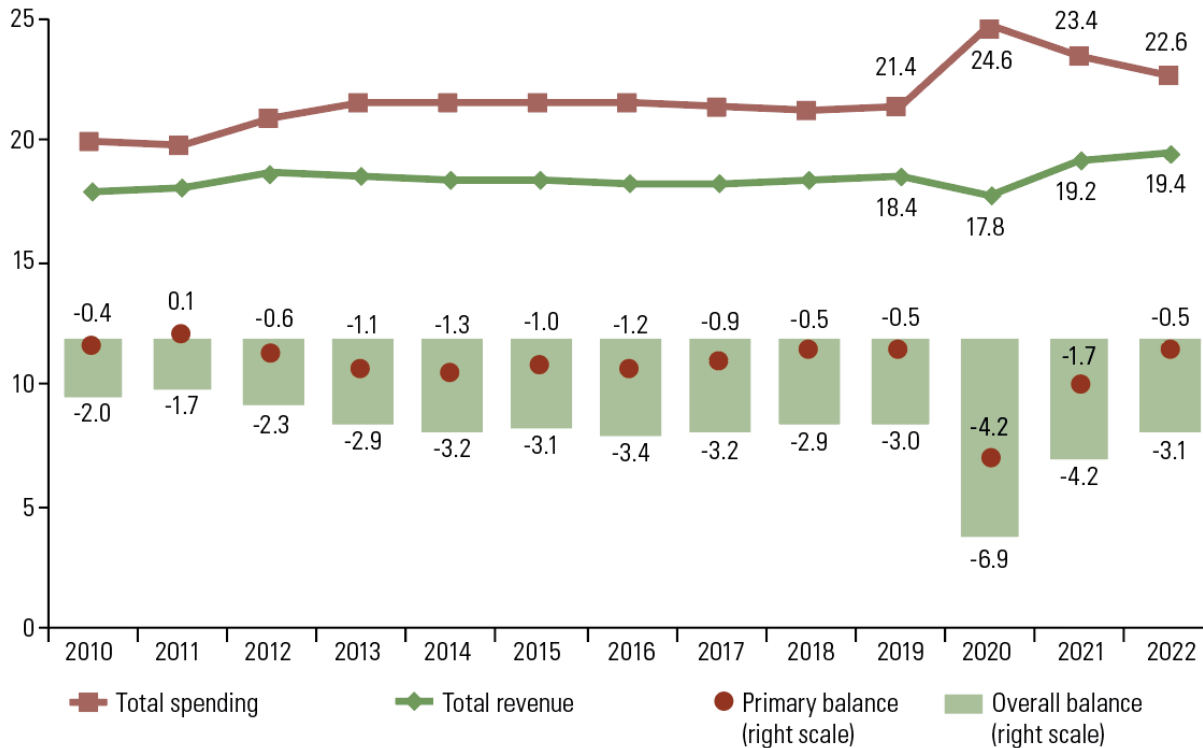
**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

**Note:** The averages do not include the following economies that are subject to chronic inflation: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Suriname.

# In Latin America, fiscal deficits are approaching pre-pandemic levels, but public debt burdens remain high despite a reduction in 2022

Latin America (16 countries): central government fiscal indicators, 2010–2021 and projections for 2022  
(Percentages of GDP)

Latin America (16 countries): gross central government public debt, 2000–September 2022  
(Percentages of GDP)

