

# 2016

# INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



## Agenda

In order of intervention

**7:30 – 8:45** *Registration and coffee*

**9:00 – 9:30** **Opening Session**

*Welcome addresses* **Emmanuel Macron**, Minister of Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector, France  
**Ángel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
**Luís Alberto Moreno**, President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

*Keynote speech* **Horacio Cartes**, President of Paraguay

**9:30 – 11:00** **Session 1 – Redefining partnerships to support inclusive and sustainable growth**

*Panel discussion* **Alfonso Prat-Gay**, Minister of Finance, Argentina  
**Santiago Peña Palacios**, Minister of Finance, Paraguay  
**Leonel Fernández**, President, EU-LAC Foundation  
**Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)  
**Gabriel Baracatt**, Executive Director, Avina Foundation

*Moderator* **Mario Pezzini**, Director, Development Centre, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

*Q/A*

**11:00 – 11:30** *Coffee Break*

**11:30 – 13:00** **Session 2 – New policies to increase productivity and tackle inequalities**

*Panel discussion* **Luis Felipe Céspedes**, Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism, Chile  
**Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal**, Secretary of Economy, Mexico  
**Hiroshi Watanabe**, CEO, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)  
**Blanca Treviño**, CEO, Softtek

*Moderator* **José Juan Ruiz Gómez**, Chief Economist and Manager of the Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

*Q/A*

**13:00 – 13:30** **Closing Session**

*Closing remarks* **Pierre Duquesne**, Chair of the Governing Board, Development Centre, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

*Keynote speeches* **Alicia Bárcena**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America (UN-ECLAC)  
**Matthias Fekl**, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the Promotion of Tourism and French Nationals Abroad, France

*Luncheon*

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## OPENING SESSION

### Emmanuel Macron, Minister of Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector, France

Minister Emmanuel Macron opened the Forum, shedding light on the current challenges faced by Europe and Latin America. Europe is still struggling to recover from the economic crisis, whose negative developments have impacted the life of its citizens. At the same time, the continent faces a major disaffection towards the European political and economic unification project. Meanwhile, in Latin America, lower oil prices and increasing international competitiveness caused by the emergence of Asia are forcing countries in the region to reconsider their economic policies.



Minister Macron highlighted the common problems challenging the economies of both regions. The current economic slowdown brings a risk of secular stagnation. Since the onset of the global crisis, different policies to spur growth have been put in place, but the challenges presented by low productivity and meager employment creation persist. Likewise, the increase in inequalities has been one of the most complex features of our times, with a widening of income gaps that could be aggravated in coming years. Minister Macron stressed that to tackle these problems governments must find a way to improve productivity and foster innovation while making sure that social policies are preserved to protect the most vulnerable part of the population.

Additionally, Minister Macron highlighted three priority action areas for policies in the short-to-medium term. First, structural reforms need to be made, mainly to tackle the challenge of low productivity, which will require strong investment in different areas, such as human capital and infrastructure, and putting in place mechanisms to support the shift in labour to more productive sectors. Second, investments in innovation need to be scaled up, which will continue to be critical in a fast-changing world. Lastly, enhanced co-operation will allow countries to better face global problems. In this respect, Minister Macron underlined that France remains open to partnering further with Latin America on a wide range of political and economic issues.

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## Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Mr Angel Gurría praised Minister Macron’s speech, and fully agreed on the relevance of the three main axes of action highlighted: reforms, innovation and co-operation. He also acknowledged the efforts made by many countries in the region that already are undergoing deep reforms. However, as this process takes time to bear results, it needs to be accompanied by strong leadership to support its development, as well as by strong capacity to communicate its results and potential challenges to build buy-in from the public.



Secretary-General Gurría underlined that the average economic growth in Latin America is expected to be negative for the second consecutive year, a scenario unseen in the region since the 1980s, a period often referred to as the “lost decade.” However, he emphasised the importance of understanding the heterogeneity of the region, the different “Latin Americas.” While Mexico and Central America are expected to grow between 2.4% and 6% in 2016, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela are expected to register negative rates. This economic slowdown, together with long-

standing issues in the region such as poverty, informality, corruption, low levels of education and complex regulatory frameworks, are just some of the many challenges the region has ahead. The Secretary-General stressed that many of the necessary reforms were already difficult to be carried out in times of wealth and will be even more challenging to be implemented in the current economic context.

