

Agenda 2030 in Latin- America and the Caribbean

Context and Perspectives for Multi-stakeholder processes.

LAC: Socio-economic context

- - Most unequal region in the world (10% of the population possessed 71% of the region's wealth in 2014)
- The region had a very good economic run from 2003 to 2013 - specially between 2003-2008, with 5% aggregated regional growth (linked to the super-cycle of commodities mainly fueled by China's growth)
- Almost all countries in the region were benefitted by high employment, higher wages and higher public spending.
- However, the nature of the productive structures of a majority of countries in the region (mainly commodities-driven) has hindered its growth perspectives since China's economic deceleration.
- In this context, the many gaps that structure LAC socio-economic system have become increasingly clear: undiversified economies, wage gaps, educational and spatial segregations etc.
- These drivers of inequality are further exacerbated by ethnic, racial and gender inequalities.

Multilateral spaces: Alianza del Pacífico



**Alianza del
Pacífico**

This multilateral space corresponds to an 'open regionalism' type of setting – aimed at creating a free zone for commodities, services and persons – and facilitating the insertion of these countries within global value chains.

Multilateral spaces: MERCOSUR



MERCOSUR was founded 1991 first as free-trade zone, but now includes institutions that aim at a more politically oriented integration, like a parliament and a Civil society forum

Multilateral spaces: ALBA



ALBA-TCP is a political process developed under Venezuelan leadership – based on a system that promotes south-south cooperation and a system of goods and services exchange based on barter.

Multilateral spaces: UNASUR



UNASUR was founded in 2008 under Brazilian leadership - is a multilateral space which aims to promote political integration and cooperation. It is more institutionalized than other spaces, since it has permanent secretariat, a civil society Forum and several sectorial working groups.

Multilateral spaces: CELAC



CELAC was created in 2011 as a Forum for political dialogue and as a concertation mechanism regarding foreign relations. Weakly institutionalized, but has potential for the creation of regional public goods in the realm of democracy and development.

Challenges and opportunities for LAC region regarding Agenda 2030 implementation

- **Social dimension:** Closing well-being gaps and inequalities that are reproduced from generation to generation/ Fight extreme poverty and hunger / Promoting inclusion and participation in economic and social development (emphasis on gender, ethnic and racial equality)
- **Economic dimension:** Intensify economic diversification/ Create decent and productive employment/ Closing productivity and social protection gaps between the different sectors of the economy
- **Environmental dimension:** Incorporate Sustainable development principles in policy-design and in national development strategies / Tackle climate change structurally and promote biodiversity conservation and restoration
- **Governance dimension:** promote social participation in policy processes/ transparency/ promote an alliance for development / promote new standards of international cooperation/ promote financial reforms at the regional and global levels

New multilateral space: Forum of LAC countries on Sustainable Development

- .Forum created under ECLAC auspices in 2016 – conceived as the regional chapter for the monitoring and review process developed by the HLPF.
- Its first edition will be celebrated in Mexico City on April 26 to 28.
- A Civil Society Consultation will be organized on April 25 – the outcome of this consultation will be a Declaration, that will be presented at the Intergovernmental Forum.
- The Forum will be structured around plenary sessions (where ECLAC will present their Annual report on Agenda 2030 implementation and VNR countries will be able to present previews of their reports).
- The Forum will also have several thematic roundtables, where civil society representatives will be able to participate as panelists.
- The official outcome of the Forum will be a set of policy recommendations based on ECLAC and countries reports, as well as the recommendations arising from the Forum's discussions.

Expectations regarding the new Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

- The transformations needed to tackle the many gaps existing in the region have to be based on wide-ranging consensus and need to incorporate a whole-of-society approach
- This is why designing this space based on a multi-stakeholder approach is essential – this would promote the public policy cycle as a social construction and alleviate the historical asymmetries between governments and civil society
- In order to maximize participation, civil society will have to find balanced mechanisms that would allow to participate sectorially, but without forgetting the bigger picture
- This Forum could give political substance to the efforts of CELAC and allow finding common-ground for the creation of regional public goods that could promote the creation of public goods at the national level
- This Forum could enhance the coordination and common orientation to the work carried within the different sub-regional multilateral spaces