



## AGENDA

7:30 – 8:45 *Registration and coffee*

### Opening remarks

**09:00 – 09:45** **Michel Sapin**, Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, France  
**Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
**Luis Alberto Moreno**, President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

### Session 1: How to foster a more robust, inclusive and sustainable growth?

**9:45 – 11:00** *After a golden decade, the economic growth prospects in Latin American and the Caribbean could reach 1% in 2015, compared to 1.1% in 2014, the lowest growth rate in Latin America since the global financial crisis. What are the needed reforms and strategies to foster a sustainable growth in front of an external scenario generated by the drop of commodities prices and the necessary adaptation of the private sector?*

Panellists **Luis Alberto Arce**, Minister of Economy, Bolivia  
**Alicia Bárcena**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America (UN-ECLAC)  
**Carlos Bianco**, Secretary for International Economic Relations, Argentina  
**Mauricio Cárdenas**, Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Colombia  
**Enrique García**, President, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America  
**Wilson Laleau**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Haiti

Moderator **Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre

*Questions & Answers*

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

### Session 2: Better opportunities through innovation, education and skills

**11:30 – 12:45** *Education, skills and innovation are key to exit the middle-income trap and strengthen in Latin America. Education is the great unfinished business in Latin America and the Caribbean. What role could the private sector play? What would be the social, corporate and environmental of the private sector? How could public-private cooperation be improved?*

Panellists **Marie-Ange Debon**, Chief Executive Officer in charge of International activities and Group Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SUEZ Environment  
**Sergio de la Torre**, Minister of Economy, Guatemala  
**Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary General, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)  
**Goe Rojas Hernández**, Vice Rector, Uniempresarial Foundation, Colombia  
**Alonso Arturo Segura Vasi**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Peru  
**Carmen Vela**, Secretary of State, Secretariat of state of Research and Development and Innovation, Spain

Moderator **José Juan Ruiz Gómez**, Chief Economist and Manager of the Research Department, IDB

*Questions & Answers*

### Closing session

**12:45 – 13:15** Keynote speech  
**Emmanuel Macron**, Minister for the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector, France  
**Luis Guillermo Solís**, President of the Republic of Costa Rica

*Conclusions*

**Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre

13:15 *Luncheon*

## Opening Remarks



### Michel Sapin, Minister of Finance and Public Accounts, France

The Minister of Finance insisted on the importance of the historical relationship between France and the Latin American region. He stressed that both France and Latin America share a similar vision of the future. Furthermore, he underlined that Latin America reacted to the economic crisis with great determination and, until recently, benefited from high commodity prices. Nevertheless, the Minister of Finance indicated that challenging times are coming for the region. In 2014, growth was lower than in the OECD economies for the first time in the last decade. The fall of commodity prices and the slower growth rate of China have weighted heavily on the growth prospects in some economies of the region. He noted that in order to face this degradation in the economic environment, Latin America must have better strategies to support sustainable, inclusive and green growth. A set of structural reforms must be undertaken with the objective of increasing productivity, reducing inequalities, improving well-being, protecting the environment and recovering public trust in the public policies implemented therein.



Minister Sapin reiterated that France would like to be a partner in the development of the Latin American economies, by highlighting its market size (600 million people), considerable potential, and continued rise of the middle classes. In recent years, the Latin American economies have embarked in structural reforms and were therefore able to react to the financial crisis successfully. Nevertheless, some reforms are still pending in

order to achieve a higher, stable and greener path and even eradicate poverty. Michel Sapin emphasised the role that the private sector must undertake to achieve a more inclusive growth. As an example, France's expertise shall be used to achieve the energy transition, which could be essential for structural development in Latin America, especially in the case of large infrastructure projects where French companies' technological prowess could be very useful.

