

Cuban Integrated Financing Framework (CIFFRA)



REPORT N° 4 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS WORKSHOP





For more than two years, the Joint Program “Support for the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework for the SDGs in Cuba” (CIFFRA) has allowed to use the experience and knowledge of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations System in Cuba, the collaboration of international experts and the coordination of discussion sessions with national stakeholders, to build capacities, strengthen analytical tools and contribute to rethinking policy strategies aimed at increasing, diversifying and optimizing development financing sources.

On September 1 and 2, 2022, a results presentation workshop was held in Havana to present and submit for discussion and validation the main findings of the Joint Program, with the participation of more than 50 Cuban government officials, academics, experts and representatives of international organizations.

The event was officially opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Planning, Alejandro Gil, who thanked CIFFRA for its contributions and called for the preparation of a road map to implement the main recommendations of the Joint Program.

The workshop was also chaired by Raul García-Buchaca, ECLAC Deputy Executive Secretary for Administration; Consuelo Vidal, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba; Hugo Beteta, Director of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico; Ivan Zverzhanovski, deputy resident representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Cuba; Juan Diego Ruiz, head of the regional office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and Jaime Díaz Palacios, executive vice president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

Other participants included 8 vice ministers and a group of directors and specialists from the institutions that have actively collaborated in the project, the main ECLAC officials who have been part of the coordination and implementation of CIFFRA, representatives of other United Nations agencies, international organizations, as well as Cuban and international experts who have collaborated with the Joint Program.

The main working sessions of the workshop are summarized below:

- ▶ Panel 1A. Planning tools for the development strategy. The panel presented the main contributions of CIFFRA in the design and implementation of analytical tools for development planning.
- ▶ Humberto Soto, ECLAC official, presented the experience of applying the methodology for identifying critical links and nodes to the Cuban case. Abelardo Medina, ECLAC consultant, presented the

results of three relevant exercises of the project: (i) the costing of development strategy financing gaps; (ii) the preparation of a balanced scorecard; and (iii) the development of a Medium-Term Budgetary Framework. Jesús Matos, advisor to the Minister of Finance and Prices, explained the expectations and the steps to be taken for the transition to a program-based budgeting.

- ▶ Panel 1B. Development banking, financial inclusion and productive transformation. The panel aimed to address the challenges of financing productive transformation under Cuba's concrete conditions.
- ▶ Francisco Villarreal, ECLAC official, explained the main lessons learned from international experience on the role of development banks in productive transformation processes. Karina Cruz, Cuban researcher and ECLAC consultant, presented CIFFRA's 30 policy recommendations to strengthen national strategies for financing productive transformation, specifically in the agricultural sector.
- ▶ Panel 1C. Family remittances and development financing. The panel discussed ECLAC's recommendations to strengthen national strategies for attracting remittances and channeling them towards productive development objectives. The presentation was made by Ana Luiza Matos de Oliveira and Adrien Randolph Gilbert, ECLAC officials.
- ▶ Panel 1D. Development financing monitoring and supervision. The panel presented the key results of the Joint Program in the development of tools for monitoring and supervision of development goals and their financing.
- ▶ Adriana Acosta, Deputy Director of the MEP, presented the progress made in the improvement of the LabODS platform. Henry Colina, Yarbredy Vazquez and Dayma Echevarría, professors at the University of Havana, presented the results of the diagnostic of key issues for capacity building to measure SDG indicators, the results of exercises to identify initiatives to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Cuba, and the experiences of training and awareness-raising workshops on gender-sensitive financing.

Image 1

Opening of the workshop by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Planning of Cuba, Alejandro Gil, September 1, 2022



Source: Author's own elaboration.

- ▶ Panel 2A. Best practices for internationalization through export and foreign direct investment (FDI) promotion, and the development of science, technology and innovation (STI) networks. The panel discussed the results of the work of a group of international experts led by Simona Iammarino (London School of Economics), who conducted an exhaustive study of international experiences (good and bad policy practices) in four key areas for development financing: (i) export promotion; (ii) attraction and channeling of FDI; (iii) promotion of STI; and (iv) governance and public investment.
- ▶ Panel 2B. Tips for FDI attraction and export promotion. As a continuation of the previous panel, CIFFRA's 30 policy recommendations to strengthen national strategies for export promotion and FDI attraction were presented. The presentation was made by Indira Romero, ECLAC official, and Carlos Lage Codorniu, ECLAC consultant.
- ▶ Panel 2C. Opportunities for accessing multilateral mechanisms. The panel addressed the challenges of Cuba's access to multilateral mechanisms for development financing under the restrictive environment imposed by U.S. sanctions on the island.
- ▶ Jaime Díaz Palacios, CABI Executive Vice President, presented the opportunities offered by his organization to the sub-region and, in particular, to Cuba. Juan Diego Ruiz, head of IFAD's regional office, reflected on development financing experiences in Cuba through multilateral mechanisms and, especially, IFAD's experience and immediate projects. Both presentations presented the challenges from the perspective of the multilateral financial resource providers.
- ▶ 2D panel. Integrated vision of CIFFRA messages and recommendations. The workshop was closed with a presentation on the key messages of the Joint Program, after more than two years of work. Ramón Padilla, head of the economic development unit of ECLAC Mexico, presented the 10 most relevant messages of ECLAC's experience in identifying challenges and proposing recommendations for development financing in Cuba. Ricardo Núñez, UNDP program officer in Cuba, presented 5 additional messages on monitoring and supervision tools for development financing.

Image 2

Participants in the Workshop to present the results of CIFFRA, September 2, 2022



Source: Author's own elaboration.

- ▶ The CIFFRA results presentation workshop was implicitly a synthesis of the project’s roadmap and its main milestones. It was also an expression of several of the main attributes of the Joint Program during its more than two years of implementation:
 - ▶ mobilization of public officials, Cuban academics and international experts to establish a dialogue on issues relevant to the national economy, as opportunities for building consensus and furthering diagnostics;
 - ▶ improvement of joint work mechanisms between agencies of the United Nations system, as well as facilitation of dialogues between the Cuban government and other international organizations; and
 - ▶ two-way capacity building for Cuban counterparts (through developed tools, “tailor-made” training courses and even the dialogue opportunities created) and for ECLAC and the United Nations system (better understanding of the Cuban reality and of the processes of building integrated national financing frameworks).

CIFFRA Technical Committee – October 31, 2022



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