



Work Programme for 2026-2029

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INTRODUCTION

More than five years after the launch of the 2030 Agenda, the Latin American and Caribbean region is at a turning point, marked by profound political, economic, social and environmental transformations that require a renewed commitment to regional integration, sustainable development and productive innovation, presenting constant structural challenges and great opportunities for convergence towards more inclusive and resilient growth.

In recent years, several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have begun to implement policies aimed at productive recovery and structural transformation, with encouraging results that need greater momentum and institutional heterogeneity. Regional initiatives such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) action plan for recovery and sustainable development; the MSME digitalisation programmes promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the green financing mechanisms promoted by CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean; combined with close cooperation with extra-regional partners, have demonstrated our region's capacity to generate coordinated responses to common challenges.

Positively, these efforts have strengthened technical cooperation, modernised regulatory frameworks and accelerated investment in sustainable and digital infrastructure, creating favourable conditions for productive diversification and energy transition. However, it is necessary to provide continuity in public policies and work closely to reduce gaps in technical capacities between countries in order to consolidate the progress made and expand its scale through more integrated regional planning, with a view to translating existing initiatives into sustainable and lasting transformations.

In this context, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), as an intergovernmental organisation, in its technical capacity and firmly upholding the mandate of its Member States, focuses its actions on building a more prosperous, competitive and inclusive region through the Work Programme for 2026-2029, which is structured around three interconnected strategic areas that link regional priorities with the 2030 Agenda, namely: Area I) Economic Development; Area II) Digitalisation and Infrastructure; and Area III) Social Development. Each of these areas is supported by specific objectives and multi-year programmes that give rise to annual projects and activities of significant importance with concrete and measurable outcomes.

The strategies developed have a tangible and lasting impact and seek to promote productive investment, strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises, facilitate trade, diversify exports and benefit the inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean. Their purpose is to foster the creation of quality jobs, improve competitiveness and promote regional integration into global value chains, while accelerating digital transformation, fostering connectivity, strengthening technological sovereignty, and advancing towards a clean energy transition. These goals result in concrete initiatives such as the development of a regional network of data centres, training programmes in artificial intelligence, and green infrastructure projects, highlighting the need to combine technological investment, human talent training, and regulatory cooperation. Likewise, SELA focuses its efforts on social cohesion, inclusion and protection against risks. Its lines of action prioritise food security, the circular economy, human mobility and comprehensive disaster risk management, seeking to reduce vulnerabilities and guarantee the rights of all citizens by aligning its activities and programmes with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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SELA certainly plays a coordinating role by preparing comparative assessments, creating opportunities for dialogue between States and the public and private sectors, and optimising the development of business strengthening programmes aimed at innovation and productive digitalisation. In turn, it facilitates framework agreements that promote sovereign digital infrastructure, organises spaces for the exchange of best practices, and promotes regional platforms aimed at sustainable technological solutions. The transnational nature of vulnerability requires coordinated responses, and SELA contributes by systematising best practices, providing technical assistance, and coordinating cooperation networks for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The design of this programme is based on a structural analysis of the interrelationships and dependencies between the thematic areas, which determined that the areas related to social development and digitalisation have a greater influence on regional dynamics, while the issues of economic recovery and MSMEs are highly dependent. This interrelationship reinforces a comprehensive approach in which each initiative contributes to the joint achievement of the programme's objectives and the SDGs. Overall, SELA's Work Programme for 2026-2029 aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of member countries, promote technical cooperation and generate innovative solutions that enhance regional resilience in the face of present and future challenges.

SELA firmly reaffirms its role as a coordinating, training and initiative-taking body through the optimal promotion of inclusive and sustainable public policies, establishing strategic partnerships that facilitate regional integration and productive transformation, demonstrating that regional integration is viable, positive and encouraging.

THEMATIC AREA I – ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Following the post-pandemic economic recovery period, Latin America and the Caribbean maintained growth of around 2% in 2024, exceeding initial forecasts of 1.7% and projecting a growth rate of 2.3% for 2025. However, these rates are not sufficient to meet the region's socio-economic needs, which include reducing poverty, informality and structural productivity gaps (IDB, 2024).

It is important to understand that the global environment can offer the region opportunities for growth, including the realignment of global supply chains, industrial relocation (nearshoring), and the strengthening of subregional markets, all of which can be catalysts for development. Currently, intra-regional trade accounts for only 15% of total Latin American trade, compared to 55% in Asia and 68% in Europe, which shows untapped potential (IDB 2024).

Food security also faces significant risks. Although the region is a major food producer and exporter, millions of people suffer from food insecurity. The report “Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2024” emphasises that strengthening sustainable agricultural production is a key strategy for ensuring food security in the region. This approach seeks to transform agri-food systems towards more resilient, sustainable and inclusive models capable of addressing current and future challenges, especially those arising from climate change. A central element is the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural production, incorporating sustainable practices such as crop diversification and the use of technologies adapted to increasingly variable environmental conditions. These practices not only contribute to ecological sustainability but also strengthen the stability of food supplies.

The report also emphasises the need to develop public policies that support family farmers and small producers, who are key players in food production in the region. However, they face multiple structural barriers, such as limited access to rural credit, technical assistance, agricultural education and insurance that would enable them to manage climate and economic risks. Overcoming these obstacles is essential to move towards more equitable and resilient agri-food systems (FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF, 2025).

Considering this scenario, SELA proposes the design of initiatives that promote innovation, investment, trade facilitation and capacity building in the SME business ecosystem, so that Latin America and the Caribbean can advance in their economic development process. Through the Economic Development thematic area, the aim is to boost regional growth and food security by strengthening integration processes and contributing to the design of public policies that facilitate trade, the promotion of SMEs and sustainable and resilient agriculture. These proposals are systematised in the implementation of three programmes: (I) Economic Integration, (II) Trade Facilitation and (III) SELA-SMEs:

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PROGRAMME I: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Coordinated decision-making to face adverse circumstances continues to be a challenge for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. The integration of common regional agendas represents an opportunity to implement actions that increase the efficiency and competitiveness of sectors, promote macroeconomic stability of countries, expand market access, and foster political cooperation, for the benefit of sustainable development in the region. In this regard, this programme aims to:

Continue to promote a common regional agenda among integration blocs for the development of economic policies that contribute to the growth of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This programme consists of:

PROJECT A. PROMOTION OF PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT AND TRADE FACILITATION. This project includes five activities aimed at promoting progress in regional integration and its relationship with other regions.

ACTIVITY 1. Trade facilitation and investment: regional integration mechanisms

Activity: regular

Format: internal activity

Partner organisations and/or countries: open to all

Regular updating of the trade database is an essential activity to ensure the availability of reliable, timely and systematic information for users, facilitating their access to regional and international trade statistics and trends, strengthening transparency and economic integration, and providing the institution with a technical tool that improves internal analysis capacity, as well as the preparation of specialised studies and the formulation of evidence-based trade policy proposals.

In this regard, this database, updated in 2022, is a high value-added service that contributes to the fulfilment of institutional objectives, enhancing regional analytical capacity and strengthening the organisation's position as a benchmark in economic and commercial information, allowing for the systematic and periodic refinement of trade statistics, ensuring the accessibility of the database for internal and external users, incorporating new variables and classifications that improve the quality of the analysis and using the database as the main input for the preparation of studies, reports and institutional analyses.

The number of updates made during the established period can be tracked through the update logs in the system, or through the number of internal and external users who access the database, whose access reports and usage statistics are recorded on the network. Likewise, the number of new variables and classifications incorporated in each update cycle can be verified through the database's technical documentation.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

1 NO POVERTY



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 2. Roundtable of chairs and secretariats of regional integration mechanisms: infrastructure and regional cooperation

Activity: updated

Format: face-to-face (Uruguay)

Partner organisations and/or countries: Pacific Alliance (PA); Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP); Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Andean Community (CAN), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC); Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR); Central American Integration System (SICA).

After identifying specific actions and programmes through working groups and thematic seminars held annually since 2022, in line with efforts to avoid duplication of duties and make more efficient use of resources in the various activities of regional integration entities, thematic working groups will be established to refine the matrices of convergence actions and programmes, identifying joint actions aimed at advancing the development of implementation and coordination strategies among the various integration bodies in the region on priority issues.

The main purpose will be to construct a Single Convergence Matrix that facilitates the design of strategies and public policy recommendations that stimulate progress in the integration processes of Latin America and the Caribbean. The results obtained during this process of construction and discussion will be reflected in various deliverables, including two detailed reports containing recommendations and conclusions derived from the working groups. Work will also be done on a roadmap with the main activities for each entity to be consolidated as a regional roadmap for impact activities.

Based on the aforementioned reports, sectoral meetings will be held with the aim of consolidating regional proposals that may be led by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA or by the integration mechanism whose experience and best practices stand out in the specific area. At the same time, SELA will disseminate the progress and importance of the issue through presentations at various regional forums, sharing experiences and lessons learned during the inter-secretariat work process.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

1 NO POVERTY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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ACTIVITY 3. III Forum on investment cooperation between China and Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity: regular

Format: hybrid (China)

Partner organisations and/or countries: all member states and China

The productive transformation and integration of LAC into global value chains require not only highly skilled human capital, but also strategic investments, technological innovation and regulatory frameworks that facilitate trade. China, as a global leader in innovation, advanced manufacturing and strategic sectors, is also a key partner in driving agricultural modernisation in LAC through technological cooperation, the digitalisation of production processes and the transfer of applied knowledge.

This third edition, to be held in China, aims to serve as a high-level forum for dialogue to: 1) promote the training of public officials in strategic areas; 2) generate joint investment initiatives in innovation and sustainable agriculture; 3) promote trade facilitation and regulatory standardisation, reducing barriers and strengthening regional competitiveness.

The Forum aims to identify priority areas of high value added (e.g. artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, agricultural digitalisation), design joint China-LAC technological cooperation strategies for the modernisation of the agricultural sector and the strengthening of food security, advance proposals for the selection and training of LAC human capital in specialised programmes in China, define joint investment mechanisms in strategic sectors that enhance productivity and sustainability in LAC, and promote trade facilitation and the standardisation of regional regulations, reducing transaction costs and expanding LAC's integration into global value chains.

The main purpose will be to draft a consensus-based regional document prioritising strategic areas for joint training and investment; a technological cooperation plan for agriculture, with pilot projects between Chinese and Latin American institutions; a regional proposal for the selection and training of civil servants in training programmes in China; a roadmap for trade facilitation and standardisation of regulations, agreed upon by LAC countries and China as a strategic partner; and the identification of financial and joint investment mechanisms that link human capital, technological cooperation and trade. A publication on the topics discussed at the Second Forum held in June 2025 in Peru will also be presented in order to continue strengthening the subject matter.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 4. Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: poverty eradication**Activity:** regular**Format:** hybrid (China)**Partner organisations and/or countries:** China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2024), although progress in reducing poverty in Latin America has been slow over the last decade, in 2023 the region achieved its lowest poverty rate since 1990. That year, 27.3% of the Latin American population was living in poverty, representing a decrease of 1.5 percentage points compared to 2022 and more than 5 percentage points compared to 2020, the most critical year of the COVID-19 pandemic (ECLAC, 2024).

In this context, SELA will join the activities surrounding the *CELAC-China Forum on Poverty Reduction and Development* for the exchange of best practices, with a view to maximising the activities and efforts carried out within the framework of this forum and strengthening the development of the *China-Caribbean Development Centre* to support the sustainable development of Caribbean countries. A Handbook of Recommendations on the topics addressed is expected to be published, and a roadmap for cooperation between China and the region in the fight against poverty will be proposed.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**1** NO POVERTY**2** ZERO HUNGER**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**ACTIVITY 5. V Workshop on public policies based on behavioural economics: labour regulation****Activity:** regular**Format:** Face-to-face in the Dominican Republic**Partner organisations and/or countries:** Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The fifth edition of the workshop on public policies based on behavioural economics will be held in the Dominican Republic. Its main objective is to train public policy makers in the application of behavioural economics principles and tools in our region. Participants will acquire practical and procedural knowledge for the design and implementation of more effective public policies.

Participants are expected to develop public policy intervention proposals using a behavioural approach. These proposals will be compiled in a document to be delivered at the end of the activity, reflecting the innovative ideas and approaches used by participants during the workshop. In terms of expected results, the aim is to contribute to the design of strategies based on behavioural economics as an integral part of the improvement of public policy at the local level.

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Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PROGRAMME II: TRADE FACILITATION

Trade in the region has been severely affected by the disruption of global supply chains as a result of regional political differences and armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, as well as rising prices due to inflation. In this regard, this Programme aims to:

Design public policies to reduce costs and the hurdles to trade, open new markets and find a niche for Latin America and the Caribbean trade in the international markets.

This programme is composed of two projects:

PROJECT A. NETWORK OF DIGITAL AND COLLABORATIVE PORTS. Consisting of four activities to be conducted in 2026, with the aim of further promoting and consolidating the region's port logistics communities. The process of granting the Network legal personality (institutionalising it) will continue, in order to maintain the levels of recognition, legitimacy and cohesion of its members.

ACTIVITY 1. Seminar: Cooperation in transport infrastructure and systems to strengthen regional trade integration
Activity: new
Format: hybrid
Partner organisations and/or countries: officials responsible for transport matters in SELA member countries.

In May 2026, the *Seminar: Cooperation in transport infrastructure and systems to strengthen regional trade integration* will be held, with the aim of strengthening communication in transport cooperation and logistics projects (roads, ports, railways, etc.), contributing to the strengthening of the Network of Digital and Collaborative Ports.

A manual will be developed that will include recommendations and/or best practices presented by participants in the various sessions of the Seminar. This document will serve as a practical guide for stakeholders in the transport sector, promoting joint efforts to build cooperation mechanisms, resolve trade disputes through constructive dialogue, manage trade frictions appropriately, and address unilateral coercive measures that affect the economy, trade, and investment.

Several indicators will be used to evaluate the progress and impact of this activity. In terms of process, the creation of a concept note, a detailed agenda, the announcement of the event, and its logistical organisation

will be measured. Output indicators will include the holding of the seminar and the documents produced as a result of the event.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 2. III Seminar on women in maritime and port security

Activity: updated

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: OAS, RedMAMLa, officials responsible for maritime and port issues among SELA members

The incorporation of a gender perspective in the areas of port security and safety will continue to be promoted. The first edition of the seminar “Women in maritime and port security” was held virtually in 2024, creating a space for technical dialogue on women’s participation in maritime security. The second edition, held in 2025, delved deeper into the challenges facing the maritime sector, highlighting the role of training and institutional cooperation as key instruments for the empowerment of women in the port sector.

The third edition, scheduled for June 2026, will focus on consolidating a professional space linked to maritime and port protection, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experiences and innovative strategies that strengthen the security of ports in Latin America and the Caribbean. This meeting will seek to integrate technological advances and new challenges in cybersecurity, sustainability and risk management, reaffirming SELA’s commitment to promoting safe, inclusive and resilient working environments in the maritime and port sector.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 3. IX Annual Regional Meeting of Port Logistics Communities

Activity: regular

Format: hybrid (face-to-face in Mexico)

Partner organisations and/or countries: officials responsible for maritime and port affairs in SELA membership

SELA will hold the IX Annual Regional Meeting of Port Logistics Communities in Mexico. This activity, which will be held in person and virtually, is a regular event whose main objective is to promote regional coordination and integration processes. It provides a space for ongoing and initiative-taking debate on

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significant issues related to port logistics communities, addressing regulatory, technical, technological, commercial and governance aspects.

The main deliverable of this activity will be a Roadmap defining the processes that must be followed to achieve the goals set for 2030. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed to clarify the functional aspects and cooperation objectives with a view to institutionalising the Network. On this occasion, SELA will assume the Technical Secretariat of the Network, and the action committees that will conduct activities within the framework of this process will be defined. A report will be prepared that will include recommendations, conclusions and/or best practices presented by the participants in the various sessions of the Meeting. This document will serve as a practical guide for stakeholders involved in the logistics and port sector.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 4. Institutionalisation of the Network of Digital and Collaborative Ports

Activity: regular

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: officials responsible for maritime and port affairs in SELA membership

During 2026, the Network of Digital and Collaborative Ports, a phase that began at the end of 2025, will continue to be strengthened. To that end, the database of focal points in the Network will be updated in order to continue strengthening governance and ensuring the continuity of regional cooperation in port and logistics matters, with a view to institutionalising the Network by 2030.

The main purpose is to reactivate the Network and relaunch it with the holding of the *IX Annual Regional Meeting of Port Logistics Communities*, as well as to announce the renewal of its website, in order to add files and laws on port matters from each country. The Network currently comprises 13 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



PROJECT B. TRADE PROMOTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. Consisting of two activities aimed at strengthening competition rules and promoting better functioning of markets in the countries of the region, to be conducted in 2026.

The central focus of this project is to conduct activities related to training in trade and competition, as well as to publish documents containing recommendations and best practices on secure trade corridors, e-commerce, patents and intellectual property rights, and to evaluate their scaling up at the regional level.

ACTIVITY 1. II Academic forum on competition in Latin America and the Caribbean: promotion, prevention and enforcement in free competition

Activity: updated

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: Superintendency of Industry and Trade of Colombia, SELA membership

As part of the *XIII Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition in Latin America and the Caribbean (WGTC-LAC)*, a forum will be held to exchange experiences and promote academic research on competition. This initiative stems from the need to consolidate competitive markets in the region, translating academic evidence and practical experiences into effective tools for promoting and enforcing free competition. The forum will address the promotion, prevention and enforcement of free competition, seeking to strengthen its observance and application among public and private stakeholders.

