



OECD Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme

Latin America and the OECD: A growing partnership

For over 20 years, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been working closely with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate policy dialogue and the dissemination of good practices in areas such as investment, education, inclusiveness, competition, good governance, anti-corruption and fiscal policy.

The OECD is an international organisation that promotes better policies for better lives, helping improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It provides a forum where governments work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems, drawing on the analysis of reliable data, the distilling of best practices and the setting of international standards.

Today, Chile and Mexico are members of the OECD, Colombia and Costa Rica are in the process of accession, Brazil is a key partner of the organisation and Peru has a specific programme of collaboration. Together with Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Uruguay, these countries are members of the OECD Development Centre, which has provided a longstanding platform for engagement with the region through flagship publications such as the annual *Latin American Economic Outlook*. Many other Latin American and Caribbean countries engage with the OECD through their participation in bodies and committees, policy dialogue networks and surveys.

In January 2016, OECD members decided to strengthen co-operation with the region through the creation of an OECD LAC Regional Programme, which will be launched in June 2016 at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris, under the Chairmanship of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

Supporting the region to advance its policy reform agenda

In today's increasingly complex international environment, there is a growing awareness in the region that better policies and structural reforms are needed to ensure higher rates of growth and sustain economic and social development.

The OECD LAC Regional Programme aims to support the region in advancing its reform agenda along three key regional priorities: **increasing productivity**, **advancing social inclusion**, and **strengthening institutions and governance**.





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Bringing LAC countries' perspectives to the OECD

The Programme will also facilitate broader participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in OECD work and their access to OECD expertise. It will allow for a systematic and mutually beneficial dialogue among OECD and Latin American and Caribbean countries by bringing the region's policy perspectives to the work of OECD bodies.

Working hand in hand with regional partners

The priorities for the work programme will be defined in consultation with Latin American and Caribbean countries. Close co-operation with leading regional organisations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), will be a key feature of this Programme. Collaboration with other partners including the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) will also be reinforced.

Tailoring support and advice to sub-regional contexts

In order to better tailor activities to the specific challenges and priorities of the different Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Programme envisions the possibility of developing sub-regional initiatives. These initiatives could be designed in co-ordination with existing sub-regional integration and governance mechanisms in Central America, the Caribbean, or other part of the region.

Supporting the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The OECD LAC Regional Programme aims to contribute as well to the region's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Programme itself addresses Objective 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, by providing a multi-stakeholder partnership between OECD and Latin American and Caribbean countries to "*share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals*" (Target 17.16). By supporting countries in the region to design policies to address productivity, social inclusion and governance challenges, the OECD LAC Regional Programme will be an important tool for the region in the implementation of the other sixteen goals.

