

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS: ADVANCES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean are demonstrating strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An overwhelming majority of companies in the region — 80 per cent — report that they are taking action on the Agenda's 17 Global Goals, which is the highest anywhere in the world. Latin America and the Caribbean are leading the way through engagement with key stakeholders from all sectors of society, because they know the 2030 Agenda will require partnerships and collaboration as never before.

Companies in the region are also proactively participating in critical policy dialogues and advocating for an enabling environment for responsible business. At the United Nations Global Compact, we are proud of the work of our Local Networks in the region for helping companies address common challenges on the ground and for providing support where they need it most.

Together, business, Governments, the UN, civil society, academia and Global Compact Local Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean are finding new opportunities to partner and create the world we all want by 2030.



Lise Kingo
CEO & Executive Director,
United Nations Global Compact



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change are a response from the international community aimed at changing the current pattern of development as well as building peaceful, fairer, more supportive and inclusive societies, in which human rights, the planet and its natural resources are all protected. In pursuing the path to a new development pattern, political perspective and endeavour are needed to define a clear direction and change the conversation between the State, the market and society, among other things.

A multilateral, open and robust system is the cornerstone of a new development pattern, since proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires new coalitions and institutions to promote global, regional, national and local policies. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have also recognized the need for all sectors of society to participate in efforts to achieve the SDGs to ensure greater ownership of the 2030 Agenda, and they have taken steps in that direction.

With its Local Networks in the region, the UN Global Compact is working with ECLAC to unleash the power of responsible business engagement in the implementation of the SDGs in each of the countries and territories of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is only through the power of collaboration among all stakeholders that we will be able to achieve the SDGs in each of the territories of the region and globally, ensuring that no one is left behind.



Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



Latin American and Caribbean country progress on the Global Goals

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) remains committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Global Goals. Action from Latin America and the Caribbean is critical to fostering peace, equality, climate security and financial stability globally.



Second annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

[View in English](#) | [Lea en español](#)

Action and cooperation around the 2030 Agenda is identified as:

- Creating inter-institutional and inter-sectorial architecture at the highest level, in-country and at the regional level;
- incorporating the Global Goals in development plans and national budgets;
- strengthening the capacities of national statistical systems;
- prioritizing the means of implementation (financing, technology, trade and accountability);
- promoting policy dialogues among Governments, the private sector and citizens; and
- fostering coordination with the United Nations system, regional organizations and development banks.

2018 Progress:

1. Trends in the regional and global economy are positive:

- In 2017, the global economy grew more than 2.9 per cent as compared to 2.4 per cent in 2016, and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region saw higher economic growth
- This positive economic outlook is expected to continue throughout 2018

2. Social indicators are not improving:

Between 2002 and 2014, economic growth coupled with the implementation of several social policies in the LAC region resulted in increased well-being as the number of poor people in the region declined from 233 million to 168 million and the destitute declined from 63 million to 48 million. However issues remain:

- Increasing poverty — 2017 data shows that more than 187 million people are still living in poverty, with 62 million living in extreme poverty
- Increasing inequality — the progress stopped in 2015

- Unemployment — in 2017, the unemployment rate was 9.4 per cent in urban areas, versus 2016 levels of 7.9 per cent for men and 10.2 per cent for women
- Gender — 29 per cent of women over 15 years of age do not have their own income, compared to 12.3 per cent for men
- Gender pay-gap — women in urban areas continue to receive salaries that are 16.1 per cent lower than men holding the same positions
- Climate change — the estimated economic costs of climate change in the LAC region will amount to between 1.5 and 5 per cent of regional gross domestic product by 2050

3. Companies have begun regional implementation:

- An increasing number of companies in the region are submitting their voluntary national reviews on sustainable development to the UN High-level Political Forum — three countries submitted in 2016, eleven countries in 2017 and eight countries in 2018
- LAC countries have committed to establishing the 2030 Agenda as a state policy, advocating for institutional frameworks for its implementation, monitoring and reviewing implementation, and budgeting accordingly
- Financial resources:
 - 14 countries reported mechanisms for budget allocation to different development programmes and the Global Goals
 - Two countries considered international public financing
 - Eight countries proposed to align private investment with public finances
 - 11 countries outlined strategies to guide international cooperation towards national development priorities
 - South-South and triangular cooperation are considered