Secretary-General Gurría pointed out the importance of joining efforts across countries and organisations working in and for Latin America. He highlighted the recently launched *OECD Latin America and Caribbean Regional Programme* to strengthen and provide coherence to the work done by the OECD with Latin America around its main pillars of productivity, social inclusion and governance.

## Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

President Luis Alberto Moreno acknowledged the existence of a different global economic landscape in which, out of the 100 biggest economies, 34 are cities and 13 are corporations. Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean need to take into account the multiplicity of

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actors at play, ranging from the private sector to civil society, foundations and governments, when designing economic and social policies.

China's economic slowdown, falling commodity prices and the expectation of further increases in interest rates in the United States are reassessing the risks of investments in developing countries. As a result, the golden decade of economic growth in Latin America came to an end. To face this new economic reality, governments in the region are scaling down public expenditure and trying to raise income, at the same time



that society is questioning the lack of social gains after a decade of strong economic growth. President Moreno asks how countries in the region can react to these challenges and build a better future with better social prospects.

Looking forward, the technological revolution will be paramount for the development of Latin American economies as it will influence productivity gains, acknowledged President Moreno. The potential effects of innovation, including new developments in the fields of robotics, biotechnology and artificial intelligence, can be transformative and provide broad opportunities. According to President Moreno, it's time for a new generation of leaders to step forward and provide new solutions to Latin America's old problems, making the most of these technological improvements and preventing them from widening existing social and economic gaps.

## Horacio Cartes, President of Paraguay



President Horacio Cartes focused on the challenges ahead for Paraguay in a context of low global and regional growth. Paraguay's main objective for the coming years is to implement economic, social and institutional reforms, which will help improve its citizens' welfare.

The country grew by an average annual rate of 5% in the last decade. A sound monetary policy, low inflation and a stable exchange rate have been outstanding hallmarks



of the Paraguayan macroeconomic performance in the last years. President Cartes praised the country's performance and its well-established position to attract foreign investments, highlighting that more than 65% of the population is below 35 years old, which represents a great demographic opportunity.

Paraguay undertook a comprehensive consultation process in 2013 to define its development objectives in the medium-to-long term. It led to Paraguay 2030, the country's national development plan that will guide reform efforts in coming years. Paraguay is building a more competitive and efficient economy, with innovative and dynamic industries, that is environmentally sustainable and inclusive.

President Cartes assured that Paraguay is committed to work closer with the OECD, with the aim of inserting the country in the world of the 21st century, with more equality, transparency and social inclusion.

## SESSION 1- REDEFINING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

*After a decade of strong economic growth and great strides in addressing poverty and inequality, Latin America's average economic growth was negative and fell below the average of OECD countries in 2015 for a second consecutive year. Latin America needs to improve and rethink some of its existing partnerships, while developing new ones with other economic regions, notably China, and with non-state actors such as foundations*

### Alfonso Prat-Gay, Minister of Finance, Argentina



Minister Prat-Gay discussed how strengthening commercial ties with the EU goes hand-in-hand with cementing regional integration. According to him, the EU-Mercosur trade agreement can be a stepping stone to better connect Mercosur with the Pacific Alliance and to further bridge the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Furthermore, the Minister stressed that addressing logistical bottlenecks will be paramount to connect the

Atlantic-Pacific corridor and could help achieve up to 30-40% gains in productivity. He recalled

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that Paraguay, Peru and Chile trade the most with China and Southeast Asia, and insisted on the importance of better connecting the rest of Latin America with these countries to benefit from trade opportunities in Asia.

The Minister also highlighted the evolving nature of his country's relationship with China, which is becoming a key partner for addressing the infrastructure gap. On the commercial front, the Minister insisted more discussions need to be held to address the ease with which Chinese exporters access Argentinian markets without a free trade agreement in place. Argentina's trade deficit with China is equivalent to 0.5% of its GDP, partly because the bulk of Argentina's exports to the Asian giant is composed of raw materials, such as soybeans. Nevertheless, according to the Minister, trade with China is complex and currently diversifying.

