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## **Summary of the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024–2025**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith a summary of the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2024–2025.



## Summary of the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024–2025

### I. Introduction

1. Latin America and the Caribbean faces three development traps: low capacity for growth; high inequality and low social mobility and cohesion; and weak institutional capacities and governance. These traps pose significant obstacles to a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future; it is, therefore, no exaggeration to say that the region is in a development crisis. Added to these traps are the challenges of climate change and of fostering environmentally sustainable development.

2. With five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, progress is lagging behind. Only 23 per cent of Goal targets are expected to be achieved in the region by 2030; for 41 per cent, the trend is moving in the right direction but too slowly to reach established thresholds; and for the remaining 36 per cent, progress has stalled or reversed compared with 2015.

3. According to the latest estimates, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) forecasts that the region will grow 2.0 per cent on average in 2025, which is four-tenths lower than what was projected in December 2024.

4. The region is facing a very complex and highly uncertain international scenario. The tariff-related announcements made by the United States of America not only have direct effects on what the region's countries export to that economy but also have indirect effects through greater volatility in international financial markets.

5. These announcements and the geoeconomic confrontation sparked have increased the risk of severe disruptions to global production chains and in international trade flows. All these factors have prompted a downward revision for growth prospects at a global level and in particular among the region's main trading partners.

6. This has entailed significant changes to the macro conditions and includes a deceleration in external aggregate demand, which could prompt increased imbalances in external accounts in 2025 beyond what had been anticipated, an increase in exchange-rate volatility and greater accumulation of international reserves for precautionary purposes.

7. Investment will show less dynamism, in accordance with the prospects for deceleration seen in global trade, and in particular among the region's main trading partners, and the greater uncertainty being shown by the global economy.

8. Invigorating growth requires a combination of more proactive macroeconomic and productive development policies than those that the region has had up to now, increasing investment in physical and human capital and putting productive development agendas into practice in dynamic driving sectors.

9. ECLAC has sustained its support to member States through thought leadership and policy advice, technical cooperation and intergovernmental convening to address development traps and support the acceleration of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes deepening work on transformative sectors aligned with a new generation of productive development policies that enable the synergistic implementation of multiple Goals across the economic, social and environmental pillars of development. In addition, ECLAC provided technical support on mobilizing financing for development, including by fostering regional cooperation on tax matters and climate financing. The Commission continued to build

its data and knowledge ecosystems to enhance the monitoring of the Goals, as well as the territorial dimensions of productive development and digital transformation to support evidence-based policies.

## **II. Advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region**

10. At its fortieth session, held from 9 to 11 October 2024 in Lima, ECLAC presented a new proposal contained in the report entitled *Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them*.

11. In its analysis, ECLAC identifies the three traps and a decalogue of development gaps, some of which are related to the traps. In terms of “what” must be done, 11 major transformations were deemed vital for moving towards more productive, inclusive and sustainable development. Of these, three have been selected for in-depth analysis, with an emphasis on “how” to achieve them: (a) a major productive transformation for higher, sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth; (b) a major transformation to reduce inequality and foster inclusion and social mobility; and (c) a major transformation to boost sustainability and combat climate change.

12. ECLAC is supporting the following vital transformations needed to overcome development traps and move towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable development model: (a) rapid, sustainable and inclusive growth (productive development, productivity and employment); (b) reduced inequality and increased mobility and social cohesion; (c) expansion of social protection and the welfare state; (d) effective education for all and wide access to vocational training; (e) progress towards gender equality and the care society; (f) a big environmental push to promote sustainability and address climate change; (g) digital transformation; (h) safe, orderly and regular migration; (i) progress towards greater regional and global economic integration; (j) macroeconomics for development and sound and strong taxation; and (k) strengthened capacities of the State (institutions, governance and social dialogue).

