



# Research on SDGs in Middle Income Countries:

A Latin American perspective

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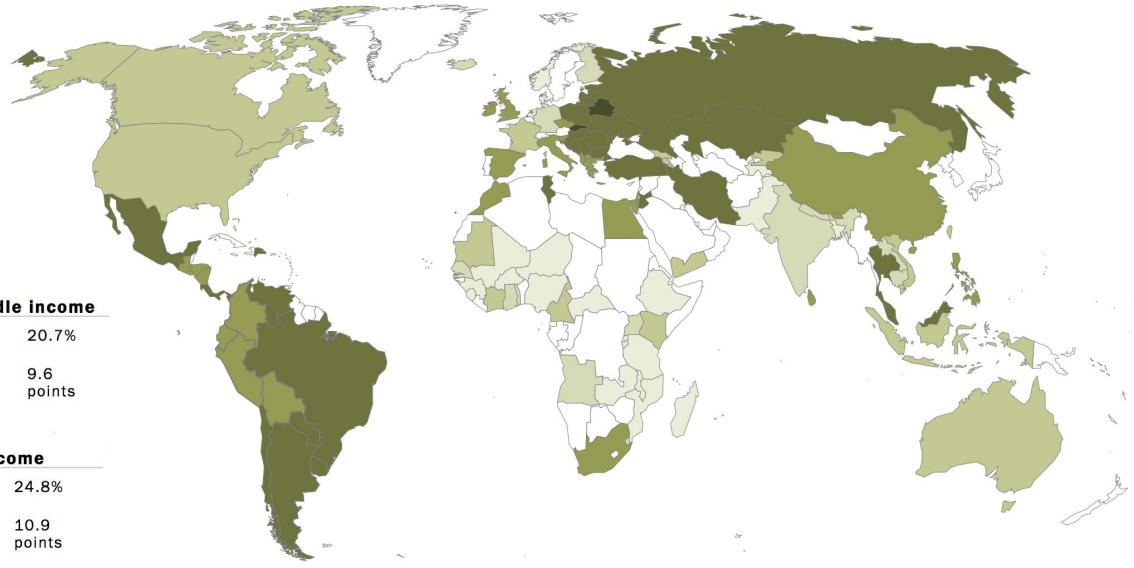
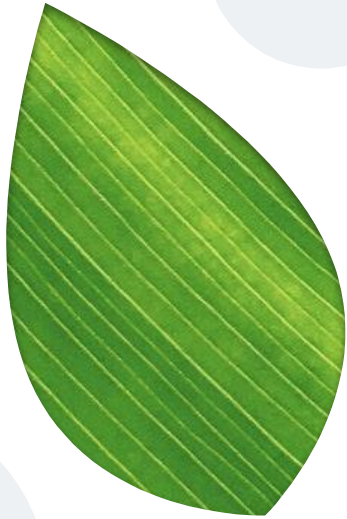
# 1. Introduction



# Introduction

- As a world's region, Latin America has the **biggest proportion of middle income population** in the planet.
- Most of middle income countries in Latin America **do not have a diversified economy**. Many Economies in South America rely on the exports of a limited number of commodities.
- Extraction activities for commodity production (metal mining, hydrocarbon, agro) do go against ecosystems resilience.

## How Many Live on How Much, and Where

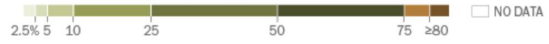


### Colombia, middle income

Share, 2011	20.7%
Change, 2001-2011	9.6 points

### Peru, middle income

Share, 2011	24.8%
Change, 2001-2011	10.9 points



2011 SHARE    PERCENTAGE POINT CHANGE    POOR    LOW INCOME    **MIDDLE INCOME**    UPPER-MIDDLE INCOME    HIGH INCOME

**13%** of people globally are **middle income**

*People living on \$10.01-20 daily are classified as middle income*



## Going out of the middle-income trap?

- It is widely recognised that “the middle-income trap” is traced to the inability of countries to undergo a process of structural change towards **innovation & knowledge-intensive production**.
- High levels of inequality may impede change by causing a lack of broad investment in human capital.

# Argument

- Transition to sustainable development calls for considerable coordination efforts.
- Current institutional arrangements give confined room for reforms of this type.
- **Evidence-based policy, finely adapted to the region's socio-environmental context, has a limited but important room to influence this institutional path dependence.**
- The Peruvian and Colombian case can illustrate some ways forward.





