



***International Association of Economic and Social Councils  
and Similar Institutions  
(AICESIS)***

**Conclusions of the meeting on September 3, 2024  
Based on the roadmap of the AICESIS Presidency of the ESC of Curaçao  
Broad and Inclusive Growth  
With the VSG of AICESIS for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Mrs. M. Sboui-Racamy**

**Purpose of the meeting:**

To synchronize and align efforts in the Latin America and Caribbean region to collectively achieve greater broad and inclusive growth for the region. First, to agree on or align a focus topic for the region and then inventory ways to advance on that topic or to achieve broad and inclusive growth in general. Lastly, to inventory or agree on indicators to measure our progress.

**SD Institutions that participated:**

**National:**

- Aruba
- Brazil
- Costa Rica (Observer)
- Curaçao
- El Salvador (Similar Institution) (Observer)
- Honduras (Observer)
- Panama (Similar Institution) (Observer)
- Paraguay (Contact in the country) (Observer)
- Peru (Similar Institution)
- Dominican Republic
- Sint Maarten (Observer)

**Subnational ESC:**

- Argentina (Salta)
- Mexico (Mexico City)

**External Observers:**

- Spain

**Special Participants:**

- Secretary-General of AICESIS, A. Xyrafis
- President of AICESIS, represented by R. Henriquez
- ILO-Regional: N. Varela and F. García Granara

### **Important points from the ILO related to the topic:**

*Nancy Varela*, a specialist in social dialogue and labor administration at the ILO office for English and Dutch-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Trinidad and Tobago, explained the following. Broad and shared prosperity is crucial for the ILO and the Global Coalition for Social Justice, an ILO initiative to achieve a better balance between economic, social, and sustainable development dimensions to reduce inequality and poverty and improve access to opportunities. Renewing the social contract through social dialogue is essential to address injustices and inequalities. In the Caribbean, environmental sustainability and climate change are critical issues, as small island developing states face constant environmental challenges that test their resilience and ability to sustain their communities and economies. Social dialogue can play a decisive role in promoting inclusive sustainable development through effective stakeholder partnerships. The ILO is available in the region to support these efforts and strengthen social dialogue institutions to contribute fully to shared prosperity.

*Fernando García Granara* of the ILO highlighted four key aspects, also mentioned in the survey, related to the current situation in the region:

1. *Alignment of mandate*: Social dialogue institutions must align with the themes of shared prosperity to legitimize their presence and promote their inclusion in the national agenda and policies.
2. *Representation of social actors*: Social dialogue institutions must strengthen the representation of workers, employers, and civil society, which is key to generating policies that respond to economic, labor, and development challenges.
3. *Alignment with international frameworks*: The core issues must align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ILO international labor standards, and other global frameworks, which provide legitimacy.
4. *Inclusivity and follow-up*: Institutions must be inclusive and accountable for their actions, ensuring monitoring and the effectiveness of the agreements reached. These points are essential for social dialogue institutions to be active agents in promoting shared prosperity and economic and social development in the region.

### **Argentina (SALTA):**

Although the National Council in Argentina is inactive, subnational councils have joined in a Federal Council Association to work on joint policies from a subnational perspective. In Salta, the Council has been active for 10 years. They recently updated the economic-productive chapter of the Strategic Development Plan Salta 2030, focusing on regionalizing economic activities and considering indigenous communities. With the mining boom in Salta, it is vital to plan community development so that after the mining phase, the communities have new capacities and opportunities, especially in education.

### **Aruba:**

In Aruba, the concept of inclusive and sustainable development is still not widely known. They believe that to move forward, barriers that hinder progress must be removed, and facilitators identified in the report must be leveraged for a more effective approach.

Regarding how the SER (Social and Economic Council) can contribute, its work should focus on raising awareness about the concept of inclusive and sustainable development and fostering social dialogue on the topic among all stakeholders.

As for indicators to measure progress, they believe it is not possible to capture all aspects of this concept with a single indicator. Various indicators—monetary, economic, social, physical and mental health, environmental, and educational—must be used to measure progress more comprehensively.

## **Brazil:**

In this crucial discussion on the future of economic development in our region, Brazil focused on three key areas to achieve inclusive and comprehensive growth: human capital, sustainable infrastructure, and regional integration. 1. **Human Capital:** Priority should be given to investing in education, health, and social protection to develop a resilient workforce that fosters innovation and productivity. 2. **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Both green and digital infrastructure are essential to connect our economies, reduce environmental impact, and ensure growth, even in remote areas, which is a major challenge for Amazonian countries. 3. **Regional Integration:** Economic and Social Councils can contribute through training and dialogue to address social inequalities and create economic opportunities. They can also advise on policy reforms aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and monitor the implementation of growth strategies.

Regarding **indicators to measure progress**, traditional and more innovative indicators should be combined. These include economic, social, and sustainability indicators, such as carbon emissions and resource use efficiency. It is also relevant to use international data, such as the Human Development Index (HDI), and other indicators like the Social Progress Index (SPI), the Global Competitiveness Index, and the Index of Economic Freedom.

## **Mentioned Indicators:**

- **Human Development Index (HDI):** Measures the average achievements of a country in health, education, and standard of living.
- **Global Innovation Index (GII):** Evaluates the innovation performance of countries, considering factors such as R&D and creative outputs.
- **Index of Economic Freedom:** Assesses the degree of economic freedom in a country, focusing on factors like property rights and taxation.
- **Social Progress Index (SPI):** Measures social and environmental outcomes, focusing on human needs, well-being, and opportunities.
- **Legatum Prosperity Index:** Analyzes prosperity across various dimensions, such as economic quality, governance, and social capital.
- **World Competitiveness Ranking:** Evaluates countries based on their economic performance, efficiency, and infrastructure.
- **Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI):** Measures a country's ability to attract, develop, and retain talent.

**In conclusion**, inclusive and sustainable growth in Latin America and the Caribbean is a necessity. By focusing on human capital, sustainable infrastructure, and regional integration, and with the participation of our economic and social councils, we can move toward a prosperous and equitable future for all.

**Curaçao (P.P. & Report):**

To achieve inclusive growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is essential to overcome current structural limitations. The OECD report "Boosting Productivity and Inclusive Growth in Latin America" highlights that despite recent economic growth, it has not been sufficient to reach the income levels of advanced economies due to low productivity growth.

The report emphasizes the importance of boosting productivity through innovation, the adoption of new technologies, improving the business environment, and investing in education and skills to prepare workers for technological changes. Strengthening institutions is also crucial to ensure that the benefits of growth reach everyone.

Furthermore, greater regional integration into global value chains is advocated, which would promote learning and knowledge transfer. In this context, our institution can contribute by adopting actions that promote inclusive growth.

In Curaçao, the SER has been working on strengthening global collaboration and knowledge exchange, facilitating the development of inclusive strategies, and focusing on prosperity that prioritizes social welfare and equity. To measure progress, we propose indicators such as value-added per hour worked, school enrollment rates, representation in social dialogue, and the availability of resources for these institutions.

**Mexico:**

In Mexico, the focus has been on shared prosperity through a holistic and regional approach. This includes social and labor inclusion, eliminating discrimination against migrants and vulnerable groups, and integrating them into the formal labor market with appropriate policies.

Mexico has also promoted "nearshoring" to attract investment by leveraging geographical proximity and improving regional competitiveness. Regarding sustainability, water management and the sustainable use of natural resources are priorities.

As the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council of Mexico City, they have created commissions like the one on new migrations, focused on the integration of migrants from Central America, the Caribbean, and other regions. They aim to develop policies that promote social inclusion, employment opportunities, and legal protection for migrants.

They are also finalizing a study on "nearshoring" with the Colegio de México, focused on attracting investments that create jobs and improve regional prosperity.

In terms of water sustainability, they support policies for efficient water use and educational programs for conservation, aligned with local authorities.

