



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean¹

Key regional statistics on SDG 10

- The simple average of the Gini coefficient for 18 Latin American countries decreased from 0.543 in 2002 to 0.466 in 2017. However, the reduction has slowed in the past few years: between 2002 and 2008, the average annual decline in the index was 1.3%; between 2008 and 2014, 0.8%; and between 2014 and 2017, 0.3%.
- The richest decile in the region captures 30% of total resources: this is double the resources captured by the ninth decile and five times the resources going to the first quintile.
- Latin America and the Caribbean devotes 12% of GDP to public social spending, compared with 29% of GDP in developed countries.
- The net migration rate of Caribbean nationals has generally been one of the highest globally, with major impacts on smaller territories. For countries with less than 100,000 inhabitants, where the highest proportions are seen, 42% of the native-born population lives abroad, while one third of inhabitants are immigrants. This has resulted in a shortage of qualified labour in critical sectors.
- Remittances are an important source of income to many Caribbean countries (equivalent to 5.6% of GDP in 2015). However, in 2017 the average cost of sending remittances to the subregion was 7.8% (using a remittance of US\$ 200 as a reference), which is higher than the cost of transfers to Central America (4.7%) and South America (6.0%).

¹ The analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) presented here is the outcome of the discussions held within the framework of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019.



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
24–26 April **2019**



SDG 10

Key messages from the region on the issues addressed by SDG 10 and its targets

- Inequalities limit economic growth, marginalize people and erode trust in institutions.
- Large intergenerational inequalities remain in the region.
- There is gendered occupational segregation and greater participation by women in precarious work.
- High levels of inequality require greater social cohesion.
- The existence of structural inequalities obliges States to act to close the gaps, in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- The region needs to move closer to a broader concept of equality that admits affirmative action.
- Addressing inequality requires differentiated treatment for vulnerable people; an approach based on universalism sensitive to difference is important for social policies.
- Migration and natural disasters can contribute to inequality in the region.
- Migration should be regulated and facilitated, not restricted.

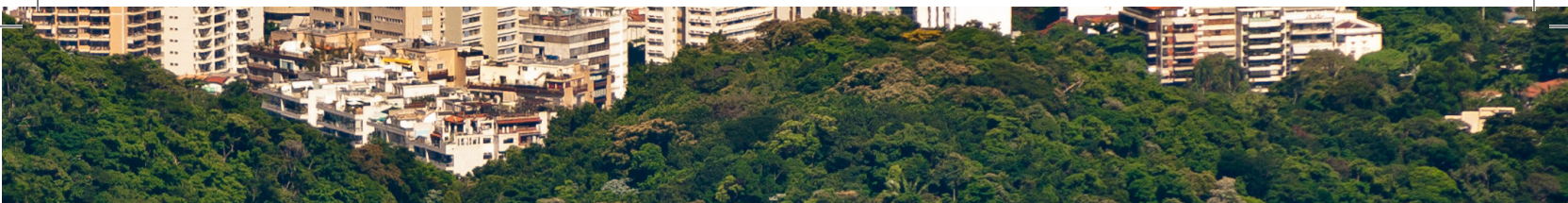
Challenges and opportunities for the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 10 and its targets

Challenges

- No SDG refers explicitly to older persons, although age-based discrimination is a serious problem. It is important to recall the right to autonomy and self-determination of older persons.
- Systematic access gaps affect migrants: reducing inequality means fighting forms such as racism, xenophobia, bias and prejudice, and exploitation, and States should have effective mechanisms for protecting refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking and sexual abuse, among others, providing differentiated responses. The approach to migratory governance must be comprehensive and multilateral.
- Coordination between different administrative and political levels for facilitating policy implementation is also a challenge in the region.

Opportunities

- Incorporating civil society better into both implementation and follow-up, not only through reporting mechanisms, but also consultative and executive processes.
- Involving parliaments increasingly in the discussion on mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Ensuring a territorial approach to tackle inequalities based on participatory policies for the implementation and management of programmes, and addressing the needs of remote or marginalized localities.
- Commitment and political will are vital for reducing inequalities.
- Coordinating stakeholders (political, technical and social assistance) and different institutional levels (local, subnational and national) to reduce inequalities in the local policy sphere.



Lessons learned and good practices with respect to SDG 10 and its targets

- Various initiatives to reduce inequality can be promoted from within the private sector, such as gender equality initiatives, training for various groups, and productive credits.
- The Agreement on Residence for Nationals of States Parties of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile enabled about 2 million people to regularize their status in Argentina.
- In Panama, the use of the social inequality matrix approach is helping to start up a capacity-building process among government officials to implement more equitable public policies.

Recommendations from Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve SDG 10 and its targets

- Increasing data disaggregation (different population groups and territories) to make different inequalities more visible, beyond inequality of income.
- Urgently adopting a broader concept of social protection, linked up with productive policies.
- Combating poverty and inequality through a long-term territorial approach: knowing the local territory is essential for policy development.
- Conveying the 2030 Agenda to public officials at the local level and to the various institutions to enhance efforts being made within each area.
- Establishing mechanisms to facilitate participation in design, management and implementation by those affected by policies.
- Strengthening social institutions within and among the different political and administrative levels.
- Incorporating the notion of multiculturalism and interculturalism in developing public policies.



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



SDG 10



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org

