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Summary of the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022–2023

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 2022–2023.



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Summary

The present report serves to highlight the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) between April 2022 and April 2023. It provides a particular focus on the policy analysis, convening role and technical cooperation activities of ECLAC to support the countries of the region in facing the setbacks caused by the cascading set of crises occurring in the context of global instability and changing patterns of globalization. In this regard, in discussions held with member States at intergovernmental forums, ECLAC has continued to provide policy advice to identify transformative initiatives that can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in a comprehensive manner. ECLAC has also promoted transformative strategies for productive change by contributing to key transitions required to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals, including in the areas of food systems, the energy transition, the care economy and education, in collaboration with United Nations system partners and within the framework of the operationalization of the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level. Furthermore, ECLAC has maintained its technical support and advocacy role regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for example by consolidating data and statistics capacities and fostering financing for development, as well as for climate change adaptation and mitigation, digital transformation and inclusive trade. Building on its technical and convening capacities, ECLAC has leveraged multi-stakeholder partnerships and enhanced cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to promote sustainable development strategies and support the countries of the region in a changing geopolitical and globalization context.

I. Introduction

1. Latin American and Caribbean countries have been hard-hit by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and a cascading set of crises with deep socioeconomic impacts that are eroding development gains across the region. Global challenges and uncertainties surrounding food security, energy prices and financing, and the disruption of supply chains and resurgence of inflation, continue to affect the recovery from these crises. In this context, the region has witnessed an increase in poverty and extreme poverty rates, as well as in inequality. Moreover, the shifting dynamics of globalization, characterized by growing economic and technological rivalry, investment decisions that are being increasingly shaped by geopolitical and political considerations and the long-term trend of a declining volume of international trade and foreign direct investment flows, present new challenges and vulnerabilities in a region with historically low levels of regional integration.

2. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has continued to support the countries of the region through its policy advice, convening role and technical cooperation activities, to help them face the cascading set of crises in the areas of employment, health, education, food and energy security; the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss; and the deepening of structural challenges, such as low productivity, low investment and high informality. ECLAC support in this regard has involved devising and advocating innovative proposals on financing for development and new modalities for international cooperation with the region's middle-income countries. It has also included identifying transformative sectors that enable countries to reactivate their productive systems, generate employment and transition to low-carbon economies with a higher technological content. ECLAC presented its proposals for transformative change to its member States at its thirty-ninth, held in Buenos Aires in October 2022.

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

A. Responding to the impacts of global crises: food security

3. To address the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food prices and the rising costs of fertilizers affecting many countries of the region, given their productive structure and the share of agricultural commodities in their export basket, ECLAC prepared a joint policy brief with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme. The brief included recommendations to strengthen regional food security, reinforce the Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) to support the regional follow-up of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. The recommendations highlighted policies to enhance the resilience and sustainability of regional food systems and production and provided an analysis of specific responses to the current crisis, including those related to fertilizer access. The region is highly import-dependent and vulnerable to disruptions in the supply chain of fertilizers, given that it imports approximately 85 per cent of this input.

B. Transformative policy strategies for productive change

4. At its thirty-ninth session ECLAC presented to its member States the position document entitled “Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability”. The document provides an outline of transformative sectors that can help to propel change in the region’s prevailing development patterns towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable model, create favourable conditions for investment and growth and contribute to the recovery of the region. The sectors include the energy transition, e-mobility, the cross-sectoral circular economy, sustainable agriculture and the bioeconomy, the health-care manufacturing industry, digital transformation, the care economy, sustainable tourism and harnessing the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises and the social and solidarity economy.

C. Critical mineral value chains to promote productive transformation

5. In the light of its endowment in natural resources, the Latin America and Caribbean region is well-positioned to benefit from the green energy transition, establish green hydrogen industries and, considering that it holds 51 per cent of global lithium and 38 per cent of copper reserves, among other mineral resources, to develop value chains for critical minerals in renewable energies and storage technologies and to enhance cross-sectoral linkages. ECLAC has been working on technical cooperation activities with the countries of the “lithium triangle”, including Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Chile, including on fiscal regimes related to lithium extraction, and has prepared thematic studies and training courses on the governance of sustainable lithium production.

D. Care society proposal and conferences on women and healthy ageing

6. ECLAC has been carrying out policy analysis and has convened intergovernmental discussions on the concept of the care society, including at the fifteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Care sectors can invigorate the economy, create jobs and contribute to closing gender gaps in labour-force participation, but such efforts require a shift in fiscal, productive and social policies. ECLAC estimates that closing gender gaps in labour-force participation could increase gross domestic product (GDP) in the region by 6.9 percentage points between 2016 and 2030. Considerable gender gaps characterize the distribution of the burden of unpaid household work. Based on estimates for 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries, unpaid household work represents 15.9-27.6 per cent of GDP. On average, 74 per cent of this contribution is made by women. In addition to research and policy advocacy on care systems, ECLAC has been providing technical assistance to national and local governments in mapping and designing care services and financing. In this regard, ECLAC assistance includes technical cooperation activities relating to financial sustainability strategies for the supply of care services in Bogotá, among other cities.

7. Given the population ageing process in the Latin America and Caribbean region, the rights of older persons emerge as a priority dimension, including from the perspective of care services. In December 2022, ECLAC convened the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean to illustrate the progress towards the implementation of

the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2022 and to reaffirm the commitments of its member States in this area.

E. Promoting regional cooperation for a sustainable and inclusive water transition

8. Along with its regional and global partners and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, ECLAC convened the high-level Regional Water Dialogues at its headquarters in Santiago from 1 to 3 February 2023, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028. At the event, member States agreed on a new regional water action agenda to accelerate the water transition and get countries back on track to achieving all the targets of Goal 6. Moreover, the Regional Network and Observatory for Water Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean was also launched to strengthen regional and territorial water cooperation, including through advisory services and capacity-building in five target countries. ECLAC estimates that investing 1.3 per cent of regional GDP annually is required over a period of 10 years to universalize access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation.

F. Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Conferences of the Parties

9. ECLAC organized the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Agreement (Escazú Agreement). At the meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision I/6, in which it decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters and agreed to entrust the working group with the preparation of an action plan to be presented at the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, ECLAC organized the first Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters, held in Quito in November 2022, and attended by the parties, civil society, representatives of Indigenous Peoples, academia and United Nations entities. In April 2023, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Buenos Aires as an extraordinary meeting. During the event, the first seven members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, a subsidiary body of the Conference, were elected and the parties adopted decision II/1, on the election of members of this Committee. The participating countries also adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration, in which the Conference of the Parties underscored the contribution of the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters to promoting human rights and sustainable development. The countries also agreed that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be held in Santiago in April 2024.

G. Progress on the reform of the United Nations development system and the operationalization of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

10. ECLAC continued to contribute to country-level programming by providing support, upon request, for the development of common country analyses and the

formulation and review of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The Commission leveraged its cross-sectoral expertise and provided analysis on regional and transboundary issues. As a member of the Peer Support Group, it also continued to participate in quality assurance reviews of common country analyses and Cooperation Frameworks.

11. In 2022, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean entered into its operational phase, intensifying its engagement with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. Issue-based coalitions (climate change and resilience; crime and violence; equitable growth; financing for development; governance and institutions; and human mobility) and thematic working groups (gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as youth) established their menu of services, which included integrated policy advice, normative and programmatic support and technical capacity assistance. The consolidated demands of resident coordinators and country teams for regional support highlighted the support needs in response to cross-border and subregional challenges. The issue-based coalition on human mobility was the first to respond to demands from resident coordinators in Colombia, Central America and Mexico. Increased efforts have also been pursued regarding cross-border and subregional initiatives that promote interlinkages between the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and human rights pillars.

12. Building on a survey fielded among stakeholders in 2022, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean undertook a review of its working arrangements to better tailor its response to country teams needs. This resulted in the launch of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean 2.0, which has a sharper thematic focus and simplified procedures. The aim is to enhance participant engagement and communications, make available a regional roster of expertise and streamline the issue-based coalitions and working groups with the objective of providing more tailored responses to the needs of resident coordinators and country teams. In order to provide access to system-wide expertise, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean roster of expertise was established, which comprises United Nations regional assets and expertise.

13. Moreover, following up on decision 2022/16 of the Executive Committee, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean established an advisory board for the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico. Progress has been made not only at the national level in collaboration with national authorities, resident coordinators, country teams and the regional Development Coordination Office, but also with regard to transboundary issues. Guatemala has been chosen as the pilot country for the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan in close collaboration with the Resident Coordinator.

H. Supporting countries in the implementation of voluntary national review processes

14. ECLAC continued to provide direct support to its member States to enhance local, national and regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and voluntary national review processes in the region through its community of practice for voluntary national reviews for Latin American and Caribbean countries. Of the 40 countries that will present their reviews in 2023, 4 are in Latin America and the Caribbean: Saint Kitts and Nevis will present its review for the first time, Barbados and Guyana for the second time and Chile for the third time.

The community of practice has become a recognized regional platform for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration and the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. Throughout the reporting period, the community of practice strengthened its role as an informal mechanism for the exchange of best practices between the technical teams of the countries tasked with monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general, and the process of developing the reviews in particular. Between December 2019 and April 2023, 50 virtual meetings of the community of practice were held to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. The community of practice has 188 members from the 33 countries of the region, 61 per cent of which are women and 39 per cent men. It includes a diverse group of government officials, researchers and technical experts, as well as representatives of ECLAC and other entities of the United Nations system, including representatives of resident coordinator offices. Meetings regularly involve the participation of multiple stakeholders, with representatives of civil society, young people, the private sector and academia, along with local authorities and other key actors that work towards the achievement of the Goals. The topics of the monthly discussions are guided by the demands of the region's countries and cover a wide range of areas relevant to the Goals, such as localization of the 2030 Agenda, multi-stakeholder participation, planning and budgeting aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda with an emphasis on financing for development, data and statistics, the impact of climate change and the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the points most frequently highlighted in the evaluations conducted in 2020 and 2021 is that the community of practice provides an informal and trusted space for peer-to-peer exchange and constructive feedback in the preparation stages of reviews. Many Latin American and Caribbean countries also mentioned the important role that the community of practice plays in the reviews. For example, the representative of Argentina highlighted the work of ECLAC in the presentation of its review at the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

16. With respect to the specific situation of Caribbean small island developing States, ECLAC has continued to provide direct technical assistance to countries in the preparation and presentation of their reviews at the high-level political forum. Over the 2022–2023 period, ECLAC facilitated stakeholder consultations on the 2030 Agenda with Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis, the outcome of which was used as the basis for the reviews. ECLAC also provided technical assistance to Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis in drafting their reviews and in preparing ministerial presentations for the high-level political forum. A critical lesson learned from the delivery of technical assistance in this respect is that the preparation and presentation of voluntary national reviews by the respective country has contributed positively to national ownership of the Goals and promoted the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean. ECLAC also provides technical assistance to countries for mainstreaming the Goals in national development planning and institutionalizing national statistical systems, as well as for strengthening statistical legislation to support monitoring of the Goals.

17. Regional capacity-building workshops for Latin American and Caribbean countries that are preparing their reviews were also organized by ECLAC. The goal of the technical workshops is to strengthen the knowledge and ability of countries to formulate their reviews as part of their national strategy to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, a regional in-person workshop was held as a side event during the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

I. Outcomes of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

18. The sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago from 25 to 28 April 2023, bringing together more than 650 participants, including nearly 170 representatives of government, more than 300 from civil society, academia and the private sector, as well as almost 150 representatives of the United Nations system, including the resident coordinators. At the meeting, participants evaluated the implementation and achievement of five of the Goals in the region: Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation); Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy); Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals). Participants warned that the region must accelerate the implementation of the Goals towards 2030. The ECLAC analysis presented at the Forum highlighted that only 24.6 per cent of the targets were on track to achieve the Goals with current trends, while progress towards nearly half of the targets (48.4 per cent) was advancing too slowly to achieve them by 2030 and 27 per cent of the targets are backsliding. In order to respond to this challenge and accelerate regional implementation of the Goals, ECLAC presented seven transformative initiatives, which if implemented at scale, can produce synergies and multiplying effects towards the simultaneous implementation of several Goals (see sect. IV of the present report for more details).

19. At the end of the meeting, country representatives approved the final document outlining the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the sixth meeting of the Forum, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that no one was left behind, and recognizing the integrated and indivisible nature of the Goals.

20. Countries also called upon the international community to reinforce action to address specific challenges related to Goals with limited progress, including to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage young people and enhance financing for development, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries. Moreover, the countries also recognized the region's pervasive inequalities and the need to address them to achieve the implementation of the Goals.

21. Furthermore, they recognized the role of ECLAC as an essential component of the United Nations development system, given its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue. Moreover, they acknowledged that most of the region's countries had already presented voluntary national reviews and encouraged those that were preparing to do so in upcoming years to sustain their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, particularly by integrating the Goals into their national strategies and aligning their institutional arrangements.

III. Strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Strengthening data ecosystems to monitor sustainable development

22. ECLAC has reinforced the dissemination and use of regionally comparable statistics, including through interoperable platforms that integrate statistical, geospatial and documentary data, among others, as well as the updated CEPALSTAT platform, adding new capabilities and a geoportal. Complementary tools have also

been developed, such as a portal for data on social and economic inequalities, a repository of economic survey microdata, systems to access input-output matrices, in addition to a tool for household survey microdata processing.

23. The Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, also known as SDG Gateway, consolidates and showcases the regional work of the United Nations development system related to the 2030 Agenda, including key events, data and statistics, analytical tools and knowledge products, and information on how the United Nations system and other international organizations are supporting countries in monitoring and reporting on the Goals. The continued updating of the platform and inter-agency collaboration, through a decentralized system that enables the portal to be populated by members of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, have enhanced the visibility and accessibility of regional assets of the United Nations development system.

B. Contributions to the proposal in “Our Common Agenda” on beyond gross domestic product

24. ECLAC contributed to the work of the Core Group on Beyond GDP, which drafted the report entitled “Valuing what counts: United Nations system-wide contribution on progress beyond gross domestic product” within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes. Moreover, at the twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in August 2022, a special session was organized on beyond GDP with the participation of core group representatives from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. ECLAC could build on its ongoing technical support to member States with respect to initiatives aligned with the beyond GDP proposal, such as regional experiences with ecosystem accounting and efforts to build data and statistics on time-use and women’s unpaid work.

C. Supporting the data and statistics capacities of Caribbean small island developing States regarding environmental, climate change and disaster statistics

25. ECLAC continued to provide technical assistance to Caribbean countries to strengthen the capacities of national officers at national statistical offices and line ministries to produce, disseminate and use climate change and disaster risk indicators. In 2022, and with the support of the Development Account project 2023Q “Caribbean SIDS relevant climate change and disaster indicators for evidence-based policies”, 33 indicators were elaborated based on national priorities and the availability of environmental, climate change and disaster statistics. A regional network on environment statistics was established to bring together English-speaking Caribbean countries, and an online training course on environment statistics was launched.

D. Efforts to boost climate financing

26. The Latin America and Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to the intensifying impacts of climate change and green and low-carbon transition initiatives constitute opportunities for the region’s productive transformation. In this context, enhancing the scale and availability of climate financing for both adaptation and mitigation initiatives emerges as a priority concern for the region.

27. For example, in recognition of the high levels of debt, which are exacerbated by the extreme vulnerability of Caribbean countries to climate change and the impacts thereof, ECLAC proposed the establishment of the Caribbean Resilience Fund. It serves as a special purpose financing vehicle intended to leverage long-term low-cost development financing for the Caribbean, while at the same time ensuring the availability of resources for investment in adaptation and mitigation initiatives for the development of green industries and operating through two windows: resilience building; and debt restructuring and liquidity enhancement. It is proposed that the Fund be housed in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Development Fund and be managed jointly by a consortium of regional agencies, including the CARICOM Development Fund, ECLAC and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. In 2022, the initiative underwent high-level consultations, including at the meetings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable and Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held in Suriname from 12 to 14 October 2022, during which a resolution was adopted to approve continued work towards its establishment.

28. A presentation on the Caribbean Resilience Fund was also given at the high-level round table on the theme “Climate finance: the energy transition in Latin America and the Caribbean,” convened by ECLAC in partnership with the high-level champions for climate action for the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The focus of the high-level round table was to promote public-private dialogue on climate financing and present a compendium of both national and city-level projects with investment potential. The event addressed sectors linked with the region’s energy transition and productive development, including investments in electromobility, critical minerals and renewable energies, and produced a compendium of projects, which was also presented at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. ECLAC collaborated with Boston Consulting Group and the high-level champions to compile a shortlist and work on selected projects regarding investor engagement and updating project documentation.

E. Digital transformation promoted through the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean

29. Digital technologies are essential instruments for boosting productivity and growth and have significant effects in various areas that are critical to development, such as health, education and government services. At the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in November 2022, member States approved the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022–2024, establishing the thematic priorities for the digital development of the countries of the region. In the Agenda, they address the diverse dimensions for boosting digital inclusion and transformation, including connectivity, skills development, the digital economy and the digital transformation of the State. Moreover, they emphasize partnerships and actions that promote trade integration, the regional digital market and international cooperation.

F. Advancing gender equality through trade policies

30. Trade policies, as well as the composition of the export basket, contribute to the low participation of women in activities related to export sectors, which do not therefore benefit from the comparative advantages that a more equitable participation could generate. Even though the World Trade Organization and trade agreements are now incorporating a gender perspective more and more, in Latin America and the

Caribbean the participation of women in economic activities related to the export sector is lower than their participation in the overall economy.

31. In 2022, ECLAC provided technical assistance and advisory services to national officers from countries of the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru) and the Andean Community of Nations (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) to measure the participation of women in export sectors and to assess to what degree trade policies generate incentives to increase women's participation. Workshops were organized to strengthen the capacities of national officers in the areas of mainstreaming a gender perspective in chapters of trade agreements, identifying trade opportunities within the Pacific Alliance and developing trade policy tools that contribute to the economic empowerment of women and gender equality. As of 2022, this work has contributed to nine countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region incorporating, or undertaking negotiations to incorporate, gender chapters in trade agreements.

IV. Spotlight on transformative initiatives to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

32. At the halfway point for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, progress towards the Goals in Latin American and Caribbean countries has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

33. In this context, which is coupled with a reduced space for monetary and fiscal policies owing to high inflation rates and increases in external debt, to achieve the Goals, it is necessary to take action to reverse these negative trends, strengthen those that are moving in the right direction but are insufficient to achieve the targets, and ensure that those targets that are currently on track will be achieved.

34. Moreover, the current context raises the need for increasing the resource mobilization capacity of the international financial architecture for development, which must be complemented by a strategy to optimize its impact on economic and social development. To this end, mechanisms for providing liquidity or expanding fiscal space must not only mitigate short-term imbalances, but also lay the groundwork for closing longer-term gaps.

35. Faced with this reality, ECLAC calls for the region to redouble its efforts to both reactivate its economies, as well as to transform the countries' development models, by centring these efforts around policies for productive transformation and diversification along with significant public and private investment. This would make it possible to accelerate structural change and technological and digital transformation to achieve high, sustained growth, and sustainable and inclusive development. These proposals have been set forth in the position document entitled "Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability", which was presented by ECLAC at its thirty-ninth session. At the meeting, ECLAC organized a high-level panel to discuss the main conclusions and recommendations of the report, which were welcomed by the member States.

36. In addition, within the framework of the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the high-level panel on the theme "Path to the SDG Summit: transformative initiatives – creating opportunities to strengthen commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its full implementation at all levels" and the presentation of the document entitled "Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress

and recommendations for acceleration” provided opportunities for the countries of the region to discuss progress and the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

37. At the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, ECLAC proposed transformative initiatives for accelerating progress towards the 2030 targets, namely, the energy transition and related industries, the bioeconomy, sustainable tourism, the digital transformation, regional economic integration, the care society and gender equality, and exports of modern, Internet enabled services, as these sectors have the potential to generate multiplier effects and synergies between several Goals. Furthermore, and in line with the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, ECLAC proposes taking advantage of the institutional footprint associated with the Goals to increase capacities for thought and dialogue on shaping the future. Foresight capacities are required for strategic, complex decision-making in a context of instability and uncertainty.

38. In addition, ECLAC convened regional seminars and intergovernmental discussions to address the implementation and financing challenges of sustainable development policies aligned with the Goals. This included the thirty-fourth Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy. At the meeting, ministers and high-level authorities of the ministries of finance discussed fiscal policy challenges and agreed on the importance of strengthening tax collection and the progressivity of tax structures, as well as of fiscal spending as an instrument to foster sustainable development.

V. Leveraging partnerships for sustainable development

A. Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations

39. ECLAC has promoted stronger regional cooperation through its collaboration with CELAC. In 2022, support was provided to Argentina when it held the pro tempore presidency of CELAC and, since early 2023, to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines when it assumed the role. ECLAC also provides technical support on issues approved at the seventh Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and outlined in the Buenos Aires Declaration, which expresses the shared vision of the member countries across a range of areas, including the post-pandemic economic recovery, food and energy security, environmental cooperation and the continuation of the plan on self-sufficiency on health matters.

40. The plan serves to promote the development, expansion and strengthening of regional capacities for producing and distributing vaccines and was unanimously approved at the sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Mexico City in 2021. To progress towards implementing the plan in the short term, advances were made towards the establishment of three priority lines of work: coordination between national regulatory agencies, the need to strengthen production and regional procurement mechanisms to ensure universal access to vaccines.

41. With assistance from ECLAC, the Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters will support the implementation of projects to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, including the existing strategy for comprehensive disaster risk management, with a view to fostering a vision for comprehensive, resilient and sustainable development that would contribute to strengthening the disaster response capacity in the region’s countries.

42. Moreover, ECLAC will also be providing technical support to organize a meeting with the ministers of economy and finance in May 2023. The aim of the meeting is to design a common agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean to respond to the current global crisis. In terms of support for holding interregional dialogues, ECLAC will also be providing technical assistance in preparation for the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States and the European Union to be held in July 2023.
43. ECLAC supported the Andean Community in the design of the Andean Digital Agenda, which is a new strategy to assist member countries in navigating the challenges of the digital transformation and improving connectivity and innovation. Furthermore, ECLAC supported the Community's Regional Water Forum and provided recommendations on Integrated Water Resources Management and particularly the water-energy-food nexus.
44. ECLAC also provided technical assistance to the countries of the Pacific Alliance on gender issues in trade, including promoting gender mainstreaming in external trade, establishing networks of women that participate in electronic trade and opening up opportunities for women in economic sectors related to exports. ECLAC is also supporting the Technical Group for Development and Social Inclusion of the Pacific Alliance in the design and implementation of a Social Observatory Project.
45. Within the framework of the activities under the Paraguayan pro tempore presidency of Mercosur, ECLAC hosted three panels of experts at the eighth Mercosur Business Forum with participants from both the public and private sectors of member countries to promote integration and cooperation on knowledge-based services, the pharmaceutical sector and agrifood.
46. ECLAC continued to support the Central American Integration System in the broad areas of digital transformation and governance, energy and climate change. A report was published on the lessons learned and opportunities for new models of public management that utilize technology effectively. Furthermore, advances were made under a joint project with the Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers for Finance of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic to strengthen the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in public investments in climate change adaptation in Central American Integration System member countries.
47. Together with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, ECLAC organized two workshops as part of the technical assistance provided to Saint Kitts and Nevis in the preparation of its first voluntary national review, for the purpose of presenting the report of the review to stakeholders, as well as to furthering support on the issue of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals.
48. ECLAC continued to assist Caribbean countries in improving their statistical systems. Together with the World Bank Group, ECLAC provided capacity-building services to coordinate the participation of the countries of the subregion in the International Comparison Program. Furthermore, as part of a joint initiative with CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, ECLAC strengthened the institutional and statistical capacities of Caribbean countries to better produce, disseminate and use environment, climate change and disaster indicators. The work of ECLAC at the country level has helped in identifying coordination and data-sharing as the most critical areas in which the exchange of knowledge and experiences and peer learning at the regional level bring the most value for countries.
49. The Latin American Integration Association and ECLAC organized a round table on the confluence of several crises and their impact on the recovery from the pandemic, in particular disruptions to supply chains of fertilizers and agricultural inputs and the impact on agricultural commodities exports by the region.

B. Collaboration with partners of the United Nations system

50. In addition to inter-agency collaboration within the framework of the Regional Collaboration Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean and its issue-based coalitions (see sect. II.G), ECLAC also continued to pursue inter-agency collaboration through its subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings, joint publications and technical support to follow up and implement global and regional agendas, including in relation to key transitions to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.

51. Examples include the joint convening of conferences and meetings of the Regional Conference on Women with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean with the United Nations Development Programme; the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean with the United Nations Population Fund; and the joint technical secretariat together with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

52. With respect to the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit and inter-agency responses to emerging food security challenges, in addition to producing a joint policy brief (see section II.A), ECLAC has also worked closely with FAO and the World Food Programme on the regional meeting of the 2023 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. The regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 25 April 2023 as a side event during the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and its Regional Task Force. The regional Stocktaking Moment increased awareness and momentum towards the global Stocktaking Moment and served as an opportunity to consolidate regional learning and solutions. The key messages were synthesized in the form of a short technical report that will serve as the regional input for the planning of the global 2023 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. Moreover, ECLAC, together with FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Latin American Integration Association, is working on the updated CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger, to be approved at a ministerial meeting in late 2023.

53. As for efforts to provide regional inputs and support the follow-up of the agreements of the Transforming Education Summit, ECLAC continued to work closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on joint publications, technical cooperation initiatives and joint monitoring and advocacy efforts to monitor progress in education. Leading up to the Transforming Education Summit, the three agencies released the document entitled "*Education in Latin America and the Caribbean at a Crossroads: Regional Monitoring Report SDG4 – Education*" in September 2022. The preliminary results of the report were presented in July 2022 at a side event jointly organized during the high-level political forum that was moderated by the Special Adviser for the Transforming Education Summit held in 2022 and convened together with the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations. The 2022 edition of *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean* also provided an analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on the region's education systems.

54. ECLAC also works closely on priority initiatives with the other regional economic commissions. Examples include collaboration within the context of the Working Group on Transforming Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

and the drafting of the joint policy brief entitled “Addressing public debt challenges to effectively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals: Regional perspectives”, which was launched at a joint side event within the framework of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

55. ECLAC continues to collaborate at the regional and global levels on data and statistics, including with the Statistics Division, regional economic commissions, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, resident coordinators and the network of data management officers of the Development Coordination Office as well as the group on data and statistics of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

C. Collaboration with extraregional partners

56. In 2022, ECLAC continued its long-standing collaboration with the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In 2022, ECLAC, together with the Development Centre of OECD, the CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the European Commission, produced the fifteenth edition of the *Latin American Economic Outlook*, entitled *Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition*, which was launched within the framework of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Egypt. The report provides an outline of the environmental, social and economic benefits that the green transition can offer. It also presents the argument that pursuing the green transition through active mitigation and adaptation policies, implemented in a systemic way, can make Latin American and Caribbean societies more resilient to climate change and promote better development.

D. Civil society and young people

57. Since the creation of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2016, progress has been made on promoting and strengthening the participation of civil society in the region, through 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. The sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was also preceded by a side event on the theme “Forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean 2030”, held in Santiago in April 2023, at which, among other issues, the perspectives of young people were offered on the planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnerships, in addition to recommendations for the acceleration of the implementation of the Goals. The outcome of the Forum was a declaration in which children and young people offered their regional perspectives on sustainable development.

E. Private sector

58. The Commission also continued its efforts to promote multi-stakeholder dialogues on the private sector’s contribution to sustainable development. Some examples include, the private sector proposals presented at the round table on the theme “Climate finance: – the energy transition in Latin America and the Caribbean” or the presentation of private sector circular economy initiatives and technological solutions in this field at the seminar on the theme “The circular economy: a cross-

sector strategy for sustainable development” convened by ECLAC in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. ECLAC also provided its perspective on the green and digital transition and related productive development policies at the fourteenth Ibero-American Business Meeting, which took place in the context of the twenty-eighth Ibero-American Summit held in the Dominican Republic in March 2023. The Commission presented recommendations outlined in the publication entitled *Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition*, prepared in partnership with the Development Centre of OECD, the CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the European Commission.

VI. Conclusions

59. As outlined in the report, the compounded effects of the cascading set of crises have resulted in considerable setbacks in Latin America and the Caribbean, including with regard to the trajectory of implementing the Goals in the region. In this context, transformative initiatives that address multiple Goals simultaneously are required, including through productive transformation strategies in sectors that have demonstrated positive environmental impacts, inclusive job creation and increased technological content. Efforts to promote regional integration must accompany such initiatives, considering that the low levels of regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in South America, expose the region to the impacts of the shifting trade and productive policies of its main extraregional trade partners. Measures to reduce trade costs and facilitate investments between the countries of the region can catalyse the development of new value chains in the strategic sectors referred to in the present report. Moreover, greater regional integration can also help the region to gain more benefits from integration with the rest of the world. It is therefore important to see that increased regional cooperation is a strategy to address the challenges and reap the benefits of the opportunities that result from the changing patterns of globalization.