## 2. Key elements to consider



## 2.1 Ways of reading progress towards SDG

Identifying priorities for new approaches can use available frameworks to classify each SDG outcome target under one of four categories:

1. **On track:** where the target is already achieved or on course for success by the relevant deadline—usually 2030.
2. **Acceleration needed:** where the indicator is on course to close at least half the distance to the target, but not yet the whole way.
3. **Breakthrough needed:** where the indicator is on course to cover somewhere between 0 to 50 percent of the distance to the target.
4. **Moving backward:** where recent trends are moving in the wrong direction.

## HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL INTERACTIONS AND COHERENCE RELATIONSHIPS

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### SECTORAL COHERENCE

from one policy sector to another

### TRANSNATIONAL COHERENCE

from one jurisdiction to another (PCD)

### GOVERNANCE COHERENCE

from one set of interventions to another

### MULTILEVEL COHERENCE

from global/international agreements to national and local policy

### IMPLEMENTATION COHERENCE

from policy objective through instrument design to practice

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Griggs, D. J., Nilsson, M., Stevance, A., & McCollum, D. (2017).

## 2.2 Relationship between Sustainable Development Goals



1. In contrast to the Rio 'pillars' (economic development, social development and environmental protection), the 3 dimensions of sustainable development are described in the introductory sections of the 2030 Agenda as **intertwined**.
2. The scientific community has emphasized the need for a **systems approach** to sustainable development.
3. Policymakers face the challenge of implementing SDGs **simultaneously** aiming at achieving progress **across** the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Importance of assessing the influence that goals have to each other:

**Are they indivisible, reinforcing, enabling, consisting, constraining, counteracting or cancelling?**

### GOALS SCORING

The influence of one Sustainable Development Goal or target on another can be summarized with this simple scale.

Interaction	Name	Explanation	Example
+3	Indivisible	Inextricably linked to the achievement of another goal.	Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is indivisible from ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.
+2	Reinforcing	Aids the achievement of another goal.	Providing access to electricity reinforces water-pumping and irrigation systems. Strengthening the capacity to adapt to climate-related hazards reduces losses caused by disasters.
+1	Enabling	Creates conditions that further another goal.	Providing electricity access in rural homes enables education, because it makes it possible to do homework at night with electric lighting.
0	Consistent	No significant positive or negative interactions.	Ensuring education for all does not interact significantly with infrastructure development or conservation of ocean ecosystems.
-1	Constraining	Limits options on another goal.	Improved water efficiency can constrain agricultural irrigation. Reducing climate change can constrain the options for energy access.
-2	Counteracting	Clashes with another goal.	Boosting consumption for growth can counteract waste reduction and climate mitigation.
-3	Cancelling	Makes it impossible to reach another goal.	Fully ensuring public transparency and democratic accountability cannot be combined with national-security goals. Full protection of natural reserves excludes public access for recreation.



## A. Context specific

- Using the SDGs as a knowledge management grid could help to clarify what evidence refers to what context, and how knowledge can be generalised.
- What constitutes a positive interaction and a negative interaction can differ from one context to another and from one scale to the next.
- Scientific evidence in one area might not hold for a different scale or target area. It may appear highly contradictory at first glance.



# SDG SCORECARD 2030

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Goal	Target	Grade			
		Latin America	Central America	Caribbean	South America
<b>10. INEQUALITY</b>	10.1 Reduce Income Inequality	A	A	D*	A
<b>1. POVERTY</b>	1.1 End Extreme Poverty	B	B	B	B
<b>7. ENERGY</b>	7.1 Universal Access to Energy	B	B	B	B
<b>6. WATER &amp; SANITATION</b>	6.2 Universal Access to Sanitation	C	B	D	B
<b>15. BIODIVERSITY</b>	15.2 Halt Deforestation	D	D	A	D
<b>2. HUNGER</b>	2.1 End Hunger	E	E	D	D
<b>3. HEALTH</b>	3.1 Reduce Maternal Mortality	E	D	E	D
<b>4. EDUCATION</b>	4.1 Universal Secondary Education	E	E	E	D
<b>5. GENDER</b>	5.3 End Child Marriage	E	D	C*	F
<b>17. PARTNERSHIPS</b>	17.1 Mobilise Domestic Resources	E	B	F*	F*
<b>11. CITIES</b>	11.1 Reduce Slum Populations	F	F	F	F
<b>12. WASTE</b>	12.5 Reduce Waste	F	F	F	F
<b>13. CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	13.2 Combat Climate Change	F	F	F	F
<b>14. OCEANS</b>	14.2 Protect Marine Environments	F	F	F	F
<b>16. PEACE</b>	16.1 Reduce Violent Deaths	F	F	F	E
<b>8. GROWTH</b>	8.1 Economic Growth in LDCs	N/A	N/A	D*	N/A
<b>9. INDUSTRIALISATION</b>	9.2 Industrialisation in LDCs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

In an early assessment, 5 goals and targets were moving in the wrong direction across LAC: Reducing slum populations, Reducing waste, Combating climate change, Marine conservation, and Reducing violent deaths.

