

**(a) Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.**

The world is navigating a volatile and complex reality, characterized by slow growth, low trade and investment, forced migration, growing inequalities between and within countries and armed conflicts in a setting of global fragmentation and geopolitical tensions. The recent global panorama and the near-term future confront Latin America and the Caribbean with complex challenges to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The region is going through a crisis in its development, which is manifested in the slow evolution, stagnation or deterioration of social and material progress and, ultimately, the quality of life of the population. The pace of economic growth is very slow and productive development lags behind international competitors; productivity has practically stagnated in the last 20 years, poverty and inequality remain at excessively high levels. As a result, the evidence from the available statistical information shows a setback in the progress of the SDGs from 2020 to 2024. ECLAC estimates that only 22% of the goals already have been or will be achieved by 2030, while 46% maintain a favorable trend but not at the necessary speed to be achieved by 2030 and the remaining 32% moving in the opposite direction. The results show a heterogeneous and complex regional panorama. Although good performance is observed in some SDGs, challenges persist that require urgent action to change course, realign the goals affected by the COVID 19 pandemic and the set of global phenomena and crises to achieve the objectives defined in 2015. The SDGs with the best predictions regarding the fulfillment of their goals in the region are SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 15. The SDGs most likely to fail to meet their expectations are SDG 12 and SDG 13. In SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11 and SDG 16, most of its goals are on the right track, but with forecasts of not being met due to the low rate of progress observed. In the following, both progress and challenges regarding the five SDGs under in-depth review at the 2024 HLPF, namely SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17, will be analyzed from the vantage point of ECLAC and the Latin America and Caribbean region.

**SDG 1**

Latin America made progress in reducing extreme poverty and poverty between 2000 and 2010. However, in more recent years setbacks occurred that distance the region from the possibility of achieving SDG 1. More than 180 million people in the region do not have enough income to meet their basic needs and 70 million of them lack the income needed to acquire a basic food basket. In the Caribbean, poverty is at least as heterogeneous as in Latin America, and although there is no information to describe the trend at the subregional level, the available estimates show that in more than half of the Caribbean countries, poverty reaches at least a quarter of the population. The incidence of poverty is concentrated in the child and adolescent population, in women, in the indigenous population and in people who live in rural areas. Poverty goes beyond a lack of income and resources: its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education, social protection, and other basic services, as well as vulnerability to disasters and climate change, discrimination, and social exclusion. To address the structural problems of poverty and inequality, the countries of the region have made efforts in recent decades to strengthen their social protection systems through policies to expand coverage and levels of benefits, which has been reflected in higher percentages of the poor population receiving monetary transfers or non-contributory pensions. But there are still wide gaps in access to social protection, and its coverage and scope are still insufficient. On average, the region has advanced towards high levels of access to basic services, especially to drinking water and sanitation. However, the regional average hides considerable gaps between urban and rural areas, as well as between subregions and countries. Despite establishing new financing mechanisms and making progress in the articulation between social policy and climate action, insufficient progress is observed to guarantee institutional and social resilience in the face of disasters.

In more concrete terms, in 2022, 29% of the Latin American population lived in poverty, while extreme poverty affected 11.2% of the region's population. By 2022, working-aged women had poverty rates 1.2 times higher than men; while the poverty rate for young people up to 17 years old was 42.5% in 2022,

exceeding that of adults between 35 and 44 years old by 16 percentage points. In 2019, only 46% of the economically active population contributed to pension systems and in 2021 conditional transfer programs reached 25.9% of the population, although in many cases with low levels of sufficiency. In 2021, non-contributory pension systems covered 26.7% of the population aged 65 and over in the region. Between 2000 and 2022, the percentage of the population with access to drinking water increased from 90.7% to 97.6%, and access to sanitation increased from 74.7% to 89.5% in the same period. However, in rural areas both indicators were still far from universal access, with slower progress in the Caribbean subregion in terms of access to drinking water. There is a significant break in the trend of the central government's social spending in the 2020-2022 triennium, with an increase at the beginning of the pandemic and a return to levels close to those of 2019 in 2022, of 11.2% of GDP in average for both years, this adjustment being much greater than that observed in the period after the sub-prime crisis. In Latin America, the share of social spending remains the most important component of total public spending, reaching an average of 53.4% of total public spending. This expenditure amounts to an average of 42.2% in the five Caribbean countries for which official information is available. Social protection, education and health are the areas that represent on average the highest proportion of social spending in Latin American countries and in those of the Caribbean, being led by social protection with 34.9% and 23.1% respectively, health with 23.3% and 29.9% respectively and education with 34.3% and 31.3% respectively. Nevertheless, in 2022, only two countries in the region reached the goal recommended by PAHO/MDG for health spending when considering general government spending, and no country reached it with respect to central government resources. In the same year, only eight countries in the region were within the recommended ranges for spending on education.