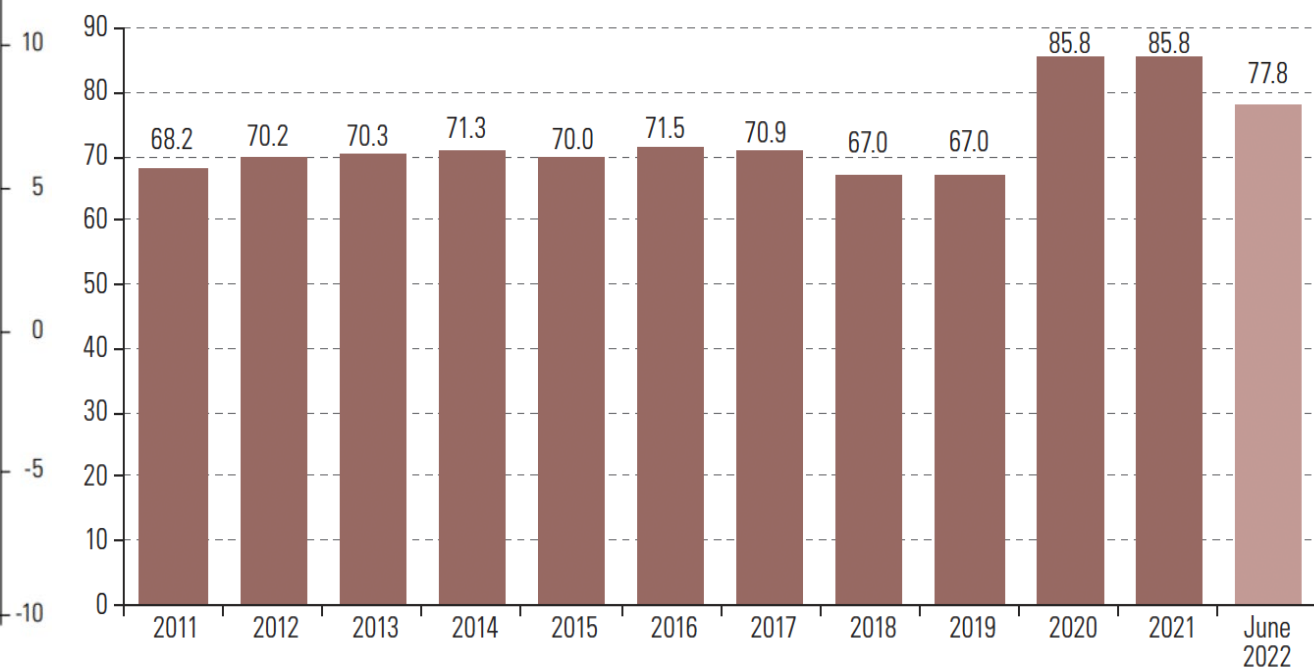
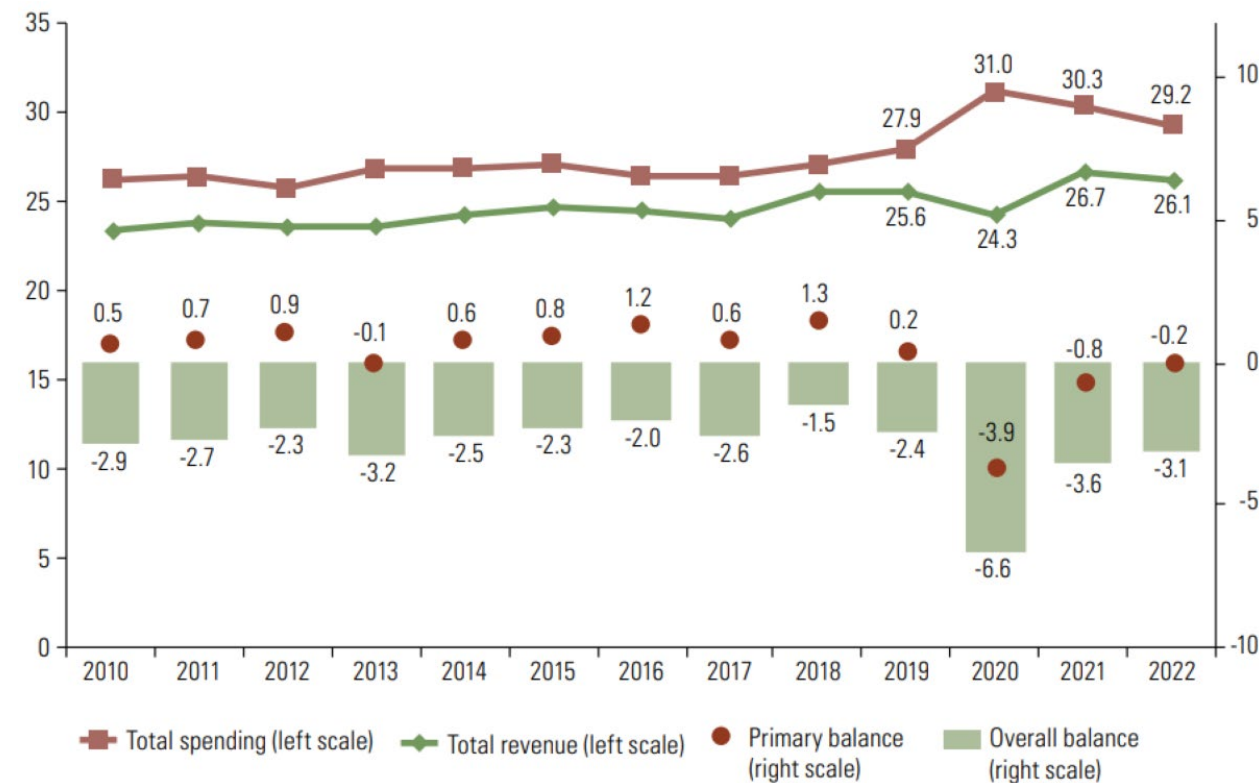


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of ECLAC, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2022 (LC/PUB.2022/18-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2023.

# In the Caribbean, fiscal deficits also narrowed, but public debt levels remain high

The Caribbean (12 countries): central government fiscal indicators, 2010–2021 and projections for 2022  
(Percentages of GDP)

The Caribbean (13 countries): gross central government public debt, 2011–June 2022  
(Percentages of GDP)



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of ECLAC, *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2022 (LC/PUB.2022/18-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2023.  
**Note:** The figures for 2022 are projections.

## II. Institutional progress on means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Important institutional capacities have been built for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda



## Coordination mechanisms

All the countries have national coordination mechanisms.



## Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda

Responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators generally lies with the respective line ministries and statistical offices, or with ad hoc mechanisms.