While the negative trajectory is similar to global trends for the first four of these, the target on ending violent deaths is projected to fare much worse in the region than elsewhere.

Nicolai, S., Bhatkal, T., Hoy, C., & Aedy, T. (2016).



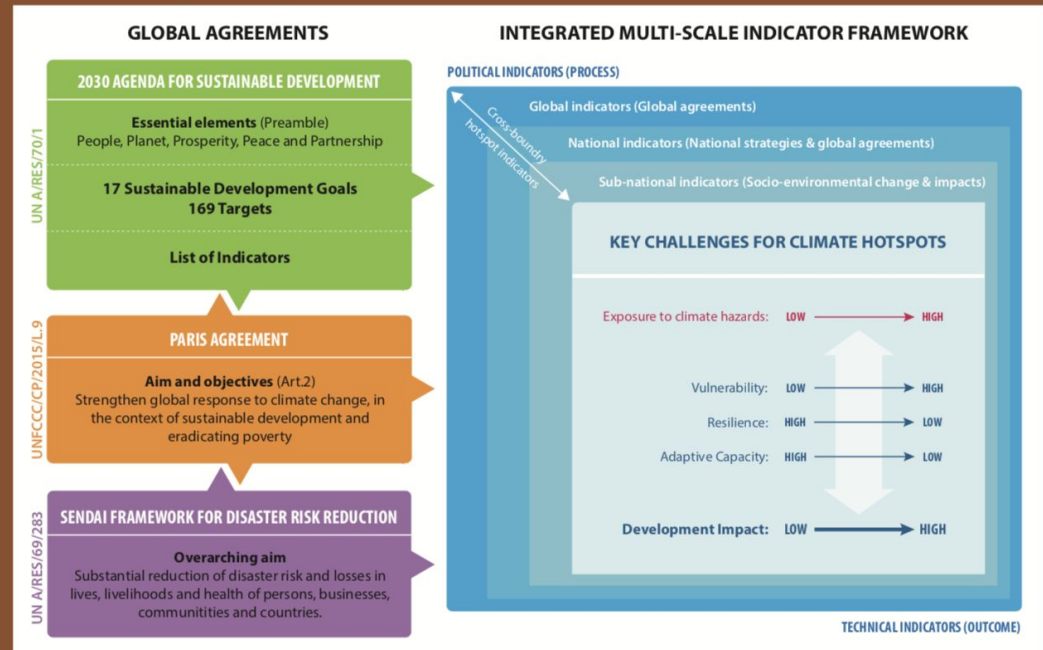
## B. Time Frame Dependency

- Some interactions develop in real time, while others show significant time lags.
- Some interactions may be restricted in time to the actual period of intervention, while others are irreversible or take a very long time to dissipate.



## C. Taking into account Climate Hotspots

Figure 2. Proposed multiscale SDGs framework for climate hotspots that aligns objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Note. Key developmental challenges of climate hotspots and development progress are monitored through additional cross-boundary indicators. Political (process) indicators and technical (outcome) indicators are applied for measuring progress and developmental outcomes at different levels of analysis.

## C. Ways of assessing climate hotspots

<b>Glaciers- and snowpack-dependent river basins</b>	Decline in glacier extent and thickness	<i>Insecure water supply</i> Indicators: Depletion indices for mass balance of glaciers; shifts in composition of total precipitation from snowfall to rainfall; monsoon onset, duration, and intensity.
	Shifts in precipitation patterns	
	Decline in seasonal snowpack extent and water content	<i>Seasonality of river runoff</i> Indicators: Shifts in streamflow hydrographs and in monthly and annual total flows; increases/decreases in runoff from increased glacial melt.
	Changes in streamflow seasonality and flood frequency	<i>Glacier melt-related risks</i> Indicators: Growth in number and extent of Glacial Lakes; occurrence of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).  <i>Increased flood risk</i> Indicators: Percent of land area affected by a 1-in-100-year flood event; percent change in precipitation intensity-duration-frequency curves.



4.  
**Research  
efforts in Latin  
America:**  
Examples from  
Colombia and  
Peru

## In Colombia

- 
- The Universidad de los Andes (UnianDES) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) are jointly developing a **Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean**, to be housed at UnianDES in Bogotá.



RECTOR PABLO NARVAS OF UNIANDES AND PROFESSOR JEFFREY SACHS OF SDSN SIGN A FORMAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE SDG CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.



# Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean

- The SDG Center LAC, established with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), will be the first of its kind in Latin America and is envisaged to be a regional hub for SDG-related research and professional training, and related public policy activity.



## