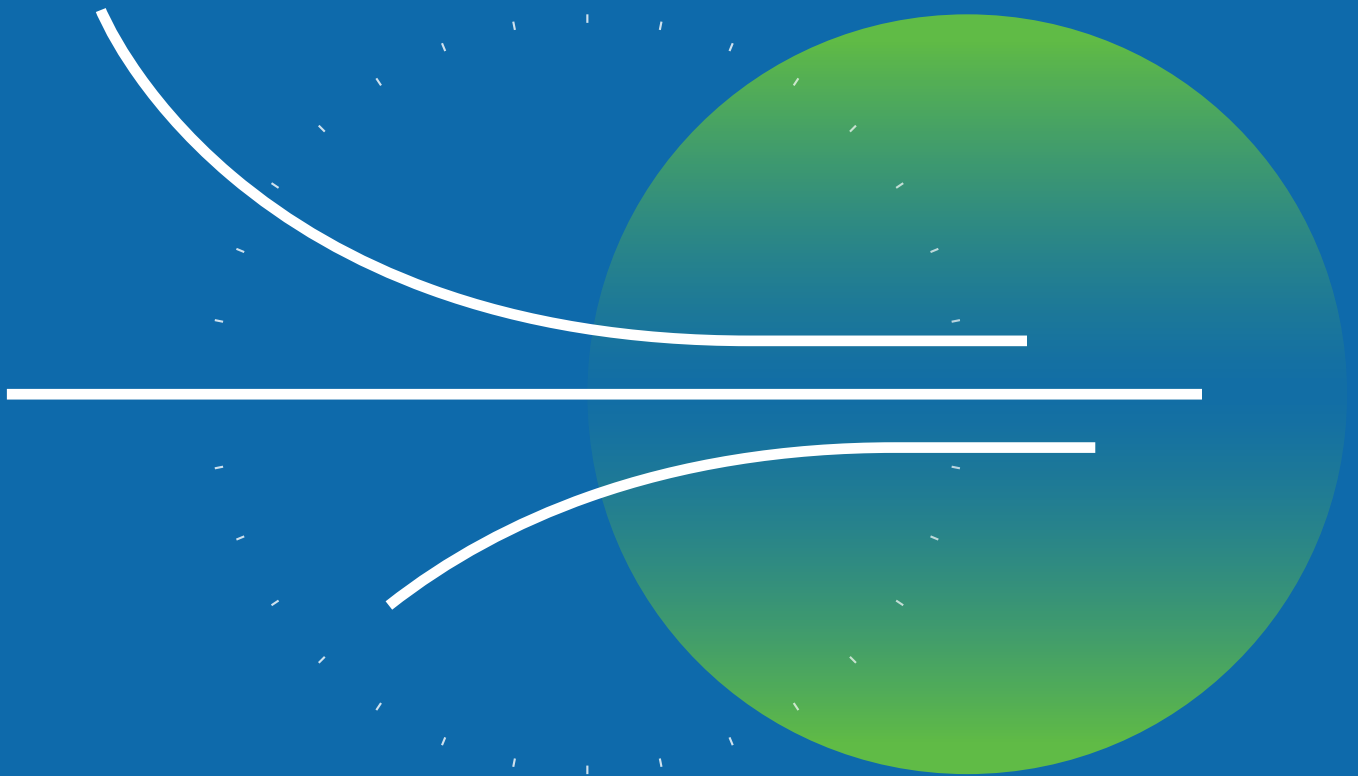


Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level

Paris, 3-4 June 2025



OECD STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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1. Through this Strategic Framework, the Members of the OECD express their commitment to a revitalised and strengthened partnership with the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region in the context of its 2025 Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by Costa Rica, as we welcome the launch of the Paraguay Country Programme and prepare the 10th anniversary of the LAC Regional Programme (LACRP) and the 30th anniversary of the OECD LAC Centre in Mexico City in 2026.
2. The OECD-LAC longstanding co-operation has built over decades a community of nations committed to co-operation on the basis of equal partnership, shared experience and mutual respect. It is driven by the collective search for solutions to common concerns through effective multilateralism. It is also a success story for the Organisation's global outreach and shows the relevance of its global relations tools. Over the past three decades, it has delivered the membership of Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, the establishment of an OECD Centre in Mexico, the launch of a LAC regional Programme, the growth of the Development Centre's LAC membership and the increased relevance of OECD standards and best practices for the region. The ongoing accession processes with Argentina, Brazil and Peru further mark a qualitative and transformational leap, with profound potential impact on both LAC and the OECD. Their membership would increase LAC representation in the OECD from 4 to 7 Members, covering 80% of the region's GDP and 76% of its population. For the OECD, this would mean a 5% increase of its aggregate GDP and a 21% rise in its total population. In Ibero-America (with Spain and Portugal included), OECD membership would rise from 6 to 9 countries, representing 92% of the community's GDP and 80% of its population. Similarly, with 9 countries in the Americas (with the U.S. and Canada), OECD membership would cover 96% of the GDP and 84% of the population of the hemisphere.

Shared goals and mutual benefits

3. LAC is a region of increasing global importance for OECD Members, critical to addressing major global challenges. Strategically located between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the region represents the world's fourth-largest economy, benefiting from a demographic bonus and abundant natural resources. It holds half of the world's biodiversity, a quarter of its forests, and a substantial share of minerals essential to advancing environmental sustainability, economic growth and prosperity for all. At the same time, the OECD is trusted, increasingly called upon, and well-placed to support the region. The OECD's reports, comparative data, and policy advice are highly valued by LAC countries as they address their policy challenges.