## Voluntary national reviews (VNRs)

31 of the 33 countries of the region have submitted at least one voluntary national review. The reviews have evolved from static reporting on the SDGs and targets to a process of building a vision for the country in which each successive report examines progress made in an ongoing exercise.



## The Community of Practice on Voluntary National Reviews

A recognized regional platform for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration and exchange of experiences and best practices.



## Alignment of plans and strategies with the 2030 Agenda.

Some countries have prioritized alignment of medium- and long-term visions and strategies with the 2030 Agenda, thus contributing to eliminating duplication of efforts.

# Institutional arrangements for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda, January 2023



■ Ad hoc mechanism    ■ Office of the president, ministry or other public office

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of data from the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development [online] <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en>, recent voluntary national reviews from the countries and information provided by designated focal points.

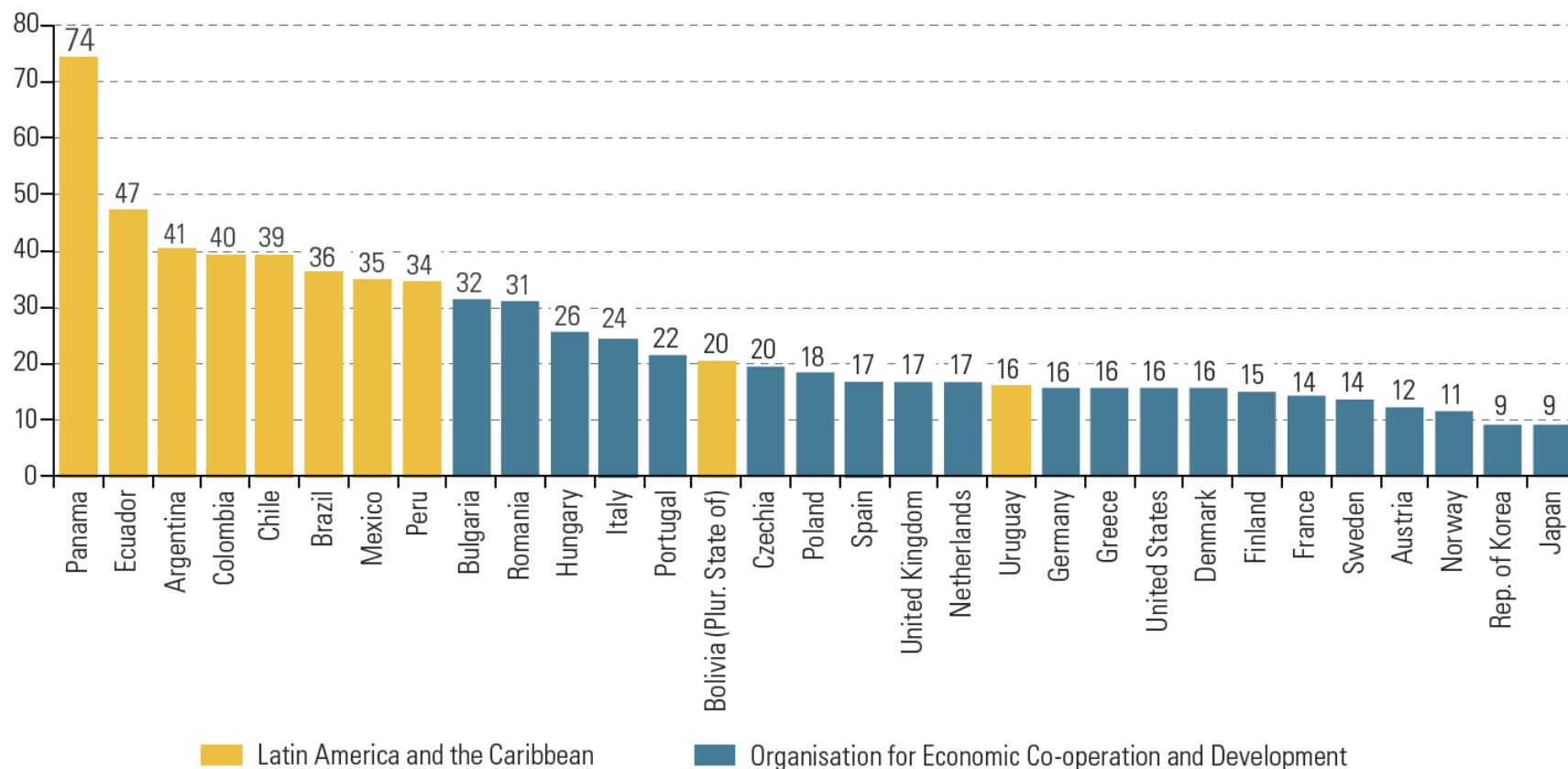
# Progress in territorialization of the 2030 Agenda

**Territorial development policies** aim to close development gaps within and among territories

**Key approaches** for territorial policies: intersectoral, multiscale, intertemporal and multi-stakeholder

**Voluntary local reviews:** support alignment of subnational development plans with the 2030 Agenda and complement efforts to follow up voluntary national reviews

