

**EMPOWERING
2024**



UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE
PLATFORM

LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN

United actions

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NEWS FROM THE RCP LAC

Editor's note

Dear reader,

We have started 2024 with renewed energy. With the new Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) 2.0. at full steam, it is a good occasion to share a new issue of the RCP LAC Bulletin. It is our hope that the Bulletin will continue to help you understand better the UN system efforts and collective results at the regional level.

In 2024, we plan to publish it on a quarterly basis to provide a quick glance of the most relevant news from the RCP LAC and its Issue-based Coalitions (IBCs) and Working Groups (WGs).

This issue includes initiatives from the IBCs on Climate change & Resilience, Governance and institutions, and on Human Mobility, the Peer Support Group, and the Working Groups on Gender, Populations Left Behind, and Youth, as well as some key RCP LAC updates, including the latest changes to its membership. Also, you can find information on upcoming events so you can save them in your calendars. We hope that you will find it both interesting and relevant.

"United Actions" is prepared by the Partnerships and Communications Working Group of the RCP LAC to enhance transparency and showcase UN system efforts and collective results at the regional level. Previous "United Actions" bulletins can be accessed on the [RCP LAC website](#).

Kindly distribute it widely within your networks.

In this edition:

Issue-based Coalitions (IBC) updates

- Climate change and resilience
- Governance for peace, justice and strong institutions
- Human mobility

Working Groups (WG) updates

- Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Populations left behind
- Youth
- Evaluation

RCP LAC Key updates

Events meetings & webinars



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Sustainable Economic Transformations

The [IBC on Climate Change and Resilience](#) developed a Regional Brief on Energy Transitions in Latin America and the Caribbean to provide a concise overview of the current state of the energy sector in the LAC region, highlighting Greenhouse Gas Emissions, economic and social development, environmental commitments, investment trends, and global dialogues prioritizing energy transitions. The Brief identifies four key areas where the UN can influence and promote sustainable energy transitions. This was developed in collaboration with UNDRR-ROAC, UNEP, ECLAC, FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP, UNFCCC, UN Women and DCO.

Following up on the brief, a presentation on Green Economic Transformations was held for the UNCTs and RCs of Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Peru and Venezuela, focusing on “Sustainable Economic Transformations”. The presentation led to a virtual dialogue on December 5, 2023, attended by 11 UNS agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean.





Launch of the LabCC for tackling crime and corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean



The United Nations Laboratory on Crime and Corruption for Latin America and the

Caribbean (LabCC) will be available to UN staff by April 17. Developed under the umbrella of the RCP LAC Issue-based Coalition on Governance for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions with the technical lead of UNODC, LabCC offers a comprehensive suite of resources aimed at providing Resident Coordinators (RCs), as well as UN Country Teams (UNCTs), and UN staff with up-to-date information and tools to tackle corruption and organized crime, and other topics linked to the SDG 16 and correlated SDGs.

Currently, the platform covers critical topics such as Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Drugs, Violence Against Children, Homicides, and Citizen Security. Additional categories including Corruption, Organized Crime, Gender-Based Violence, Prison Reform, and Terrorism Prevention are set to be added by mid-April. By the end of June, the entire platform is expected to be fully operational, providing a one-stop destination for UN staff to access vital information and tools in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

The LabCC is exclusively available to UN staff and will be hosted on the RCP LAC website.



A comprehensive overview on mixed movements in Central America and Mexico (Oct-Dec 2023)

The [IBC Human Mobility \(October - December 2023\) report](#), crafted by the [IBC Human Mobility Issue-based Coalition](#), offers an in-depth examination of the escalating mixed movements across Central America and Mexico, marking a significant humanitarian crisis of unprecedented magnitude. It documents an all-time high with 520,000 individuals traversing through Panama's Darien province in 2023 alone, accounting for the most substantial irregular migration flow recorded to date. This surge is attributed to a mix of factors, including violence, insecurity, human rights abuses, poverty, inequality, and the detrimental effects of climate change, prompting migrants and refugees from various nationalities to embark on these dangerous journeys.

The report underscores the harsh realities faced by these individuals, such as the absence of basic needs and exposure to extreme dangers like death, disappearances, extortion, sexual violence, and other severe human rights infringements, with over 862 persons reported missing. These findings

highlight the imperative need for a holistic and coordinated international response to tackle the complex challenges and ensure the safety and dignity of the people in movement.

