

# REVIEW OF POLICY PAPERS

ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS

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**Explanatory notes**

The following symbols are used in tables in the *Review*:

... Three dots indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

(–) A dash indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A blank space in a table means that the item in question is not applicable.

(-) A minus sign indicates a deficit or decrease, unless otherwise specified.

(.) A point is used to indicate decimals.

(/) A slash indicates a crop year or fiscal year; e.g., 2006/2007.

(-) Use of a hyphen between years (e.g., 2006-2007) indicates reference to the complete period considered, including the beginning and end years.

The word “tons” means metric tons and the word “dollars” means United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. References to annual rates of growth or variation signify compound annual rates. Individual figures and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the corresponding totals because of rounding.

## KEYWORDS

Financial crisis  
Economic development  
Development strategies  
Sustainable development  
Macroeconomics  
Investments  
Productivity  
Income distribution  
Social policy  
Latin America  
Caribbean region

# Structural constraints on development in Latin America and the Caribbean: a post-crisis reflection

*Alicia Bárcena*

**T**he development of Latin America and the Caribbean is still a work in progress. Although there have been macroeconomic improvements, allowing the region to confront the recent crisis on a better footing, this crisis has exposed old and new structural constraints faced by the countries of the region, which are reflected in the persistence of large social, economic, fiscal and environmental gaps. These gaps need to be closed for the sake of future generations and as a precondition for viable development that combines economic growth with equality and sustainability. This suggests that there are more than just economic reasons for the State to play, once again, a major role in development

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