Latin America (10 countries) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (21 countries): territorial disparities in per capita GDP, 2019  
(Average deviations of per capita GDP)



**Source:** N. Genta and others, "Panorama del desarrollo territorial de América Latina y el Caribe 2022", Project Documents (LC/TS.2022/132), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

# Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

- In the Caribbean, the economic and social **vulnerabilities worsened by the cascading crises hampered progress** towards the achievement of the **main SDGs**.
- **In response**, in 2022, discussions within the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee focused on **repositioning, recovery and resilience** of the subregion, with particular emphasis on:
  - Progress in reconceptualizing the **Caribbean Resilience Fund**.
  - Reviewing implementation of the **SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway**.
  - Effectively measuring **multidimensional vulnerability**.
  - Improving **cooperation** and better leveraging global **partnerships** for **financing and resilience**.
  - Enhancing the **Caribbean's integration with Latin America and the global economy**.



# ECLAC also supported implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the framework of its subsidiary bodies

## Subsidiary bodies and Committee of the Whole

Committee of the Whole

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies

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

Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

## Intergovernmental meetings

Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI)

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

## Treaty bodies

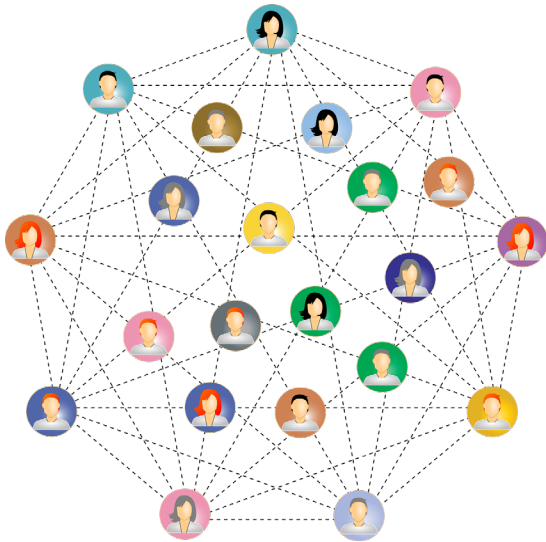
Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).



# Growing participation of civil society in the 2030 Agenda

- The Mechanism for civil society participation enables the involvement of organized civil society in the 2030 Agenda, within the framework of human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability criteria.
- Civil society organizations and networks have a space for coordination and dialogue that has guaranteed contact between different stakeholder groups and representatives of government and the United Nations system. For example:



- (i) The meeting of members of Latin American and Caribbean civil society prior to the meetings of the Forum.
- (ii) The participation of civil society panellists in the different panel discussions at the meetings of the Forum.
- (iii) The statements of Latin American and Caribbean civil society organizations made at the meetings of the Forum.

- It is crucial to continue strengthening effective participation of civil society in decision-making, follow-up and evaluation within the framework of open, inclusive, participatory and transparent processes.

# III. Measuring progress towards the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals



# Countries and the United Nations have endeavoured to improve the availability of data to follow up the SDGs

- Available statistical series grew from 72 to 492 between 2020 and 2023.
- Available indicators climbed from 67 to 172 between 2020 and 2023.
- This volume of statistical information also improves projections and predictability of the trend in SDG targets over time. The “traffic light” system is increasingly accurate.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Statistical series	72	177	359	492
Indicators	67	110	146	172



# Latin America and the Caribbean: SDG targets by likelihood of accomplishment by 2030

Goal	34 goals (27%)			61 goals (48%)				31 goals (25%)					Percentage of targets analysed	
SDG 1		1.3	1.a	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5							
SDG 2	2.1	2.4	2.a	2.2	2.3	2.b	2.c	2.5						
SDG 3	3.4	3.b	3.d	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.a	3.c	
SDG 4			4.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.a	4.b	4.c	4.3				
SDG 5					5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.b	5.c				
SDG 6	6.4	6.6	6.b	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.a						
SDG 7			7.a	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.b							
SDG 8	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.10	8.a	8.9			
SDG 9			9.2	9.1	9.5	9.4	9.a	9.b	9.c					
SDG 10	10.4	10.7	10.a	10.b	10.2	10.5	10.6	10.c						
SDG 11					11.1	11.5	11.6							
SDG 12	12.2	12.4	12.b	12.1	12.5	12.6	12.a	12.c						
SDG 13		13.2	13.3											
SDG 14			14.1	14.2	14.7	14.5								
SDG 15			15.5	15.1	15.a	15.b	15.2	15.4	15.6	15.8				
SDG 16	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.2	16.5	16.8	16.10	16.a						
SDG 17	17.11	17.13	17.17	17.1	17.3	17.4	17.7	17.10	17.19	17.6	17.8	17.9	17.12	

- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend



Goal	41 goals (36%)					38 goals (34%)				34 goals (30%)				Percentage of targets analysed	
SDG 1						1.a	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5				
SDG 2				2.1	2.a	2.c	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.5					
SDG 3		3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.b	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.d	3.2	3.9	3.a	3.c	
SDG 4						4.1	4.2	4.6	4.a	4.3	4.5	4.b	4.c		
SDG 5							5.2	5.4	5.5	5.b					
SDG 6				6.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.a						
SDG 7							7.1	7.2	7.3	7.a	7.b				
SDG 8		8.4	8.5	8.8	8.9	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.10	8.a				
SDG 9				9.1	9.2	9.5	9.4	9.a	9.b	9.c					
SDG 10	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.a	10.b	10.5	10.c							
SDG 11							11.1	11.5	11.6						
SDG 12		12.2	12.4	12.b	12.c	12.6	12.a								
SDG 13						13.3	13.2								
SDG 14			14.1	14.2	14.7	14.5									
SDG 15						15.5	15.1	15.2	15.a	15.b	15.4	15.6			
SDG 16		16.1	16.3	16.5	16.8	16.2	16.6								
SDG 17		17.4	17.10	17.13	17.17	17.1	17.3	17.19	17.6	17.7	17.8	17.9			

- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend



Goal	45 goals (40%)										37 goals (33%)			30 goals (27%)			Percentage of targets analysed					
SDG 1											1.a	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5						
SDG 2											2.1	2.4	2.a	2.c	2.2	2.3	2.5					
SDG 3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.b	3.d	3.1	3.2	3.9	3.a	3.c									
SDG 4											4.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.a	4.c	4.3	4.b				
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SDG 7											7.2	7.a	7.1	7.3	7.b							
SDG 8											8.4	8.5	8.8	8.10	8.1	8.3	8.6	8.2	8.9	8.a		
SDG 9														9.2	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.a	9.b	9.c		
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SDG 11														11.1	11.5	11.6						
SDG 12											12.2	12.4	12.b	12.c	12.a							
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SDG 15													15.5	15.1	15.2	15.a	15.b	15.4	15.6			
SDG 16													16.3	16.3	16.8	16.1	16.5	16.6				
SDG 17											17.4	17.10	17.13	17.17	17.19	17.1	17.3	17.7	17.6	17.8	17.9	

- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend



Goal	35 goals (31%)					45 goals (40%)				32 goals (29%)					Percentage of targets analysed	
SDG 1				1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.a	1.5							
SDG 2		2.1	2.3	2.4	2.a	2.2	2.c	2.5								
SDG 3			3.4	3.b	3.d	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.a	3.c	
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SDG 5					5.4	5.2	5.5	5.b								
SDG 6			6.4	6.6	6.a	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.5							
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SDG 8			8.5	8.6	8.9	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.10	8.a	8.8					
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SDG 10		10.4	10.6	10.7	10.a	10.b	10.2	10.c	10.5							
SDG 11						11.1	11.5	11.6								
SDG 12				12.4	12.b	12.6	12.a	12.c								
SDG 13				13.2	13.3											
SDG 14				14.1	14.2	14.7	14.5									
SDG 15						15.1	15.a	15.b	15.2	15.4	15.5	15.6				
SDG 16		16.3	16.3	16.6	16.8	16.1	16.5									
SDG 17				17.7	17.13	17.1	17.3	17.10	17.17	17.19	17.4	17.6	17.8	17.9		

- The trend is moving away from the target
- The trend is in the right direction, but progress is too slow for the target to be met
- Target already reached or likely to be reached on the current trend





Goal	44 goals (40%)					40 goals (37%)				25 goals (23%)				Percentage of targets analysed
SDG 1					1.3	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.a					
SDG 2				2.1	2.4	2.2	2.a	2.c	2.5					
SDG 3		3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.8	3.b	3.9	3.a	3.d	
SDG 4				4.1	4.2	4.a	4.5	4.6	4.c	4.3	4.b			
SDG 5					5.2	5.4	5.5	5.b						
SDG 6					6.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.a				
SDG 7							7.1	7.2	7.3	7.a	7.b			
SDG 8		8.4	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.10	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.a			
SDG 9					9.1	9.2	9.a	9.4	9.5	9.b	9.c			
SDG 10			10.4	10.6	10.7	10.a	10.5	10.b	10.c					
SDG 11							11.1	11.5	11.6					
SDG 12			12.2	12.4	12.b	12.c	12.a							
SDG 13						13.3	13.2							
SDG 14						14.1	14.2	14.5	14.7					
SDG 15				15.2	15.a	15.b	15.1	15.5	15.4	15.6				
SDG 16					16.1	16.8	16.2	16.3	16.5	16.6				
SDG 17	17.4	17.9	17.10	17.13	17.17	17.19	17.1	17.3	17.7	17.6	17.8	17.12		

- The trend is moving away from the target
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## Summary:

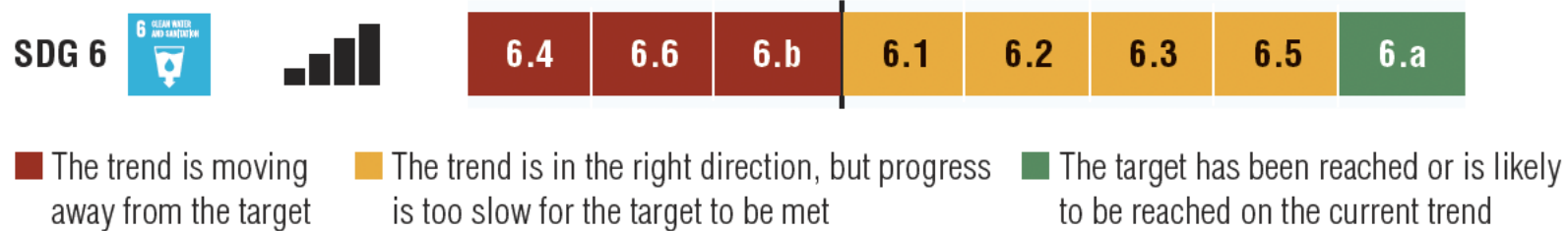
# Target trends moving in the wrong direction, showing insufficient progress, and targets reached or on track, total and by subregion

	Wrong direction	Insufficient progress	Reached or on track
Latin America and the Caribbean	34 (27%)	61 (48%)	31 (25%)
Central America and Mexico	41 (36%)	38 (34%)	34 (30%)
Central America	45 (40%)	37 (33%)	30 (27%)
South America	35 (31%)	45 (40%)	32 (29%)
The Caribbean	44 (40%)	40 (37%)	25 (23%)

# GOAL 6

## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 6 targets, by likelihood of achieving the defined threshold by 2030



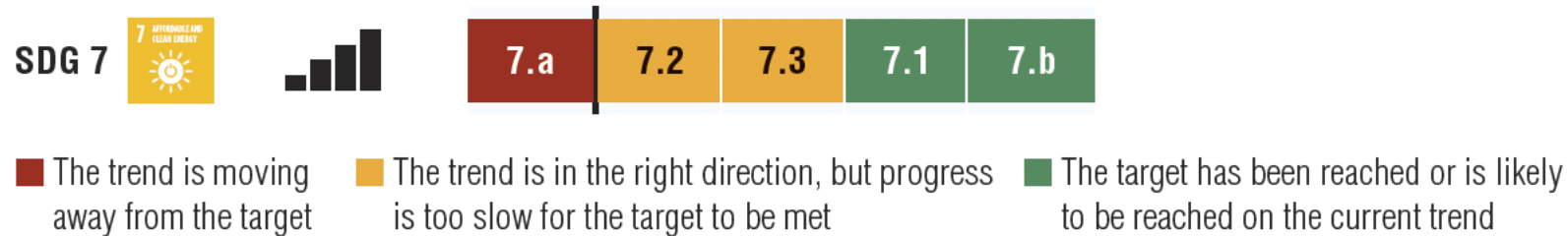
Five cross-cutting accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework are proposed:

- (i) Increase investment and financing for safe water management.
- (ii) Strengthen governance and institutions relating to water.
- (iii) Capacity-building for public servants, especially in local government.
- (iv) Strengthen the production of information to improve decision-making.
- (v) Encourage innovation to improve water management.

# GOAL 7

## Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 7 targets, by possibility of achieving the defined threshold by 2030



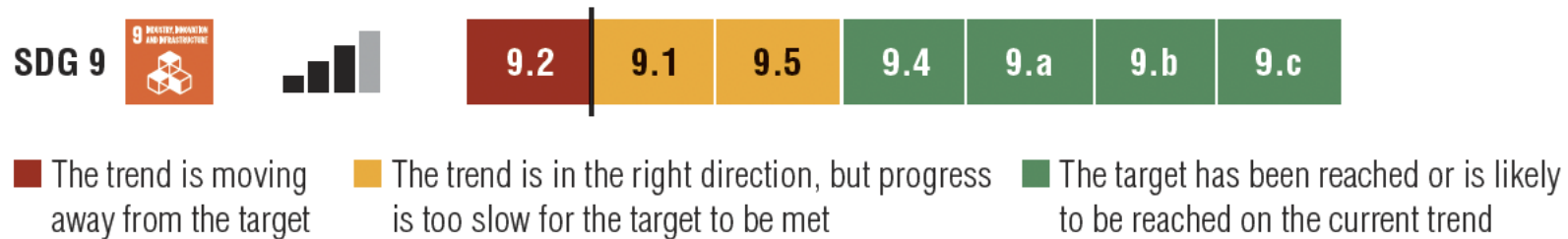
### Recommendations:

- (i) Promote investment in renewable energy;
- (ii) Ensure universal access to electricity from renewable sources;
- (iii) Boost demand for renewable energy through long-term policies and plans;
- (iv) Develop all renewable energy value chains;
- (v) Orient productive policies towards the incorporation of renewable technologies;
- (vi) Boost funding for renewable energy projects;
- (vii) Promote sectoral governance that includes public and private participation and partnerships; and
- (viii) Plan for the long term and promote regional energy integration.