The objective of the forum is to create a technical and academic space for the exchange of experiences on the regulation and administration of competition policies among countries in the region. By bringing together authorities, academics, the private sector and civil society, it seeks to identify the most pressing challenges for strengthening regulatory frameworks and the effective enforcement of competition law. It will also share the results of academic research that will serve as input for authorities and other interested parties, enriching the discussions of the WGTC-LAC.

As a result of this activity, a document of best practices and recommendations will be prepared, and a digital repository will be created with the panellists' presentations.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



12

ACTIVITY 2. XIII Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Competition in Latin America and the Caribbean (WGTC-LAC) on trade barriers

Activity: rescheduled

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: OECD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), SELA membership

The XIII Annual Meeting of the WGTC-LAC will focus on the role of competition authorities in removing technical, legal and administrative barriers that limit free trade, with special reference to aspects related to international trade and protectionism that arise through measures that, in some way, affect trade by increasing costs and reducing effective competition in the region's markets.

Recognising that these restrictions hinder efficiency, productivity and regional integration, this edition will seek to identify, prioritise and propose viable solutions. The meeting will focus on incorporating comparative experiences and criteria that promote regulatory consistency and transparency, with the added value of producing a document of public policy recommendations to guide future decision-making.

In addition, the *III International Forum on Gender and Competition Law* will be held within the framework of this meeting with the aim of strengthening the capacity of competition authorities to detect and correct specific barriers faced by women, thereby creating a more competitive environment free of inequalities that limit the region's economic growth potential. The outcome will be technical documents derived from the activity and a digital repository with contributions from the panellists.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



PROGRAMME III: SMEs



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a key role in the economic development of Latin American and Caribbean countries. They represent a large part of the region's business fabric and contribute significantly to generating employment, stimulating innovation, promoting poverty reduction, and stimulating long-term economic growth. In this regard, this programme aims to:

Design public policies that reduce costs and barriers to trade, open new markets, and position LAC trade in international markets.

This Programme comprises two projects:

PROJECT A. PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. Comprising eight activities to stimulate long-term economic growth.

ACTIVITY 1. Strengthening sustainable agricultural production by identifying potential sectors in LAC

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: FAO, Datawheel, Barbados, Nicaragua, Uruguay

The report "Regional overview of food security and nutrition 2024" emphasises that strengthening sustainable agricultural production is a key strategy for ensuring food security in LAC. This approach seeks to transform agri-food systems towards more resilient, sustainable and inclusive models capable of addressing current and future challenges, especially those arising from climate change.

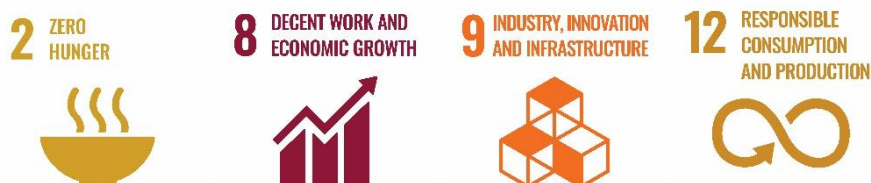
Given that agriculture is a key driver of employment and rural livelihoods, this activity will implement a methodology to map sectors with comparative advantages and intra-regional complementarities, as well as identify and characterise productive niches (crops/activities, associated links and services) with potential for sustainable scaling up and commercial linkages. Results will be validated with local actors and proposals will be

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developed for prioritised chains that include climate adaptation and agroecological transition measures to generate public policy recommendations and facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices in the identified niches.

The outcome of this activity will be a report identifying sustainable agricultural sectors and prioritised production niches, a map showing the number of niches/value chains identified and characterised as having potential for sustainable scaling up, including climate adaptation and agroecological transition measures, and the number of public policy recommendations formulated and shared with partner countries.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 2. Formulation of sustainable projects in the agricultural sector: training for access to financing

Activity: new

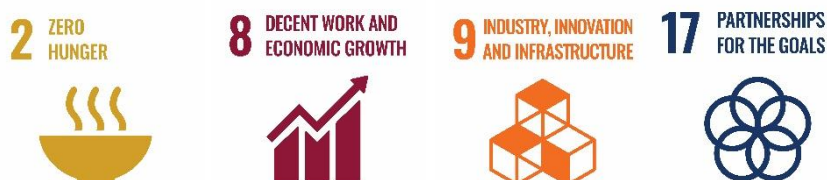
Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: ECLAC-ILPES. Open to SELA membership

This activity proposes training to provide officials with methodological and management tools that strengthen institutional capacity to structure sustainable projects, negotiate resources with financial institutions, and ensure greater effectiveness in public policies aimed at the agricultural sector, considering the relevance of access to finance, as this continues to be one of the main barriers preventing small and medium-sized farmers in LAC from modernising their production and incorporating sustainable practices. According to the FAO and IFAD (2024), more than 70% of family farmers in the region lack access to formal credit, which limits investment in resilient technologies and basic infrastructure to improve productivity and sustainability.

Thus, SELA will provide civil servants with methodological tools for formulating agricultural projects based on criteria of sustainability, climate resilience and inclusion. It will also promote the creation of institutional pilot projects that can serve as a basis for funding applications, thereby fostering inter-institutional coordination and improving the management of programmes and policies supporting the agricultural sector. This activity will contribute to the training of public officials involved in the formulation of sustainable projects. As a result of this activity, a publication will be produced as a methodological guide for project formulation, which will include the number of financing mechanisms mapped and systematised, as well as the number of pilot projects designed (project bank).

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 3. Technical roundtables for the dissemination of best practices for regional sustainable agriculture (proposed production: avocado, rice)

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

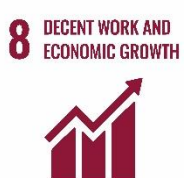
Partner organisations and/or countries: Guyana

The production of crops such as avocados and rice has been strategic for Latin America and the Caribbean, both for their economic importance and their role in food security. However, they face challenges related to productivity, climate change and water availability. According to the FAO (2024), more than 40% of small farmers in LAC lack access to modern irrigation technologies and improved seeds, which limits crop resilience.

In this context, SELA will hold two specialised technical roundtables to identify regional challenges, opportunities and synergies related to these products, promote cooperation among countries, and facilitate the adoption of more sustainable, resilient and inclusive production practices. This activity will analyse the main challenges and opportunities for sustainability, productivity and market access for avocados and rice in LAC, as well as promote the exchange of experiences on public policies, technologies and sustainable practices applied to both crops, identify financing and regional cooperation mechanisms to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of these value chains, and generate proposals for joint action to promote compliance with international standards and the integration of producers into high-value markets.

The process indicators will be defined based on the number of technical roundtables held and the percentage of sessions that include field visits or practical activities. The output indicator will be the percentage of participants who demonstrate increased knowledge after training and a roadmap for implementing innovative and sustainable practices, while the outcome indicators will be the number of innovative practices identified during field visits.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 4. Innovation and sustainability in tourism services: best practices for climate adaptation

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: Venezuela (La Guaira State)

Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for an average of 10% of regional GDP and is a key source of employment and investment (WTO, 2024). However, it is among the sectors most vulnerable to climate change: natural phenomena such as hurricanes, sea level rise, heat waves and droughts impact infrastructure, biodiversity and the stability of tourism services. According to the WTO (2024) and the IDB (2023), sustainable tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean requires not only the integration of climate efficiency and adaptation practices, but also environmental education for visitors, so that each tourist experience contributes to the conservation of ecosystems.

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This initiative aims to promote a pilot model of sustainable tourism that conveys ecological practices to visitors and encourages active respect for local fauna and flora, raising environmental awareness and strengthening the destination's climate resilience; identify the current state of sustainability in tourism services in the selected area; train tourism providers in the implementation and communication of visitor-oriented ecological practices; and design replicable materials that strengthen environmental education for tourists.

The outcome indicators will be the percentage of participants who demonstrate increased knowledge after training, the mapping of tourism operators with sustainable practices, and the number of educational materials designed and applied in tourism services.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 5. Boosting growth through better public policies for MSMEs

Activity: updated

Format: face-to-face and virtual.

Partner organisations and/or countries: CAF, OECD, 9 countries

MSMEs account for 90% of productive units in Latin America and the Caribbean and generate nearly 60% of formal employment. However, factors such as limited productive capacities, informality and specialisation in raw materials contribute to this productivity gap, as almost 50% of SMEs operate informally and face constraints in accessing skilled human resources, infrastructure, and management and technological capabilities (ILO, 2022). In this regard, it is essential that any initiative aimed at MSMEs promotes their productivity and competitiveness, for example, by improving the institutional and regulatory environment. In this regard, SELA has focused on strengthening institutional capacities to design more effective public policies that promote the growth of MSMEs.

That is why, as part of the implementation and follow-up of the recommendations derived from the Latin American and Caribbean Public Policy Index for MSMEs (IPPALC), the Network of Best Practices in Policies for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (RED-PPALC) was formed. The Network is coordinated by SELA, CAF and the OECD, with the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Among the topics addressed by the Network is the institutional framework, which addresses the formality of the business sector, one of the main structural challenges facing LAC countries, which has a direct impact on job insecurity and underemployment.

This initiative seeks to facilitate the systematic exchange of best practices and create spaces for dialogue to share experiences aimed at improving the productivity of SMEs and strengthening their contribution to sustainable economic development. It also seeks to facilitate the implementation of IPPALC recommendations at the national level and promote integration among LAC countries on SME policy issues, creating synergies between subregional and regional integration blocs. It also aims to raise the political profile of the MSME agenda to the highest levels of regional and international decision-making.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**ACTIVITY 6.****Evaluation of public policies for MSMEs in Central America****Activity:** new**Format:** face-to-face (actions 1, 5 and 6) / virtual**Partner organisations and/or countries:** OECD, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic

Due to the successful implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Public Policy Index for MSMEs (IPPALC) in South America in 2019 and 2024, covering nine countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay), it is necessary to expand the use of the tool in the region in order to extend its coverage of analysis. In 2026, the index will be implemented in the following countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

This implementation is possible thanks to the recent update of the methodology and dimensions that led to the 2024 publication. In this regard, the index evaluates eight dimensions, namely: institutional framework; operating environment and simplification of procedures; access to finance; business development services and public procurement; innovation and technology; productive transformation; market access and internationalisation; and digitalisation. In addition, the Central American edition will include the dimension of Green Economy and will address gender policies in a cross-cutting manner. It should be noted that this initiative is being implemented with the support of CAF and the OECD.

The objectives are to collect information on the conditions of the environment in which MSMEs are created, grow and transform; to quantify and analyse the degree of development of public policies in the dimensions of analysis covered by the index, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of MSME support programmes; and to compare MSME policies implemented with international standards and best practices.

Six actions will be conducted during 2026: 1) project launch meeting, 2) country self-assessment, 3) independent assessment, 4) reconciliation meetings, 5) preliminary results workshop, 6) drafting and analysis of the report with the results obtained. According to the work schedule, in 2027, the results will be presented, and the delivery of the results report will be formalised. The process indicators will be the number of questionnaires completed and validated per country. The product indicator will be the preliminary report with scores per dimension and recommendations. The outcome indicator will be the number of countries that incorporate the IPPALC recommendations into their public policy plans for MSMEs.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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ACTIVITY 7. Workshop on public policy impact assessment

Activity: new.

Format: hybrid or virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: CAF

One of the main challenges identified by SELA, in conjunction with the OECD and CAF, is the weakness of the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating public policies implemented for the MSME environment, which limits the ability of governments to measure the real impact of their interventions. In this context, SELA has prioritised strengthening technical capacities in impact assessment as part of the implementation of the Public Policy Index for MSMEs (IPPALC). This tool has revealed that many countries lack robust systems for evaluating the efficiency of their policies, which prevents evidence-based decision-making.

It should be noted that impact assessment has established itself as a key tool for improving the quality of public policies. According to CAF, this type of assessment makes it possible to identify the causal effects of a policy on the expected results, differentiating between what really works and what does not. In addition, it generates robust evidence that can be used to reformulate, scale up or eliminate programmes, optimising the use of public resources and strengthening accountability. For this reason, it is proposed to hold a training workshop on public policy impact assessment techniques, aimed at public officials in the MSME ecosystem.

This activity aims to strengthen institutional capacities to evaluate the impact of public policies aimed at MSMEs, promote a culture of evidence-based decision-making, and encourage the implementation of more efficient reforms aligned with international best practices.

The product will be measured using the technical materials provided and the workshop summary, while the outcome will be the number of institutions willing to incorporate impact assessment techniques into their policy formulation and review processes. A publication on best practices will be produced on the topic presented at the Network meeting.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 8. Smart Coffee Seminar: AI for innovation and sustainability in agribusiness in Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity: rescheduled

Date: April

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: Colombia, Venezuela, FAO.

The agricultural sector is a strategic pillar for Latin America and the Caribbean due to its capacity to generate employment, value added and contribute to global food security. However, it faces significant challenges arising from climate change, slowing economic growth and declining rural employment. In this context, the adoption of innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), traceability techniques and crop forecasting, among others, provides an opportunity to increase productivity, improve sustainability and strengthen regional agri-food competitiveness.

In this regard, coffee farming is an emblematic sector due to its economic, social and cultural relevance, with Latin America being a major coffee exporter worldwide. However, market volatility, certification costs and international sustainability requirements call for coordinated and innovative responses. In this context, we propose the “Smart Coffee Seminar: AI for innovation and sustainability in agribusiness in Latin America” as a space for the exchange of experiences and coordination among public, private and academic actors.

This activity seeks to strengthen regional cooperation, promote the adoption of advanced technologies, and contribute to positioning Latin America and the Caribbean as a benchmark in sustainable agri-food innovation. In addition, public policy proposals and joint initiatives will be developed aimed at the sustainable development of the coffee sector with a focus on innovation and equity through the strategic use of AI.

Process indicators are defined as the number of participating countries, institutions and panellists, as well as the call for participation and dissemination material. In the case of output indicators, a document is drawn up with impact analyses and policy recommendations, a list of key stakeholders and best practices in AI in agribusiness, and meetings with stakeholders to explore the development of a pilot project at the territorial level. At the outcome indicator level, consideration is given to establishing an agreement between participating institutions or countries and strengthening technical capacities at the territorial level.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

2 ZERO HUNGER



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



20

PROJECT B. SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE INDUSTRIES OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE GOODS AND SERVICES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. This project consists of one activity.

ACTIVITY 1. Self-management system for updating the Regional Directory on Cultural and Creative Goods and Services Industries

Activity: regular

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: benefit for all SELA members and users related to culture in the region

The self-managed online information gathering system will be implemented to update the *Regional Directory on Cultural and Creative Goods and Services Industries*. This digital tool will be designed to facilitate users' interaction with the directory, giving them a window to directly provide their own information, and to keep the content of the directory up to date and relevant. This initiative is in line with the aim of further expanding the Directory managed by SELA, as well as with the need to promote coordination and collaboration among the actors involved in this sector.

The main objective of this activity is to maintain an up-to-date online platform that allows companies, institutions, artists, designers, producers and other key actors in these industries to register and update their information, thus encouraging the participation of the community and ensuring the veracity and timeliness of the data autonomously and efficiently.

With the implementation of this activity, the *Regional Directory of Cultural and Creative Industries* is expected to be consolidated as a reference tool for the sector. By giving users greater control over their information, the sustainability, growth and usefulness of the directory over time is guaranteed.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



THEMATIC AREA II – DIGITALISATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Latin America and the Caribbean are at a historic crossroads, defined by a dual transition that will reshape their economies and societies: the transformation towards a digitalised and smart economy and the transition towards sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure. Success in the digital age will not be possible without a modern infrastructure base to support it, and the region's future competitiveness will depend on this infrastructure also being green, efficient and inclusive.

On the one hand, advances in digitalisation offer unprecedented potential. Technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) are emerging as key tools for catalysing productivity, optimising public management and creating new opportunities in sectors as diverse as education, health and services. It is estimated that AI could contribute up to USD 565 billion to regional GDP by 2030. However, this potential is hampered by a persistent digital divide. The Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index (ILIA) 2025 reveals that the region invests six times less in AI than the global average in relation to its GDP, a gap that manifests itself not only in the lack of specialised talent, but also in the lack of the computing and connectivity infrastructure needed to support these technologies. Digital exclusion remains a reality for millions of people, limiting their access to opportunities and perpetuating inequalities.

On the other hand, the region has a historical deficit in physical infrastructure. Shortcomings in transport, logistics, energy and telecommunications continue to be a challenge for productivity, regional integration and export competitiveness. Today, the challenge is not only to close this quantitative gap, but to do so under a new paradigm: that of sustainability. The climate crisis demands that new infrastructure investments be resilient, low-carbon and resource-efficient. Modernising electricity grids to integrate renewable energy, developing electromobility systems and building data centres that operate on clean energy are not isolated goals, but essential components of a single development vision. ILIA 2025 is clear on this point: only four of the 19 countries in the region have a robust data centre industry, and only one in five of these centres meets sustainability standards, highlighting a critical disconnect between digital expansion and the climate agenda.

The synergy between these two areas is undeniable and presents a unique opportunity. Digitalisation can make regional infrastructure “smarter”: electricity grids managed with AI to optimise the use of renewables, intelligent transport systems that reduce congestion and emissions, and digitalised logistics chains that improve trade efficiency. In turn, sustainable and modern infrastructure is the indispensable platform for the digital economy. The scale of the investments required, the complexity of the regulatory challenges, and the need for a long-term vision exceed the capacity of individual actors and markets alone. An initiative-taking role by states and enhanced regional cooperation are imperative to harmonise regulatory frameworks, mobilise financing and develop regional public goods. A fragmented approach will only serve to deepen existing gaps; an integrated agenda is needed to address the dual transition in a systemic manner.

