

Expert Group Meeting

Seventy-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women

‘Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights across the Sustainable Development Goals: Assessing progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda’

Virtual, 30 June–2 July 2026

The 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda: Synergies to Accelerate Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean

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* The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Introduction

Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region in the world with a meaningful, cumulative and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda¹ that guides countries' public policies for gender equality and the fulfilment of the rights and autonomy of women in all their diversity.² Built since 1977 through agreements adopted by the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,³ and grounded in the international and regional human rights framework,⁴ it is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addresses the structural challenges and priorities of the region.

Thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the region has made significant progress in advancing gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, no country has achieved substantive equality, and current trends indicate that accelerated action is needed to overcome persistent structural inequalities.⁵ Given that inequality in the region is structural, advancing gender equality and women's rights requires overcoming the development crisis, including the care crisis. In this regard, ECLAC has identified gender equality and the care society as one of the 11 vital transformations needed to overcome structural gaps and advance sustainable development.⁶

At the Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 2025),⁷ organized by ECLAC, as the technical secretariat, in coordination with UN Women and with the Government of Mexico, in its capacity as chair, member States adopted the *Tlatelolco Commitment*,⁸ which establishes a Decade of Action (2025–2035) to advance substantive gender equality and the care society. The commitment recognizes the care society as a new paradigm for sustainable development, equality and peace that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the care of people and the planet.

¹ ECLAC. 2026a. Regional Gender Agenda. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs/4-regional-gender-agenda>.

² ECLAC. 2026b. "What is the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?" Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/infographics/what-regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

³ ECLAC. Undated-a. Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

⁴ Particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

⁵ ECLAC and UN Women. 2025. *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender Indicators up to 2024*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81489-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-and-regional-gender-agenda-latin-america-and>.

⁶ ECLAC. 2024a. *Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them*. Santiago: United Nations.

⁷ For more information on the Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women, see: <https://conferenci mujer.cepal.org/16/en>.

⁸ ECLAC. 2026c. *Tlatelolco Commitment: A Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society*. Santiago: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/90082-tlatelolco-commitment-decade-action-achieve-substantive-gender-equality-and-care>.

To support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the *Regional Gender Agenda*, including the *Tlatelolco Commitment*, ECLAC bridges global commitments, regional frameworks and their implementation at the national and local levels.⁹ In this context, ECLAC promotes the mainstreaming of the gender perspective across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through a broad range of actions.¹⁰ This document highlights three strategic areas of contribution: (i) promoting consensus-building and regional policy dialogue through intergovernmental platforms and subsidiary bodies; (ii) generating, analysing and disseminating gender statistics and indicators; and (iii) producing and disseminating knowledge on gender equality and women's autonomy, including through technical assistance activities with countries in the region.

1. Intergovernmental platforms and subsidiary bodies to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a gender perspective

1.1. Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development

In May 2016, at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC,¹¹ member States adopted resolution 700(XXXVI),¹² establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development¹³ as the regional mechanism for the follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Convened annually since 2017, the forum provides a platform for peer learning, policy dialogue and regional cooperation in support of sustainable development.¹⁴ It also serves as the regional link to the global follow-up and review architecture of the 2030 Agenda, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), strengthening collaboration among ECLAC

⁹ ECLAC fulfils three main functions: the think-tank and thought leadership role; the convening role through its intergovernmental platforms and subsidiary bodies for policy advice and dialogue; and the operational role by providing technical cooperation, advisory and capacity-building services, anchored in data and evidence-based analysis and understanding of the realities of the region. See ECLAC. 2024b. *Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80636-guidelines-mainstreaming-gender-perspective-statistical-production>.

¹⁰ Through its Division for Gender Affairs, ECLAC provides advisory services to governments in the design and implementation of public policies with a gender perspective; promotes South-South and triangular cooperation; and fosters the production, dissemination and use of statistical information, diagnostics and analytical tools through the Gender Equality Observatory. In addition, ECLAC organizes the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹¹ For more information on the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, see: <https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/36/en>.

¹² ECLAC. 2016a. 700(XXXVI) Mexico Resolution on the Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/documents/700xxxvi-mexico-resolution-establishment-forum-countries-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

¹³ For more information on the forum, see: ECLAC. "The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the Regional Follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.". Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/2030-agenda-sustainable-development/forum-countries-latin-america-and-caribbean-sustainable>.

¹⁴ The forum is State-led and open to all countries of the region, with the participation of relevant stakeholders through a civil society mechanism.

subsidiary bodies, the United Nations system, and regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms.