## **SDG 2**

The COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine and its impact on supply chains, together with the economic slowdown and the increase in food prices in a context of income inequality, have led to an increase in hunger since 2019, not only in the region but in the world. In this context, it is estimated that food production will have to increase by almost 50% by 2050, compared to 2015 levels, to meet the demand of a growing world population, which is also the case in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is estimated that the region's population will continue to grow until 2056. The required expansion in food production will in turn generate greater pressure on natural resources such as soil, water, and biodiversity, as well as a tendency to increase greenhouse gas emissions. Although the most recent estimates for the region show that there were no increases in the prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in 2022 compared to the previous year, the numbers remain above levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The average progress in the region seems sufficient to achieve the goal of reducing the number of girls and boys under five years of age with chronic malnutrition by 2030, although the prevalence of overweight in this population group shows a marked upward trend in the last two decades. Additionally, the region has made significant progress in food production in recent decades, thanks to technological change and investments in infrastructure.

In more concrete terms, between 2000 and 2014, the prevalence of undernourishment in Latin America and the Caribbean decreased from 10.8% to 5.1%. However, since 2014, low economic growth and, more recently, the confluence of crises have reversed the trend, rising to the level of 6.5% in 2022. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity increased from 21.7% to 29.6% at the regional level between 2015 and 2022, with women and inhabitants of rural areas being the most affected groups in the region. Comparing between subregions, in 2022 the prevalence of undernourishment affected 5.1% of the population of Central America and Mexico (9.1 million people), 6.1% of the population of South America (26.8 million) and 16.3% of the Caribbean population (7.2 million). The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity was 34.5% in Central America and Mexico, 36.4% in South America, and 60.6% in the Caribbean. Given that for now the global supply of food is sufficient to meet global demand, the increase in hunger and food insecurity is mainly due to access problems. The acceleration of food prices, associated with an incomplete post-pandemic economic recovery, based on low-productivity and low-income jobs, constitute barriers to the access of the population of Latin America and the

Caribbean to a healthy diet. The Caribbean has the highest cost of a healthy diet in the region, with 4.41 dollars in purchasing power parity (PPP) per person per day in 2021, followed by South America and Central America and Mexico, with 3.82 and 3.63 dollars respectively. This means that 57% of the Caribbean population cannot access a healthy diet due to its high cost; in Central America and Mexico, this percentage is 22.2% and in South America it is 20.6%. Wasting or low weight for height in boys and girls under five years of age shows a prevalence of 1.4% in 2022, with an estimated range of between 1% in South America and 2.9% in the Caribbean. The prevalence of overweight among boys and girls under five years of age increased in the region from 6.8% in 2002 to 8.6% in 2022, thus showing a relative increase of 26.5 percentage points. This trend is marked more profoundly in the countries of South America, with a relative increase of 40.6%, while in the Caribbean an increase of 8.2% was observed and in Central America a decrease of 2.9%. All countries in the region show a trend towards a decrease in anemia in women aged 14 to 49 years, with Caribbean countries presenting lower reductions and higher prevalence. Between the years 2000 and 2019, regional prevalence went from 25.6% to 17.2%, a reduction that, although important, is still insufficient to achieve the goal. The value added per worker in the regional agricultural sector was approximately U\$7,400 in 2020, a value more than ten times lower than that of the United States (U\$76,700). Regional agricultural productivity increased, in real terms, 2.0% per year between 2000 and 2020 but with important subregional differences. While in South America growth was 2.3% in that period, in Central America and Mexico growth was 1.5% per year and in the Caribbean only 0.8%. In the period 2015-2020, regional agricultural productivity remained stagnant, only increasing in Central America and Mexico but with insufficient increases to reach the global target. According to ECLAC estimates, in South America an increase of 35,295 million dollars annually (1.08% of the GDP of the subregion) would be necessary to reach the intensity of agricultural investment of the United States; in Central America and Mexico, the required increase would be 12,536 million dollars annually (0.73% of the region's GDP) and in the Caribbean it would be 2,594 million dollars annually (3.34% of the region's GDP). Latin America and the Caribbean imports 78% of the fertilizers it uses. No other region in the world depends so much on fertilizer imports, and especially no other region that produces and exports such high quantities of food. The intensity of nitrogen fertilizer use in the region is lower than the world average, especially in the Caribbean, but is growing at faster rates than in the rest of the world, especially in South America. The use of pesticides in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean increased more than 180% between 2000 and 2020, a rate much higher than the world average, which experienced an increase of 56%. Latin America and the Caribbean concentrates 40% of the capacity of the planet's ecosystems, providing dozens of cultivated and domesticated species that are part of the global basic diet. However, the region presents a loss of biodiversity much greater than the world average. In the region there are 10 of the 36 zones of great concern at a planetary level due to its triple condition of high biodiversity, high endemism and a decrease in its original area of 70% or more. The greatest cause of the decrease in biodiversity in the region is the loss and degradation of habitats, mainly due to changes in land use. In Latin America and the Caribbean, about a fifth of total jobs depend largely on biodiversity and regional economic growth has historically been linked to trade of natural assets. However, much of this growth has not been environmentally sustainable, costs have not been internalized and periods of prosperity have not been translated into innovation, productive diversification and long-term economic growth. Between 2001 and 2021, public spending on agriculture, forestry and fishing, environmental protection and agricultural, forestry and fishing research and development in the region averaged around \$23.4 billion annually, representing approximately 0.67 % of GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean, just below the world average of 0.75%. The proportion of countries in the region that experienced unusually high food prices has fallen in recent years, as food inflation was more moderate recently. Despite this, international prices remain high compared to the 2015-2019 period, keeping food inflation at a high level.

