



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and reinvigorate the global partnership for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean¹

Key regional statistics on SDG 17

- The gap in financing for sustainable development is US\$ 2.6 trillion.
- US\$ 90 trillion are needed for sustainable infrastructure from now until 2030.
- The economic costs of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean will range between 1.5% and 5% of regional GDP up to 2050.
- 29 countries of the region have established institutional coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs.
- 154 indicators have been identified as priorities for monitoring the SDGs in the region.
- In 2015, Caribbean small island developing States received, on average, net official development assistance equivalent to only 0.3% of gross national income (GNI), while low-income countries received flows equivalent to 8.7% of GNI, heavily indebted poor countries the equivalent of 6.1% of GNI, and Pacific small island developing States the equivalent of 10.8%. Indeed, nearly all Caribbean small island developing States are classified as upper-middle and high-income countries, and this has disqualified them for concessionary financing.
- In 2015, of the 25 most indebted countries in the world (in terms of gross public debt to GDP), 4 were Caribbean. Moreover, the subregion's total debt burden stood at US\$ 52 billion, just over 70% of subregional GDP.
- Between 2000 and 2015, Caribbean small island developing States suffered at least seven disasters in which the cost of damage ranged from 33% to 200% of the affected country's GDP. As the impact of climate change is only growing, it is most urgent to create a Caribbean resilience fund, as proposed by ECLAC, to provide financing for investment in climate resilience, green growth and structural transformation in the economies of the subregion.

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.



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Key messages from the region on the issues addressed by SDG 17 and its targets

- To achieve the SDGs, planning processes within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be improved, to integrate the Agenda at all levels of policy and government, linking plans and budgets in a coherent manner.
- Given the financing gap, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be collaborative (public sector, private sector and civil society); public-private partnerships are key to achieving the SDGs.
- The SDGs can serve as a key investment risk assessment framework: the more sustainable the investment, the greater the returns.
- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on participatory processes and dissemination of the SDGs; civil society must see its initiatives reflected in the voluntary national reviews.
- Because they are classified as middle-income or graduated countries, Caribbean nations receive less funding, even though they are more exposed to natural disasters and are more vulnerable to external economic shocks.
- South-South and triangular cooperation are important means for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular through the exchange of successful experiences and support to develop statistics and national plans.
- It is important to support technological capabilities in the region (through free software and technology transfer) and greater openness to concessional financing schemes for middle-income countries.
- Data are key assets for achieving the SDGs: without data innovation and protection, it will not be possible to drive the 2030 Agenda forward.
- The prioritization of measurement is key; the SDG indicators must be prioritized by national and regional realities.

Challenges and opportunities for the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 17 and its targets

Challenges

- Even if they have achieved sustained growth, middle-income countries display large structural gaps, so the graduation criterion should be multidimensional. One possibility would be to assess countries by triple-impact indicators (GDP, social inclusion indices and per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions).
- Although it is not always obvious or visible, the regional dimension offers a platform for sharing experiences and achieving synergies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- A common language needs to be built up among businesses and between them and the public sector.
- Private initiative, with its investment capacity, should be more engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; this would enable firms to explore new markets and adopt new business models.
- Companies' contributions should be included in the SDG indicators, and the contribution of the private sector reflected in voluntary national reviews. In particular, there is little information on the universe of small and medium-sized firms (SMEs).
- The region is below the world average in terms of data reporting and management. In particular, there is a normative and cultural gap in data protection, which could be closed through multilateral efforts, public-private partnerships and the establishment of standards for the ethical management of big data.
- There is a gap in terms of statistical production and the accessibility of information that already exists. National statistical offices need new capacities and trained professionals to leverage new data sources, supply data for measuring the SDG indicators and process qualitative information.



- New data sources (big data) can be integrated into official statistics on SDGs, in addition to being used for disaster risk management and improvement of public services.
- There is a need to strengthen statistical disaggregation at the local level and for vulnerable groups, in order to determine why some are lagging behind. There are not enough data to support a theory of change capable of indicating why what is implemented works or does not work.
- There are challenges of implementation (absence of laws and formal structures), measurement (definition of standard criteria) and attribution (how to ensure the scope of the results and choice of methodologies).
- Data need to be linked up with public policies in order to improve accountability.
- The message of the 2030 Agenda must be conveyed to the subnational level and to people; it is necessary to change the narrative and bring the three pillars (economic, social and environmental) into the same conversation.
- It is a major challenge to coordinate efforts (between and within countries) to be more efficient and manage budget limitations.

Lessons learned and good practices with respect to SDG 17 and its targets

- Businesses that perform well on the SDGs achieve better long-term performance and profitability. Collecting SDG-related data internally has enabled firms to include these data in their economic and social returns, which makes it more feasible to issue green bonds.
- International trade can be a source of financing for development, but policies must be in place to ensure that it is inclusive. It is also important to strengthen trade within Latin America and the Caribbean, which can be fostered by making maritime infrastructure more efficient.
- Good practices in fostering business commitment to the SDGs include: the social enterprise business model; the “B Impact” Assessment tool; the SDG Corporate Tracker initiative to measure and analyse the private sector contribution to the SDGs in Colombia, the call for sustainable, innovative and multi-stakeholder initiatives for sustainable development in Colombia; impact bonds in Argentina; and the analysis of business impact on the SDGs across all the links in its value chain.
- Good practices for SDG monitoring include the multidimensional poverty index, tables of national indicators, SDG transparency portals, and the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.
- Good practices at the regional level include the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) (a platform for the design of public policies on digital matters in the region) and the Regional Amazon Observatory.
- The Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean was created to strengthen the institutional capacities of countries and to link up capacities, needs and cooperative initiatives.

Recommendations from Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve SDG 17 and its targets

- The SDGs should be integrated into planning systems (at all levels), budgets and national statistical systems.
- The political opposition must be included in the development of plans, in order to ensure continuity over changes of government. The SDGs must be an agenda of State, not of government.





- Direct multi-stakeholder partnerships (between civil society, academia, private initiative and government at all levels) should be promoted to make the implementation of the 2030 Agenda a continuous, participatory and bottom-up process of policymaking and progress review.
- Policy frameworks must be created, especially for fiscal policy. Strengthening tax systems and active fiscal policy are key to financing the 2030 Agenda. To expand fiscal space, it is necessary to: (i) reduce tax evasion (through national policies and regional agreements); (ii) tax the digital economy; (iii) rethink tax expenditures; (iv) strengthen taxes on personal income and real estate.
- It is important to develop innovative mechanisms for financing the 2030 Agenda. “SDG bonds” could be a way to transfer resources from companies towards sustainable development, provided that the information on green bonds and SDGs is comparable.
- Countries need to modernize their statistical systems in order to leverage new data sources (big data, geospatial information systems, and administrative data sources).
- Developing statistics at the territorial level is fundamental for moving forward on the SDGs. Spatial planning needs to be strengthened by means of knowledge transfer.
- The multidimensional approach to development needs to be bolstered with methodologies (developed in the South) to measure the progress of South-South cooperation, on the basis of more and better data.
- The harmonization of efforts should be reflected in the work of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system operating in the region; the coordinated support of the system is essential, including for the gathering of information and coordination of key stakeholders.

