



13

CLIMATE  
ACTION



## SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>1</sup>

### Key regional statistics on SDG 13

- The region's rate of decarbonization (1990–2014) is 2.4% per year. Avoiding a temperature rise of more than 1.5°C requires a decarbonization rate of 6.7% per year.
- In the past 20 years, numerous natural disasters have occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean and in 2018 over 20% of all natural disasters worldwide occurred in the region.
- In 2016, there were 18 million displaced persons as a result of extreme climate events.
- The Caribbean is the second most vulnerable region in the world to the effects of climate change, due to both its geographical location and the fact that its population is concentrated in coastal areas. Almost 17% of the 10,271 disasters registered worldwide between 1970 and 2010 occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean. There were 345 climate related disasters in the Caribbean between 1990 and 2017. Regular annual losses as a result of disasters in the Caribbean are estimated at US\$ 3 billion, with the social and production sectors bearing the brunt.

### Key messages from the region on the issues addressed by SDG 13 and its targets

- The region is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, even with global warming of 1.5°C.
- The current development pattern worsens environmental crises.
- Climate change exacerbates inequalities.
- It is possible to grow and be environmentally sustainable, but this will require rapid and profound changes.
- There are synergies between the fight against poverty and the fight against climate change.

<sup>1</sup> The analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) presented here is the outcome of the discussions held within the framework of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019.



Forum of the Countries  
of Latin America and  
the Caribbean on  
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
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- A balance must be struck between mitigation and adaptation actions.
- A globally agreed framework exists; now it is time to implement it.
- Partnerships must be sought across sectors to increase ambition to limit temperature rises, as provided in the Paris Agreement (to keep the average global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels).
- The Caribbean and Central America are the subregions most exposed and vulnerable to extreme climate phenomena.
- Achieving climate goals is closely bound up with achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate policies must be integrated with development policies: it is important to stop working in silos and adopt a comprehensive approach.
- The transformations necessary to address climate change offer an opportunity for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and for bringing about systemic and positive change (better health, sustainable energy, better cities).
- Countries should be evaluated not only on the basis of per capita GDP, but also in terms of vulnerability to natural disasters.
- The multilateral system bore fruit with the Paris Agreement. It is important to uphold the political consensus achieved in 2015.
- Public policies with a territorial approach are crucial to address the challenges posed by climate change.

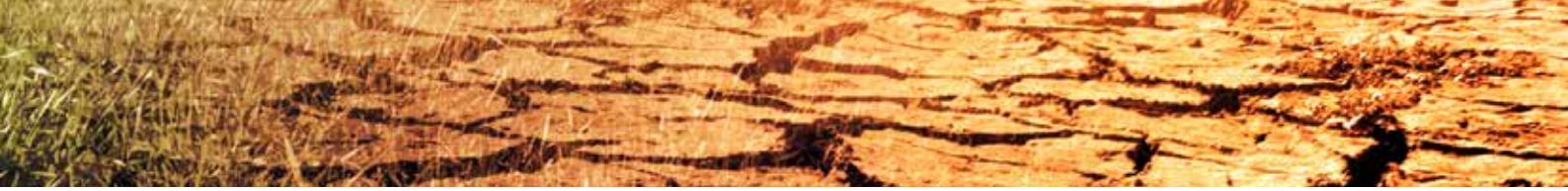
### Challenges and opportunities for the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 13 and its targets

#### Opportunities

- The countries of the region have established intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and institutional frameworks to implement those commitments.

#### Challenges

- The stated objectives of INDCs are insufficient to keep the temperature rise below 2°C: it is necessary to increase ambition to limit temperatures rises as provided in the Paris Agreement.
- The annual funding committed by developed countries will be insufficient, so the engagement of the private sector is essential.
- Obtaining commitments from various stakeholders to meet the financial needs.
- Monitoring advances requires progress on territorial disaggregation of data and avoiding their production in isolation.
- Achieving coordination between stakeholders and policies.
- Transforming the region's transport sector, which is currently emissions-intensive.



### **Lessons learned and good practices with respect to SDG 13 and its targets**

- There is a framework of indicators on disasters (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030) and a global monitoring platform. Progress has been made in the countries of the region: in terms of natural disasters, Colombia is the country that has managed to record the 38 indicators of the Sendai Framework.
- In Uruguay the energy strategy enabled the transition to renewable energy in a short time span.
- Chile is preparing climate change legislation by means of a participatory process.
- Costa Rica submitted its National Decarbonization Plan 2050 in February 2019.

### **Recommendations from Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve SDG 13 and its targets**

- Revise the INDCs with a new territory-based approach and a focus on vulnerable populations.





# SDG 13



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