## GOAL 9

# Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 9 targets, by possibility of achieving the defined threshold by 2030



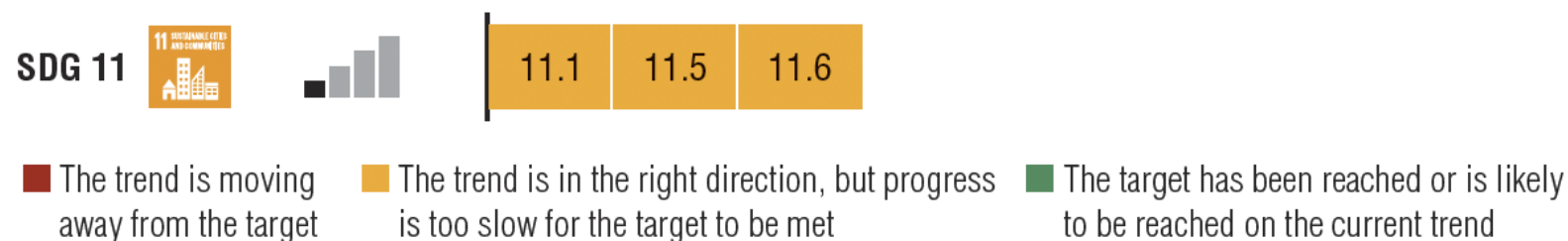
### Recommendations:

- (i) Bolster the regional market through the development of regional production chains;
- (ii) Boost R&D expenditure to 0.7% of GDP;
- (iii) Close the physical infrastructure gap and improve infrastructure resilience; strengthen State capacity to provide infrastructure; boost green infrastructure;
- (iv) Project the productive specialization of the future and promote it, aligning energy infrastructure, transport and the urban model with it;
- (v) Promote cluster initiatives;
- (vi) Incorporate information and communications technologies (ICTs) in production, leverage their impact and promote the digital transformation.

# GOAL 11

## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 11 targets, by possibility of achieving the defined threshold by 2030



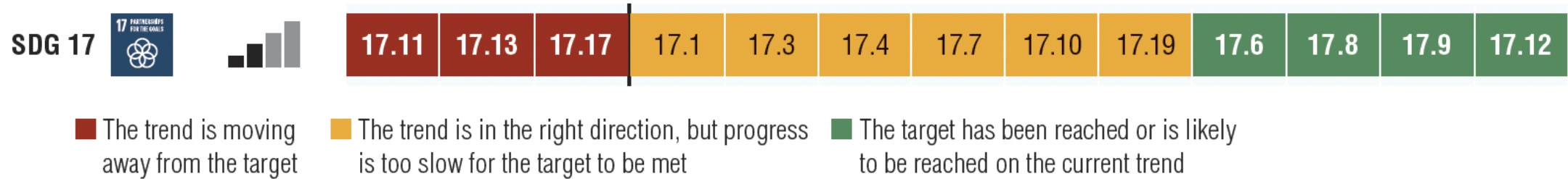
### Recommendations:

- (i) Optimize mobility, for example by lowering the costs of freight transport and reducing travel times;
- (ii) Outline housing strategies and expand the supply of urban land in safe and well-located areas;
- (iii) Innovate in urban financing;
- (iv) Improve strategies to reduce pollution in cities and promote circular and resilient cities.

# GOAL 17

## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 17 targets, by possibility of achieving the defined threshold by 2030



### Recommendations:

- (i) Renew international cooperation on the basis of a classification system that goes beyond per capita GDP to properly capture the level of development of each country, especially middle-income countries;
- (ii) Strengthen cooperation between development banks to increase access to funding for development, improve management efficiency and share best practices for the financing of activities related to the achievement of the SDGs;
- (iii) Strengthen domestic resource mobilization capacity through progressive fiscal reform, to raise the tax burden in most countries.

# IV. Looking towards the future: proposals for acceleration and final reflections





# Efforts must be redoubled in light of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and cascading crises

- Countries have had to step up efforts to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Its effects continue to be felt and are now compounded by new challenges at the global level that have hampered progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite the setbacks, countries' efforts have made a mark at the institutional level in public and private bodies and civil society.
- Efforts must be redoubled through bold, innovative and transformative actions and policies to accelerate progress towards 2030.