Learnings from the ECLAC report

- Global, regional and national coordination are needed
- Implementation requires trade, technology and financing
- Technology and innovation have the potential to accelerate human progress, facilitate access to information and solve complex problems in critical areas for development
- Achieving the Global Goals requires the mobilization of public and private resources
- It is essential that countries of the region increase and change the structure of their tax burden, and improve international cooperation to combat tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows

Specific actions needed

- Strengthen intraregional trade
- Attract foreign direct investment towards sectors beyond extractive sectors
- Favour local and regional suppliers
- Promote a trade facilitation agenda
- Promote industrialization and innovation by increasing local and regional export content
- Promote women's economic autonomy
- Coordinate regional fiscal and monetary policies
- Combat tax evasion and avoidance, illicit financial flows and corruption
- Build better global and regional governance in fiscal matters

How Local Networks help business drive Global Goals implementation on the ground



There are five key ways in which the UN Global Compact is mobilizing business to engage systematically over the long term to contribute to the Global Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean through its Local Networks:

1. Organize local awareness-raising events:

Localize the 2030 Agenda by creating local awareness and momentum around the Global Goals and the role of business.

137

multi-stakeholder events on the Global Goals

2,117

companies in Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the UN Global Compact

2. Develop and disseminate tools & resources:

Build the capacity of business through sharing know-how and resources to embed the Ten Principles in their business models and operations, and foster leadership through aligning strategies with the SDGs.

45

[SDG Compass](#) workshops

283

workshops on the Ten Principles, training 1,392 companies

Further support will be delivered through the [Blueprint for Business Leadership on the SDGs](#) to guide leadership practices, and the [UN Global Compact Academy](#) to provide practical learning from world-class experts.

3. Facilitate public-private partnerships and dialogues:

Facilitate engagement with Governments, UN country teams, civil society, academia and other stakeholders around public policy dialogues to:

- contribute to the development of National Action Plans on the Global Goals
- help plan policies to enhance public-private collaboration
- support the development of local SDG frameworks and indicators

These partnerships will become members of the multi-stakeholder groups that UN country teams will create to support Governments in the implementation of the Global Goals.

4. Participation in public-private partnerships:

Support business to implement public-private partnership actions.






- Five Local Networks involved in 67 public-private partnerships in the region
- Ten Local Networks actively engaged in public policy dialogues around the Global Goals
- Eight Local Networks prepared voluntary national review reports to the High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2017





5. Mobilizing finance:

Contribute to mobilize private financial resources to advance the Global Goals.

- Two Local Networks working with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and corporate foundations

Global Compact Local Network initiatives:

	Argentina	Comisión Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales
	Colombia	Comisión de Alto Nivel Interinstitucional para el alistamiento y la efectiva Implementación de la Agenda ODS
	Guatemala	SEGEPLAN
	México	Comisión Nacional ODS
	Brasil	Comisión Nacional para ODS

	Perú	Comisión Nacional de Planeación Estratégica. CEPLAN
	Chile	Comisión Nacional para la Implementación de la Agenda 2030
	Paraguay	Comisión Interinstitucional de Coordinación de la Implementación de la Agenda 2030
	Costa Rica	Consejo Consultivo de los ODS

AN ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | 2017 KEY FACTS

About the Report

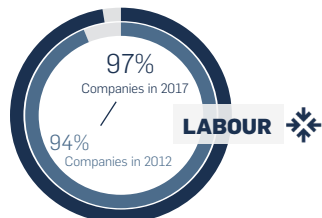
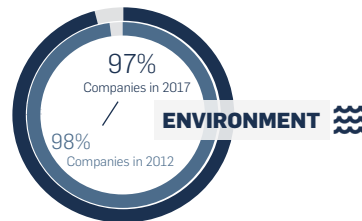
LAC companies participating in the UN Global Compact
+2,100

Global Compact Local Networks in LAC region
+15

69% of companies report that decision-making related to the company's strategy and performance is handled by the Chief Executive Officer.

As of March 2018

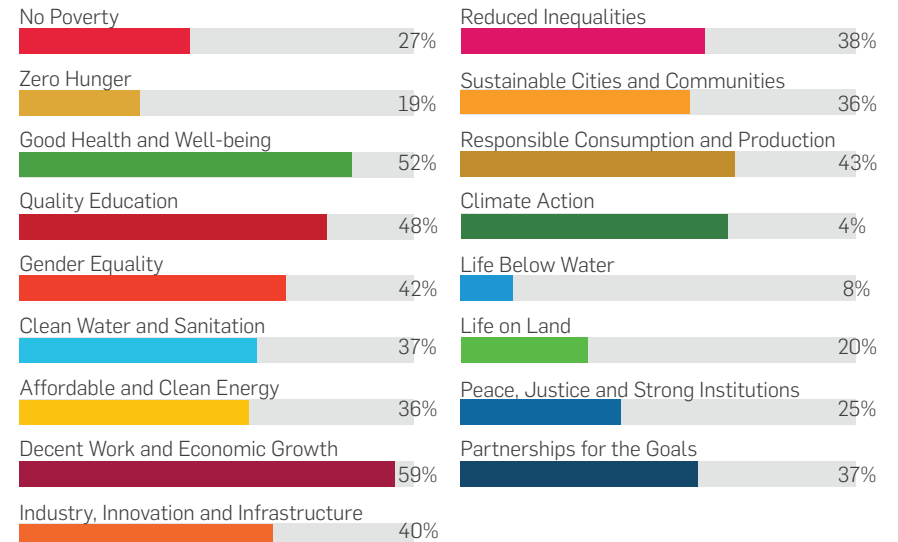
Commitment to the Ten Principles



Companies advancing the Global Goals



of Latin American and Caribbean companies are taking action on the Global Goals



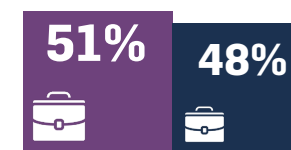
Business actions to advance the Global Goals

PARTNERSHIPS



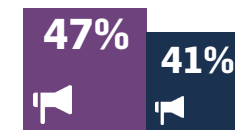
Develop and implement partnership projects with public or private organizations

CORE BUSINESS



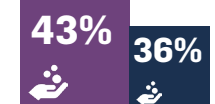
Align core business strategy with one or more UN goals/issues

ADVOCACY



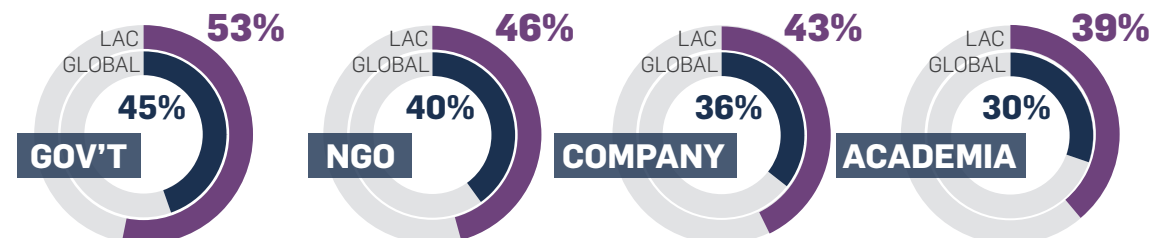
Publicly advocate the importance of action in relation to one or more UN goals/issues

SOCIAL INVESTMENT & PHILANTHROPY



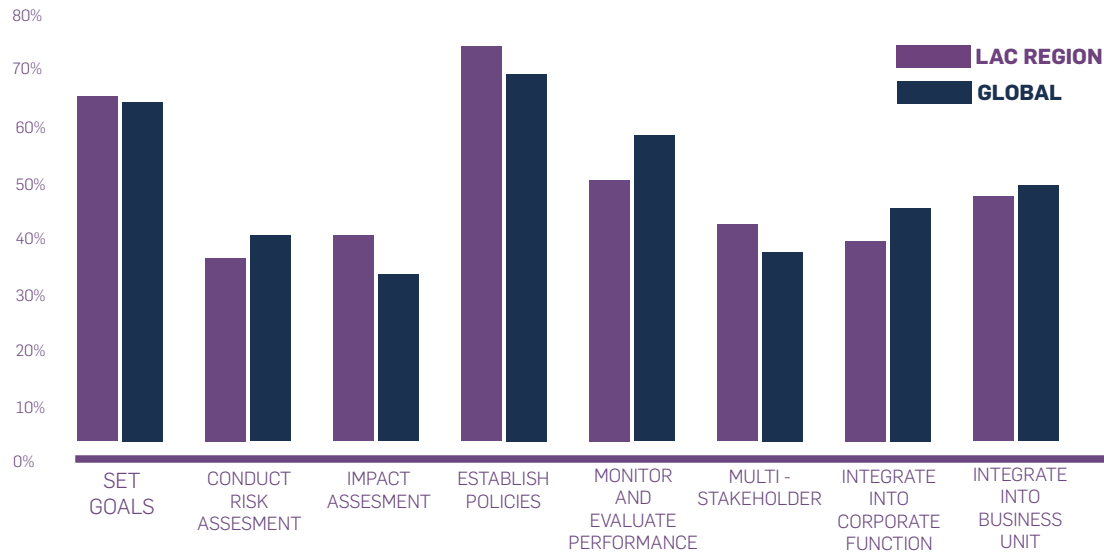
Pursue social investments and philanthropic contributions that tie in with the core competencies