To face these challenges, the French Agency for Development (AFD) will continue to play a crucial role, with 17% of its operations in the region in 2014 and an expected 10% rise in the value of its participation in 2015. The AFD promotes a more inclusive and green growth, and this is why more than 75% of all projects financed by the AFD are expected to benefit the environment throughout the year. In 2015, France's stewardship will be key in reaching an ambitious agreement at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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

The OECD Secretary-General stressed the importance of the seventh edition of the International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean. He noted that the forum could not have taken place at a better time, a time where growth is slowing in Latin America and where local governments are undertaking great efforts in the promotion and implementation of key reforms. He underscored that between 2003 and 2013, despite the financial crisis, the region grew on average at a rate of 4%, helping lifting more than 50 million Latin-Americans out of poverty and thereby for the first time in history, expanding its middle class.



Latin American economies have also achieved an increase in their revenues from taxes (21% in 2013), even though they are still far from the OECD average (34%). Progress was also made on the education front. Public investment in education has allowed almost universal access to primary education – although challenges remain regarding quality across secondary and tertiary levels especially for Brazil and Mexico, according to PISA. An average 15-years old Latin American student lags behind an OECD one the equivalent of more than two years.

Nevertheless, all of this progress is now at risk since some of the economies did not use the boom of commodities to reform their economies and strengthen their growth capacities. For the first time in the last 10 years, Latin America is growing at a more sluggish rate *vis-à-vis* OECD economies. This has had a negative impact on the region's capacity to continue reducing poverty and inequalities. It is therefore essential to accelerate the reform agenda.

Latin America must continue to implement structural reforms in taxes, finance, labour, competitiveness, health, housing, infrastructure and green growth, with a special focus on education, skills and innovation to promote inclusive growth, the OECD Secretary-General noted. In term of education, the priority should be closing the socioeconomic and quality gaps that exist in the education systems across the region. Skills needed for the labour market go hand in hand with the education reform. The probability for a Latin-American firm looking to recruit and not finding an adequate workforce is 3 times higher than a firm situated in the South of Asia and 13 times vs Asia-Pacific. Innovation capital in the region is only 13% of GDP, compared to 30% among

OECD countries. Latin American economies should promote more and better systems of national and private innovations.

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



President Moreno observed the region's vulnerability, while acknowledging that Latin American economies are better prepared to face the current economic slowdown. On one hand, the region progressed, democracies were consolidated, social gaps were reduced, and hundreds of millions of Latin Americans joined the middle class. On the other hand, Latin American economies face less space to take fiscal action or monetary countercyclical policies, and low growth rates will complicate the financing needed to boost growth and safeguard the social achievements of the past decade.

He focused on the region's characteristics – talent, commodities and land – which would help countries through the economic slump, albeit the productivity slowdown. In fact, if the region were able to close the productivity gap *vis-à-vis* the advanced economies, the region's potential growth would be almost 3 percentage points higher. Nevertheless, he highlighted that a one size fits all policy to boost productivity does not exist.

President Moreno pointed out the seven areas where the IDB has been working extensively to reverse this phenomenon:

1. Education
2. Labour Market
3. Financial Sector
4. Infrastructure
5. Trade
6. Telecommunications
7. Health

He added that based on examples of smart public interventions in Latin America and the OECD, the IDB has re-oriented its focus to 'new industrial policies ('productive transformation policies') aimed at improving education and skills for all sectors as key priority. He indicated that the region also suffers from a severe infrastructure gap compared to the developed economies, since the economies of the region only invest half of what they should to close the gap, implying higher logistics cost.

In concluding, President Moreno asserted that Latin America has a lot to offer to the global discussions on climate change. In doing so, the region must balance short term challenges with the challenge of climate change.

## Session 1: How to foster a more robust, inclusive and sustainable growth?

*After a golden decade, the economic growth prospects in Latin American and the Caribbean could reach 1% in 2015, compared to 1.1% in 2014, the lowest growth rate in Latin America since the global financial crisis. What are the needed reforms and strategies to foster a sustainable growth in front of an external scenario generated by the drop of commodities prices and the necessary adaptation of the private sector?*

### Enrique García, President, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America



Enrique García outlined the following areas in the way forward for the region to embrace the future: (i) regional integration seeking to broaden the matrix of exported goods, and (ii) the use of quality foreign direct investment (FDI) toward knowledge transfer, referring to successful case studies in this regard, such as South Korea, China and Singapore. If Latin American countries want to close the gap with the OECD countries and move forward to more inclusive societies, they must grow, at least, at 5% annually, and not be satisfied with an annual growth staggering around 2%.