Given this scenario, which presents both urgent challenges and transformative opportunities, SELA proposes Thematic Area II: Digitalisation and Infrastructure. This theme seeks to promote the formulation of public policies and the coordination of regional initiatives that address the dual transition in an integrated manner, promoting investment in physical and digital infrastructure that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive, and accelerating the adoption of advanced technologies to modernise productive sectors and public management. The purpose of this theme is, therefore, to lay the material and technological foundations for a new cycle of development in the region that is more productive, equitable and sustainable. To that end, this Thematic Area

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is structured around two fundamental programmes, namely: (I) Sustainable Infrastructure and (II) Digital Transformation.

PROGRAMME I: SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

PROJECT A. ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY. Consisting of two activities aimed at ensuring energy security in the region, protecting the environment, promoting economic growth and improving public health.

ACTIVITY 1. Energy sustainability for productive development

Activity: updated

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: OLADE, SELA membership

Latin America and the Caribbean have exceptional comparative advantages to lead the global energy transition, with more than 58% of their electricity coming from clean sources. However, this vast renewable potential remains underutilised and disconnected from productive development priorities. Deep structural gaps persist in infrastructure, institutional capacities and the attraction of green investment, while industrial policies in the region often operate according to traditional logic, without incorporating decarbonisation and innovation criteria. This seminar aims to contribute to reducing this gap, recognising that technologies such as electromobility and green hydrogen are not only climate goals, but also opportunities to transform the productive matrix, generate jobs and boost sustainable value chains.

The overall objective of the seminar is to provide public entities responsible for productive development with conceptual and technical tools to integrate sustainability principles—such as green energy, electromobility, and energy transition—into their sectoral policies from a territorial and inclusive perspective. The activity will be structured around a multidisciplinary dialogue with three panels of experts: the first will analyse the enabling conditions for integrating energy sustainability into public policies; the second will explore business sustainability as a tool for competitiveness and resilience, with a special emphasis on MSMEs; and the third will discuss the potential of technological innovation to create new energy value chains in the region.

As a result of the seminar, a manual of recommendations for the integration of energy sustainability criteria will be developed, along with a digital repository containing the contributions of the panellists.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 2. Renewable energy in rural areas**Activity:** new**Format:** hybrid**Partner organisations and/or countries:** CARICOM (Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency), Guyana, SELA membership

Although Latin America and the Caribbean have achieved electricity coverage of over 98%, significant gaps in access remain, affecting more than 16 million people, mainly concentrated in rural, remote and coastal communities that are highly vulnerable to climate change. These disparities not only limit quality of life but also hinder productive territorial development. In this context, decentralised solutions such as solar mini-grids, hybrid systems and off-grid photovoltaic systems emerge as technically and economically viable alternatives that, in addition to improving resilience to climate events, can boost productivity, generate income and promote local employment.

This seminar is a key step in linking rural access to energy with productive development, seeking to close the gap between basic electrification and productive uses of electricity. Its main objective is to develop a technical assessment of access to and use of renewable energy in rural areas of the region in order to identify gaps, opportunities and local capacities. Based on this analysis, the development of pilot projects designed to strengthen and diversify the productive capacities of these communities will be promoted.

The expected outcomes of the activity are the seminar and the production of a technical diagnostic document, a bank of initiatives, and a digital repository with contributions from the panellists.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**7** AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**8** DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**13** CLIMATE
ACTION**17** PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

PROGRAMME II: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

PROJECT A. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY. Consisting of four activities aimed at reducing the digital divide in the region and promoting digitalisation and the development of digital tools for economic development and production promotion.

ACTIVITY 1. Innovative uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to boost competitiveness in the tourism sector

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: CARICOM, Barbados, Venezuela (Valencia, Carabobo State / Caracas, Capital District), SELA membership

In the context of progressive digitalisation of the tourism sector in LAC, AI has ceased to be a trend and has become a fundamental lever for competitiveness. This technology offers the ability to anticipate demand, personalise promotion and the traveller experience, optimise prices and manage operations more efficiently. These capabilities are particularly relevant for emerging and rural destinations seeking to differentiate themselves with smart services and reduce seasonality. However, most companies in the region, especially MSMEs, have intermediate or low digital maturity, with notable gaps in data and analytics, which limits their transition to an AI-based competitiveness model and hinders the sector's sustainability.

To address this gap, this seminar aims to explore and promote the strategic use of AI to improve the competitiveness of the tourism sector in the region. This initiative seeks to strengthen connectivity, foster innovation in service offerings, promote public-private partnerships, and consolidate sustainable and inclusive tourism development models, showcasing successful experiences and applied methodologies that connect these solutions with the data infrastructure and partnerships necessary to scale their adoption.

As a result of this activity, a pilot project is expected to be managed in the subnational government of a SELA member country, and a digital repository of the event's presentations will be created.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 2. Hackathon: AI-based solutions for the growth of MSMEs**Activity:** new**Date:** second half of 2026 (July-August)**Format:** hybrid**Partner organisations and/or countries:** Huawei, Panamá, SELA membership

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean face significant bottlenecks in productivity, marketing and management that can be effectively addressed with rapidly adopted AI applications. Although studies such as the Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index (ILIA) 2025 reveal that up to 44% of tasks in SMEs could be accelerated with AI, the region faces a considerable investment gap, accounting for only 1.12% of global investment in this technology. To close this gap and boost open innovation, hackathons are the ideal tool, as they bring together technical and sectoral talent in short cycles, allowing prototypes to be evaluated with real data and creating solutions that are ready for scaling.

The main objective is to identify and accelerate innovative AI-based solutions that respond to the scalability and sustainability challenges faced by MSMEs. Beyond the competition itself, the hackathon is designed to generate concrete products that facilitate its continuity and evaluation, such as a prioritised project bank and technical documentation. This purposeful approach, combined with its hybrid and regional nature, seeks to improve the diversity of solutions and increase the likelihood of adoption by MSMEs and local governments, ensuring traceability for follow-up.

The success of the hackathon will be measured using a system of indicators covering its entire life cycle. The process will be evaluated based on the quality of the preparatory technical documents, such as the concept note and the invitation to participate, as well as the extent of participation in terms of the number of registrants and countries represented. Output indicators will focus on the effective implementation of the competition and the generation of its key deliverables.

This activity aims to manage a project bank and a digital repository, measuring the usefulness and applicability of these products for stakeholders, ensuring that the initiative not only stimulates innovation but also generates transferable assets for future invitations to apply and pilot projects.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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ACTIVITY 3. Workshop on data analysis (with AI) for public managers

Activity: new

Date: first half of 2026 (March-April)

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: Huawei, Mexico, SELA membership

Latin America and the Caribbean are showing growing interest in AI as a driver for state modernisation and productive digitalisation. This progress is reflected in the fact that nine countries in the region already have national AI strategies, according to ILIA 2025. The next crucial step is to translate these strategic visions into concrete actions, providing them with the necessary resources and implementation plans to maximise their impact. Currently, there is a significant opportunity to deepen the use of AI in areas of high public value, such as citizen participation processes, where eight of the 19 ILIA countries do not yet report use cases, indicating considerable potential for growth in the practical application of this technology.

In order to support this process, this workshop aims to train public officials in the use of AI-assisted data analysis tools, thereby strengthening evidence-based public policy formulation. With a highly practical approach, this workshop seeks to accelerate knowledge transfer, create communities of practice, and enhance the capacity of institutions to integrate AI into their operations, maximising the benefits and mitigating the risks inherent in these innovative technologies.

The success of the activity will be measured comprehensively, beginning with process indicators that will evaluate the proper management of the event through its technical documents and the level of attendance. In turn, output indicators will confirm the effective implementation of the workshop and the preparation of its key deliverables: a report and a project bank. Finally, the outcome will be measured by the usefulness of these deliverables to participants, ensuring that the training translates into tangible improvements in the formulation and management of public policies in the region.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 4. Workshop on mental health in the age of digitalisation: challenges, opportunities and collective responses

Activity: new

Date: first half of 2026 (March-April)

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: SELA membership, ECLAC, WHO, IDB, SELA, UNESCO

Rapid global digitalisation has profoundly transformed the way people work, learn, interact and consume information. This process—accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the expansion of technologies such as artificial intelligence, social media, teleworking and digital platforms—has had an unprecedented impact on the social structure and psychosocial well-being of individuals. While digitalisation has improved productivity, access to knowledge and economic inclusion, it has also introduced new risks to

mental health, stemming from digital overexposure, hyperconnectivity, isolation, pressure to perform and the blurring of boundaries between work and personal life.

Mental health has become a global priority, not only as a medical issue, but also as a determining factor in social cohesion, economic productivity and the sustainability of human development. In this regard, analysing the effects of digitalisation on mental health is urgent in order to design public policies, educational strategies and labour models that promote a healthy balance between technology and well-being. The social and economic sciences offer essential tools for understanding these dynamics: from behavioural economics and the sociology of digital work to studies of technology consumption and subjective well-being. Understanding the socio-economic implications of digital mental health is essential to ensuring comprehensive human development in the age of automation and artificial intelligence.

This activity will enable us to reflect, from an interdisciplinary perspective, on the effects of digitalisation on mental health and propose innovative approaches to mitigate its negative impacts and strengthen factors of well-being in digital environments. It will also allow us to:

- Analyse the social and labour transformations generated by digitalisation and its impact on mental health.
- Identify best practices and public policies that promote healthy and responsible use of digital technologies.
- Propose guidelines for the design of inclusive, sustainable and people-centred digital environments.
- Encourage dialogue between experts in economics, health, education and technology to build a comprehensive digital well-being agenda.

This activity is expected to yield the following main results: a document containing conclusions and recommendations on digital mental health in Latin America; the identification of public policy actions and proposals for regional cooperation; the creation of an interdisciplinary network on mental health and digitalisation; and awareness-raising among decision-makers, educators and businesses on the importance of psychosocial well-being in technological environments.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



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PROJECT B. SUSTAINABLE COMPUTING AND CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE. This project consists of one activity aimed at strengthening the digital services infrastructure necessary to facilitate greater regional economic efficiency and competitiveness, as well as ensuring affordable and secure access to the cloud.

ACTIVITY 1. Sustainable computing infrastructure, cybersecurity and data protection

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, European Union, SELA membership

The economy and digital public services in Latin America and the Caribbean increasingly depend on a highly available data infrastructure. However, critical gaps persist that affect its reliability, such as heterogeneous data protection frameworks, disparate cybersecurity capabilities, and low levels of interoperability. ILIA 2025 highlights this vulnerability, noting that although 18 of the 19 countries have made progress on cybersecurity laws, most lack the institutional and technical capacities to implement them effectively. Furthermore, sustainability remains a challenge: only four of the 19 countries have a robust data centre industry, and only one in five of these centres in the region complies with international sustainability standards.

In order to address this issue, the activity proposes the development of a common and applicable framework for data centres in the region, with the aim of identifying and promoting a regional strategy for strengthening digital infrastructure. This strategy will focus on harmonising technical and regulatory criteria, promoting operational cooperation between critical infrastructures. It will also seek to agree on minimum sustainability parameters—such as energy efficiency and water use—to guide the decarbonisation of operations, thereby facilitating the responsible development of AI and ensuring equitable access to digital services.

The expected outcomes of the activity include the seminar, a report, a digital repository with the panellists' presentations and, most importantly, a roadmap for strengthening digital infrastructure in the region. The success of the initiative will be measured comprehensively, beginning with process indicators that ensure the proper management of the event through the preparation of the concept note and the level of participation. In turn, the output indicators will confirm the completion of the seminar and the generation of its key deliverables, while the outcome indicator will measure the usefulness and applicability of these documents for stakeholders, ensuring that the activity translates into a more dependable, resilient, and efficient digital infrastructure for the region.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



THEMATIC AREA III – SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) has consolidated its commitment to promoting sustainable development in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Positively, this thematic area aims to promote the effective and full exercise of economic, social and cultural rights of all the inhabitants of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, with the intention of achieving greater well-being, contributing to the achievement of equity, social inclusion and equal opportunities, through the improvement of living conditions.

The transition to sustainable living has been positioned as a key strategy for urgently addressing structural challenges in a global context marked by the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and increasing pressure on natural resources.

SELA continues to promote the development of specialised research, formulation of public policies and training consistent with this perspective, in order to contribute to improving people's living conditions, including food, education, health, social protection, labour rights, and timely response and recovery from disasters, among others.

By holding various meetings, discussions, workshops, seminars and conferences, which result in the production of various manuals and publications, the organisation promotes a strategy to support the countries of the region in accelerating social progress by fostering a social and human environment more conducive to the well-being of the population, with special emphasis on reducing poverty levels and inequality of opportunity, contributing to the improvement of the well-being of all, creating proportionally greater progress for the poor and the excluded. In this context, the Permanent Secretariat has proposed the thematic area of Social Development, which covers the following goal:

Contribute to the improvement of social development indicators in the region, in a sustainable and resilient manner, by means of initiatives for cooperation, capacity building, agreements and exchange of best practices, in order to achieve comprehensiveness, considering economic and environmental.

In this context, and with the aim of further promoting the effective and full exercise of the social, environmental, and cultural rights of all people in Latin American and Caribbean countries, together with the intention of improving well-being and contributing to the achievement of equity, social inclusion, and equal opportunities in our region, the Social Development Area of the Work Programme for 2026-2029, three programmes are planned: **I) Sustainable and resilient development; II) Comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change; and III) Promoting a comprehensive vision of human mobility.**

PROGRAMME I: SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

In the current context, characterised by multiple simultaneous crises and growing global complexity, sustainable development has become a strategic priority for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Despite the efforts made in recent decades, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been uneven and insufficient. The region faces structural challenges that limit its ability to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including persistent inequality, fiscal vulnerability, environmental degradation and exposure to extreme weather events.

Sustainable development, understood as a dynamic balance between economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability, requires decisive and sustained public action. In this regard, it is essential to strengthen the institutional capacities of States to design and implement integrated public policies that promote resilience and inclusion and respond effectively to the specific characteristics of each country.

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), as an intergovernmental organisation committed to regional integration and development, focuses its efforts on facilitating technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences among its Member States. In this regard, the Sustainable and Resilient Development Programme aims to support the formulation of public policies geared towards sustainable structural transformation, promoting the circular economy, the transition to responsible production and consumption models, and improvements in the provision of essential services.

This programme recognises the need to strengthen regional self-sufficiency, promote innovative financing schemes and foster South-South and triangular cooperation as key tools for development. Coordinated action and the articulation of capacities between countries are determining factors for sustained progress towards a more resilient, equitable and environmentally responsible region. This programme aims to:

Develop, manage and disseminate technical knowledge geared towards the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable public policies by strengthening institutional capacities in the public sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. Priority is given to regional cooperation in areas of high social impact, with an emphasis on promoting the circular economy, climate resilience, territorial inclusion and the balance between economic development, environmental sustainability and social welfare.

PROJECT A. TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. This project includes five activities:

ACTIVITY 1. IV Virtual Seminar on food security, boosting productivity and sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity: regular

Format: Virtual – Regional seminar with experts, government representatives, the private sector and multilateral organisations

Partner organisations and/or countries: FAO, ECLAC, CAF, IICA, WFP, SELA membership

Food security is one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable development and social stability in Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite the region's agricultural production potential, more than 60 million people face moderate or severe food insecurity, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen food systems through a comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive approach. This situation is exacerbated by factors such as climate volatility, food inflation and structural weaknesses in rural development.

In this regard, the fourth edition of the seminar on food security will be held in 2026, with the aim of continuing the line of work on regional food sustainability, the role of technological innovation and digital transformation in improving agricultural productivity under principles of sustainability and inclusion, together with the challenges facing the region in terms of food security, strategies to reduce food vulnerability, and the role that regional cooperation can play in strengthening food distribution systems. The aim is to continue identifying the main challenges and opportunities for the region in order to advance the formulation of public policy proposals aimed at strengthening agri-food systems through regional and subregional integration mechanisms.

This activity aims to create a space for technical cooperation, inter-institutional dialogue and regional coordination, with a view to promoting public policies that foster the sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result of this activity, a mapping document will be prepared with recommendations for sustainable public policies and regional cooperation strategies in the area of food and nutrition security (FNS), based on the technical contributions, case studies and experiences shared during the seminar.

Through this seminar, participants will share successful experiences, strengthen institutional capacities, and disseminate practices that enhance agricultural productivity with criteria of environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and climate resilience.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 2. Workshop on regional cooperation for improving plant health: sanitary and phytosanitary measures for environmental sustainability

Activity: new

Format: Regional seminar with experts, government representatives, private sector and multilateral organisations

Partner organisations and/or countries: OIRSA, FAO, ECLAC, SELA member countries

According to information from the FAO (2025), plant health is the foundation of life and food security and is at the heart of the “One Health” approach, which recognises the vital interconnection between human, animal and environmental health.

Since food security is a key issue on SELA's agenda, a proposal has been made to hold the *Workshop on regional cooperation for improving plant health*. The goal is to encourage the adoption of innovative tech tools that make agri-food systems more sustainable by improving their efficiency, traceability, and resilience to environmental and health challenges; to contribute to the design and implementation of a regional cooperation plan that

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ensures coordinated progress in improving plant health, promoting common standards and integrated actions in all countries; and to foster training programmes for producers and technicians in integrated pest and disease management practices, with the aim of reducing the use of agrochemicals, protecting the environment and increasing the sustainability of agricultural production.