Its conclusions and recommendations are aligned with the commitments adopted by the Regional Conference on Women, thereby contributing to global discussions within the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

At the eighth meeting of the Forum,¹⁵ Governments reviewed progress on the SDGs under consideration by the HLPF in 2025, including SDG 5 on gender equality, alongside SDGs 3, 8, 14 and 17.¹⁶ They highlighted advances in legal and policy frameworks for women's rights, including gender parity measures and legislation to address gender-based violence, while recognizing persistent structural barriers related to femicide, women's disproportionate burden for unpaid care and domestic work, and unequal access to economic and technological resources.¹⁷ The agreed conclusions and recommendations called for strengthening policies to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, promote co-responsibility, expand social protection and care services, invest in resilient infrastructure and improve the working conditions of paid care workers.¹⁸

At its most recent meeting, Governments reaffirmed their commitment to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recognized that strengthening regional cooperation is key to advancing the SDGs. They also reaffirmed that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights, including the right to development, are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.¹⁹

1.2. The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,²⁰ a subsidiary body of ECLAC, is the foremost intergovernmental forum of the United Nations on women's rights and gender equality in the region. Its sessions are organized by ECLAC, as secretariat, in coordination with UN Women since 2020. It is convened at least every three years to analyse the status of women's autonomy and rights at the regional, subregional and national levels, present recommendations on public policies on gender equality, and undertake periodic assessments of the policies, programmes and initiatives implemented in fulfilment of regional and international

¹⁵ ECLAC. "Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2025: Eighth Meeting of the Forum; Santiago, 31 March–4 April." Available at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/en>.

¹⁶ Respectively: Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Life below water (SDG 14) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

¹⁷ ECLAC. 2025a. *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*. Santiago: United Nations.

¹⁸ ECLAC. 2025b. *Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development*. Paragraph 22. Available at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/en/documents/intergovernmentally-agreed-conclusions-and-recommendations-eighth-meeting-forum-countries>.

¹⁹ ECLAC. Undated-b. "Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2026: Ninth Meeting of the Forum; Santiago, 13–16 April." Available at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2026/en>.

²⁰ ECLAC. Undated-a. *Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

agreements.²¹ Its sessions are characterized by the active participation of civil society organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations and movements, as well as academia, intergovernmental organizations and development cooperation partners, fostering inclusive regional dialogue and consensus-building.

Since 1977, the regional conference has held 16 sessions through which governments have adopted agreements that together constitute the Regional Gender Agenda,²² which represents a distinctive regional contribution to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Building on and complementing the international and regional human rights framework, including CEDAW and the Convention of Belém do Pará, it provides a comprehensive normative framework that addresses the structural roots of gender inequality, advances the care society and aligns regional priorities with the SDGs, by promoting an intersectional approach that recognizes women in all their diversity.²³ The regional conference plays a key role in aligning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the Regional Gender Agenda taking into account the specific challenges and priorities from the region.²⁴

Two milestones are particularly noteworthy. The first is the adoption of the *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework towards 2030*,²⁵ at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference (Montevideo, 2016).²⁶ The strategy sets out 10 implementation pillars linked to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda,²⁷ and has guided countries in adapting the Regional Gender Agenda to national contexts through diagnostics, priority-setting and the design of public policies.

The second milestone is the adoption of the *Tlatelolco Commitment*²⁸ at the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference (Mexico, 2025),²⁹ which establishes a Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society (see Box 1). Its agreements are organized

²¹ ECLAC. 2026b. "What is the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?" Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/infographics/what-regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

²² ECLAC. 2026a. Regional Gender Agenda. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs/4-regional-gender-agenda>.

²³ Including Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, migrant women, young women and LGBTIQ+ persons, and women human and environmental rights defenders.

²⁴ Bidegain Ponte, N. 2017, The 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda: Synergies for Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. Santiago: ECLAC. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/41200-2030-agenda-and-regional-gender-agenda-synergies-equality-latin-america-and>.

²⁵ ECLAC. 2017. *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/41013-montevideo-strategy-implementation-regional-gender-agenda-within-sustainable>.

²⁶ For more information on the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women, see: <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/13/en>.

²⁷ (1) normative framework; (2) institutions; (3) participation; (4) capacity-building and -strengthening; (5) financing; (6) communication; (7) technology; (8) cooperation; (9) information systems; and (10) monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

²⁸ ECLAC. 2026c. *Tlatelolco Commitment: A Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society*. Santiago: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/90082-tlatelolco-commitment-decade-action-achieve-substantive-gender-equality-and-care>.