Economies must stay away from the traditional model of the comparative advantages and generate dynamic competitive advantages with higher value added, along with enhanced productivity, innovation and investment in infrastructure.

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

Executive Secretary. Bárcena emphasised the importance of adopting different strategies to help countries solve their specific problems. She noted that some countries, such as Bolivia and Colombia who have used public investment as an adjustment variable, are doing better than other countries in the region amidst the current slowdown. Overall, countries seem better prepared to face today's economic crisis thanks to recent fiscal reforms and improved reserves.



Nevertheless, four key underlying challenges and causes were identified. Firstly, the impact region is evolving in a very distinct phase of globalisation and technological advancements, in which Latin American countries are far behind the technological frontier. Secondly, industrialisation is required to achieve structural change and increase the region's productivity and exports competitiveness. Latin American countries also need to develop intra-regional cooperation to satisfy internal demand. Thirdly, the region needs to increase its participation in the digital economy. It is important to build low-carbon economies and lower greenhouse gases emission, knowing that Latin America emits the same amount of greenhouse gases than Europe, but is increasing its rate while Europe is diminishing. At the COP21 Conference in Paris, the two regions will have the opportunity to reach an agreement, and to discuss the creation of a resilient fund for green development in the Caribbean countries. Lastly, structural tax reforms are needed: mobilising better domestic resources, but also defining fairer play rules at the international level will decrease inequality in the region. Latin American youth are exasperated, fuelled by the privileges enjoyed by the elites. Latin America has to move towards a more egalitarian society, and further intra-regional cooperation.

### **Mauricio Cárdenas, Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Colombia**

"The wave we were surfing on has passed, so now we need to know how to swim". The fall in commodity prices, which boosted the region's growth for the last decade, hit a number of economies in the region. Countries must now have a clear idea of where they are heading to and navigate lightly (low debt and low fiscal deficit). Countries should take advantage of tools such as flexible exchange rates, as Colombia did when devaluing its currency by 30%.



But what the region needs is to think concretely about a new growth engine that could replace commodities exports. Colombia started seven years ago to plan ahead of the fall of commodity prices, even though not knowing exactly when and to what extent they would collapse. It created a private-public cooperation infrastructure fund of US \$25,000 million to compensate the decrease in commodity prices, in which the private sector took the risks of investing, while the private sector commits to provide well-designed and highly profitable projects. This plan has, according to Minister Cárdenas, two advantages: working as an anti-cyclical policy and as a long-term productivity investments, while benefiting from the low-rate capital available on the global markets. Finally, given that oil used to represent 50% of Colombia's exports and up to 17% of its fiscal revenues, the country reacted to this shock with a tax reform and fiscal adjustment, which could be summed up as more taxation, less spending and more budget deficit allowed.

### **Carlos Bianco, Secretary of State for International Economic Relations, Argentina**



Global value chains (GVC) are a different term for the same phenomenon: globalisation. It calls on the discourse of the 90's, whereby development could not take place without integrating into the global economy by liberalising – often unilaterally – and de-regularising the use of FDI, with the disastrous social consequences we observe in some countries like Argentina. In theory, the focus on GVCs may be a powerful tool, but one should be careful on how it translates into public policies.

For middle-income countries with a long industrial tradition and highly dependent on its natural resources such as Argentina, the political answers arising from this concept are not necessarily adequate. Integration into global markets is indispensable, but the question is how to climb up the ladder and when? Given Argentina's high labour cost, it has been difficult for the country to integrate into the GVCs. Argentina managed to position itself in the agribusiness industry; the real question is how to add value to these exports, keeping in mind the trade barriers put in place by many OECD countries. The country has turned to emerging markets willing to buy these products; both China and Russia have proved to be good partners.