4. An OECD revitalised and strengthened partnership with LAC will benefit both the Organisation and the region contributing to the shared goals of: (i) building a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future worldwide through economic and development co-operation; (ii) addressing the region's challenges and opportunities leveraging the OECD's added value through evidence-based policy dialogue, its standards and best practices; and (iii) enhancing LAC's capacity to contribute to tackling the world's most pressing challenges, in close co-operation with other international organisations; and (iv) enhancing the OECD's knowledge and analysis of developing countries' concerns, thereby strengthening the Organisation's position as a trusted global actor.
5. The OECD partnership with LAC benefits from the contribution of its Latin American Members and is driven by shared interests and mutual benefits. OECD Members' core values highlighted in its founding documents and in the *Vision Statement* [[C/MIN\(2021\)16/FINAL](#)], are widely shared in LAC. Countries in the region are focused on efforts to end poverty, address inequalities and pursue sustainable economic growth, while protecting our planet and improving lives and prospects of everyone.

Objectives of the Strategic Framework

6. Building on this long-standing mutually beneficial collaboration, and on the key objectives and thematic priorities of the OECD LAC Regional Programme [[C\(2016\)1/FINAL](#)], this Strategic Framework aims to achieve in partnership with LAC countries the following broad objectives:
 - Maximise the value, impact and complementarity of OECD work in the region, contributing to the solutions to the region's longstanding challenges, as reflected by the four pillars of the LACRP: increasing productivity, enhancing social inclusion, strengthening institutions and governance and ensuring environmental sustainability, while leveraging new opportunities and finding joint solutions to emerging common challenges;
 - Promote quality education, address informality, improve Gini index, address inequalities of all kinds and promote women's economic empowerment;
 - Reinforce the interaction and complementarity between the Organisation's global relations tools, in its bilateral and multilateral approaches;
 - Ensure regular, high-level dialogue with the region, fostering continuous and structured communication with leaders, the private sector, trade unions, civil society, parliamentarians, think-tanks and academia, through the design and implementation of an effective communications strategy;
 - Consistently improve OECD knowledge and understanding of the specific challenges of individual countries, sub-regions and the region, widening the regional coverage of key indicators, to ensure the relevance of OECD recommendations and tailor-made approaches;
 - Assist the region's efforts to enhance institutional capacity for reform and the implementation of OECD standards and best practices considering, in particular, the situation of small islands and developing states in the region;
 - Enhance the support to regional integration processes and mechanisms¹ and the contribution to regional summits² including technical support to host and participating countries.

Principles for a renewed engagement

7. The OECD will renew and increase its engagement with the LAC region based on the following principles:
 - *Partnership of equals and regional ownership*: Underpin all initiatives with dialogue, bringing LAC countries views, experiences and perspectives into OECD economic and policy research.
 - *Agility and pragmatism*: Adopt flexible, adaptable approaches, leveraging existing platforms.
 - *Impact and results oriented*: Focus on achieving tangible, impactful outcomes, effectively supporting the region achieve its development goals and meet their own commitments to achieve the SDGs.
 - *Transparency and inclusiveness*: Ensure openness by promoting engagement with countries and stakeholders in the region.
 - *Whole-of-OECD*: Strengthen engagement across all OECD's expert communities and co-operate with members in the region to enhance impact.
 - *Multilateralism*: Leverage synergies with other international organisations, and the OECD's global relevance and active participation in multilateral organisations such as the UN and WTO and

¹ Such as Pacific Alliance and Mercosur; the Central American Economic Integration System and the Caribbean region

² Including the Summit of the Americas, where the OECD is part of the Joint Summit Working Group, the Ibero-American Summit, where the OECD is consultative observer and the EU-CELAC summit, where the OECD was invited along other international organisations.

international fora such as APEC, G7, G20 to enhance LAC's capacity to contribute to the solution of the world's most pressing challenges.

Implementation

8. The OECD will develop an Implementation Plan in full consultation and co-operation with partners in the region through existing mechanisms by the 2026 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. It will contain reference indicators, concrete deliverables aligned with the objectives and principles of this Strategic Framework along the following dimensions:
 - *Bilateral engagement*: successful completion of ongoing accession processes, maintaining the dynamism of the Key Partnership with Brazil, implementation of the Country Programme of Paraguay, exploring structured engagement with other countries willing to move closer to OECD standards and best practices, and in general strengthening partner countries' participation in bodies and alignment with OECD standards with a view to potential adherence.
 - *Regional approach*: updating the mandate of the LACRP based on the results of its Ministerial Summits, drawing on lessons learned, and providing a political impulse and vision for the next decade in the context of its 10th anniversary, strengthening OECD regional policy networks, fostering greater Directorates' engagement with the region and leveraging Members' own bilateral co-operation efforts.
 - *Multilateral co-operation*: ensuring high-level participation and effective contribution to multilateral and regional integration processes, strengthening co-operation with subregional³ and trade⁴ integration mechanisms; enhancing dialogue and co-operation with international organisations⁵ and developing new institutional partnerships, and synergies on global issues, leveraging LAC's capacity to address global challenges.
 - *Institutional arrangements*: ensuring an integrated and co-ordinated implementation of the Strategic Framework across all OECD Directorates and the Development Centre; developing a communication strategy in recognition of the growing relevance of Spanish and Portuguese languages in the Organisation; outlining relevant funding sources and requirements to achieve its objectives as well as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with regular reviews.
 - *OECD Footprint in the region*: exploring opportunities to enhance the contributions of the OECD Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City to the implementation of this Strategic Framework in the context of its 30th anniversary in 2026, enhancing its engagement with Central America and the Caribbean, leveraging synergies with thematic Centres, and facilitating the hosting of more directorates' experts and secondees from OECD Members or partners.
 - *Cross-regional synergies*: enhancing the interaction of LAC with other regions, fostering cross-regional co-operation, knowledge exchange, and economic integration, facilitating structured engagement between LAC countries and other OECD regional programmes.
9. The Organisation will review the operation of these tools and strengthen their focus on achieving the objectives described above. It will examine the resourcing of these tools and consider where additional resources are required to achieve these objectives.

³ The OECD has an established relationship with the Pacific Alliance and SIECA, and an incipient relationship with Mercosur, Caricom and the Association of Caribbean States.

⁴ Such as the CPTPP, the USCTA, the CAFTA, the EU-Mercosur, among others.

⁵ At present the following IOs take part in the LAC Regional Programme Steering Group: UN ECLAC, IDB, CAF, OAS, World Bank, ILO, SEGIB, FLACSO, OIJ, EU-LAC Foundation, SELA, UNDP, OEI, OISS, COMJIB.

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