Emphasizing the necessity for collaborative action, the report advocates for international solidarity, urging governments, humanitarian agencies, and other relevant entities to devise and implement strategies that protect human rights, offer critical services, and confront the underlying causes of these mixed movements. The insights from this document act as a crucial call to action, reminding us of the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the collective effort needed to alleviate the hardships faced by vulnerable communities.

You can access the dashboard with key figures [here](#)





Advancing gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Insights from the 2024 Regional Gender Equality Profile

The new [Regional Gender Equality Profile - 2024](#), developed by the [Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in LAC \(GIG\)](#), presents an in-depth look into gender equality and women's empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean. This key document provides a comprehensive analysis of women's status in the region through both quantitative and qualitative data.

The report analyses and pinpoints gender inequalities across the "5 Ps" dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships, from an intersectional perspective, examining how gender inequality intersects with other discrimination factors. Highlighting the significant underrepresentation of women in poverty-stricken households and the minimal budget allocations for women's advancement mechanisms, the document calls for increased funding and strategic efforts to finance equality initiatives.

Launched as part of a collaborative effort among 15 United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes members of the WG, the Regional Gender Equality Profile stands as a testament to a collective commitment towards gender equality in the region.

The report includes a [social media toolkit](#) designed to facilitate widespread dissemination and understanding of the challenges and progress towards gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. You can access [all the Canva resources here](#).





United efforts to tackle racial discrimination for improved migrant rights: advancing regional consultations in Latin America and the Caribbean

With the support of the OHCHR as a technical member of the Working Group on Populations Left Behind (PLB), key representatives and migration specialists from various United Nations agencies gathered to get familiarized with the joint efforts of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) and the UN Committee Against Racial Discrimination (CERD) in addressing the rights of migrants and their families, particularly those affected by racial discrimination. The meeting underscored the call for contributions transmitted by the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) on behalf of the two Committees towards a comprehensive General Comment / Recommendation, highlighting the significant role of the PLB WG of the RCP LAC in facilitating collaboration within the UN framework in the LAC region.

Among key aspects discussed were the elaboration process of the Joint General Comment and the UN Committees' planned regional consultations in a bid to address the complex challenges faced by migrants through a collaborative and regionally focused lens.



Exercises of this sort that reflect regional contributions from the UN System to the Joint General Comment/Recommendation represent a significant step forward in the collective efforts to protect and promote the rights of migrants and their families. They are also valuable in reinforcing the expertise and support available to Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Country Teams in tackling issues of human mobility and discrimination. Further discussions will be held with the UNDCO-LAC and the RCP LAC to analyze the way forward and including other concerned IBCs and WGs.



Youth

WG



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Youth at the forefront: Championing youth engagement for a sustainable future

With a keen focus on youth engagement, the Youth Working Group is gearing up for the Forum of Children, Adolescents, and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in the framework of the VII Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on 15 April 2024. The Youth Forum aims at empowering young participants by providing them with a platform to express their visions for a sustainable future. It underscores the critical role of youth in driving positive change and will place voices of young people from Latin America and the Caribbean at the centre of sustainable development dialogues.

Additionally, the Working Group is driving the organization of regional LAC sessions at the ECOSOC Youth Forum's, which will take place in New York on 15-18 April 2024. The sessions will focus on preparing youth for the Summit of the Future, marking a united effort to place young individuals at the forefront of shaping sustainability policies.

These forums represent a fundamental shift towards harnessing the innovative potential and perspectives of the younger generation. By integrating youth insights into global sustainability efforts, they are acknowledged as key stakeholders in the present and future, and reinforce their commitment to inclusive, forward-thinking development strategies.



UN Evaluation Network Latin America and the Caribbean support stronger cooperation framework evaluations

The UN Evaluation Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNELAC) partnered with the DCO's Global Advisor on Evaluations for a webinar on strengthening the Cooperation Framework evaluations with the six countries that will undertake evaluations in 2024.

The webinar on 6 March focused on the CF evaluation process, key stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, preparation and implementation of the CF evaluation, improving quality and independence of Cooperation frameworks and shared lessons learned by UNELAC from past evaluations.

Useful resources were also shared with the participating Heads of UN Resident Coordinator's Offices, Data Management Officers and Evaluation Focal points in RCs Offices and UN Country Teams.

