

**3rd LAC Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability:
Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America & the Caribbean
9 – 10 March 2023 (15:00 – 18:30 CET)
(virtual event)**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

CONCEPT NOTE

CONTEXT

The Latin America and Caribbean region contributes on average less than 10% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, linked mostly to the energy sector, agriculture and land use change. However, it remains the **top disaster-prone region in the world**, with the average quantity of extreme climate-related weather events increasing in most of the countries in the LAC region between 2001 and 2022, when compared to the period 1990-2000.¹ Many of these natural disasters are recurring climatic shocks, and affect differently the various sub-regions within LAC.²

In parallel, the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the LAC economies, even though a strong rebound in 2021 allowed several countries in the region to reach pre-pandemic GDP levels.³ However, the current energy crisis, China's economic slowdown and political changes within the region, on top of the negative effects of natural disasters to GDP, will require transformational change towards a more sustainable and inclusive green transition.

While the region requires better policy measures and co-ordination to achieve carbon mitigation, LAC countries need also to increase actions on climate change adaptation. In LAC nearly USD 45 billion are being invested in green recovery measures after the COVID-19 pandemic, out of which only 5% are targeting climate change adaptation with some positive environmental impact.⁴ To seriously address the climate change adaptation challenges in the region, countries must shift from reactively managing disasters, to proactively managing their risks. Every US dollar invested in risk reduction and prevention can save up to USD 15 in post-disaster recovery. Every US dollar invested in making infrastructure disaster-resilient saves USD 4 in reconstruction.⁵

Action is necessary at the local level, to guarantee that policies and measures reflect the (social, economic, environmental) needs of people. Nature-based solutions can be a vehicle for addressing

¹ OECD et al. (2022), Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/3d5554fc-en>.

² OCHA (2020), Natural Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean 2000-2019, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/201912_03-ocha-desastres_naturales.pdf.

³ OECD et al. (2022), Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/3d5554fc-en>.

⁴ The OECD Green Recovery Database covers five LAC countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. The information presented here refers to these countries.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/themes/green-recovery>

⁵ <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/our-impact>

climate risks, ecosystem conservation and sustainable use, and building synergies between mitigation and adaptation for climate resilience in an inclusive way.⁶

Considering the impact of climate change and natural hazards to vulnerable and other communities in the region, climate change adaptation measures should also include indigenous people and vulnerable communities who are displaced, lack infrastructure or require training in new sustainable productive skills. Gender equality is a key component missing from the COVID-19 green recovery measures, with the vast majority of countries having overlooked gender and environment linkages in their COVID-19 response both in LAC and globally.⁷ This is a loss in addressing systemic inequality issues, in supporting women's economic empowerment in green economy for a gender-just transition, and in including gender considerations in disaster and climate risk contexts.

OBJECTIVES

The OECD will organise the **3rd Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability: Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in LAC on 9-10 March 2023**. The Dialogue will be an opportunity to discuss and better understand what kind of actions and mechanisms must be adopted and implemented in the LAC region to strengthen its adaptation capacity to climate change, and guarantee inclusiveness in the approach taken. The main objectives of the Dialogue would be to:

- **Identify** and better understand which actions and mechanisms could be adopted, mainstreamed and implemented in the region to strengthen its adaptation capacity to climate change including those related to nature-based solutions;
- **Discuss** how to best support regional prevention and preparedness actions, including through monitoring and forecasting extreme weather events, and setting early warning systems;
- **Exchange** on financing climate adaptation responses and prevention measures, as well as on the promotion of relevant investment instruments;
- **Propose** ways to integrate gender equality considerations in climate change adaptation actions.

TARGETTED AUDIENCE

Participants of the Regional Policy Dialogue would include senior officials from the relevant government agencies, such as Ministries of Environment, Finance, Economic Planning, and Foreign Affairs from LAC and selected OECD Member countries, as well as representatives of international and regional organisations active in LAC region and other relevant stakeholders. We encourage all participants to take the floor and actively intervene in multiple sessions.

REGISTRATION

The Regional Policy Dialogue will be organised in a **virtual** format with simultaneous interpretation Spanish-English, to allow wider participation of experts in this Dialogue. Please register directly via the [Zoom link](#).

The 3rd Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability is part of the OECD project on "Enhancing Green Transition in LAC: From Commitments to Action", which is co-funded by the European Commission, through its Regional Facility for Development in Transition.

⁶ OECD (2021), "Strengthening adaptation-mitigation linkages for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future", OECD Environment Policy Papers, No. 23, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/6d79ff6a-en>.

⁷ <https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/>

**3rd LAC Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability:
Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America & the Caribbean
9 – 10 March 2023 (15:00-18:30 CET)**

DRAFT AGENDA

9 March 2023

DAY 1. Climate Change Adaptation – achieving global and national targets through policies and financing

Opening Session

Moderated by Ms. Eija Kiiskinen, Senior Global Relations Advisor, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

Opening Remarks by:

15:00-15:20

- **Ms. Kerri-Ann Jones**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD
- **H.E. Cynthia Filártiga Lacroix**, Ambassador of Paraguay to France, Co-Chair of the OECD LAC Regional Programme
- **Ms. Olga Baus Gibert**, Deputy Head of Unit Mexico, Central America, Caribbean and Regional Operations, DG Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

15:20-16:20

Session 1. Aligning adaptation priorities with international commitments and addressing adaptation needs with national policies

Moderated by Dr. Rodolfo Lacy, Director for Climate Action and Environment for Latin America and Special Envoy on Climate Matters to the United Nations, OECD

This session will provide information on understanding climate risks and identifying policy responses. It will focus on climate change adaptation priorities in the LAC region, based on available environmental data, and on countries' strategies and policies to reach their international commitments and national targets. It will also focus on identifying and better understanding which actions and mechanisms could be adopted, mainstreamed and implemented in the LAC region, to strengthen its adaptation capacity to climate change and eventually increase resilience to climate change. Countries may wish to present their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and their perspectives regarding losses and damages, highlighting innovative actions but also challenges they are facing while moving towards implementation, and interlinkages with the disaster risk reduction policies and projects.