FDI can bolster growth but only under certain circumstances. In his view, some countries including Argentina relied greatly on deregulation of FDI flows in the 90's. The regulation deficit created productive enclaves and hindered the potential spill-overs of FDI on the economy regarding knowledge transfer, productive skills, job quality etc. Argentina is the only country in Latin America who did not deindustrialise during the last decade, thanks to the strict trade and investment conditions.

### Luis Alberto Arce, Minister of Economy, Bolivia



One of the reasons why Bolivia is growing is because its policies not only aim to present positive macroeconomic indicators, but above all to solve structural problems its population face. “We don’t believe in the market”. The market by itself does not care about people, or worry whether or not their elementary needs are met. In 2006, Bolivia's government changed its economic model and actively implemented policies to redistribute the fruits of natural resources exploitation. Social policies based on income redistribution are at the centre of the country's growth, through salary

increase but also conditional cash transfers. It allowed Bolivia to lift 2 million people out of extreme poverty, which resulted in a remarkable rise of the internal demand—the main driver of the economy—although it is not closed to external demand. This priority given to social policies guarantees a solid and resilient domestic market and makes the country less vulnerable to price volatility. In the last years, Bolivia has developed industrial capacity based on three premises: (i) the nationalisation and industrialisation of natural resources; (ii) the development of the national food industry, and (iii) natural resources-based energy exports.

### Wilson Laleau, Minister of Economy and Finance, Haiti

The Haitian economy is characterised by very low productivity rates, informality, negative trade balance, which is compensated by international aid and Haitian remittances. Official development aid assistance (ODA) should only be seen as part of the solution and not as a silver bullet. Haiti is working on moving away from this model. Nevertheless, the challenges ahead remain considerable: a high fiscal deficit between 3.5-4% of GDP and a deficient tax system. Minister Laleau concurred with Alicia Bárcena in that numerous Caribbean countries are heavily indebted as a result of their vulnerability to natural disasters. After the earthquake, Haiti's priority was to provide housing for its citizens, and to finance the universal education plan for 1.5 million children, one of President Martelly's flagship programmes.



Minister Laleau proposed that important investment in agriculture, could unlock Haiti's growth potential. Namely, Haiti could develop organic agricultural products and further promote tourism, if tax, fiscal and land reforms – decreasing tax rates on revenues for companies and individuals to attract FDI for example – are carried out. It is worth noting that Haiti recently embarked in the mining industry reform but the country needs to open its market to the Dominican Republic and Cuba to strategically position itself in the agricultural, tourism and financial services sectors. To this end, the government is trying to attract back the educated people who left the country to invest in these projects.

## Session 2: Better opportunities through innovation, education and skills

*Education, skills and innovation are key to exit the middle-income trap and strengthen in Latin America. Education is the great unfinished business in Latin America and the Caribbean. What role could the private sector play? What would be the social, corporate and environmental responsibilities of the private sector? How could public-private cooperation be improved?*

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



SEGIB's Secretary General acknowledged the continent's education and skills potential. In fact, Latin America, she noted, has currently the largest and most highly educated youth in its history. Nevertheless, many challenges lie ahead, with regard to the traditional conception of knowledge, and "soft skills" (e.g. the abilities to work in teams, and in diverse, multicultural environments). Rebeca Grynspan argued that enhanced innovation and productivity are the only way for Latin America to increase competitiveness. Along these lines, she proposed implementation of policies promoting academic

mobility in the region. Further scientific collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms to exchange countries' experiences, is of the essence. It is also necessary to improve the training of skilled workers (or potential workers). In addition, efforts to improve the quality of education are imperative in Latin America, as a means to break the inequality cycles across generations.

In concluding, Rebeca Grynspan asserted that investment should address education beyond the primary and secondary levels, otherwise, countries risk of capitalising on the potential of today's youth. It is expected that the number of students enrolled, or aspiring students in tertiary education institutions, is doubled by 2025.

### Marie-Ange Debon, Chief Executive Officer in charge of International activities and Group Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SUEZ Environnement

CEO Marie-Ange Debon pointed at infrastructure as the biggest challenge facing the region in the near future. Infrastructure, education and environmental concerns combined will make up one of the strategic economic issues in the coming years.

Marie-Ange Debon cited innovation, education, financing and governance as pre-conditions for infrastructure. With respect to the environment, Latin America's high urbanisation rate: that is, more than 200 cities with a population larger than 200,000 pose major challenges, while generating opportunities.

For instance, waste management, has a great potential in energy generation and as a raw material in production, through recycling.





### **Carmen Vela, Secretary of State, for Research, Development and Innovation, Spain**



By way of introduction, Secretary of State Vela noted that the global nature of research, development and innovation, allow for progress made in some part of the planet to be applied elsewhere. It is very important that these models are adapted to the particular conditions of each context.

Carmen Vela argued that in order to build an ecosystem that favours innovation, three key elements are needed: a stable source of financing, an appropriate fiscal model, and talent. The appropriate fiscal model, she said, needs to acknowledge the efforts being made, not inhibit them. The key component to talent is educated people that could be able to use and apply the ideas being developed in academic circles and in the market. An additional factor to bear in mind in innovation ecosystems is the fact that regulation in final product markets may inhibit innovation in some cases.

Research, development, and innovation, she underlined, are necessary to increase the region's competitiveness, productivity, and well-being of its population, echoing the views of SEGIB's Secretary General, Rebeca Grynspan.

### **Goe Rojas Hernández, Vice Rector, Uniempresarial Foundation, Colombia**

Goe Rojas described how firms in Latin America and in particular Colombia often encounter a lack of skilled workforce. To attend this, Uniempresarial Foundation has put in place an internship program that combines theory and practice, with the objective of better matching skills firms need and those available in the job market. The right balance between theory and practice is achieved through the design of academic and internship programmes in close coordination between companies and academic institutions. As a result, firms have reported increases in productivity. This programme is also under way in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico.



### **Alonso Arturo Segura Vasi, Minister of Economy and Finance, Peru**



Minister Segura stressed Peru's strong policy focus on human capital (comprising expenditure in education and productive transformation), infrastructure, innovation, productive diversification and competitiveness. Along these lines, the country increased the budget appropriated by expenditures in education and innovation, carried out reforms in the academic curriculum and in teachers' performance evaluation and provided fiscal incentives for innovation.

With regard to competitiveness-related policies, the country's efforts have been centred on solving market failures. Further, investment in infrastructure has increased, mostly through public and private partnerships (PPP) schemes.

Minister Segura concluded that inequality should be placed at the core of all growth strategies. .

### Sergio de la Torre, Minister of Economy, Guatemala

Minister de la Torre observed that contrary to the current situation in the region, Guatemala is not suffering the negative effects of trade shock. The country has launched a process of trade openness, diversification of exports, and regional integration, which increases its companies' economies of scale and attracts investment as a result of Guatemala's participation in larger markets.

Minister de la Torre presented the country's development plan which seeks to meet the following objectives: i) to become the logistical centre of Central America as well as one of the energetic hubs in the region, through both energy the production and exports; ii) to implement the National Agenda of Competitiveness 2012-2021. Complementary policies to attain the above objectives include, *inter alia*, strengthened cooperation with the private sector continued capacity building of workers for which a public training institute has been set up and financed by deducting a small on each firm's payroll expenses.



## Closing Speeches



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



Minister Macron reiterated the need for an ever closer relationship with Latin America to tackle the current economic global challenges. Minister Macron called for key reforms with a view to increase investment restore market access from vested interests which have taken over regulatory power, ensure the economic climate for unleashing growth, as well as restoring credibility and confidence in government actions.

In the same vein, there is a need for public and private investment to reinforce regional integration, stability and growth potential. Investing in education to ensure that the labour force has the right skills in the evolving economy is of paramount importance. Likewise, investing in ecologically friendly technologies for ensuring environmentally sustainable growth is also fundamental. To this end, industrial policies can help boosting start-ups in innovative industries and support the transition to renewable energy technologies.

By way of reforming, investing and effectively integrating within the region and beyond, both France and Latin America can live up to the regional and international challenges.

## Luis Guillermo Solís, President of the Republic of Costa Rica



President Solís expressed his concern about the trends in dwindling trust in institutions, wavering trust between public and private actors, and even trust between citizens. This demands transparent and accountable action in reform in investment, innovation and education sectors. President Solís underscored the Latin America’s outstanding natural and human wealth. He commended the region for its progress in regional integration, harnessing spill-overs and improving social mobility and resilience, though productivity, reducing inequality, and inclusive and sustainable growth remain unfinished tasks. .

It is up to every country to identify its own path to development and tools contributing to an enabling environment for development. Along these lines, Costa Rica has embraced its natural resources in promoting sustainable development. For greater impact, international cooperation on environmental issues is crucial. The COP 21 meeting in Paris in December presents the next opportunity to make real progress, as “there is no planet B”, he declared.

President Solís asserted that growth without wellbeing is worthless. It needs to incorporate social cohesion and environmental sustainability. Costa Rica is a willing partner in sharing its experiences in these areas. It is a small and thriving economy, which is highly integrated globally, while focusing on its people and its environment. The president concluded by calling the region “to work together to reach the region’s true potential”.

## Media outreach



The Forum was well attended by the media, including news agencies, TV, print, radio and online media, with over 40 media representatives present for the event.

The OECD Development Centre had the pleasure to collaborate with three media partner – **devex, El Financiero/Bloomberg and RFI.**

Some headlines following the Forum are:

- [AL desaprovechó década de bonanza para hacer reformas: Gurría](#) El Financiero
- [Considera Gurría que América Latina desaprovechó década de bonanza](#) Notimex
- [Latin America welcomes closer ties with China: experts /América Latina da bienvenida a estrechas relaciones con China, dicen expertos / 财经观察：拉美为何乐与中国深化合作？](#) Xinhua (picked up by main media)
- [Montás viaja a Francia](#) Almomento.net
- [Se realizará foro sobre desarrollo sostenible en Francia](#) TRT Español
- [El BID alerta que Latinoamérica invierte la mitad de lo que debería en infraestructuras](#) Ultima Hora
- [Segura: Gobierno está enfocado en invertir en educación y promover innovación](#) Andina
- [Temístocles viaja a Francia para participar en foro sobre desarrollo sostenible](#) Noticias SIN
- [La necesidad de conectar la educación](#) Toyoutome blog
- [Arce dice que Bolivia creció 4,6% al primer trimestre en relación a 2014](#) Los Tiempos
- [MEF: La inversión pública sumó S/. 8191 millones](#) El Peruano
- [América Latina desaprovechó bonanza: Gurría](#) El Mexicano
- [Desigualdad + mal humor social: una peligrosa fórmula](#) Estrategia & Negocios
- [Solís reitera compromiso para concluir proceso de adhesión a la OCDE en 2018](#) EL Mundo Costa Rica
- [Arce: Éxito económico del país está en solución de problemas](#) Diario Pagina Siete
- [Economía latinoamericana "pierde potencia"](#) Estrategia & Negocios
- [Inovação, o grande desafio contra a crise na A.Latina](#) R7
- [Necesarias reglas contra fuga de capitales de Latinoamérica: CEPAL](#) Veracruzanos.info
- [BID: Latinoamérica invierte la mitad de lo que debería en infraestructuras](#) La Vanguardia
- [Gurría advierte de que Latinoamérica se está quedando atrás en las reformas](#) EFE
- [Francia apoya ingreso de Costa Rica en OCDE](#) NetNoticiasMx
- [La OCDE dice que América Latina "pierde potencia" por las dificultades de dos gigantes: Brasil y Argentina](#) Los Andes
- [América Latina es la región 'más desigual' del mundo, según la OCDE](#) El Tiempo
- [Considera Gurría que América Latina desaprovechó década de bonanza](#) Radio Formula
- [América Latina: la región "más desigual" del mundo](#) RCN Radio blog
- [La economía de América Latina "pierde potencia"](#) Swissinfo
- [La economía de América Latina "pierde potencia" y crecerá menos en 2015](#) El Economista
- [Economía da América Latina perde potencia](#) O Globo
- ["Não acreditamos no mercado", afirma ministro boliviano em Paris](#) RFI
- [L'Amérique latine en panne de croissance](#) Le Figaro
- [Getting ready for the next wave: Towards a more dynamic and inclusive Latin America](#) Europe's World

## Web and social media visibility



A Twitter wall gave the chance to the audience to share questions and reactions via their laptops and cell phones during the event. Throughout the different sessions, Ministers, panel members and the audience were sending tweets and comments that were projected on the screen, allowing the moderator and panellists to initiate discussions on this base.

Numerous tweets were sent with the #LACFORUM hash tag on 5 June and in the days before and after the Forum. According to the Tweetreach application, tweets using the #LACFORUM hash tag reached 2 351 485 accounts and generated an estimated 14 866 095 impressions:

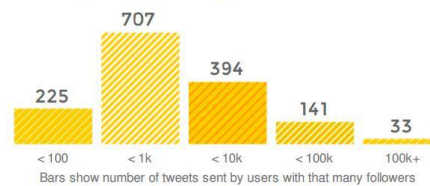
### TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR # LACFORUM

#### ESTIMATED REACH

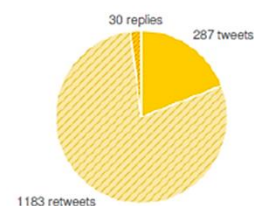
**2,351,485**  
ACCOUNTS REACHED

#### EXPOSURE

**14,866,095** IMPRESSIONS



#### ACTIVITY



Follow the OECD Development Centre on Twitter @OECD\_Centre for the latest news and information about the OECD Development Centre's events and publications.

The LAC Forum 2015 official photo album on the OECD Development Centre's Flickr registered 91 visits in the days following the event. Discover the highlights of the Forum in pictures [here](#).

The official website of the Forum ([www.oecd.org/site/lacforum](http://www.oecd.org/site/lacforum)) generated around 5000 visits since the launch of the 2015 edition in the beginning of April.

# 2015 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



## About the 7<sup>th</sup> International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean

The 7th edition of the International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean provided opportunity to discuss challenges and to share solutions regarding sustainable economic development in the region. The economic slowdown that began in Latin America in 2010 is continuing. According to preliminary data, the region's economy grew slightly over 1% in 2014 (compared with 2.5% in 2013 and 2.9% in 2012), less than the OECD average for the first time in ten years. In 2015, growth is expected to reach a feeble 1%. These developments will be driven by the less favourable international climate of the past five years, due to lower commodity prices (especially for oil, metals and minerals), and the economic slowdown in China. Also of note is the rising cost of external financing and more restrained capital inflow prospects due to the tightening of US monetary policy.

Education, skills and innovation are key areas to enable more Latin American countries to escape the middle-income trap and strengthen the region's emerging middle class. Improvements to the stock and quality of education and skills, together with a stable macroeconomic context and an innovation-friendly environment, determine countries' capacity to direct their growth models towards higher value-added activities. Investment in human capital drives long-term economic growth and is an essential part of any inclusive-growth strategy. It is therefore necessary to improve equality of opportunity and social mobility by limiting the effect of people's socio-economic background and informal employment on their access to high-quality education at all levels. Efforts to improve education and skills will only raise labour productivity, create high-quality jobs and reduce the size of the informal economy if they are supported by greater innovation.

The Forum is the annual meeting of policy makers, economists, researchers and high-level representatives from the private sector, working on and with Latin America. Since 2009, more than 400 participants have met every year to discuss the performance of Latin American and Caribbean economies and the major challenges faced by the continent.

## 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 nine member countries from the Latin America and Caribbean region. The 2015 edition of the Centre's *Latin American Economic Outlook* looks at the theme of education and skills for structural change and development -- [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 for Finance and Public Accounts and the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector of France design and implement government policy in the areas of economy, finance, consumer affairs and fraud control, foreign trade, industry, energy, and the digital economy -- [www.economie.gouv.fr](http://www.economie.gouv.fr)

## Media Partners