### **SDG 13**

Climate change is the most important challenge for humanity in this century. Its causes and consequences demand urgent action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement of limiting the increase in the average temperature of the earth by lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while increasing adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and promoting climate resilience. Latin America and the Caribbean is a

region committed to climate action, regarding its relatively clean energy and electrical matrices, great potential for renewable energies, and a rich biological diversity. Despite this favorable context, the region must increase the speed of decarbonization four or five times to be able to meet the emissions reduction commitments set out in the nationally determined contributions (NDC). Despite contributing only 10% of global GHG emissions, it is a highly vulnerable region to the effects of climate change, mainly due to its geographical location and socioeconomic characteristics. The region's efforts to adapt and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change are concentrated in sectors highly sensitive to climate variation such as water resources, agriculture, health, biodiversity and coastal zones. There are important advances in terms of disaster risk reduction (DRR). All countries in the region have some Early Warning System (EWS), 21 countries have a national DRR strategy and there is better financing to respond to emergencies. However, gaps persist in terms of investment in DRR, particularly in reconstruction processes, territorial coverage and the incorporation of threats. Better coordination of the agendas of climate change, sustainable development and DRR is urgently needed in the region.

In more concrete terms, change in land use, forestry and agriculture are responsible for a significant part of regional emissions because of the importance of the primary sector and the lack of technology in these activities in the region. 58% of GHG emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean originate from land use change (38%) and agriculture, forestry and other land uses (20%). Emissions from the energy sector represent 25% of the region's total, including the participation of the transportation sector (11%), the generation and use of electricity, and others. The population groups with higher incomes are those who emit a greater proportion of GHGs in the region. However, lower-income populations are the most vulnerable and suffer the greatest consequences by not having the means to adapt to new climate conditions. Latin America and the Caribbean must significantly increase the speed at which it has been decarbonizing its economies, going from a historical decarbonization speed of -0.9% annual average (between 2010 and 2019) to a speed four times faster than - 3.9% annual average to achieve the emissions reduction objectives set out in the CND. In fact, to be on the path to achieving the 1.5 C objective, the region's decarbonization speed must grow 8 times faster than it actually is. More than half of fossil fuel subsidies in the region are directed to oil and approximately 20% go to natural gas and electricity end use. Although there has been a trend in the last decade to reduce the subsidy for fossil fuels, in 2021, 75.6 billion dollars were allocated to subsidies in the region, falling to 56.6 billion dollars in 2022. Only five countries have established a national carbon tax, while progress is being made in carbon market mechanisms. The region is especially vulnerable to extreme climate phenomena, particularly the Caribbean subregion. For example, Dominica suffered damage and losses amounting to 226 percent of its GDP when it was devastated by Hurricane Maria in 2017. While there has been some success in reducing the impact of disasters, national reports show that countries are not on track to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030.

## **SDG 16**

Although the region has only about 9% of the world's population, almost a third of the world's homicides are committed there. Persistently high homicide levels have been attributed to violent actions related to conflicts between organized criminal groups competing for control of illegal markets. Some structural problems persist in the region, such as weak rule of law, social inequality and youth unemployment, and current problems such as drug production and the possession and use of firearms, among others. Although countries are taking steps to address violence, patterns, strategies and reduction trends vary, reflecting the complexity of the situation in each country. There is little statistical information about trends in the inflows and outflows of illicit financial flows, seizure, and the delivery or legalization of illicit weapons. The region is far from guaranteeing a high level of transparency and accountability, which is manifested in a very high level of mistrust and perception of corruption. Vulnerable populations face more obstacles to exercising their right to participate in an informed and effective manner in public life and in the formulation of public policies. However, there are notable efforts to guarantee equal access to justice, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making, and public access to information.

In more concrete terms, the region has an average rate of 19.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021, while Asia has 2.3, Europe 2.2, Oceania 2.9, North America 6.3 and Africa 12.7. There is a lot of heterogeneity between countries. In South America, while Brazil experienced a downward trend since 2017, countries such as Colombia and Ecuador experienced considerable increases in this indicator between the end of 2020 and 2021. Similarly, while several Central American countries, such as Honduras, Belize, Panama and El Salvador, experienced reductions in homicides following aggressive anti-gang interventions, Costa Rica had a slight increase between 2019 and 2022. Regarding other forms of violence, the population that has suffered robberies has been decreasing in several countries in the region, with the greatest reductions observed in Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Chile. A similar trend is observed in the prevalence of physical violence, but unfortunately not in sexual violence or in the perception of insecurity when walking alone in the area where one lives. The increase in cocaine production since 2020 and the expansion of transnational criminal organizations have led to higher homicide rates in the region. Ecuador has seen a 407% increase in homicides between 2016 and 2022, which is attributed to intensifying violent competition between rival drug trafficking gangs. The transshipment of drugs through the Caribbean has increased gang violence, which has been reflected in the increase in homicides, for example, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, these increased by more than 50% between 2021 and 2022. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean register the highest proportion of homicides related to firearms worldwide. In 2021, there were at least 89,100 victims of firearm-related homicide in the region, with specific rates per 100,000 inhabitants of 9.3, 16.9 and 12.7 in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, and South America, respectively. Estimates on the extent of corruption and bribery show that about half of the population is concerned about the levels of corruption in their countries. Between 2004 and 2021, the percentage that considered corruption to be somewhat or very widespread rose from 73.0% to 76.2%. Likewise, the percentage of those who consider that progress in the fight against corruption is little or none has grown from 59.8% in 2010, to 65.1% in 2015 and to 66.0% in 2023.

## **SDG 17**

The prospects for achieving the goals associated with financing sustainable development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are not encouraging. Domestic resource mobilization is constrained by various factors, including low growth, debt levels and low tax burden. Concessional international resources are also limited due to the designation of most countries in the region as middle-income countries. Technology transfer towards the region is limited. Insufficient progress in internet access is expressed in gaps both between countries and within them. The complex and changing context of international trade also has an impact on the region, as does the narrowing of the space for fiscal and monetary policies and the growing level of public debt, aspects that test the capacity of countries to mobilize essential financial resources, both internally and externally, that enable compliance with all 17 SDGs by 2030. In this scenario, reforms to the international financial architecture along with inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society and international institutions, are key to deliver on the SDGs, based on a shared vision, principles and values, coherent policies, transparency, accountability, and data-based monitoring.

In more concrete terms, ECLAC estimates that between 5.2% and 10.9% of annual GDP of additional investment is required to maintain trend growth, compensating for potential economic losses caused by climate change. Latin America and the Caribbean experiences one of the lowest levels of gross fixed capital formation compared to other developing regions, registering just 20% of GDP on average over the last 30 years. General government income as a proportion of GDP went from 15% of GDP in the early 1990s to exceed 18% as of 2021, however, this increase has not been sufficient to meet the demands in terms of public spending, giving rise to a deficit bias in public finances. The proportion of the national budget financed by internal taxes fell to 54.6% in 2020 at the regional level, compared to the 75.5% recorded in 2007, a decline that reflects the weakening of tax collection capacity, evidenced since the financial crisis of 2008 and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the regional level, the volume of remittances in relation to GDP went from 0.9% of GDP in 2000 to 2.4% of GDP in 2020, a growing trend

that is also shared by the mobilization of additional financial resources related to dynamics of foreign direct investment captured by the region. Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursed in 2022 represented 0.36% of aggregate Gross National Income, slightly above the 0.32% recorded in the 2018-2021 period, but below the commitment of 0.7% of GDP. In relative terms, the net ODA received by the region reached 6.1% of the total destined to developing countries, a relatively low participation compared to that of Africa, of 28.9% and that of Asia, of 25.1%. Most countries in the region are considered upper-middle income, which has resulted in a stagnation of donations and a growing importance of loans with some degree of concessionality as a financing modality. Bilateral aid received by the countries of the region reached an average of 6,053 million dollars since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and has had a gradual increase since 2020 with an increase of 4.8% in 2021 compared to 2020. In Latin America, the gross public debt of the central government amounted to 56% of GDP while in the Caribbean it was 87.2% of GDP in 2020, which means that levels remain historically high. Additionally, the interest rate in the region is high, well above the average of 2.8% for emerging and developing economies in Asia. Central government capital expenditures were significantly reduced during the last decade, becoming the main fiscal adjustment variable, in a context in which countries applied fiscal consolidation measures to curb the growth of public debt. In 2019, general government gross fixed capital formation in Latin America and the Caribbean reached a weighted average of 2.8% of GDP, which contrasts significantly with the values observed in advanced and emerging economies in Asia. The number of fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants of the region went from an average of 12 in 2017 to an average of 17.2 in 2022, still below the access in the most advanced economies that achieve higher penetration at 37%. Furthermore, there is a very heterogeneous reality in Latin America and the Caribbean, as there are countries with a penetration slightly higher than 3% while others reach 32%. In 2022, close to 30% of the region's population still does not have access to the internet, and there is also great heterogeneity between and within countries. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean does not have a significant impact on trade flows of environmental goods, with annual exports of 53 billion dollars annually in the period 2018-2018 on average, and imports of 87 billion dollars. In comparison, the economies of Europe and North America recorded \$742 and \$769 billion respectively. The region's export stagnation reflects its high dependence on tourism and its deficiencies in several aspects that determine export competitiveness in the modern services segment, such as the availability of qualified human capital, investment in science and technology and the quality of the digital infrastructure. As the only LDC in the region, Haiti's exports enter all its main markets duty-free. Investments in strengthening the statistical capacities of the region went from around 32 million dollars in 2015 to 50 million in 2020, amounts still well below the levels reached around 2010, when they exceeded 80 million of dollars. In 2022, 18 countries had national statistical legislation that complied with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 21 countries had a national statistical plan in the process of implementation and all countries had already signed the Code of Good Practice of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

**(b) Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, considering the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

- 1) The adoption of **multidimensional poverty measurements** has gradually expanded in Latin America. Eleven countries in the region (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic) have adopted multidimensional poverty measurement that allows them to capture the diversity of deprivations that constitute poverty, such as those related to health, work, social security, education, housing and access to basic services. These measures can be used to examine whole populations, sub-groups or specific deprivations to see the impact of poverty on different communities. It can be used to create a comprehensive picture of people living in poverty and allows for comparisons between countries, regions and the world, as well as within countries disaggregated by ethnic group, urban/rural location, and other characteristics of households and communities, to

effectively guide the design of public policies. Therefore, they do not only have the potential to work towards the achievement of SDG 1, but also create synergies and multiplier effects with various other the SDGs. To continue reducing multidimensional poverty in the region, in an adverse context of low economic growth and slow post-pandemic economic and social recovery, comprehensive and intersectoral public policies are required that address the structural and conjunctural causes of inequality and social exclusion. and not only its immediate manifestations. A combination of measures to improve growth and reduce inequality in income distribution is key to achieving more significant reductions in poverty and extreme poverty. In particular, public policies that emphasize reducing poverty gaps between population groups will play a leading role in improving the region's prospects for meeting goal 1.1 of the SDGs.

- 2) There are important advances in the region regarding financing to respond to emergencies, as well as budget allocation and financing for **disaster risk reduction (DRR)** and **resilience** in the region. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have improved in pre-disaster preparation, including via the creation of early warning systems, such as the CREWS initiative in the Caribbean, as well as in terms of building back better, such as the recovery approach adopted in 2018 by the Heads of Government of CARICOM, which aims to protect those most at risk, safeguard infrastructure, and improve operational readiness for disasters. The **Bridgetown Initiative** led by Barbados, one of the Caribbean's most vulnerable nations to climate change, calls for changes and new mechanisms that provide inclusive, resilient finance to address the climate and development crises. It sets out three key steps: The first involves changing some of the terms around how funding is loaned and repaid to stop developing nations spiraling into a debt crisis when their borrowing is forced up by successive disasters like floods, droughts and storms. Secondly, it asks for development banks to lend an additional \$1 trillion to developing nations for climate resilience. The third step is to set up a new mechanism with private-sector backing to fund climate mitigation and reconstruction after a climate disaster. These outlined initiatives work across several of the SDGs, including SDG 13 and SDG 17.
- 3) The **Escazú Agreement**, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was adopted in Costa Rica on 4 March 2018, seeks to guarantee the full and effective implementation in the region of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the creation and the strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of each person, of present and future generations, to live in a healthy environment considering the three dimensions of sustainable development. In the negotiations of this agreement – which had the support of ECLAC serving as Technical Secretariat – 24 countries in the region participated, which resulted in the only binding agreement emanating from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the first regional environmental agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean and the first in the world to contain specific provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters. The agreement entered into force on 22 April 2021 and currently has 15 States Parties that have ratified it. The Agreement particularly contributes to SDG 16, as well as SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15.

**(c) Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.**

- 1) Regional Tax Cooperation Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean  
In the framework of the thirty-fifth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy (May 2023), which annually convenes fiscal authorities, experts, civil society, and academics to discuss fiscal policy

challenges, ECLAC organized a special session to discuss a proposed a regional fiscal cooperation platform promoted by Colombia, Chile, and Brazil. In July 2023, in a joint declaration, authorities from 16 Latin American countries approved the creation of the Regional Tax Cooperation Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, for which ECLAC acts as Technical Secretariat. The platform fosters dialogue on international tax issues with the objective of strengthening the region's voice in global tax policy debates. It is an example of regional cooperation to address the shared challenges of fair and inclusive tax systems and revenue mobilization for sustainable development.

## 2) Transition of employment and social protection

The transition in terms of employment and social protection consists of following the path that leads towards societies that have the capacity to create employment in decent working conditions and consolidate universal and sustainable social protection systems, which would close the current access gaps and contribute to guarantee adequate standards of living for all people. ECLAC argues that this just transition process requires at least two fundamental conditions: i) move towards higher, sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, and ii) achieve a paradigm shift in which the concept of labor insertion is replaced by that of labor inclusion. Some areas of action in terms of strategies, plans, policies and programs to guide a just transition of employment and social protection include:

- The expansion of the scope of productive development policies with the inclusion of productive bets in driving and energizing sectors.
- The expansion and articulation of active labor market policies with productive development policies and social protection systems.
- The design of employability plans and roadmaps that consider alternatives for various population groups.
- Increasing the coverage of contributory and non-contributory social protection, including sustainable financing models.
- The granting of monetary transfers (non-contributory social protection) that ensure levels of well-being and enable the development of capabilities, with special attention to the situation of households with children and adolescents (this effort can be prioritized in the poorest households).
- The implementation of universal, comprehensive and sustainable health systems (increasing public spending and reducing out-of-pocket spending), articulated with employability policies.
- The promotion of education and training programs throughout life.
- The establishment of comprehensive care policies (universal and affordable).

This transition has the capacity to be linked to most SDGs and energize the processes aimed at their fulfillment, since through an occupation in decent working conditions, added to the existence of a robust social protection system, it contributes to the reduction of poverty and hunger, and the possibility of accessing health, education and water and sanitation services in better conditions. This has the potential to reduce inequality gaps in general, and gender gaps in particular. It also makes it possible to reinforce innovation and sustainable production processes linked to climate action and promote both the development of sustainable cities and communities, in a context of peace, justice and solid institutions, as well as the creation of partnerships.

## 3) Educational transition

Educational transition is the process or set of processes to transform educational systems with the aim of protecting rights (particularly the right to education), improving prospects for social and



economic well-being, reducing inequality, reinforcing mobility and social cohesion, and preparing societies for the green and digital economies of the future.

The most relevant strategies, plans, policies and programs of the sustainable and fair educational transition include:

- Increase the coverage and accessibility of primary, secondary and tertiary education, in its various modalities, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as early childhood education.
- Visualize higher education as the axis of a policy of inclusion and sustainable development, and adopt the necessary measures to achieve its massification, considering ensuring increasing quality standards.
- Implement adaptive and flexible education throughout the entire life cycle, with training, certifications and development of different types of cognitive and socio-emotional skills.
- Revalue the role of teachers, enabling them to transform themselves and become agents of change, which contributes to raising the quality and relevance of educational systems.
- Support girls' education, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- Maximize the use of the digital revolution for educational transformation.
- Promote higher levels of social cohesion in the educational context, including a culture of peace as part of the global citizenship education (GCE) framework.
- Articulate education with other sectors and public policy instruments essential for well-being, to strengthen educational trajectories, such as student health (including mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and nutrition), programs of income protection for households with students, transportation policies and gender equality policies.

The educational transition is directly linked to the Goals of decent work and economic growth and the reduction of inequalities. Furthermore, through its potential to disseminate essential messages, it is articulated with practically all the other Goals, as a mechanism to improve health, the use of natural resources, the preservation of ecosystems and the respect and promotion of an environment free of violence, with justice, good governance and peace.

**(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.**

- 1) ECLAC continues to analyze and publish data on the rising debt and debt servicing challenges of many of the region's countries. Calling attention to the increased distress for development outcomes the limitations on financing for development imply, ECLAC's analyses bring attention to the unique challenges of middle-income countries, including to progress with SDG implementation.
- 2) ECLAC has tailored its analysis and policy advice to support all Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Member States, including middle -income countries Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Middle Income Countries (MICs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ECLAC contributes to the fulfillment of the SDGs in 2030 through the organization of the annual meetings of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean countries on sustainable development, support in the preparation of national and local voluntary reviews on the progress and challenges of the SDGs, including the development of a regional guide on the

elaboration of VLRs, capacity building and training courses as well as technical cooperation and other interventions to foster progress in compliance with the 2030 Agenda in the region.

- 3) [ECLAC's Community of Practice on the Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#) is an informal space for exchange among peers and sharing of good practices and lessons learned with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general and the VNR process in particular. It includes government officials, professionals, researchers and technical experts as well as representatives of ECLAC and the rest of the UN system, including RCOs. Occasionally, it invites representatives of youth, civil society, the private sector, academia, local authorities, parliamentarians and other stakeholders. Between 2016 and 2023, 32 of the 33 countries in the region have reported at least once on their progress in appropriating, monitoring and implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level, through the presentation of VNRs.

#### **(e) Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.**

##### Recommendations regarding the five SDGs under in-depth review

Regarding **SDG 1** (end of poverty), it is recommended, first, to increase economic growth simultaneously with the reduction of inequalities, promoting productive employment and sectoral policies of education, health, housing and access to basic services, with an orientation focused on closing gender and territorial gaps. Secondly, promote social protection systems to increase coverage, especially in terms of pensions and transfers to low-income groups, and promoting their comprehensiveness through greater articulation between their components and with other social policies. It is necessary to guarantee the sustainability of these systems, by ensuring spending, as well as that of other items to guarantee the implementation of the social policies necessary to achieve SDG 1.

In relation to **SDG 2** (zero hunger), the confluence of crises and conflicts that imply a setback in the fight against hunger and food insecurity, malnutrition and malnutrition must be faced at a global level. Food productivity is limited by climate shocks that generate production losses, food supply problems and aggravate food insecurity. To face these challenges, Latin America and the Caribbean needs investments to produce more food with greater resilience to climate shocks, using fewer resources and emitting fewer greenhouse gases. Investments must also seek to increase the income of producers and the population's access to a diversified and healthy diet.

With respect to **SDG 13** (climate action), Latin America and the Caribbean is highly vulnerable to climate change and must increase the speed of decarbonization between 4 and 5 times to meet emissions reduction commitments, through investment and productive development. in essential sectors for the global carbon transition (renewable energies, sustainable transport, bioeconomy, circular economy, etc.) and in those that enhance the mitigation and adaptation effort and risk management. It is necessary to close the persistent investment gaps in disaster risk reduction (DRR), reconstruction after a disaster, territorial coverage and the incorporation of all possible threats. Finally, the coordination of climate change, sustainable development and DRR agendas by countries and the international community cannot be postponed.

In the case of **SDG 16** (peace, justice and strong institutions), the fight against violence requires regaining trust and strengthening institutions for the validity of the rule of law and the promotion of human rights, as well as strengthening collaboration between institutions and communities. To promote the rule of law and guarantee access to justice for all, the use of digital tools are necessary to strengthen control systems and provide greater transparency and accountability regarding the cases handled in the different judicial instances. Institutional solidity implies more and better citizen access to public

information, to facilitate collaboration and decision-making, anticipate responses to events s disruptive events such as violence, and organize in participatory structures to co-create solutions through collective knowledge.

In **SDG 17** (partnerships to achieve the goals) the mobilization of domestic resources is restricted by low growth, debt levels and low fiscal burden, to which are added international resources limited by the classification of most countries of the region as middle-income countries. A greater mobilization of resources, a reformed debt architecture and innovative solutions for debt, and measures that favor opportunities to adopt technological advances in a context of greater commercial opportunities, would provide countries with the possibility of obtaining gains in efficiency, scale and learning, increasing productivity and, therefore, potential economic growth, as well as generation of more and better jobs. The increase in tax collection, combatting tax evasion and tax systems based on fairer redistribution are also essential, including to expand the fiscal space to implement policies aimed at sustainable development. In this scenario, more and better alliances are required between governments, the private sector, civil society and international institutions, based on a shared vision, principles and values, which lead to collaboration and joint work.

### Recommendations regarding the six transitions

ECLAC analyzed each of the six transitions mandated by the United Nations Group for Sustainable Development, that is i) food systems; ii) access to energy and its affordability; iii) digital transformation; iv) education; v) employment and social protection, and vi) climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution, from the perspective of the region Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of identifying progress and emerging challenges for the region:

#### **i) Food systems**

The transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems requires a holistic approach that integrates ecological, social and economic dimensions. Collective action is needed from governments, businesses, farmers, consumers and civil society to transform the way food is produced, distributed and consumed. Only by simultaneously supporting innovation, international cooperation and commitment to the management of natural resources will it be possible for the countries of the region to advance in building food systems that feed people, generate fair remuneration for producers, protect the planet, and promote prosperity for generations to come.

#### **ii) Access to energy and its affordability**

It is essential to accelerate national sustainable energy transition pathways, with an emphasis on the electrification of energy-dense sectors, such as transportation and industries, increasing energy efficiency in all spaces, thus transforming the development model, and taking advantage of integration opportunities and international clean energy trade. At the same time, it is essential to continue last-mile efforts to universalize access to clean, renewable electricity, including the availability of clean technologies for cooking, temperature regulation and cooling for all, as well as considering the effects that investments to implement the transition have on communities, the environment and ecosystems. The transition has its own paths and difficulties in each country, so, in addition to accelerated deployment, it is necessary to ensure a fair transition that contributes to increasing community participation and ideally reducing socioeconomic inequality and access to energy, as well as promoting regional cooperation in the matter. Latin America and the Caribbean has great renewable potential (especially with regard to solar and wind energy) and to increase the efficiency and security of the electrical system through regional integration that must be taken advantage of. The energy transition is already underway in the countries of the region. The challenge is to accelerate this process

given its multiplier effect as a vector that transforms the development model into a more sustainable one, enhancing the activities and services generated by this great transformation. The speed of this transition will be decisive in achieving the climate objective of limiting the increase in temperature.

**iii) Digital transformation**

It is essential to achieve the reorientation of the digital transition to ensure access to digital benefits for the entire population and all productive sectors, through the incorporation of strategies that allow the relocation of the jobs that are transformed and the updating of the skills of the adults inserted in a changing world of work, so that they adapt to new demands and guarantee that benefits are distributed more equitably between work and capital.

**iv) Education**

To achieve a sustainable and fair educational transition, it is necessary to carry out a thorough review of its objectives and analyze its relevance in the current context and the addressing of central aspects such as inequality and resilience in a changing world. This will entail combining in the educational process a cultural training open to concepts such as just sustainable transitions based on systemic, critical and creative thinking, through essential knowledge and skills for sustainable development, global citizenship, research and technological development. It should be articulated with a broader and non-traditional vision of education, at all levels (initial, primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational, adult), and which, even in its most traditional versions, is universally accessible and of the highest possible quality, returning to the essential aspects of current education, such as the formation of skills for work, formulating transition paths with all actors (students, teachers, parents, experts and officials) and allocating resources sufficient to improve the infrastructure and the service provided.

**v) Employment and social protection**

To advance the just transition towards the sustainability of employment and social protection, progress must be made both in the implementation of productive development policies that stimulate labor demand and, in the design, expansion and articulation of active labor market policies, particularly those focused on the most vulnerable populations, strengthening the institutions for these policies and guaranteeing their financial sustainability. For this, it is necessary to reinforce and complement the areas of action previously mentioned in these initiatives and accompany them with the strengthening of social protection systems through contributory and non-contributory means, ensuring their sustainability and resilience in the face of crises and transitions. At the same time, it is essential to advance the creation of instruments such as unemployment insurance in countries where these do not exist, since they function as stabilizers in crisis situations.

**vi) Climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution**

Societies must change their development style and this involves a drastic change in production and consumption patterns. The good news is that we have the knowledge and technologies necessary to achieve this. However, overcoming institutional inertia and transforming institutions remain a challenge. It is necessary to change the relative returns on investments and somehow transform all human activities.

Transformations are required at different time horizons, including immediate action. The cost of inaction is higher and growing and harms the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of society the most. Without forgetting to address the historical socioeconomic demands and

inequalities, the steps of the transition must simultaneously be built. Guiding the transition towards a resilient, carbon-neutral society and economy is of utmost urgency to ensure climate stabilization at a global average warming of no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Scientific knowledge of the dynamics of the transition and its different scenarios will be essential to determine with greater precision the biophysical and economic alterations in different areas of the world. With this, adaptation measures can be implemented and other transitions facilitated, such as agri-food, energy or employment and social protection.

#### Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF

- Financing for sustainable development must be sustained and further scaled up. This requires a reform of the international financial architecture, increased support for MIC and SIDS in managing debt and accessing concessional loans and climate finance, in addition more private investment and more innovative financing.
- Greater mobilization of resources is recommended, favoring technological advances, increasing productivity and, therefore, potential economic growth, as well as the generation of more and better jobs and the increase in tax collection, which expands the fiscal space for implement public policies aimed at sustainable development, thus establishing a virtuous circle of internal resource mobilization.
- Peace, stability, and resilience are preconditions for SDG progress. Ending conflicts and occupation and addressing insecurity to create an enabling environment for sustainable development are critical for the achievement of the SDGs and require strengthened regional cooperation and global solidarity.
- Enhancing collaboration and bolstering partnerships across countries and stakeholders is vital to advancing the SDGs. Subnational and local actors must be involved in the SDG localization and VNR process, and inclusive approaches are required that engage vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities.
- Voluntary local reviews (VLRs) have become an innovative tool for aligning national development plans and the SDGs with the priorities of the territories. VLRs complement national monitoring efforts, facilitating dialogue between levels of government and contributing to the development of integrated, coherent and coordinated policies.
- ECLAC's care society paradigm promotes comprehensive care systems in the region, but income inequality and the rural-urban divide persist as challenge.
- Productive transformation, boosting renewable energy, bridging the digital divide, renewing cooperation models, and rethinking concessional finance eligibility for middle-income countries, including by building a multi-dimensional vulnerability index, along with regional integration and cooperation are vital for the region's SDG implementation.
- Transformations in the productive structure of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean are required to effectively confront climate change. Opportunity sectors include the energy transition, renewable energies, the promotion of the lithium industry and green hydrogen; sustainable mobility, based mainly on electromobility; the circular economy and the benefits of

reducing the use of virgin materials; the bioeconomy, based on more sustainable agriculture; sustainable water management and sustainable tourism, among others.

- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda has highlighted the importance of multistakeholder action: national, subnational and local governments; private sector associations and companies of all sizes and origins of capital; civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations; parliaments; research and higher education institutes; international cooperation and regional and global financial entities.
- Foresight and the ability to adopt a forward-looking approach are increasingly relevant for the achievement of the SDGs and with the crisis proving the need to focus on the long-term. Strategic planning and foresight, combined with strengthening the capacities of institutions, is a very useful tool to promote the six central transitions towards the materialization of a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future in the countries of the region.
- The Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, must lead to a strengthening of the commitment to the 2030 Agenda and renewed and bold policies and actions by all actors. The effort must persist for all the SDGs, with emphasis on those whose goals and indicators show the greatest distance from their respective thresholds.