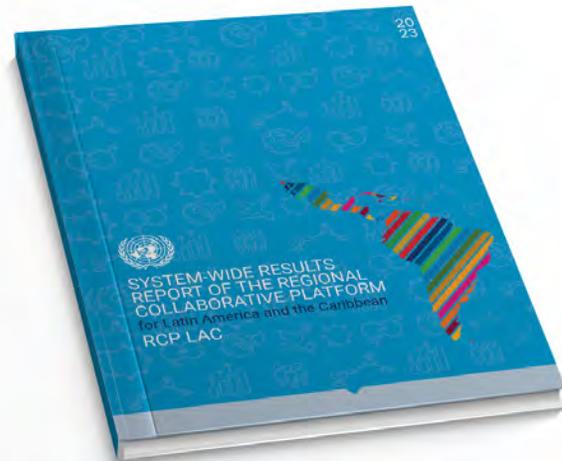


2023 System-wide Results Report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) is currently finalizing the 2023 System-wide Results Report, which will be shared with Member States and other stakeholders during the Seventh meeting of the VII Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (15-18 April 2024).

Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs) and Working Groups (WGs) are primary sources for the report. For the section on 'Highlights of system-wide results at the regional level', the selection of the initiatives submitted by IBCs or WGs is based on the following criteria:

- Respond to the consolidated demand made by UNCTs.
- Demonstrate a clear contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- Not be reported at national or agency level to avoid double reporting.
- Engage a critical mass of UN entities.



The system-wide results reports of the RCP LAC from previous years can be accessed through the RCP LAC website's Resources page.





RCP LAC Announces Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the Latin America and Caribbean region faces complex challenges, including poverty, environmental degradation, energy access issues, digital connectivity gaps, educational deficiencies, and labor market disparities. These challenges call for strategic interventions that are aligned with the United Nations' identified six transitions and investment pathways aimed at accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The RCP LAC plans to leverage the region's unique political position to assert regional leadership and advance SDG implementation on a global scale. Key efforts include supporting Member States in aligning with global priorities and tracking national commitments made in the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit, as well as fostering regional dialogues on the SDG Stimulus and forming partnerships with international financial institutions. The RCP LAC will also intensify acceleration action at the regional level, ensuring responsive mechanisms and considering the United Nations' identified six transitions and investment pathways.

The RCP LAC will provide strategic direction and support in three main areas:

- i. Promoting regional coherence regarding global priorities, particularly in support system-wide efforts on the six transitions, with an integrated approach based on the principle of leaving no one behind.
- ii. Supporting RCs and UNCTs in addressing SDG gaps in transboundary and subregional contexts.
- iii. Building partnerships with regional stakeholders such as international financial institutions and subregional development actors.

New RCP LAC members



Mr. Nahuel Arenas Garcia

Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).



Mr. Diego Beltrand

Regional Director (a.i.) for Central America, North America and the Caribbean, International Organization for Migration (IOM).



Mr. Johannes Dobinger

Regional Representative for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).



Ms. Ana Virginia Moreira Gomes

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Labour Organization (ILO).



Ms. Esther Kuisch Laroche

Director of the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)





2024 Events, meetings & webinars

Save

the dates

APRIL

- **15-18 April, Santiago, Chile:** 7th session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

RCP LAC in-person meetings:

- **15 April, 9:30-11:30:** Meeting with the RCs.
- **15 April, 17:00-19:00:** Meeting with the Chair of the RCP LAC.
- **15 April, 19:15-20:00:** Meeting with the UNCT in Chile
- **16 April, 16:30-17:30:** Presentation of the 2023 system-wide results report of the RCP LAC.

- **16-18 April, New York, USA:** ECOSOC Youth Forum.
- **22-24 April, Santiago, Chile:** COP3 of the Escazú Agreement.

MAY

- **May, Bogotá, Colombia:** 5th meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development,
- **27-30 May, Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda:** Fourth International Conference on SIDS.

JUNE

- **June 20, 14:00-16:00 (PTY):** Mid-term review of the implementation of the workplan of the RCP LAC (virtual).

AUGUST

- **Week of 26, August:** Annual Retreat of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (in person).

NOVEMBER

- **14 November, 14:00-16:00 (PTY):** Stocktaking of 2024 results and planning for 2025 (virtual).





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