# The "hows"

**Transformative  
initiatives**

**Visioning the  
future  
(foresight)**

# Transformative initiatives for accelerating progress towards the 2030 targets

Multiplier effects and synergies with other SDGs



The bioeconomy

Sustainable tourism

Digital transformation

Regional economic integration

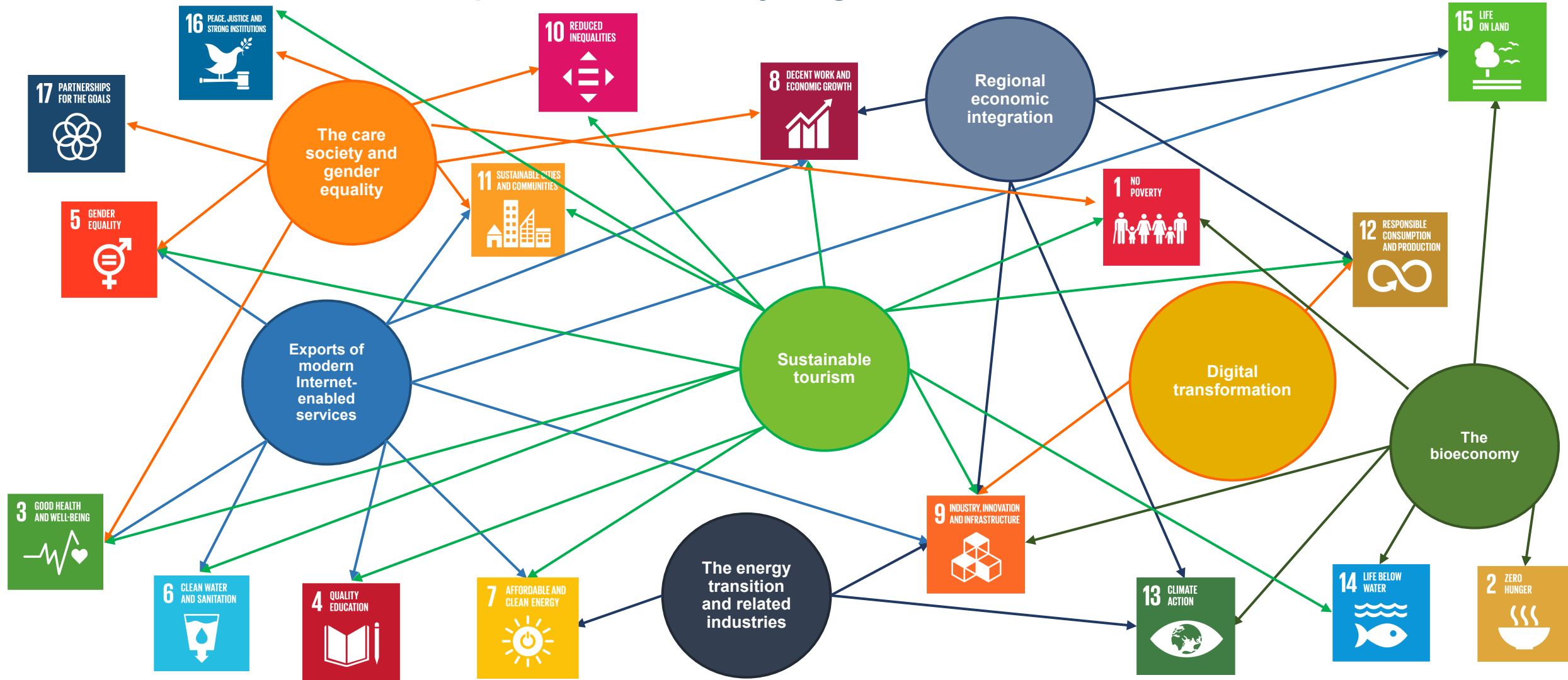
The care society and gender equality

The energy transition and related industries

Export of modern, Internet-enabled services

# Transformative initiatives for accelerating progress towards the 2030 targets

## Multiplier effects and synergies with other SDGs



# Despite a strong tradition of foresight in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region is facing its greatest challenges

- The region suffers from a lack of institutional continuity in foresight exercises.
- Many exercises have been conducted without leading to the internalization of foresight in institutions and systems (platforms, centres, institutes or programmes with far-reaching scope).
- The long-term effect is that foresight is not a part of public policy decision-making processes.

# The current situation highlights the importance of foresight

## Current situation

- Polarization, citizens are active and making demands, opposing visions for countries, political and ideological to and fro.
- Shortcomings in terms of strategic decisions and coordination across different time periods
- The 2030 Agenda and global challenges add pressure to change direction in Latin America and the Caribbean
- The institutional footprint related to the SDGs should therefore be leveraged to agree on State policies through capacity-building and construction of national foresight networks (strategic planning, exploration of possible futures, planning)

# Foresight institutions to transform the development model

- The Report of the Secretary-General entitled Our Common Agenda proposes strengthening international foresight through the Summit of the Future, the Futures Lab, regular Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Reports, and the Special Envoy for Future Generations.
- This sixth report proposes taking advantage of the institutional footprint related to the SDGs to boost capacities for thought and dialogue on the future. Foresight is required for strategic, complex decision-making in unstable, uncertain and tense circumstances.
- Foresight can contribute to:
  - Building capacities for resilience and transformative recovery
  - Addressing global uncertainty and repeated crises
  - Identifying alternatives for exiting crises
  - Governance that is pre-emptive and intertemporal
  - Ongoing social dialogue that connects institutions and citizens and political and social stakeholders
- Robust and relevant foresight calls for an active State that strengthens strategic management and institutional frameworks for planning.

# Summary

- The region is experiencing a development crisis in the middle of a lost decade; halfway to 2030, trends are moving away from many of the SDG targets and progress towards others is very slow.
- Transformative initiatives are needed, involving all development stakeholders: governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.
- Now is the time for bold, transformative State policies that put the region back on track to meet the SDGs by 2030 and set out the strategy for the coming decade.
- The SDG Summit, to be held in September 2023 in New York, and the Summit of the Future, scheduled for September 2024, are great opportunities for the region to make and share effective decisions to accelerate progress.



# Thank you very much



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