Setting the Scene:

- **Mr. Rodrigo Pizarro**, Program Lead, International Programme for Action on Climate, Environmental Performance and Information Division, Environment Directorate, OECD
- **Ms. Coline Pouille**, Policy Analyst, Climate Quantitative Assessments, Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

Discussants:

- **Ms. Milagros Sandoval Diaz**, General Director of Climate Change and Desertification, Ministry of Environment, Peru
- **Mr. Joel Ayala**, Climate Change Adaptation Expert, Ministry of Environment, Paraguay

- **Ms. Miriam Medel**, Chief of Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation, UNCCD

16:20-16:30 Coffee Break

Session 2. Financing Climate Change Adaptation in LAC

16:30-17:30 Moderated by **Mr. Michael Mullan**, Economist, Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

The main focus of the session will be on existing financing climate adaptation responses and prevention measures, as well as on the promotion of relevant financial and investment instruments (at the national level and transboundary context) to support the implementation of adaptation policies. It will discuss the challenges of aligning public and private financial flows and investments to meet adaptation and resilience goals; as well as leveraging private financing to implement national adaptation policies. Finally, it will identify the needs for preparing bankable projects in the area of climate change adaptation.

Setting the Scene:

- **Ms. Alicia Montalvo Santamaría**, Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Manager/Corporate Vice Presidency of Strategic Programming, CAF

Discussants:

- **Mr. Max Puig**, Vicepresidente Ejecutivo del Consejo Nacional de Cambio Climático y Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio, Dominican Republic (tbc)
- **Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez**, Specialist in Climate Change, Water and Environment, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)
- **Mr. Sebastian Nieto Parra**, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, Development Centre, OECD

Session 3. Gender equality and climate adaptation

17:30-18:30 Moderated by **Ms. Dimitra Xynou**, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations, Environment Directorate, OECD

Guaranteeing a gender-inclusive and gender-responsive approach to climate change adaptation goes beyond acknowledging the disproportionate impact on men and women. It can help best identify climate risks, vulnerabilities and strengthening capacity for adaptation to climate change. This session will focus on how promoting gender equality is essential to achieving environmental objectives and addressing climate change adaptation.

Setting the Scene:

- **Dr. Rodolfo Godinez Rosales**, Environmental Law and Policy Expert

Discussants:

- **Ms. Verania Chao**, Programme Specialist, Climate Change and Gender Equality and Inclusion, UNDP
- **Ms. María del Pilar Salazar Vargas**, Director of Environmental Economics and Natural Resources, Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC), Mexico
- **Ms. Cynthia Córdoba**, Co-ordinator on Environmental Economics, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

10 March 2023

DAY 2. Thematic approaches to climate change adaptation	
15:00-16:15	<p>Session 4. Tackling climate change adaptation needs at the local level <i>Moderated by Mr. Jose Antonio Ardavin, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Division, Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate OECD</i></p> <p>This session will aim to discuss initiatives to minimise vulnerability at the local level and to building climate resilience. It will look into the management and utilisation of reconstruction and prevention funds, and the development of local prevention and preparedness mechanisms and early warning systems. It will try to identify local needs in financing climate actions and the role of sub-national governments in achieving urban resilience and aligning it with local green growth and medium- and long-term economic planning policies.</p> <p>Setting the Scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Luis Cecchi, Policy Analyst, Latin America and the Caribbean Unit, Development Centre, OECD <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Claudio Castro Salas, Mayor of Renca, Chile - Dra. Astrid Michels, Programme Co-ordinator, GIZ - Ms. Amy Radetsky, Director of the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination, State Department, USA
16:15-16:25	Coffee Break
16:25-17:35	<p>Session 5. Biodiversity, nature-based solutions and climate adaptation <i>Moderated by Ms. Katia Karousakis, Biodiversity Programme Lead, Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, Environment Directorate, OECD</i></p> <p>Nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration and forest conservation, have been recognised for their potential to address climate risks. This session will focus on how sectoral policies, such as forestry and agriculture, could promote the use of nature-based solutions. It will also cover the links between climate change and biodiversity; and specifically how existing climate change mitigation or adaptation measures may negatively affect biodiversity.</p> <p>Setting the Scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Catherine Gamper, Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience Team Lead, Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, Environment Directorate, OECD <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Luis Zambrano González, Researcher, Institute of Biology, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - Ms. Suzanne Ozment, Senior Associate, Natural Infrastructure, World Resources Institute - Ms. Maria Fernanda Velez, Advisor, Office of International Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Colombia

Closing Session

Moderated by H.E. Luis Fernando Medina, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OECD, Co-Chair of the OECD LAC Regional Programme

17:35-18:00

Closing Remarks by:

- **Ms. Jo Tyndall**, Environment Director, OECD
- **Mr. Alejandro Patino Cruz**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OECD