### **A. High-impact initiatives for Sustainable Development Goal acceleration**

13. ECLAC has contributed to the recovery of countries after the impact of the pandemic on health coverage, in particular in terms of coverage of essential health services (Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.8). This has been achieved through joint work with countries to strengthen primary care to meet the health needs of the population, addressing barriers and inequalities in access, in line with a primary care strategy that incorporates the social determinants of health. ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) in estimating the costs of expanding health services to more than 53 million people without social security, aiding in the formation of IMSS Bienestar, a decentralized public body, representing a significant step towards universal health coverage in the country. In Chile, ECLAC supported the initial implementation of the universalization of primary healthcare programme, by identifying lessons learned and necessary adjustments for the scaling up of the programme, which has now expanded to nearly 30 communes nationwide. It also enabled an enriching dialogue between the Ministry of Health and the sector’s unions which contributed to the implementation of the programme.

14. The Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean, co-organized by ECLAC and held in Santiago in 2024, included delegations from 28 countries. ECLAC published two of the three documents

prepared for the Meeting. The document on the challenge of financial sustainability in education was presented in the first session of the event, which brought finance ministers and education ministers together. As a result, the term “financial sustainability” was included in the Declaration of Santiago. This marked a crucial recognition of the long-term investment needed for quality education. Pursuant to the Declaration, a working group coordinated by ECLAC was established. The working group is developing proposals on educational financing to support the transformation of education in the region, emphasizing the urgent need to invest more and better to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4.

15. On Sustainable Development Goal 5, ECLAC has also played a key role in the advancement of care policies in the region, including the establishment of comprehensive care system laws, the territorial implementation of care policies and systems and the expansion of time policies in the labour market. *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda* highlights the establishment of comprehensive care laws in eight countries (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and the expansion of maternity and paternity leave in various countries in the region, with five countries (Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) meeting or exceeding the recommended 18 weeks of maternity leave in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) Maternity Protection Recommendation, 2000 (No. 191), and paid parental leaves, which allow care to be shared between parents, in Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Uruguay.

16. Through the workplan and various field projects, ECLAC contributed to integrating a gender perspective into the official statistics. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is an important statistical tool that disseminates strategic indicators for monitoring equality and the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda.

17. In Colombia, ECLAC has provided extensive technical support to the Mayor’s Office of Bogotá and the District Secretariat for Women, for the development of the current District Care System and the “care blocks”. ECLAC is currently supporting the creation of a national care map, to georeference public care centres at the national, departmental and municipal levels. This initiative is part of the national care system of Colombia and is being developed in coordination with the Ministry of Equality and Equity and the National Administrative Department of Statistics.

18. Concerning Sustainable Development Goal 6, ECLAC is delivering tangible impact in the transition towards a circular economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular through innovative approaches to wastewater treatment and methane recovery, which is used as a new energy source and decreases greenhouse gas emissions. ECLAC has developed an appropriate methodology and instruments to be used in member States after capacity-building. In a regional analysis covering 75 wastewater treatment plants in intermediate cities across the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, ECLAC estimated that an investment of \$250 million could generate annual energy savings of \$46 million, with a payback period of 5.5 years and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.36. This methodology was later applied to smaller plants in El Salvador and Mexico. A flagship example is the municipality of Metapán in El Salvador, where a circular investment plan co-designed with ECLAC is being implemented with less than \$400,000, expected to produce annual savings of \$145,000, a 3.4-year payback period and an internal rate of return of 35 per cent. The Government of Colombia has formally requested the Commission’s support to apply this methodology to 100 additional wastewater

treatment plants in order to develop a national methane recovery strategy and unlock climate financing. In addition, ECLAC has delivered technical training on this approach in Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

19. ECLAC supported the coordination of regional energy compacts in Central America by working closely with the Central American Integration System and national energy authorities to finalize five regional compacts addressing topics such as climate, food security, transport and biodiversity. The compacts were approved by the System's Council of Energy Ministers in 2024. This constitutes progress in both the regional and global energy sectors, while also strengthening the often fragile regional integration processes in Central America.

20. ECLAC has supported the government of Santiago del Estero Province, Argentina, in building a comprehensive road map in order to identify and harness emerging productive sectors with the potential to diversify the productive structure and enhance its overall development pathway. Based on an in-depth diagnosis of the province's productive structure, dynamics and actors, through both quantitative and qualitative analysis, ECLAC and the government have identified the knowledge economy as a priority sector for potential growth, job creation and economic and social spillovers. The Commission prepared a focused analysis and policy recommendations for the advancement of the knowledge economy in the province and for digital transformation, in line with the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2026), adopted at the Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in November 2024. ECLAC policy recommendations were incorporated into the province's digital development plan, including guidelines on the following: science, technology and innovation; education and research; and digital transformation of specific subsectors and companies.

21. Related to Sustainable Development Goal 12, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, conducted a comprehensive diagnosis to inform the city's first circular economy strategy and road map. As the urban core of the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area – home to 37 per cent of the population of Argentina – it is the most densely populated district in the country and a vital economic hub. The diagnosis involved the mapping of regulatory frameworks, existing strategies and public policies related to circular economy, while identifying priority value chains across the four sectors that account for nearly the entire gross geographic product. Similarly, ECLAC worked alongside the Government of Uruguay in an interinstitutional process to develop the country's National Circular Economy Strategy. The strategy presents a shared vision structured around five priority action areas, with a focus on resource flows of high economic relevance, whether by volume, value-added potential or circularity. The strategy outlines enabling instruments for innovation in regulation, economic incentives, capacity-building and information systems.

22. On Sustainable Development Goal 17, ECLAC plays a leading role in promoting regional initiatives that contribute to the advancement of target 17.1. An example of this leadership is the support provided to the Ministries of Finance of Brazil, Chile and Colombia in the creation of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a space to foster cooperation between ministries of finance in order to generate analysis, exchanges and technical guidance to contribute to the design of tax policies that promote sustainability, equity and growth. ECLAC serves as the technical secretariat of the Platform, providing technical analysis on key tax issues. ECLAC has provided critical analytical inputs that guided the deliberations of the Platform's working groups on progressive taxation, environmental taxation and the evaluation of tax expenditures. These efforts contributed to the 2024 Group of 20 (G20)

proposal by Brazil for a global minimum wealth tax and have led to Latin American and Caribbean countries working together in international tax discussions, such as the intergovernmental negotiations for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation.

23. In addition, ECLAC provided regional analyses and technical support to ministries of finance implementing cross-cutting initiatives such as mainstreaming gender into fiscal policies. In 2024, ECLAC provided the Ministry of Finance of Chile with an overview of a framework for the incorporation of a gender perspective into the budgetary process, a review of legal frameworks and recent pilot cases and a guide to identifying and classifying public spending on gender. This approach could be useful for other countries wishing to implement similar initiatives. In the Dominican Republic, ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development aimed at developing a strategy to align its planning and budgetary processes. This support led to the development of guidance material to examine its strategic policy goals and financing frameworks by identifying physical and financing gaps for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and a mapping of innovative financing tools that could be leveraged to support its development strategy.

24. ECLAC has actively contributed to the increased statistical visibility of Indigenous Peoples and the Afrodescendant population, strengthening their inclusion in population censuses and other data sources. One of the most significant impacts has been the increased and improved identification of Indigenous Peoples and Afrodescendants in censuses. ECLAC has also contributed to introducing participatory mechanisms in censuses with the representatives of the groups concerned, as well as to the development of complementary indicators aligned with the needs of these groups and the standards for collective rights.

## **B. Region-specific analysis and forecasts**

25. ECLAC pursued its analytical work on key dimensions of the region's sustainable development, including its annual flagship publications, which in the reporting period included: (a) *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (b) *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (c) *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (d) *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (e) *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (f) *Demographic Observatory, 2024*; (g) *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; (h) *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*; and (i) the new *Panorama of Productive Development Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*.

26. In addition, the publication *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*, the eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was presented to member States at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which was held in Santiago from 31 March to 4 April 2025. Projections based on the latest available data presented in the report indicate that only 23 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets will be met by 2030; 41 per cent are moving in the right direction, but at an insufficient pace for achievement by the deadline; and 36 per cent have stalled or regressed relative to the 2015 baseline.

27. The report concludes with a summary of key findings, conclusions and policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development

Goals. It underlines the need for innovative solutions to questions on the structural transformations that are needed and how to manage them and highlights the importance of adopting a model of anticipatory governance, strengthening investment and implementing productive development policies, including productive development agendas in dynamic sectors, as well as policies linked to social protection and care and environmental sustainability. The above should be approached through a framework of strong partnerships, enhanced governance and reinforced technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of relevant institutions, underpinned by the required mobilization of both internal and external resources.

28. With regard to Sustainable Development Goal 5 and mainstreaming a gender perspective, ECLAC and ILO jointly prepared Gender Equality Bulletin No. 4 entitled “Time for care in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards social and gender co-responsibility”. The bulletin presents an analysis of the status of maternity, paternity and parental leave in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also outlines the challenge of advancing measures such as parental leave, long-term care leave and urgent leave, as well as the shortening of the working day and more flexible arrangements in terms of both hours and places of work.

29. ECLAC and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) prepared the publication *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender Indicators up to 2024* as an input for the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and as a background document for the sixteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean – to be held in August 2025 on the theme “Political, economic, social, cultural and environmental transformations as a means of advancing the care society and gender equality”. The document is based on gender indicators prioritized for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and enhanced with indicators from the regional framework and the Gender Equality Observatory. It also incorporates disaggregated figures for intersectional analyses, so that results can be contextualized and each goal more thoroughly analysed.

### **C. Promoting inclusive social development and contributions to global initiatives**

30. One of the traps identified by ECLAC in Latin America and the Caribbean is that of high inequality and low social mobility and cohesion. Poverty continued its gradual descent, following a spike during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; however, 172 million people in the region still do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, and 66 million of them cannot buy a basic food basket. In view of these indicators, ECLAC placed emphasis on the promotion of its Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and recognized the critical importance and strategic opportunity of the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025. The document “Latin America and the Caribbean looking ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development: proposals for inclusive social development”, was presented during the global action dialogues at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The document, prepared by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development, presents the key messages to be shared with the international community in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development. They are grouped into four priority areas: (a) combating inequality, poverty and hunger; (b) social protection systems: comprehensive care policies and quality public policies

to leave no one behind; (c) action for inclusive social development; and (d) towards a global pact for inclusive social development.

31. ECLAC also presented the special report entitled “The road to the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development: towards a pact for inclusive social development”, which contains 10 proposals for an inclusive social development pact, which align with the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda and support its accelerated realization.

32. In relation to the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, ECLAC prepared the publication *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 Years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*, based on 25 reports prepared by countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, which in turn are based on comprehensive national 30-year reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The report is grounded in the synergy between the Regional Gender Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It contains recommendations to accelerate the realization of gender equality, the safeguarding of the rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and women’s autonomy.

33. ECLAC provided technical assistance to national statistical offices and machineries for the advancement of women to strengthen their capabilities to produce and analyse gender-indicators, with an emphasis on time use surveys, a key input for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1. In addition, the Gender Equality Observatory, under ECLAC, compiles indicators that are part of the Goals, such as indicator 5.5.1b on women’s participation in local governments (in coordination with UN-Women) and the femicide indicator (Goal C-5.2), which is part of the regional Goal framework. ECLAC also supports and promotes the Working Group on Gender Statistics under the Statistical Conference of the Americas. This group, led by the national statistical office of Mexico, has developed regional standards such as the *Guidelines for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Statistical Production* and the *Methodological Guide on Time-use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

34. In addition, to identify financing priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, ECLAC convened a Regional Conference on Financing for Development, hosted virtually on 15 November 2024, under the Chilean presidency of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was attended by representatives of finance ministries, civil society and academia. ECLAC prepared a background document on challenges and opportunities for the mobilization of financial resources, outlining key action lines for financing policy reform. Discussions were focused on enhancing fiscal policies, improving tax systems and leveraging international cooperation to address economic disparities and environmental sustainability. The urgency of adopting innovative financial instruments and strengthening institutional frameworks to mobilize resources effectively was underscored.