²⁹ For more information on the Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women, see: <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/16/en>.

around three areas aligned with the means of implementation: (i) normative framework, institutional architecture, participation and strengthening of State capacities; (ii) financing and cooperation; and (iii) information systems, communication, technology, monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

Box 1. *Tlatelolco Commitment*: Key commitments to accelerate sustainable development in the region

Paragraph 2. Recognize that the care society proposed by Latin America and the Caribbean is a new paradigm for sustainable development, equality and peace that prioritizes the sustainability of life and of the planet;

Paragraph 3. Promote measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and move towards a fair social organization of care, in the framework of a new development model that fosters gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

Paragraph 4. Recognize the human right to care, which comprises the right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care, based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and which therefore constitutes an obligation of the State and a responsibility that must be shared by persons of all sectors of society, men and women, families, communities and the private sector;

Paragraph 5. Adopt regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that are sustainable over time, that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence in formal and informal work, ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in public and political life and the economy and free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment and education, and enjoy their autonomy to the fullest;

Paragraph 6. Welcome Advisory Opinion 31 of 2025 issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that recognizes the existence of a stand-alone human right to care in its three dimensions: receiving care, providing care and exercising self-care, and encourages the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to respect and ensure this right, and to adopt legal and other measures to ensure its complete fulfilment;

Paragraph 25. Reaffirm the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations and movements, and those of Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, migrant women, young women and LGBTI+ persons, and those of women defenders of human and environmental rights, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations and with the State to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth

in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda...;

Paragraph 29. Adopt measures to integrate the gender, intersectional and intercultural perspectives into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the promotion and effective protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land, territory and natural resources, to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against these defenders and to combat impunity by adopting measures to ensure that human rights violations committed against them are investigated and ensure their access to justice;

Paragraph 33. Increase financing significantly to address gender inequalities in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development strategies and policies, and implement follow-up mechanisms with a gender perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Paragraph 39. Highlight the need to mainstream a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in sustainable development policies, international climate finance and funding for disaster risk reduction, and to significantly increase financial resources for developing countries, from all sources, ensuring that such resources are additional to official development assistance, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and also ensuring enhanced access to such funding in order to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, including funding for women's and feminist organizations;

Paragraph 40. Strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation for development, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the decline in official development assistance and concessional finance for countries of the region, in particular small island developing States, and recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes to increase investment in gender equality policies, women's rights and sustainable development with an intersectional approach;

Source: ECLAC. 2026c. *Tlatelolco Commitment: A Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society*. Santiago: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/90082-tlatelolco-commitment-decade-action-achieve-substantive-gender-equality-and-care>.

The Commitment also reaffirms the importance of renewed, inclusive and effective multilateralism and international cooperation, expressing concern about the threats facing multilateral institutions

and declining financial support for their mandates, while reiterating support for the United Nations system as a key partner in advancing substantive gender equality and the care society.³⁰

Furthermore, the regional consultations held prior to the sessions of the CSW, within the framework of the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference,³¹ strengthen the link between the regional and global dimensions. During these consultations, Governments agreed on a regional declaration on the priority theme of each CSW session, which serves as a common regional position and brings the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda into global deliberations.

At the next meeting of the Presiding Officers, to be held on 9–10 December 2026, a special regional consultation will take place in preparation for CSW71 on accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Gender statistics and indicators to monitor progress in SDG implementation

2.1. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

The region has a strong evidence base for monitoring progress towards gender equality and the SDGs. This evidence base has been enriched by indicators from the regional framework and data disaggregation that enable a more in-depth analysis of each SDG. In this regard, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean,³² created by ECLAC in response to a request from Governments at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women (Quito Consensus, 2007),³³ provides official information and statistical and policy resources to support the implementation and follow-up of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.³⁴ In this way, prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the region had already developed experience in monitoring intergovernmentally agreed indicators to track progress towards gender equality.

The indicators provided by the Gender Equality Observatory are organized around three dimensions of women's autonomy: economic, physical autonomy and decision-making. Economic autonomy indicators include total work time, time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, youth not in education or employment and the population without own income, among others. Physical autonomy includes maternal mortality, adolescent birth rate, child marriage and femicide.

³⁰ ECLAC. 2026c. *Tlatelolco Commitment: A Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society*. Santiago: United Nations. Preamble paragraph 4. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/90082-tlatelolco-commitment-decade-action-achieve-substantive-gender-equality-and-care>.

³¹ To date, seven special regional consultations have been held in preparation for CSW60, CSW65, CSW66, CSW67, CSW68, CSW69 and CSW70, within the framework of the 53rd (2016), 60th (2021), 62nd (2022), 64th (2023), 65th (2023), 66th (2024) and 67th (2025) meetings of the Presiding Officers, respectively.

³² ECLAC. Undated-c. "Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean." Available at: <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

³³ For more information on the Tenth Regional Conference on Women, see: <https://www.cepal.org/es/eventos/x-conferencia-regional-la-mujer-america-latina-caribe>.

³⁴ The Gender Equality Observatory provides gender statistics and indicators, legislative and policy repositories, publications, care maps and country statistical profiles to support the monitoring of regional and international commitments.

Decision-making includes indicators on women in executive, judicial and legislative power and women in local governments. Together, these indicators constitute a regional contribution to global monitoring of progress towards gender equality and the achievement of the SDGs (see Box 2).

Box 2. Selected Gender Equality Observatory indicators to monitor progress towards gender equality and women's autonomy

Discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns, and a culture of privilege

- 18.4 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 were already married or in a stable union before turning 18 (2025) (SDG indicator 5.3.1).
- The adolescent fertility rate stood at 50 births per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years and 1.7 births per 1,000 girls aged 10–14 years (2024) (SDG indicator 3.7.2).
- In terms of labour income, Indigenous and Afrodescendent women earn 44 per cent and 10 per cent less, respectively, than women who do not belong to these groups (2023).^a
- At least 3,770 women were victims of femicide in Latin America and the Caribbean (2024) (SDG complementary indicator C-5.2). This represents at least 11 gender-related violent deaths of women every day, and a cumulative total of at least 19,237 recorded femicides over the past five years in the region.

Socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty within the framework of exclusionary growth

- For every 100 men living in poor households, there are 123 women in the same situation (2024).
- 23.0 per cent of women and 9.5 per cent of men did not have their own income in 2024.^b
- As of 2024, only 51.8 per cent of women in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the labour market, compared to 74.9 per cent of men.^c In 2025, the unemployment rate was 4.7 per cent for men and 6.5 per cent for women (SDG indicator 8.5.2).
- In 2024, women earned 82.4 monetary units in labour income for every 100 earned by men with similar characteristics (SDG complementary indicator C-8.5).

Rigid sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care

- Among the population outside the labour market, 66.2 per cent of women and 10.8 per cent of men are exclusively engaged in unpaid care work.
- Women spend between 12.0 per cent and 23.3 per cent of their time on unpaid domestic and care work, while men spend between 3.0 per cent and 12.5 per cent, depending on the country (SDG indicator 5.4.1).
- 27 per cent of employed women work in care economy sectors, compared to 6 per cent of men (2023).
- Unpaid domestic and care work represents between 15.9 per cent and 24.7 per cent of GDP, depending on the country (2010–2025).
- In 2024, 22.2 per cent of women were not in employment, education or training. The figure was 9.9 per cent for men, a gap of around 14 percentage points (SDG complementary indicator C-8.6).

Concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere

- Women hold 36.6 per cent of seats in national parliaments (2026) (SDG indicator 5.5.1a) and 28.9 per cent in local government deliberative bodies (2024) (SDG indicator 5.5.1b).
- Only 37.1 per cent of positions in the highest courts of justice or supreme courts are held by women (2026).
- In the public and private sectors women hold 38.6 per cent of executive positions (2024) (SDG indicator 5.5.2).

Source: ECLAC, based on the Gender Equality Observatory; [CEPALSTAT](#); [Household Survey Data Bank \(BADEHOG\)](#); and the Repository on Time Use in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Notes: ^a Hourly income in purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars. Weighted average of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (includes only the variable of Indigenous identity), Brazil, Chile (includes only Indigenous identity), Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico (includes only Indigenous identity), Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

^b Calculated using the population aged 15 and older who are not studying.

^c Corresponds to the average of 21 countries. See ECLAC. 2026d. Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025: Resource Mobilization to Finance Development. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/89760-economic-survey-latin-america-and-caribbean-2025-resource-mobilization-finance>.

At the Ninth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) in 2017,³⁵ member States adopted a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean.³⁶ For SDG 5 on gender equality, countries agreed to include complementary regional indicators that reflect issues of relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean and are part of the Gender Equality Observatory. This includes indicator C-5.2:³⁷ Rate of femicide or feminicide (gender-related killings of women aged 15 years and older per 100,000 women) for target 5.2 on the elimination of violence against women and girls; and indicator C-5.4c:³⁸ Average hours per week spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total workload), by sex for target 5.4 on the recognition and valuation of unpaid care and domestic work.³⁹

³⁵ For more information on the Ninth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, see:

<https://cea.cepal.org/9/en>.

³⁶ United Nations. Undated. “Statistical Knowledge Management Hub: Prioritized Set of Indicators for Regional Statistical Follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Available at:

<https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/prioritized-set-indicators-regional-statistical-follow-up-sdg.html>. The framework includes a prioritized set of global indicators, as well as complementary regional indicators, with the aim of guiding measurement efforts across the region and strengthening horizontal, regional and international cooperation. This initiative seeks to support countries in addressing statistical capacity gaps and ensuring that no one is left behind in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

³⁷ ECLAC. Undated-d. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. “Indicators: Femicide.” Available at: <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators?id=2278>.

³⁸ ECLAC. Undated-e. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. “Indicators: Total Work Time.” Available at: <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators?id=2286>.

³⁹ ECLAC. 2018. *Report of the Prioritization of Indicators for Regional Follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and The Caribbean*. Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and The Caribbean of The Statistical. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44122-report-prioritization-indicators-regional-follow-sustainable-development-goals>.

Despite these advances, challenges remain in capturing emerging areas of analysis. In this context, strengthening the evidence base to monitor the nexus between environmental sustainability and gender equality has become one of the region's key emerging information needs.

2.2. Regional statistical standards to advance gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals

The regional statistical architecture of Latin America and the Caribbean has played a central role in translating the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda into statistical standards, methodological tools and institutional capacities for monitoring progress towards gender equality and the SDGs. These standards and tools have supported national statistical offices in developing observatories, manuals, protocols and institutional procedures that strengthen the production and dissemination of timely, sex-disaggregated SDG indicators and gender statistics. In this way, the regional statistical system contributes not only to the availability of data, but also to strengthening countries' technical, institutional and prospective capacities to identify persistent inequalities, monitor progress and inform policies for sustainable development and gender equality.

At the Tenth Meeting of the SCA in 2019,⁴⁰ governments recognized the cross-cutting nature of gender issues and called for the systematic incorporation of a gender perspective into the work of the SCA. In this context, the SCA established an Advisory Group on gender mainstreaming in statistical production to support the technical secretariat and working groups in integrating a gender perspective into the development of statistical products, including the review of outputs and the formulation of tailored recommendations. This institutional mechanism reflects the understanding that gender statistics are an integral dimension of official statistics, and that this regional commitment subsequently contributed to broader global recognition.⁴¹

The development and adoption of regional statistical standards have been particularly important for measuring unpaid work and care. The *Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)*,⁴² adopted at the Eighth Meeting of the SCA in 2015,⁴³ provides a gender-responsive and regionally adapted framework for time-use surveys and statistics on paid and unpaid work. This effort was further strengthened through the *Methodological Guide on Time-*

⁴⁰ For more information on the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, see: <https://cea.cepal.org/10/en>.

⁴¹ In 2020, the United Nations Statistical Commission called for a gender perspective to be adopted and integrated across all items on its agenda, noting the experience of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as an example of good practice: "Requested that a gender perspective be adopted and integrated into all the agenda items of the Commission, as is, for example, the current practice in the Statistical Conference of the Americas." See United Nations Statistical Commission. 2020. Report on the Fifty-First Session: Gender Statistics. Decision 51/115(b) Available at: https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_51/documents/2020-37-FinalReport-E.pdf.

⁴² Its development resulted from collaborative work led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), with the support of ECLAC, UN Women and Mexico's National Institute for Women. See ECLAC. 2016b. *Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/40170-classification-time-use-activities-latin-america-and-caribbean-cautal>.

⁴³ For more information on the Eight Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, see: <https://cea.cepal.org/8/en>.

Use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean,⁴⁴ developed following a mandate adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the SCA⁴⁵ through a process that involved 19 countries across the region. The guide provides methodological guidance for designing time-use surveys and calculating indicators on time use and unpaid work, including a minimum list of activities to support cross-country comparability and a standard questionnaire adaptable to national contexts. Together, these standards have strengthened countries' capacities to produce comparable statistics and have supported the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1, as well as complementary regional indicators on time use and unpaid work.

The region has also advanced in developing methodological guidance for the mainstreaming of gender in statistical production. The *Guide for Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Statistical Production*,⁴⁶ prepared through a working group of the SCA and approved by member States at the Twelfth meeting of the SCA,⁴⁷ provides a conceptual and methodological framework for systematically integrating gender into the processes, products and institutional frameworks of national statistical systems.

Importantly, these statistical standards are embedded in the broader framework of the Regional Gender Agenda. Thus, standards developed through the SCA provide an important bridge between the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the monitoring architecture of the 2030 Agenda.

This process continues under the programme of work of the SCA for the 2026–2027 biennium. While all working groups are expected to mainstream a gender perspective, two initiatives are particularly relevant: the update of *CAUTAL* to strengthen the relevance and comparability of time-use statistics and further support the measurement and visibility of care work in the region; and the development of a guide for the generation of regional indicators on gender and climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at identifying and developing indicators that make visible the differentiated impacts of climate change on women, drawing on an assessment of available data sources across countries. These initiatives illustrate how the region's statistical governance mechanisms translate political commitments into common standards, methodological guidance and sustained institutional capacities. By strengthening the production of disaggregated and gender-responsive data, the SCA contributes to monitoring the SDGs and advancing implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda.

⁴⁴ ECLAC. 2022. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Methodological Guide on Time-Use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean." Available at: <https://oig.cepal.org/en/documento/methodological-guide-time-use-measurements-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

⁴⁵ For more information on the Tenth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, see: <https://cea.cepal.org/10/en>.

⁴⁶ ECLAC. 2024b. *Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80636-guidelines-mainstreaming-gender-perspective-statistical-production>.

⁴⁷ See Statistical Conference of the Americas. Resolution 13(XII). Available at: <https://cea.cepal.org/12/en/documents/resolution-13xii-twelfth-meeting-statistical-conference-americas>. For more information on the Twelfth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, see: <https://cea.cepal.org/12/en>.

3. Knowledge products to assess progress and challenges to advance the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean

Knowledge generation and dissemination are among ECLAC's main contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through flagship reports, analytical studies and policy-oriented publications, ECLAC monitors progress towards the SDGs, identifies emerging challenges and good practices, and provides evidence-based recommendations to accelerate implementation.

One of ECLAC's flagship knowledge products is the regional progress report prepared for the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. At its most recent meeting,⁴⁸ ECLAC presented *The 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Accelerating Implementation in a New Era of Uncertainty and Geopolitical Fragmentation*,⁴⁹ which assesses regional progress towards the SDGs, identifies remaining challenges, highlights good practices and provides policy recommendations to accelerate implementation (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goal targets, by likelihood of achievement by 2030, 2026



Source: ECLAC. 2026e. *The 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Accelerating Implementation in a New Era of Uncertainty and Geopolitical Fragmentation*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/89775-2030-agenda-latin-america-and-caribbean-accelerating-implementation-new-era>.

⁴⁸ ECLAC. Undated-f. "Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible 2026." Available in Spanish at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/>.

⁴⁹ ECLAC. 2026e. *The 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Accelerating Implementation in a New Era of Uncertainty and Geopolitical Fragmentation*. Paragraph 50. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/89775-2030-agenda-latin-america-and-caribbean-accelerating-implementation-new-era>.

The report shows that only 19 per cent of SDG targets in the region are on track to be achieved by 2030, while 42 per cent are progressing too slowly and 39 per cent have stalled or regressed relative to the 2015 baseline. Under SDG 5, only one target is on track, while four are progressing too slowly, underscoring the need for strengthened regional cooperation and renewed multilateral collaboration to accelerate implementation.⁵⁰

Complementing this regional assessment, ECLAC and UN Women jointly prepared *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender Indicators up to 2024*.⁵¹ Based on gender indicators prioritized for monitoring the SDGs and complemented by indicators from the Regional Gender Agenda and the Gender Equality Observatory, the publication shows that, despite progress, structural challenges persist and progress is under threat in the context of the current development crisis.⁵² This work has been complemented by countries reports for Chile,⁵³ Mexico,⁵⁴ the Dominican Republic⁵⁵ and Uruguay (forthcoming), allowing for a more in-depth focus on national-level progress and challenges.

