



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

**Statement by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary,  
to the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 24  
14 April 2026**

**Resource Mobilization for Inclusive and Job-Rich Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Latin America and the Caribbean continues to face a panorama of low economic growth, high inequality and limited fiscal space, which together reduce prospects for sustained and inclusive development. As ECLAC has consistently highlighted, these challenges reflect persistent structural constraints embodied in three development traps: (i) low capacity to grow; (ii) high inequality, low social mobility, and weak social cohesion; and (iii) weak institutional capacities and ineffective governance. These constraints are further compounded by the challenges of climate change and rising debt burdens, underscoring the urgency of mobilizing—and effectively deploying—resources for development.

The international context has become more complex and uncertain. While recent global financial conditions—including a weaker dollar and resilient market access—have supported external financing for the region, the outlook is becoming more challenging. Heightened geopolitical tensions, ongoing and new conflicts and rising commodity prices, particularly for energy, are contributing to increased uncertainty. At the same time, financial conditions remain subject to volatility.

According to ECLAC's [\*Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean \(2025\)\*](#), the region is expected to grow at an average rate of only 1.6% over the period 2017–2026, reflecting a prolonged phase of low growth that is insufficient to generate quality employment and reduce poverty and inequality. Employment growth has also remained modest. As highlighted in ECLAC's [\*Social Panorama of Latin America \(2025\)\*](#), high informality remains closely linked to the region's productive structure, with a large share of workers concentrated in low-productivity sectors and limited access to social protection.

Against this backdrop, mobilizing resources for development is essential. Also, it is necessary to optimize the allocation of those resources, directing them toward sectors and activities that raise productivity, foster innovation, and generate quality employment. Without this, increased financing will not translate into sustained growth or structural transformation.

To this end, ECLAC emphasizes three key areas for strengthening resource mobilization.

The *first* concerns better use and mobilization of domestic resources, which requires improving the quality and efficiency of public spending, increasing public investment, reducing tax evasion and streamlining tax expenditures, and enhancing the progressivity of tax systems.

The *second* relates to the mobilization of external and private resources, including advancing reforms to the international financial architecture in line with the [Sevilla Commitment](#), redefining eligibility criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA), strengthening sovereign debt resolution mechanisms, and scaling up private investment through capital markets, thematic bonds, debt swaps, and blended finance.

The *third* focuses on resource mobilization through development banks, expanding the role of national and regional institutions in financing large-scale transformative projects, enhancing their lending capacity, and fostering collaboration with private investors to channel resources towards key, dynamizing sectors, with high potential for productivity gains and employment generation. These include renewable energy, digital infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and the care economy. At the same time, traditional sectors must be upgraded through innovation, technology adoption, and value-added processes.

Advancing these strategies requires strengthening [TOPP capabilities](#)—technical, operational, political and prospective capacities— of institutions, which are essential for effective policy design and implementation. The region’s development challenges are deeply interconnected and interdependent, and cannot be addressed in isolation: productive transformation, financing, governance, political economy dynamics and social dialogue evolve together and reinforce one another. Weaknesses in any one of these dimensions can constrain progress across the others, as outcomes in one area depend critically on advances in the others. Without adequate institutional capacities, broad-based common visions, and effective governance, even well-designed policies risk falling short in implementation.

A central objective must be the creation of quality, formal employment. Financing strategies must therefore be more closely aligned with employment outcomes, supporting sectors and investments that generate decent jobs, promote skills development, and foster greater inclusion.

Rising debt levels and limited fiscal space, however, constrain policy options. Strengthening debt sustainability frameworks and improving mechanisms for orderly and timely debt restructuring remain critical. Addressing these challenges will require enhanced international cooperation and a more effective global financial safety net.

Building on this, the *Sevilla Commitment* provides renewed global momentum for financing for development. Translating this into concrete actions will be essential to expand financing at scale, improve its quality and accessibility, and align it with the structural transformation needs of developing economies.

Latin America and the Caribbean must leverage its assets through clear productive, financing, and negotiating strategies. ECLAC remains committed to supporting countries in this effort by providing analysis, fostering dialogue, and contributing to the design and implementation of policies that can unlock the region’s development potential.