35. In preparation for the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (United Nations Ocean Conference), with the support of France, ECLAC developed a comprehensive study providing updated and relevant information and action points linking the ocean and marine resources with sustainable development in the region. The study includes



an in-depth regional review of all the 14 Sustainable Development Goal targets. This overview contains an analysis of how marine ecosystems provide inputs and a wide variety of ecosystem services to key and rapidly growing economic sectors, and livelihoods for local coastal communities, and the sustainability of the modalities of production and distribution within a comprehensive framework. ECLAC, in collaboration with Costa Rica and France, also organized the virtual Regional Blue Talk on 13 May 2025 to provide a dialogue platform where experts, Governments and key stakeholders could identify priorities, share experiences and develop recommendations for inclusion in a well-coordinated regional contribution to the Conference.

#### **D. Addressing the specificities of the Caribbean subregion**

36. The eighth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable was held on 9 and 10 September 2024. During the meeting, 23 Caribbean member countries and territories addressed five interrelated topics: (a) confronting climate change through strategies for risk reduction, resilience building and economic recovery; (b) improving access to innovative and climate finance: towards investment in adaptation and structural transformation in Caribbean economies; (c) enhancing human capital and competitiveness in fuelling growth and sustainable development in the Caribbean; (d) building economic resilience through diversification; and (e) deepening trade and integration to promote growth and development.

37. In 2024, ECLAC was heavily invested in supporting the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Caribbean small island developing States leading up to and during the fourth International Conference on small island developing States. ECLAC was responsible for one of the five interactive dialogues of the Conference and prepared a background paper and a summary report on the dialogue and recommendations on critical financing and aid effectiveness. ECLAC was actively involved in the interactive dialogue on leveraging data and digital technology to build effective institutions. A dedicated session on advancing Caribbean development through greater synergy in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity was also organized during the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to follow up on implementation and support.

38. Concerning its ongoing efforts to scale financing for adaptation and resilience, ECLAC serves as administrator for the Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters launched by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

39. In July 2024, the Government of Barbados requested that ECLAC assess the damage and losses caused by Hurricane Beryl. The assessment included an estimation of the disaster's effects across multiple sectors: affected population, education, health, housing, power, transport, tourism and agriculture and fisheries.

40. A damage and loss assessment methodology training workshop was conducted jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank in the Bahamas in March 2025, with the participation of 26 government officials.

## **E. Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean**

41. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean has enhanced the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations development system at the regional level to support member States of ECLAC in overcoming shared challenges and implementing the 2030 Agenda according to their national priorities.

42. Through the work of its issue-based coalitions and working groups, the Platform has tapped system-wide assets and capacities to reinforce resident coordinator and United Nations country team efforts in supporting member States to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and support progress on critical global initiatives, such as the Paris Agreement and the Pact for the Future and its annexes, in line with national priorities.

43. By providing operational and programmatic support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams and engaging Governments and critical regional stakeholders, during the period under review, the Regional Collaborative Platform contributed to supporting Member States in advancing sustainable development, strengthening governance systems and integrating youth and future generations in conversations on ensuring a sustainable future. In addition, by establishing an ad hoc mechanism to address emerging regional situations requiring immediate attention, the Platform has demonstrated its agility, adjusting its processes and mechanisms to provide regional support at the country level.

44. The Regional Collaborative Platform enhanced its accountability and transparency with the creation of its website and played an important role in identifying and leveraging opportunities to achieve a more efficient and effective United Nations system in Latin America and the Caribbean.

45. ECLAC, as Vice-Chair of the Platform, has strengthened its partnerships with different entities by co-chairing two issue-based coalitions: on equitable growth and financing for development; and on human mobility, in addition to the knowledge management hub steering committee and the working group on Sustainable Development Goal data and statistics. ECLAC participated in almost all other working mechanisms of the Platform and in the joint secretariat. The Platform prepared its fifth annual report on system-wide results that reflected inter-agency efforts at the regional level to support member States in accelerating the implementation of the Goals, which was presented during a special session of the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

46. Since 2023, the Regional Collaborative Platform has received 54 requests for support from 15 resident coordinators and United Nations country teams across the region. In response, the Platform's issue-based coalitions provided support through the coalitions on climate change and resilience; equitable growth and financing for development; governance for peace, justice and strong institutions; and human mobility. Thematic working groups provided support to foster gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, support populations left behind and highlight the needs of young people.

47. Resident coordinators participated in meetings of the Regional Collaborative Platform to provide first-hand information on specific country situations. During the period under review, the Resident Coordinators of Argentina, Colombia and Haiti updated the Platform about the situation in their respective countries. In-person annual meetings between members of the Platform and all resident coordinators in

the region were also held during the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to discuss upcoming global events and how to support Member States' preparations, fostering joint regional analysis and consensus to leverage the unique political positioning of the countries in the region.

48. The coalition on climate change and resilience provided key information through initiatives on climate finance, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, gender integration and resilience to boost efforts across sustainable development actions, ensuring alignment with global frameworks. The coalition on equitable growth and financing for development shaped a strategy to support the Caribbean in addressing financing for development needs and supported the development of an inclusive growth tracker to enhance the ability of United Nations country teams to make better data-driven policy decisions. The coalition on governance for peace, justice and strong institutions provided resident coordinators with actionable policy advice on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and prison reform and contributed to the Ibero-American Agreement on Access to Justice. In response to evolving mixed movements, the coalition on human mobility provided resident coordinators with critical migration and displacement data for targeted policy responses. The Regional Gender Equality Profile bolstered responsiveness, programming and stronger United Nations coordination on gender equality, while youth engagement and voices were enhanced through regional dialogues and key messages for the Youth20 Summit and the Summit of the Future.

49. ECLAC has strengthened its partnerships with resident coordinators and United Nations entities by jointly preparing major regional conferences, including the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, with UN-Women, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Regional Conference on Population and Development, with the United Nations Population Fund, and the regional review of the Global Compact for Migration, with the International Organization for Migration. The regional commissions prepared joint knowledge products with other entities. For instance, during the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC and UNDP launched a new multidimensional poverty index for Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC and the Pan American Health Organization prepared joint policy reports, the most recent of which was on the urgency of investing in health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce inequality and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

50. In addition, at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a session was jointly organized with the Development Coordination Office on successful national experiences in Sustainable Development Goal acceleration and moderated by the Office's Regional Director and four Resident Coordinators (Barbados, Chile, Panama and Uruguay).

## **F. Outcomes of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

51. To highlight the multi-stakeholder character of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the official activities of its eighth meeting were preceded by meetings of the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, of the Forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean and of

the Interfaith preforum on the theme “Promoting faith-, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. The representatives of these three forums delivered plenary statements based on the results of their respective meetings.

52. Member States attending the eighth meeting of the Forum adopted conclusions and recommendations in which they emphasized, among other issues, the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product and that reflect progress on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation.

53. The eighth meeting of the Forum included dialogues on global, regional and national actions. As part of the dialogues on global action, sessions on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, on the Second World Summit for Social Development, on the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and on the Pact for the Future were held with the participation of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

### **III. Strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

#### **A. Data ecosystems to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals**

54. During 2024 and 2025, ECLAC implemented a range of actions aimed at strengthening its data ecosystem. The statistical database and the geospatial data repository have been expanded, along with the microdatabanks from household and industrial surveys.