ECLAC position papers prepared for the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women also contribute to assessing progress in implementing the SDGs. The position paper presented at the

⁵⁰ ECLAC. 2026e. *The 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Accelerating Implementation in a New Era of Uncertainty and Geopolitical Fragmentation*. Paragraph 59. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/89775-2030-agenda-latin-america-and-caribbean-accelerating-implementation-new-era>.

⁵¹ First launched in 2023, the 2026 edition, updating indicators through 2025–2026, is currently under preparation and will be presented at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in December 2026. See ECLAC and UN Women. 2025. *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender Indicators up to 2024*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81489-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-and-regional-gender-agenda-latin-america-and>.

⁵² Women are more likely to experience poverty (SDG 1) and food insecurity (SDG 2). They have fewer opportunities to invest time and energy in activities related to self-care, personal development, paid work, and participation in public decision-making spaces (SDG 5). Although women have high average years of schooling and high gross completion rates for primary education and enrolment in higher education (SDG 4), this does not translate into better outcomes in terms of labour market participation, protection against unemployment, or equal pay (SDG 8). The challenge of ensuring the right to a life free from violence persists (SDG 5 and SDG 16). See ECLAC and UN Women. 2025. *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender Indicators up to 2024*. Paragraph 55. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81489-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-and-regional-gender-agenda-latin-america-and>.

⁵³ ECLAC. 2025c. *La Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agenda Regional de Género en América Latina y el Caribe: Indicadores de Género de Chile a 2024*. Available in Spanish at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/82446-la-agenda-2030-desarrollo-sostenible-la-agenda-regional-genero-america-latina>.

⁵⁴ ECLAC. 2026f. *La Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agenda Regional de Género en América Latina y el Caribe: Indicadores de Género de México a 2025*. Available in Spanish at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/89770-la-agenda-2030-desarrollo-sostenible-la-agenda-regional-genero-america-latina>.

⁵⁵ ECLAC. 2025d. *La Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agenda Regional de Género en América Latina y el Caribe: Indicadores de Género de la República Dominicana a 2024*. Available in Spanish at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/82393-la-agenda-2030-desarrollo-sostenible-la-agenda-regional-genero-america-latina>.

sixteenth session,⁵⁶ *The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality*,⁵⁷ highlights the care society as a key transformation for sustainable equality, sustainable development and peace. This paradigm prioritizes the sustainability of life and of the planet, and recognizes care as a need, a right, a public good and as crucial work to boost the economy. The report highlights that investment in care systems represents an opportunity to stimulate economic growth and create decent jobs. Drawing on joint estimates by ECLAC and the International Labour Organization (ILO), it shows that expanding care policies across the region would require an average investment equivalent to 4.7 per cent of GDP by 2035, although with considerable variation across countries. Such investment could generate approximately 31.3 million jobs, substantially increase women's labour force participation and partially finance itself through higher tax revenues associated with increased employment and household income.⁵⁸

Complementing these analytical contributions, ECLAC also prepared *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 Years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*.⁵⁹ Based on national reports, the publication assesses progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, highlighting advances in women's rights, gender equality legislation, gender institutional frameworks and gender information systems. It also documents progress in the development of care systems and regulatory frameworks⁶⁰ and highlights the growing recognition of care as a right and as a shared social and gender responsibility. However, it concludes that no country in the region has yet achieved substantive equality (see Box 3).

⁵⁶ For more information on the Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women, see:

<https://conferenci mujer.cepal.org/16/en>.

⁵⁷ ECLAC. 2026g. *The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/82274-care-society-governance-political-economy-and-social-dialogue-transformation>.

⁵⁸ ECLAC and ILO. 2026. *Economía del cuidado y trabajo decente: escenarios y recomendaciones para América Latina y el Caribe. Escenarios de Inversión en Políticas de Cuidado en América Latina y el Caribe*. Available in Spanish at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/node/86433>.

⁵⁹ ECLAC. 2025e. *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 Years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81382-action-equality-development-and-peace-latin-america-and-caribbean-regional-report>.

⁶⁰ At least 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made progress in establishing legal frameworks on care, while 9 countries have enacted legislation in this area. See ECLAC. 2025e. *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 Years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81382-action-equality-development-and-peace-latin-america-and-caribbean-regional-report>.