Cross-sectoral Partnerships for the Global Goals



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Implementing sustainability

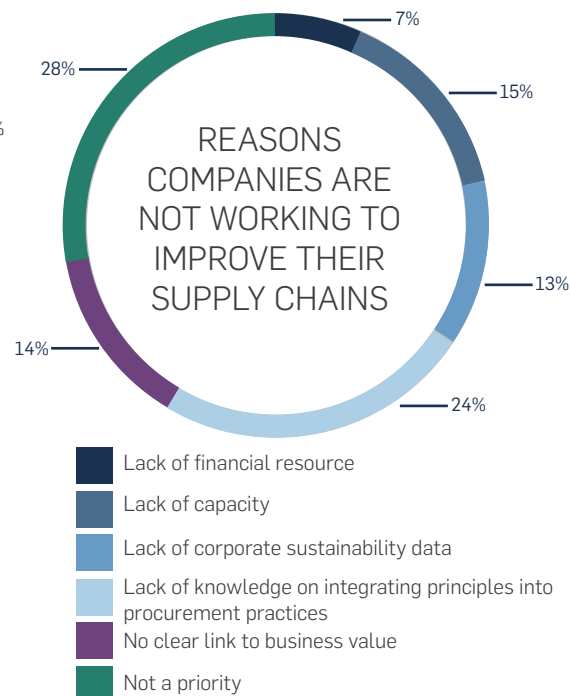
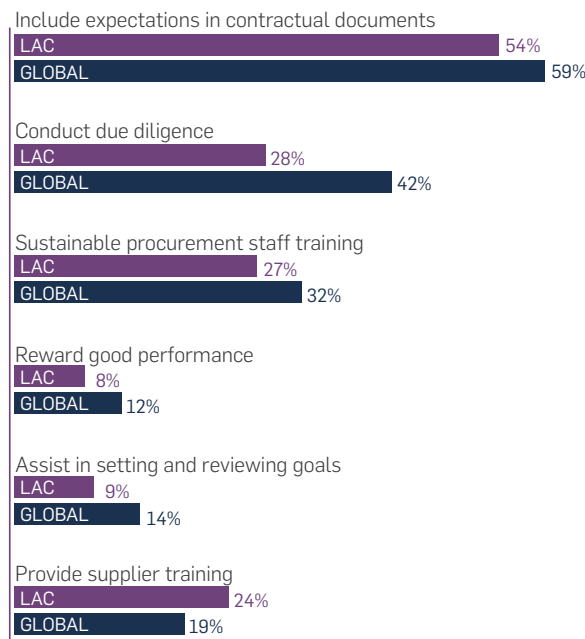


Setting public policy strategies



- 31%** Public advocacy for action in relation to the Ten Principles or Global Goals
- 24%** Participate in conferences and public policy interactions
- 22%** Aligns traditional government affairs with sustainability commitments
- 19%** Participate in regional or local public policy activities

Supply chain alignment



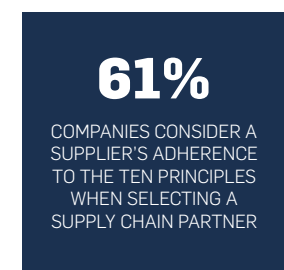
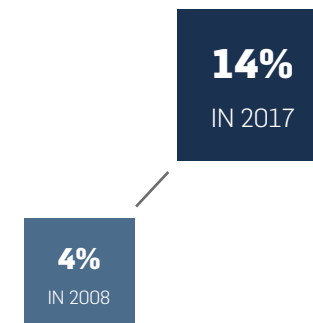
Corporate sustainability reporting

Significant progress can be seen in corporate disclosure of sustainability. Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean today are increasingly transparent about their performance and impacts.



Centring the Ten Principles in the supply chain

Number of companies* that require their suppliers to adhere to the Ten Principles to be selected as a supply chain partner.



* Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the UN Global Compact with over 250 employees