The objective of this activity is to create a space for technical cooperation, inter-institutional dialogue and regional coordination, aimed at promoting public policies that drive improvements in plant health. As a result of this activity, a mapping document will be produced with recommendations for sustainable public policies and regional cooperation strategies in this area.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 3. **IV Seminar on circular economy: “Circular packaging for agri-food systems: from bioeconomy to regulation”**

Activity: regular

Format: Face-to-face or virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: Circular Economy Coalition for LAC, UNCTAD, ECLAC, UN-Habitat, UNFCCC, among others

In line with the ongoing work on productive sustainability and food security, a proposal has been made to hold the *IV Seminar on circular economy: “Circular packaging for agri-food systems: from bioeconomy to regulation.”*

Since 2022, SELA has developed a line of work on the circular economy, promoting technical and inter-institutional spaces to encourage its adoption in Latin America and the Caribbean, allowing for the consolidation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue space and the compilation of valuable experiences related to the circular economy in the region. Based on the inputs generated, SELA proposes to move forward with a new edition focused on a strategic sector: agri-food systems, with special attention to packaging as an entry point for circular practices with high potential for scalability and local job creation.

In the current context, where food systems face environmental, social and logistical pressures, the transition to sustainable packaging represents a concrete opportunity to move towards a more efficient, inclusive and resilient bioeconomy. The Latin American and Caribbean region generates an average of 1.0 kg of municipal solid waste per capita per day and more than 9 kg of electronic waste per year, figures that highlight both the challenges and opportunities presented by circularity in sectors linked to mass consumption, such as food.

SELA, as an active member of the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, will hold the fourth edition of the seminar with the aim of producing a document containing public policy recommendations and a regional mapping of initiatives and institutional capacities related to the circular economy in agri-food systems. This space will make it possible to strengthen the design of regulations, pilot programmes, incentives and sustainable public procurement in the sector, facilitating coordination between countries and key stakeholders in the circular ecosystem.

The main outputs of this activity include a technical report on the seminar, a regional mapping of stakeholders, regulations and programmes on circular packaging in agri-food systems, a document with public policy recommendations, and a compilation of experiences and best practices in the circular economy applied to the food sector. These inputs will be made available to Member States as a basis for the development of technical cooperation projects and sustainable public investment.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 4. XXXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for LAC: "Innovation and sectoral cooperation for sustainable development: promoting financial inclusion, sustainable agriculture and energy transition in Latin America and the Caribbean through South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms"

Activity: regular

Format: Face-to-face, Brazil (with virtual transmission)

Partner organisations and/or countries: International Cooperation Directors for SELA Member States, specialised agencies, regional organisations

With more than three decades of experience, the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean represents the main regional forum for political and technical dialogue on international cooperation. This activity, convened annually by SELA, has consolidated a shared regional agenda, promoting the articulation of national priorities and the identification of opportunities for multilateral collaboration. In 2026, in its XXXIV edition, the Meeting will focus on promoting innovation and sectoral cooperation as strategic tools for advancing the SDGs, with an emphasis on three priority sectors for the region: financial inclusion, sustainable agriculture and a just energy transition. These issues respond both to persistent structural challenges and emerging opportunities in terms of productive transformation and social cohesion.

The meeting will give continuity to the commitments established in previous editions, with special emphasis on the progress made during the XXXIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, which focused on "Progress and challenges for strengthening the circular economy through South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean as a driver for sustainable development." On that occasion, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designed by SELA was promoted to boost the commitment of its Member States to common regulations and standards on circular packaging, recognising its environmental impact, and providing a space for the exchange of regulatory, methodological and financial experiences aimed at strengthening the implementation of the circular economy.

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The XXXIV Meeting will seek to advance the identification and formulation of joint initiatives, the development of coordination mechanisms between agencies and stakeholders, and the mobilisation of technical and financial resources. Consequently, it is expected to deepen the analysis of innovative instruments to strengthen regional cooperation, including the interoperability of digital platforms, the traceability of sectoral interventions, and the coordination of institutional frameworks aimed at measuring results and evaluating the impact of SSTC, thus promoting more effective cooperation aligned with the development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 5. Workshop: Climate resilience and strengthening in agricultural production in Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity: new

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: FAO, ECLAC, IICA, ministries of agriculture of SELA member countries, cooperation agencies, development banks (IDB, CAF, IFAD)

In order to address the growing challenges facing the region in terms of food and nutrition security (FNS) and productive sustainability, SELA proposes holding a workshop entitled ***“Climate resilience and strengthening in agricultural production in Latin America and the Caribbean.”*** This activity is a new initiative aimed at creating a regional space for technical and political exchange on the adaptation of agricultural systems to climate change, promoting joint solutions that strengthen family and small-scale farming as the cornerstone of social cohesion and productive stability.

Consequently, in the second quarter of 2026, the workshop will be held in a hybrid format, bringing together different regional and national sectors, with a focus on civil society, with the aim of identifying innovative strategies and regional cooperation mechanisms to improve food security, optimise water use, expand the protection of genetic resources and guarantee decent incomes for small producers. To that end, the workshop will identify successful climate resilience practices, formulate public policy recommendations, and design a regional roadmap to guide future investments and cooperation projects.

The expected deliverables include a document systematising the results, setting out the main conclusions and commitments of the workshop; a regional roadmap on climate resilience in family farming; and a set of policy recommendations aimed at agricultural adaptation, with particular emphasis on food security, water efficiency and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



PROJECT B. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE REGIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR. It consists of one activity to be conducted in 2026.

ACTIVITY 1. V Course on regulation and algorithmic auditing: the use of AI

Activity: regular

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: European Institute of International Studies (IEEI), in collaboration with the Pontifical University of Salamanca

An activity will be held on algorithmic regulation and auditing and the usefulness of Artificial Intelligence (AI), continuing the series of courses on cyberdiplomacy that have been held since 2021. The course is designed to train diplomats and government officials from member countries in tools that enable the responsible and ethical management of AI development, based on international cooperation and the promotion of sustainable, inclusive and ethical technological development, with the long-term goal of ensuring that technological advances do not exacerbate inequalities or generate conflicts.

A third digital book on the topics covered is expected to be published, as a follow-up to the two previous publications, in order to continue strengthening the theme of AI.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



PROGRAMME II: COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent decades, disasters associated with climate change have been enormously costly, both in terms of human lives lost and financial losses for LAC countries. Undeniably, environmental vulnerability and natural hazards have increased dramatically in the region as a result of environmental degradation, urban expansion, rising poverty, marginalisation and inequality, as well as the absence of adequate preventive measures in the proper design of infrastructure development, due to a lack of knowledge about the risk of the locations occupied; the incorrect application of construction practices and the absence of a culture of maintenance.

The exposure of the population and physical assets to natural phenomena and their devastating effects, which result in disasters, continues to increase and has a greater impact on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, Indigenous people and persons with disabilities, who often lack social protection systems to deal with such situations. Therefore, SELA remains firmly committed to continuing to contribute to Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) and the fight against climate change, with the aim of promoting the prevention, reduction and permanent control of disaster risk, as well as implementing measures to adapt to climate change in LAC.

It is a well-planned process for the early detection of various risks that may affect communities, such as meteorological, climatic and anthropogenic (human-induced, e.g. the effects of pollution on nature) risks. Comprehensive risk management is important because it helps us identify, analyse, assess and respond appropriately and in a timely manner to risks, enabling us to design better strategies for disaster prevention.

As a contribution to greater resilience, this programme aims to:

Establish regional structures that contribute to reducing vulnerabilities, responding effectively to emergency situations and caring for the populations most vulnerable to disasters associated with climate change, through social protection systems.

This programme consists of:

PROJECT A: COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. This project includes three activities.

ACTIVITY 1. III Diploma Course on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean: capacity building in emergency rescue operations, recovery and post-disaster reconstruction

Activity: regular

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil (Ecuador), Alberto Hurtado University (Santiago de Chile)

The “Third Diploma Course on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean” is a direct response to the growing challenges of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Scheduled for the third quarter of 2026, the Diploma Course seeks to continue training professionals in emergency rescue operations, post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, providing them with

the tools to create safer communities and standardise public policies, as well as mitigate the effects of disasters and contribute to a more sustainable future in the region.

The diploma course is a direct and necessary response to the growing impact of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean and a follow-up to the two editions held in 2024 and 2025. The region is facing more frequent and intense extreme events such as droughts, floods and hurricanes. Training professionals in risk management is not an option, but an urgent necessity to protect the most vulnerable communities.

The programme is not limited to theory; it will focus on practical and critical aspects such as emergency rescue operations, recovery and post-disaster reconstruction. These are critical stages that require adequate preparation to save lives and speed up the return to normality, an aspect that is often overlooked in traditional planning.

The Diploma Course is expected to have an impact on public policy and resilience in the participants' countries. This training is a contribution to standardising public policies and creating a more coherent and effective response throughout the region. The aim is to promote a standardised approach based on best practices, which will enable countries to learn from each other and build collective resilience to future disasters. This is the key to transforming vulnerable communities into safer and more sustainable places in the long term. A certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the programme.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 2. **Workshop: Financial cooperation for disaster prevention and mitigation assistance**

Activity: new

Format: Virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Inter-American Development Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration

During the fourth quarter of 2026, an event will be organised, which could take the form of training or a seminar to promote financial cooperation for disaster prevention and mitigation assistance, as this is a crucial element in accessing the economic resources needed to promote opportunities in this area. Disasters and climate events can have a disproportionate impact on people with fewer economic opportunities and on developing economies, a situation that negatively affects their progress, development and integration into society.