### **Santiago Peña Palacios, Minister of Finance, Paraguay**

Minister Peña discussed his country's national development plan, Paraguay 2030, which emerged from a wide consultation process involving 2 000 civil society leaders. The plan is structured around three pillars to orient public action on the 2030 horizon: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and further insertion into the global economy. Despite the economic slowdown, poverty (20%) and extreme poverty (10%) have declined and the Gini coefficient



has improved in Paraguay in recent years. Nevertheless, in a country that has the productive capacity to feed 70 million people, too many Paraguayans (700 000) still suffer from hunger, deplored the Minister. He stressed the importance of education as a key element to foster social mobility and inclusive development, citing a recently-launched exchange programme as a testimony to his government's efforts to improve educational opportunities. Minister Peña also acknowledged that his country remains isolated and stressed the importance of taking part in international fora, such as the Development Centre, to open up further to neighbouring countries and to the rest of the world.

Minister Peña then echoed Minister Prat-Gay in stressing the importance of connecting countries within the region and closing the infrastructure gap. The commodity prices boom, he argued, dragged attention away from essential structural reforms in the realm of innovation and infrastructure investment, which were on the agenda at the turn of the century. Latin American



governments, he insisted, need to address these priorities, especially in a region where intra-regional trade remains low due to logistical bottlenecks. In turn, he explained, this entails partnering with the private sector. Even in a country such as Paraguay, which is faring relatively well with moderate public debt (20% of GDP) and public deficit (1.7%), he stressed, the government cannot take it solely upon itself to finance infrastructure projects. The Minister cited the cases of Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru, as countries who successfully engaged in private-public partnerships to build much-needed infrastructure.

### Leonel Fernández, President, EU-LAC Foundation



On the challenge of ensuring that EU investments to Latin America advance sustainable development and comply with environmental regulation, Mr Fernandez reminded participants that promoting socially and environmentally responsible investments is at the core of the foundation's mandate. He welcomed the recent adoption of key global frameworks – including COP 21 and the Sustainable Development Goals – to guide the

fight against climate change and the transition to more inclusive and sustainable development models. At this stage, he added, countries have adopted – or should be in the process of designing – a sustainable development action plan using international best practices and standards as a reference point. He insisted that pathways for co-operation should be mindful of countries' respective national frameworks and discussed the EU-LAC Foundation's work in supporting dialogue and co-operation channels between the two regions, including in the area of climate change.

Turning to the region's position in the global landscape, Mr Fernandez stressed that Latin America is not immune to current global economic uncertainty. He identified trends amongst the three poles of global economic power in the context of the slow recovery from the global financial crisis: the transition from export-led growth to domestic consumption in China, the expansionary monetary policy in the United States and the austerity policies implemented by many European Union countries. These policies, he argued, lack long-term vision and, in an interdependent and interconnected world, adversely affect Latin America's capacity to adjust to economic uncertainty and shape policies for its future.

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## **Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)**

Rebeca Grynspan called attention to the changing nature of international co-operation and on the need to redefine its precepts accordingly. The geometry and geography of co-operation has changed, the Secretary-General argued. Co-operation can no longer be framed by the North-South lens: it often involves several collaborators and types of stakeholders (the geometry), and bridges different countries and regions (the



geography). The common denominator to successful co-operation initiatives, Mrs Grynspan added, is their symmetry and horizontality: protagonists must engage in these exchanges on an equal footing and recognise that every party has something to learn and to contribute. In this regards, the Latin American experience has a lot to teach. The region has been a fertile ground for South-South co-operation. SEGIB has catalogued over 1 000 such initiatives amongst its 22 member countries. Yet, much improvement is needed on the regulatory front, Mrs. Grynspan stressed, to reinforce confidence between collaborators and encourage responsible behavior. This will be particularly important for supporting public-private partnerships, which – in the context of the region’s economic slowdown – are much-needed in the innovation, science and technology, and infrastructures sectors.

Secretary-General Grynspan warned against short-sighted policy priorities and insisted on the importance of balancing short-run and long-run objectives. Investing in youth is paramount, she added. Latin America currently has the largest cohort of young people aged 15 to 29 years old in its history. These 158 million individuals are more educated and more demanding towards their governments. Poor job and social mobility prospects could generate frustration and political instability. Secretary-General Grynspan highlighted the importance of combatting the dropout problem in basic education and of investing further in higher education. Furthermore, she highlighted education as a priority for co-operation between Latin America and Europe, through the expansion of student exchanges and academic mobility programmes.

## **Gabriel Baracatt, Executive Director, Avina Foundation**

Drawing on his substantive experience in building public-private partnerships, Mr Baracatt described the role each actor should fulfill in the societal ecosystem’ to successfully implement





impactful partnerships. He discussed the complementary roles of the state – as a provider of public goods – and the firm – as a creator of wealth – and highlighted challenges to working together for building more inclusive societies. Regarding the role of the state, the challenge is not simply creating public goods, but ensuring equal access for all. With respect to the private sector, the challenge is not enhancing firms’ social investment, but preventing them from appropriating wealth



from the use of public goods. Civil society, for its part, must learn to exert its rights and responsibilities and participate in finding solutions for working together to improve collective well-being. Only with meaningful innovation can these actors work towards a transformative agenda, he added.

Discussing further the poor quality of public services on the continent, Mr Baracatt argued that the decline in commodity prices opens a window of opportunity to shift priorities and focus on long-run structural change (from natural resource-based economies to knowledge- and innovation-based economies). Mr Baracatt stressed the importance of creating the ecosystemic goods and to fostering alliances and partnerships for building more equitable and inclusive societies.

## SESSION 2 – NEW POLICIES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND TACKLE INEQUALITIES

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*The current macroeconomic context reveals the need to implement cost-effective policies to tackle the so-called middle income trap and to consolidate the middle class’ resilience. These policies include strengthening the quality of physical and human capital, promoting innovation policies and formal jobs, improving logistics, and forging regulatory improvements in areas such as services, investment, and access to finance for start-ups and small productive firms.*

### **Luis Felipe Céspedes, Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism, Chile**

Minister Luis Felipe Céspedes acknowledged the importance of improving productivity for sustainable economic growth in the long-term, which will better distribute the country’s wealth among its citizens. Chile has four main action areas for improving its productivity: (i) diversify its productive matrix and invest in the economic sectors in which the country has comparative

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advantages; (ii) promote foreign direct investments; (iii) improve the competitiveness of its markets; and (iv) encourage entrepreneurship to foster innovation.

Even though economic reforms and strong institutions are paramount for improving productivity, Mr Céspedes argued that governments should come up with innovative policies to seize fully the opportunities offered by the technological revolution of our days. These policies must be implemented in different sectors, ranging from education to the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

### **Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal, Secretary of Economy, Mexico**

Minister Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal recalled that the opening of Mexico's economy was followed by an exponential increase in trade and foreign direct investments, showing the importance of a coherent trade strategy for the overall economic performance of a country. Likewise, the privileged access to important international markets allowed the country to be integrated in numerous global value chains. Nevertheless, the opening did



not benefit the whole society equally. Big corporations and regions better prepared to grasp the advantages of international trade were not accompanied by SMEs and the poorest regions of the country. For this reason, the Mexican government has been implementing structural reforms, such as the liberalisation of the energy market and the creation of special economic zones, to benefit small-business owners and the less-developed areas of the country.

Minister Guajardo stressed the need to reform the educational system to adapt it to the new set of skills required by productivity-intensive industries and to a new generation of citizens, who nurture different ambitions compared to those of previous generations. According to Minister Guajardo, these new ambitions also led to the social unrest seen in some countries of the region as they create new expectations that are not necessarily met by the current availability of public services.



### Hiroshi Watanabe, CEO, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)



Mr Hiroshi Watanabe mentioned that together with the IDB, JBIC serves as the biggest financial provider in Latin America. Infrastructure lies at the heart of the bank's activities and exploring the interrelation between infrastructure and inclusiveness is a key endeavour for JBIC. Mr Watanabe also elaborated on corruption as one of the continent's challenges, and IT infrastructure holds huge potential to address corruption. Hence, Mr Watanabe argues that the

expansion of e-government projects must be considered as part of Latin America's fight against corruption.

Mr Watanabe concluded with a word about how Japan's education system is coping with change. He elaborated on Japan's strong secondary education, which helped the country more easily adapt to a rapidly evolving economic context. According to him, too many countries still focus too much on tertiary education with limited success. Yet, secondary education is crucial for a country's capacity to innovate and its capacity to embrace and harness change.

### Blanca Treviño, CEO, Softtek

Ms Blanca Treviño emphasised technology's overarching importance as a cross-cutting issue affecting almost every sector of the economy. She expanded this by mentioning that productivity is not about working more hours, but rather about working smarter. Working smarter means matching resources more efficiently. Compared to India, Mexico and Latin America in general need to focus more on technology. Governmental policies will continue to play a key role in that regard. Investments in education should rank high on the agenda, if Mexico wants to fully reap the benefits of technology for its economic development.