Mexico plans to use sustainable development indicators from ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) to measure progress in poverty reduction, inequality, formal employment, and social and labor inclusion of migrants, as well as foreign direct investment and regional competitiveness.

Mexico City is being strengthened as a refuge city with inclusive policies that guarantee the human and labor rights of migrants, contributing to shared prosperity by integrating their potential as a workforce. They promote regional cooperation between Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean to address migration challenges comprehensively.

**Peru (P.P.):**

Peru believes it is crucial to ensure broad representation in social dialogue, as informality and poor representation in institutions are challenges in many Latin American and Caribbean countries. It is important to include organizations and groups under special protection in these processes to reflect their concerns and proposals.

They propose creating a toolbox of best practices and data that can be useful for economic councils. From Peru, they will continue sharing publications addressing relevant challenges and practices for the region. It is essential to identify common challenges that require collaboration between countries and to strengthen articulation, for example, in Amazon-related issues with Brazil.

Peru aims to strengthen the capabilities of those managing social dialogue, collaborating with organizations such as ITU (International Telecommunication Union), and promoting social inclusion by involving women, youth, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, migrants, and native communities. They also want to continue exchanging best practices with neighboring countries such as Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil.

Finally, Peru's Council aligns with national and international policies, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Dominican Republic:**

The Dominican Republic thinks that our region stands out for its solidarity and shared vision within the region. The newly elected president of the country has called for a pact to improve the quality of education, and the Economic and Social Council (CES) is aligning this with their ongoing efforts to follow up on the national education pact launched in 2014 to accelerate the achievement of educational goals.

They are also undergoing a constitutional reform that has mobilized political and social forces. Despite the workload, they have advanced in an analysis of the National Development Strategy, which needs updating. This is a key moment to reflect on their economic model, which has grown steadily but remains unequal. They need to rethink strategies for shared prosperity, considering the impact of the pandemic, digital transformation, the war in Ukraine, and climate change.

It is essential to strengthen national statistical systems to better evaluate development and align them with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Promoting participatory democracy and strengthening public-private partnerships for inclusive and equitable development is also crucial. They need to improve competitiveness and efficiency in key sectors to boost productive linkages.

## **Key Topics for Latin America and the Caribbean to Promote Broad and Shared Prosperity:**

The topics mentioned multiple times or emphasized are:

- 1. Inclusive and Sustainable Development:** Promoting a development approach that considers social, economic, and environmental needs comprehensively, removing barriers, and fostering social dialogue to ensure the participation of all stakeholders.
- 2. Education and Human Capacity:** Investing in education and skills development to enhance human capital. This includes adapting to technological changes and preparing workers for future challenges.
- 3. Sustainable and Digital Infrastructure:** Promoting green and digital infrastructure to connect economies, reduce environmental impact, and ensure growth in remote areas.
- 4. Regional Integration:** Fostering regional cooperation to address social inequalities, promote global value chains, and strengthen economic integration.
- 5. Progress Indicators:** Using a variety of indicators to measure development, including the Human Development Index (HDI), Social Progress Index (SPI), and others that reflect social well-being, sustainability, competitiveness, and economic freedom.
- 6. Social and Labor Inclusion Policies:** Integrating migrants and vulnerable groups into the formal labor market, eliminating discrimination, and guaranteeing human and labor rights.
- 7. Institutional Strengthening:** Enhancing the capacity of institutions and statistical systems to effectively monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure participation in social dialogue.
- 8. Regional Development and Environmental Sustainability:** Considering the regionalization of economic activities, sustainable use of natural resources, and addressing environmental challenges such as climate change.
- 9. Reforms and Efficient Public Policies:** Advising on policy reforms aligned with the SDGs and overseeing the implementation of strategies that promote inclusive and sustainable growth.
- 10. Participatory Democracy and Public-Private Partnerships:** Promoting citizen participation and partnerships between the public and private sectors to ensure that economic growth benefits the entire population equitably.

These topics highlight the need for an integrated approach that considers economic, social, and environmental well-being, with an emphasis on equity, inclusion, and sustainability for the region.