Box 3. Laws and policies on comprehensive care systems		
Brazil	National Care Policy, Act No. 15069 of 2024.	Guarantees the right to care based on social and gender co-responsibility.
Chile	National Support and Care System (Chile Cuida)	Network of institutions, programmes and services that provides care and support to people who require care and to caregivers.
Colombia	National Care Policy (2025). Creation of the National Care System, Act No. 2281 of 2023	Coordinates services, regulations, policies and technical actions to meet care demands, promote a new social organization of care and guarantee the human rights of caregivers.
Costa Rica	National Network for Childhood Care and Development (REDCUDI), Act No. 9220 of 2014; National System of Care and Support for Dependent Adults and Older Persons (SINCA), Act No. 10192 of 2022	Optimizes existing resources and coordinates public and private care services to ensure the quality of life of people receiving and providing care.
Cuba	National System for the Comprehensive Care of Life, Decree No. 109 of 2024.	Coordinates policies, programmes and actions that bring together central authorities, local government and economic and social actors, from the national level downward to the local level.
Ecuador	Right to Human Care Organic Act; supplement no. 309 to the official register of 2023.	Interlinked group of agencies and institutions to guarantee the right to care.
Panama	National Care System, Act No. 431 of 2024	Coordination to ensure social well-being and protection.
Uruguay	National Integrated Care System (SNIC), Act No. 19353 of 2015.	Set of actions and measures aimed at designing and implementing public policies based on a model of solidarity and co-responsibility between families, the State, the community and the market.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Care for Life System Act (2021).	Develop the Care for Life System with the cooperation and active participation of the people's power.
Source: ECLAC, UN Women and ILO. 2025. <i>The Right to Care in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress on the Regulatory Front</i> . Available at: https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/16/en/documents/right-care-latin-america-and-caribbean-progress-regulatory-front .		

The report also provides evidence on progress in gender statistics and women's participation in representative bodies, while highlighting the persistence of violence against women and developments in the women, peace and security agenda. It stresses that accelerating progress towards gender equality by 2030 requires urgent and transformative action, including strengthening gender equality institutions, gender mainstreaming across the State, increased financial, technical and human resources allocated to gender equality policies, gender-responsive budgeting, and reinforcing monitoring and accountability mechanisms with citizen participation.⁶¹

Finally, three recent publications illustrate ECLAC's efforts to mainstream the gender perspective across different dimensions of sustainable development and the synergies between the Regional Conference on Women and other ECLAC subsidiary bodies. These include the *Guidelines for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Statistical Production*,⁶² developed in synergy with the SCA; the *Guidelines and Action Plan for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in International Development Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean*,⁶³ prepared in synergy with the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation; and the *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement*,⁶⁴ developed in synergy with the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.

Concluding remarks

Despite the progress achieved, significant challenges remain and no country in the region has yet achieved substantive gender equality. Accelerating progress towards the SDGs and advancing transformative changes to guarantee the rights of women and girls in all their diversity require renewed collective action.

⁶¹ ECLAC. 2025e. *Action for Equality, Development and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Report on the Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 Years on, in Synergy with the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81382-action-equality-development-and-peace-latin-america-and-caribbean-regional-report>.

⁶² ECLAC. 2024b. *Guidelines for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Statistical Production*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/80636-guidelines-mainstreaming-gender-perspective-statistical-production>.

⁶³ ECLAC. 2025f. *Guidelines and Action Plan for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in International Development Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/81874-guidelines-and-action-plan-mainstreaming-gender-perspective-international>.

⁶⁴ ECLAC. 2026h. *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Guide on Gender Mainstreaming*. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/89939-regional-agreement-access-information-public-participation-and-justice>.

In a complex international context, marked by wars, geopolitical rivalries, ideological polarization, the effects of climate change, accelerated technological change, structural inequalities and various chronic crises, including the care crisis, Latin America and the Caribbean calls for a Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society. The *Tlatelolco Commitment* provides a roadmap for these efforts while promoting social dialogue and multistakeholder action, strengthening governance and institutional frameworks, cultural change, international cooperation, sufficient and sustainable financing, and breaking statistical silence.⁶⁵ Its implementation will be key to advance the 2030 Agenda, while extending the horizon for transformative action towards a more inclusive, productive and sustainable future, with care for people and the planet at its centre.

As Executive Secretary of ECLAC José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs has emphasized, this is an urgent and unequivocal call: acting now will sow the seeds of hope for future generations and ensure that care, in all its forms, is recognized as the foundation of a more just society.

⁶⁵ ECLAC. 2026c. *Tlatelolco Commitment: A Decade of Action to Achieve Substantive Gender Equality and the Care Society*. Santiago: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/90082-tlatelolco-commitment-decade-action-achieve-substantive-gender-equality-and-care>.