55. In January 2025, ECLAC launched a portal on Statistics based on small area estimation models in Latin America, a tool developed by the Statistics Division for producing and disseminating social information at a subnational level, and for promoting the use of innovative methods to produce data at geographically disaggregated levels. In its ongoing efforts to strengthen statistical production and provide more accurate, timely and detailed information on regional realities, ECLAC has developed and made available to the public a series of subnational indicators based on satellite and geospatial data. These indicators offer a more comprehensive and dynamic view of key phenomena such as human settlements, land cover and use and climate change.

56. ECLAC has also promoted the adoption of open data formats to facilitate data use and reuse within the regional platforms defined by the Commission, as well as the use of open-source technologies to enhance sustainability and reduce dependence on proprietary software licences wherever possible. During 2024 and 2025, new developments have been made to integrate structured and unstructured information, using open-source software and making the data available through open data platforms.

57. In parallel, significant efforts have been made to promote the implementation of strong interoperability with other data assets, such as the digital library repository, and to define and deploy the protocols and technologies needed to establish the qualitative data repository and the satellite imagery repository. Standards and protocols for online data visualization have also been encouraged.

58. ECLAC continued to provide technical support to countries of the region in the production of social, economic and environmental statistics, promoting the use of artificial intelligence for statistical production. During the twenty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held on 29 and 30 April 2025, various national and international experiences were presented on the use of artificial intelligence to make official statistical production more efficient. ECLAC is committed to continuing its work in this area.

## **B. Mobilizing financing for development**

59. In 2024, ECLAC convened the thirty-sixth meeting of the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy. Prior to the event, the Council of Treasury, Economy and Finance Ministers of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened with the objective of reviewing regional priorities related to the international tax architecture and the results of the Platform during its first year of operation under the pro tempore presidency of Colombia. Subsequent discussions held during the Regional Fiscal Seminar addressed the region's fiscal policy challenges in the context of low growth and climate change, debt sustainability and the strengthening of public revenue generation for development financing.

60. The thirty-seventh meeting of the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy will be held in May 2025, organized by ECLAC with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Inter-American Development Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to address, among other issues: (a) fiscal policy challenges within a low-growth and high uncertainty context; (b) tax policies to reduce inequality and promote environmental sustainability; and (c) mobilizing financing to expand fiscal space.

61. ECLAC launched a new edition of the International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean in December 2024, on the theme "Reconfiguration of global trade and options for regional recovery". The report contains an analysis of how the complex global context, marked by increased protectionism, geopolitical tensions and shipping disruptions, is affecting the region's international trade. It also contains an examination of the role of international trade in regional food security – and the lack thereof, especially in the Caribbean – despite the region being the world's leading net food exporter. Also in the report is an analysis of the role of modern services as a driver of exports. The report contains recommendations for the development of modern services that include reducing restrictions, harmonizing regulations, developing sectoral policies, advancing digital transformation and attracting foreign direct investment. The importance of productive integration cannot be overstated if the region is to strengthen food security, increase trade in modern services and, at the same time, improve the diversification of the region's export basket.

## **IV. Spotlight on measuring development beyond gross domestic product**

62. In line with action 53 of the Pact for the Future, in January 2025 ECLAC organized a seminar on the measurement of development and its relationship with international cooperation, to examine the use of per capita income as a criterion for country graduation and to explore alternative approaches for measuring development beyond per capita gross domestic product (GDP). ECLAC prepared a briefing note in which it addressed key considerations for creating a new development index. The note also set out a preliminary framework and results for such an index, structured around

the 11 vital transformations outlined in the Commission's proposed development model. Participants in the seminar, attended by representatives of 21 member States and three associate members of ECLAC, stressed the importance of more accessible financing to tackle challenges such as climate change, productive development and inequality reduction.

63. In April 2025, the Commission, in collaboration with the Statistics Division, launched the Multidimensional Poverty Index for Latin America and the Caribbean. The index complements traditional income-based poverty measures by offering a more holistic approach, enhancing public policy design. The methodology allows for regional comparability, taking into consideration limitations in data availability across countries, and serves as a reference for the continued development and refinement of multidimensional poverty measurement.

