

Annual Progress Report and Regional Challenges of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in coordination with other agencies within the Region of the Americas to be discussed at the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

(Mexico City, 26-28 April)

Summary

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, highlights the ability of global agendas to galvanize global efforts and garner consensus amongst governments and diverse actors towards a unified and transformative vision for economic, social and environmental development. These three dimensions of sustainable development must be addressed in through an integrated approach that draws upon the knowledge, skills and resource of a variety of sectors. Not only is the Agenda the most inclusive and participatory process in the United Nations' history, but it is an aspirational approach to advance human development and make it more equitable, through complex mechanisms like improved governance and capacity-building. As such the SDGs call upon governments to renew their commitments to public health by recognizing, and working to optimize, multisectoral partnerships towards the interdependent SDGs. Each level of government must work to achieve the SDGs. At the national level, a new generation of cross cutting social policies and innovative solutions is required in order to address Regional inequities and inequalities. At the regional level, Latin America and the Caribbean must work to promote collaboration and action across all sectors in order to build capacity and enhance diversification.

This report is a contribution to the efforts of governments and the Region for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its policies and strategies in favor of achieving the SDGs. The report will be central to the Forum's discussions, and is organized into three chapters; 1) Latin America and the Caribbean: The Sustainable Development Goals and the New International Context 2) Institutions for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean 3) Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of Regional progress in terms of implementing the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs as well as the specific challenges and contexts (global and regional) that

must be taken into consideration when implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Some key challenges include the increasing severity of climate change, persisting Regional inequities and inequities in health, strengthening international governance, adopting new technologies, and working across sectors to achieve the goals. The latter, action across all sectors, is a prevalent topic throughout this chapter. Lack of collaboration is described as a threat to the global economy as working across sectors offers new opportunities for joint funding where goals are aligned. Additionally, a lack of collaboration acts as a major barrier for achieving the SDGs as they seek to include all countries, therefore, the chapter advocates for increased multilateralism and international cooperation. In addition to aiding efforts to achieve the SDGs, increased cooperation and improved governance have great potential to help mitigate conflict, instability and economic depression within the Region.

Chapter 2 is the result of inputs from numerous agencies, such as UNDP, and addresses some key points for the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The successful implementation of the SDGs requires an institutional basis to foster cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue, technical capacities, and inclusive policies. This chapter provides an overview of the national institutional mechanisms currently in place within the Region to support the implementation of Agenda 2030. This chapter also provides an overview of the different mechanisms and strategies being implemented by countries within the Region to integrate the SDGs into their institutional mandates and agendas. Key examples from countries within the Region are described to showcase the “how to” process at the national and subnational level. A key point made in this chapter is that exchanging policy experiences and innovative practices can play a key role in improving the design of such mechanisms and stimulate cooperation at the regional, national and subnational level. The implementation of the Agenda is truly global in that it transcends government cycles in the countries of the region and as such, this chapter highlights the importance of governance and intersectoral action for the Region’s achievement of the SDGs.

Chapter 3 highlights the importance of monitoring systems in achieving the SDGs. The monitoring of countries progress towards achieving the SDGs requires clearly defined indicators to be put into place in order to take stock of what has been done at both the regional and local level as well as identify key areas for action. The chapter stresses that if national statistical systems are not strengthened to properly measure the indicators of progress with specific goals, it is not possible to know where or if progress is being made. The chapter also provides a detailed discussion of the formulation process of the indicators and the databases needed to analyze them in a comparable manner throughout the entire Region for countries within the Region to utilize in their planning. Coordination of tasks at the global level is crucial for



obtaining reliable and timely data to enable systematic reviews on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report is the product of a unique collaborative process and has been informed by numerous agencies throughout the Region. As cooperation across agencies is essential to the success of the SDGs, the engagement and enthusiasm garnered during the development process of this report showcases the Region's commitment to the SDG agenda. Given the current momentum in the Region, this report is both exciting and timely. While analyzing the complex process of implementing the SDG agenda is a challenge in itself, this report highlights the key Region-specific challenges, opportunities, and considerations that will be crucial to the current and future implementation of the 17 SDGs. The report is the first of a series that will be released over the course of the next 13 years (until 2030). As such, this report and future reports from this series will play a key role in the implementation of the SDGs over the next 13 years.

Although health is explicitly identified in only one of the 17 SDGs, each goal addresses issues that have important impacts on health. The key considerations and challenges related to SDG 3 and other health related targets addressed in this report, such as the adverse effects that climate change has had, and will continue to have, on health, are incredibly relevant to PAHO's work. Recognizing that health is indispensable to achievement of the overall 2030 Agenda, health challenges must now be met with more than technical action: they must also be accompanied by political action at the highest level within and beyond the health sector. To this end, PAHO must assume a leadership role in assessing progress through indicators related to health (both within SDG 3 and other SDGs identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the regional level). As the Region of the Americas continues to generate good practices for SDG achievement through proactive leadership, be assured that PAHO must also continue to facilitate multisectoral strategies and advocate for health within and beyond SDG 3.