In large services industries such as those in India, the government's sustained support helped the service sector to flourish. India could build further on its education system and its strong labour

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force to fully harness open international trade in services. Latin American countries, on the other hand, now face specific barriers to getting into the service sector. For example, Mexico missed the chance to open up towards trade in services with the United States. Consequently, Mexico remained dependent on manufacturing exports.

Lagging skills and knowledge about technologies as well as the region's modest share of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) pose a challenge that Latin American countries have yet to tackle. However, opportunities do exist: The region can harness its geographical location, that is its vicinity to the U.S. market. Some countries such as Mexico and Chile already are harnessing this comparative advantage; others need to follow.

## CLOSING SESSION

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### **Pierre Dusquene, Chair of the Governing Board, Development Centre, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

The Chair of the OECD Development Centre outlined the main areas of the Centre's work on Latin America and the Caribbean, grouping them into three main categories: (i) co-operation, (ii) innovation and (iii) reform.



First, the Centre offers its 51 member countries, including 10 Latin America and Caribbean countries, a unique platform for co-operation and dialogue where developing countries, emerging economies and OECD members interact on equal footing. Through the Latin American Economic Outlook, the Center provides an in-depth understanding of regional and national constraints. The latest report highlights the close economic links with

China – exposing the region to the negative effects of the current Chinese economic slowdown – and the need to deepen economic ties and co-operation with other regions.

Second, the Centre fosters innovative thinking and policy solutions through dedicated policy dialogue spaces on development issues that matter – from natural resource-based development

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to gender equality – and with a wide variety of stakeholders, such as businesses or philanthropies.

Third, the Chair highlighted the Centre’s work that encourages reforms to promote sustainable growth while reducing poverty and improving people’s lives. Through multidimensional analyses or flagship reports, such as the *Perspectives on Global Development*, the Centre identifies and shares policy options for building cohesive societies and competitive economies, helping countries to find the development trajectories that suit them best.

## Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America (UN-ECLAC)



Ms Bárcena pointed to several global trends (demographic changes, rising inequalities, environmental crisis, massive migrations, digital economy and the unusual long-term economic stagnation) that deeply transform the global economy and job markets, exacerbate the contradictions of the current development models, and redefine international power relations.

She highlighted three main challenges that should be addressed to better respond to the above mentioned trends. The first challenge consists in shifting from the culture of privilege to the culture of equality. In this respect, Ms Bárcena welcomed the OECD’s role in the fight against cross-border tax evasion, estimating the revenue losses from tax evasion in

Latin America and the Caribbean at USD320 billion. She also called for a global agreement that would encourage multinational enterprises to pay taxes in countries where they generate revenues.

The second challenge consists in shifting from foreign direct investments in extractive industries to investments that work for sustainable development. Public policies should create incentives and strategies to attract investments that support the environment, innovation, research, technology and knowledge transfers. The third challenge consists in ensuring a more egalitarian society in the Latin American region, with particular attention paid to youth and elderly people, and through different policy tools, including a universal minimum income.

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## Matthias Fekl, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the Promotion of Tourism and French Nationals Abroad, France

Minister of State Fekl highlighted the strength and intensity of the relationship between France and Latin America and the Caribbean, putting emphasis on its economic, cultural, diplomatic, geographic and human aspects.

He stressed that both France and Latin America share fundamental values, such as liberty, justice and independence. He cited the COP 21 agreement as an excellent example of successful co-operation between France and Latin America countries, which played a decisive role throughout the process.

Mr Fekl stressed that France wishes to consolidate further its role as one of the most prominent partners in the development of the Latin American and Caribbean economies, as reiterated recently by President Francois Hollande.



Lastly, he welcomed the role the French Development Agency (AFD) plays in supporting green and inclusive investments (€ 6 billion between 2009 and 2015) in the Latin American and Caribbean region, including through its newly open field offices in Peru, Equator and Bolivia (and soon in Cuba).

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## MEDIA OUTREACH

The Forum was well attended by the media, including news agencies, TV, print, radio and online media. The OECD Development Centre had the pleasure to collaborate with six media partners – **devex, El Financiero, Notimex, France 24, France Médias Monde and RFI.**

Some headlines following the Forum are:

[La OCDE reúne una amplia representación latina en su foro y su ministerial](#) EFE  
[El presidente paraguayo viaja a París para intervenir en el foro de la OCDE](#) EFE  
[Latinoamérica invierte la mitad de lo que debería en infraestructuras, según el BID](#) Expansión  
[Paraguay ya no es lo que era, da a entender Cartes](#) ABC Color  
[Francia celebra con más de 300 actos su Semana de América Latina y el Caribe](#) El Diario  
[Anuncian construcción de relación con OCDE](#) Ultima Hora  
[Abogan por políticas fiscales redistributivas en América Latina](#) Prensa Latina  
[Negociación entre la UE y el Mercosur genera esperanzas](#) Espectador  
[Ministro francés pide mayor acercamiento](#) ABC Color  
[Cartes regresa a Asunción tras inaugurar Foro sobre Latinoamérica en París](#) Hoy  
[La OCDE y América Latina buscan "redefinir alianzas" en un Foro en París](#) Swiss Info  
[Cartes viaja a París para intervenir en foro de la OCDE](#) Ultima Hora  
[Cartes pinta un Paraguay de maravillas en Francia](#) ABC Color  
[Opinan que negociación UE-Mercosur debe tener en cuenta a cada país](#) Prensa Latina  
[Negociación entre la UE y Mercosur genera esperanzas](#) El Economista  
[Cartes insta a descubrir Paraguay en foro internacional](#) La Nación Paraguay  
[Cartes resalta garantía a inversionistas en Foro Económico en París](#) Ultima Hora  
[Montás asiste en París a eventos de OCDE](#) Diario Digital RD  
[Prat Gay se reúne con empresarios con el objetivo de atraer inversión](#) El Liberal  
[México y Argentina promueven mayores oportunidades de comercio e inversión: SE](#) Noticias MVS  
[Informalidad laboral amplifica la desigualdad en México: Gurría](#) El Sol de México  
[Officials Guardedly Hopeful on Chances for EU-Mercosur Trade Pact](#) Latin American Herald Tribune  
[Leonel llega a París donde agotará agenda como presidente Fundación EU-LAC](#) El Caribe  
[Francia resalta el liderazgo del Perú en Latinoamérica](#) El Peruano  
[Leonel Fernández reclama acción para frenar efectos crisis económica](#) Gobierno Digital  
[Leonel afirma crisis mundial sigue golpeando economías de América Latina](#) El Caribe  
[PARIS: Leonel reclama acción para frenar efectos crisis económica](#) Al Momento  
[Busca el país su ingreso en la OCDE](#) La Nación Argentina

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## ABOUT THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Latin America has continued to show modest growth rates over the past three years. This scenario is due mainly to a challenging international environment and the region's long-standing struggle to increase investment rates and productivity. Raising productivity remains a persistent challenge. Estimates show that nearly 130 million workers in the region, around 55% of the total active workforce, are employed in low-productivity informal jobs. Thus, while productivity is expected to be the main driver of economic growth and well-being over the next 50 years, its contribution to real GDP growth in the region has been meager.

Latin America's economic recovery will depend on each country's ability to implement necessary reforms and specific policies to boost inclusive and broad-based growth. The 2016 edition of the Latin American Economic Outlook, a flagship publication of the OECD Development Centre, notes that particular attention should be given to productivity and innovation improvements, production diversification, investments in infrastructure, human capital, and formal job creation.

Against this backdrop and as the international community signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and gears up to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean will focus on the challenges of fostering inclusive productivity in the region and building new partnerships for sustainable development.**





## About the organisers



The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The OECD Development Centre, whose membership is open to both OECD and non-OECD countries, occupies a unique place within the OECD and in the international community. The Centre counts ten member countries from the Latin America and Caribbean region. The 2016 edition of the Centre's *Latin American Economic Outlook* explores how Latin America should deepen and improve its partnership with China as part of its development agenda.

-- [www.oecd.org/dev](http://www.oecd.org/dev)



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. Since its creation in 1959, the IDB has worked for the economic and social development of the region. It provides loans as well as grants and technical assistance. The IDB counts 48 member countries, including 26 Latin American and Caribbean borrowing members, who have a majority ownership of the IDB. -- [www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)



The Ministry of Finance and Public Accounts prepares and implements the Government's financial, budgetary and tax policies. It is responsible for the public accounts and the multiannual strategy of public finances. It defines and implements the Government's policy on the financial sector.

The Ministry of Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector prepares and implements the Government's policies on economic matters, industry, services, SMEs, handicraft, trade, electronic communications, tourism, the digital economy and innovation. -- [www.economie.gouv.fr](http://www.economie.gouv.fr)