64. ECLAC is also an active member of the Network of Economic Statisticians, which conducted the Beyond GDP sprint meetings in 2023. In addition, the Commission contributes to the work of the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement, established by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in 2024.

65. In addition, ECLAC is a member of the Friends of the Chair group on social and demographic statistics, created at the fifty-third session of the Commission. This group aims to propose recommendations for a more agile and responsive global statistical system that supports the 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind, while also anticipating data needs beyond 2030. As part of its contributions, ECLAC co-organized a webinar entitled "Places", in which participants explored the significance of geographical context in social and demographic statistics and provided inputs for the background document "Towards an overarching conceptual framework for social and demographic statistics", presented at the fifty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission.

66. Despite technical and political challenges, ECLAC will continue to advocate for the development of a composite index to achieve a more comprehensive approach to measurement beyond GDP, within the dialogue spaces provided by the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **V. Leveraging intra- and cross-regional collaboration and partnerships for sustainable development**

67. Under the coordination of ECLAC of the regional commissions, the policy brief, *Intergenerational relations: creating a world for all ages so that no one is left behind*, was prepared and presented during the side event "Towards a society for all ages: building solidarity and equity across generations", organized by the regional commissions and the Government of Chile during the Summit of the Future action days.

68. Under the leadership of ECLAC, the regional commissions also submitted their contribution for the elements paper of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and prepared a policy brief entitled "Road to Seville: reform proposals for FfD4 from the United Nations regional commissions". In addition, the joint policy document, *On the Road to the Second World Summit for Social Development: Contributions from the Regional Commissions*, was published. For the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cali, Colombia, under the coordination of ECLAC, the regional commissions organized a high-level side-event on the theme "Key actions for interregional and regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global

Biodiversity Framework” and launched the publication *Making peace with nature: Regional Actions to mainstream and invest in biodiversity*.

69. During the Brazilian presidency of the G20, ECLAC presented an unprecedentedly important role in the G20. During its presidency of the G20 in 2024, Brazil invited ECLAC to participate in nine different G20 stances: Task Force on the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Task Force on the Global Mobilization Against Climate Change, Joint Finance and Health Task Force, Framework Working Group, Sustainable Finance Working Group, International Taxation, International Financial Architecture Working Group, Development Working Group and Empowerment of Women Working Group. The achievements obtained in the G20 2024, including the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, consensus on progressive tax systems and a just climate transition with industrial development, had the support of ECLAC to some extent. The Commission provided support to the G20 by preparing technical inputs and contributing to key discussions under the G20 on inequality and poverty, taxation and fiscal aspects, climate change and just transition, including by delivering speeches at meetings, presenting recommendations for the drafting of communiqués and preparing five technical reports.

70. In addition, during the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2024, a session on multi-stakeholder strategies: opportunities for international development cooperation, was held.

71. In the light of its capacity to invest, produce and create jobs, the private sector is central to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, making it the key driver in the economic, social and environmental transformations needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, two major side events with the private sector were held during the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, with more than 300 representatives from the private sector.

## VI. Conclusions

72. The region is facing a very complex and highly uncertain international scenario. The tariff war and the geoeconomic confrontation sparked have increased the risk of severe disruptions to global production chains and in international trade flows. All these factors have prompted a downward revision for growth prospects. 2025 marks the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the start of the five-year countdown to 2030, and regional progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is lagging behind expectations. Support for member States to steer the transformations to accelerate progress in the areas pertaining to the ECLAC mandate will be essential for the Commission’s work on innovative responses to sustainable development challenges. The upcoming global summits will be critical opportunities for the region to reinvigorate partnerships to arrest detrimental trends and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through bold action in areas such as financing for development, debt and international financial architecture reform, social development, poverty eradication and climate resilience and adaption.