When disaster strikes, financial cooperation is vital for rapid response and recovery, facilitating access to emergency funds and sustainable reconstruction, as well as the use of mechanisms such as insurance and catastrophe bonds to transfer risk and reduce the burden on national economies. Financial cooperation allows investment in initiative-taking measures to reduce risk before a disaster strikes. These investments are, in the long term, much more cost-effective than spending on response and reconstruction. The areas most amenable to cooperation are resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and training and planning,

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understood as the training of emergency personnel and the development of national and local risk management plans.

The event will seek to begin providing a platform from SELA for education and awareness-raising on the importance of proactive rather than reactive investment, highlighting that prevention is more cost-effective than reconstruction; the exchange of knowledge on best practices and successful case studies; facilitating the creation of strategic partnerships among governments, international agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to mobilise resources more effectively; training participants in the development of risk management plans, the identification of sources of financing and the creation of resilient infrastructure; and addressing the challenges that impede effective financial cooperation, such as lack of transparency, bureaucracy or the allocation of funds.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 3. V Workshop on disaster risk management with a social protection approach

Activity: regular

Format: Face-to-face in Cuba

Partner organisations and/or countries: Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean

This workshop arises from the need to address the intensity and frequency of disasters, which represent an obstacle to sustainable development in countries and have an excessive cost in terms of people's well-being and safety. Previous editions were held in Honduras, Belize, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively.

The workshops focus mainly on integrating disaster risk management with social protection measures, seeking to provide tools and strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of communities affected by disasters and climate change. Their target audience is officials from social protection and security institutions, as well as entities linked to the issue in a specific country in the region. The relevance of holding this type of workshop lies in strengthening technical capacities in areas such as climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and technical education, through training and the promotion of partnerships among academic institutions, governments and innovation centres.

This workshop will serve as input to continue enriching the "Compendium of best practices in disaster risk management with a social protection approach" that the Social Development area began drafting in 2024. It will also complement the chapter on "Public policy proposals for disaster risk management in Latin America

and the Caribbean," included in the book on *Strategies and public policy proposals for LAC integration* that SELA presented in November 2024. Certificates of participation will be awarded to attendees.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PROGRAMME III: PROMOTING A COMPREHENSIVE VISION OF HUMAN MOBILITY

Currently, international migration, driven by several factors inherent to globalisation, such as demographic changes, limited employment opportunities, conflicts and disasters, has become a fundamental issue that needs to be addressed. It is related to at least ten of the region's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Migration has a profound impact on individuals, societies and countries, and the SDGs contain targets and indicators directly related to migration or mobility. Furthermore, the SDG slogan of "leaving no one behind" is a clear call for sustainable development to be inclusive, including for migrants.

Undeniably, the issue of migration requires cooperation between countries of origin, destination and transit. For this reason, SELA, as a mechanism for consultation among Member States, is committed to acting as a coordinator of policies that contribute to socio-economic development, many of whose repercussions are directly or indirectly related to development processes.

Promoting a comprehensive vision of human mobility is a fundamental aspect that can play a positive role in the development of our societies, both for migrants and for host communities, with a view to the *International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)*.

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As a contribution to orderly, safe and regular migration, this programme aims to:

Make better use of the opportunities presented by cooperation between countries of origin, destination and transit, in order to positively impact the development offered by human mobility, understood from a comprehensive perspective that involves the region's socio-economic development processes.

This programme consists of two projects:

PROJECT A. BEST PRACTICES IN MIGRATION POLICIES. It includes three activities:

ACTIVITY 1. II Regional forum on cooperation mechanisms for the socio-economic inclusion of migrants in host societies in LAC

Activity: regular

Format: Face-to-face/hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: SELA membership, CSM, CRM, RROCM, CISS, IOM

SELA, in its role as regional coordinator, proposes the holding of the *II Regional forum on cooperation mechanisms for the socio-economic inclusion of migrants in host societies in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This initiative is part of a decisive year for the international migration agenda and seeks to anticipate national and regional contributions in human mobility, highlighting the importance of the regular and effective inclusion of migrants in the region.

The main objective of this activity is to coordinate regional policies, programmes and partnerships, as well as to institutionalise the forum, in order to guarantee the socio-economic inclusion of migrants through South-South and Triangular cooperation, the systematisation of best practices and the design of innovative proposals in employment, entrepreneurship, social protection and basic services, with a view to positioning the region with a unified and proactive voice at the FEMI 2026.

The main deliverable will be a regional systematisation report that compiles the conclusions of the Forum, including strategic guidelines and public policy recommendations for the socio-economic inclusion of migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will serve as technical input for the participation of Member States in the second review of the Global Compact for Migration at the FEMI 2026.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



ACTIVITY 2. II Discussion panel on migration: mechanisms to prevent human trafficking, migrant smuggling and forced labour in the context of the International Migration Review Forum (FEMI) 2026

Activity: regular

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: SELA Member States, IOM, UNFPA

In view of the second review of the GPM at the International Migration Review Forum (FEMI 2026), it is proposed to hold the *II Discussion Panel on Migration: mechanisms to prevent human trafficking, migrant smuggling and forced labour in the context of the International Migration Review Forum (FEMI) 2026*. This issue is particularly relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean, given the growing vulnerability of people in situations of forced mobility, as well as the commitments made by States under the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 10.7.

The objective of this activity is to create a space for technical and political dialogue that will generate concrete recommendations for strengthening public policies, regulatory frameworks, and regional cooperation actions that address these phenomena with a focus on human rights and international co-responsibility.

A systematisation report will be delivered with conclusions, public policy recommendations and best practices in the prevention of trafficking and smuggling of migrants, which will serve as technical input to strengthen the regional position of Member States at the FEMI 2026.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 3. IV Virtual training on the development of national and regional migration data information systems

Activity: regular

Format: virtual

Partner organisations and/or countries: SELA Member States, IOM, UNFPA

The IV Virtual training on migration data will be held, aimed at strengthening the capacities of SELA Member States in the design and consolidation of national and regional migration information systems. This activity seeks to provide technical teams with greater tools to analyse trends, formulate evidence-based policies and follow up on international commitments on human mobility.

The main objective of this edition is to promote the interoperability of information systems and their regional coordination in order to generate comparable and reliable inputs that facilitate migration governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is expected to advance the construction of a regional framework that will make it possible to identify flows, vulnerabilities and opportunities for the integration of migrants, in line with the review processes of the Global Compact for Migration and the FEMI 2026.

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The main deliverable of this activity will be a technical document consolidating guidelines for strengthening national and regional migration data systems, accompanied by a compendium of methodologies and best practices shared during the training process, which will serve as strategic input for Member States in the design of effective public policies and regional cooperation on migration issues.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



PROJECT B. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION. This project consists of two activities.

ACTIVITY 1. III Discussion panel on migration: labour legislation and social security

Activity: regular

Format: hybrid

Partner organisations and/or countries: SELA Member States, CISS, IOM, ILO, RROCM

Labour mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean has grown in recent years, revealing significant gaps in legal frameworks and social security coverage for migrants. Many mobile workers find themselves in informal jobs, without access to basic benefits, pensions or protection against occupational hazards, creating conditions of vulnerability that impact both host societies and the migrants themselves.

Against this backdrop, the III Migration Forum will be held with the aim of examining how labour legislation and social security systems can be adapted to guarantee rights and promote inclusion. The event will seek to open a regional dialogue on the need for more harmonised regulatory frameworks, portable social security schemes and measures to promote labour formalisation. The CISS will contribute its experience in social protection and cross-border coverage, enriching proposals at the regional level.

The main deliverable will be a systematisation report that integrates the debates, conclusions and regional guidelines on labour and social security, highlighting innovative practices and cooperation models. This document will serve as technical input to inform the discussions at FEMI 2026 and strengthen Member States' commitment to safer, more inclusive and protected labour migration.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



ACTIVITY 2. III Virtual workshop on educational strategies for the integration of migrant women and girls**Activity:** regular**Format:** virtual**Partner organisations and/or countries:** UN Women, IOM, ILO, RROCM, UNFPA, UNICEF and OHCHR

This year's edition will focus on innovative educational strategies, incorporating intercultural methodologies, the use of digital technologies, and partnerships between academic institutions and local communities. The aim is to generate proposals that guarantee school continuity, the learning of new skills, and inclusion in technical and professional training programmes, prioritising young women and those in vulnerable situations. The workshop will promote the exchange of experiences and tools to facilitate academic integration and educational mobility, considering the specific conditions of migrant girls and young women in vulnerable contexts.

On this occasion, the focus will be on formulating educational proposals adapted to cultural diversity, generating mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation, and identifying regional programmes that promote academic mobility with a gender perspective. Participatory methodologies will be used to promote the development of technical skills among civil servants, educational institutions, and civil society stakeholders.

Linked to the following Sustainable Development Goals:**4** QUALITY
EDUCATION**5** GENDER
EQUALITY**10** REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**17** PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS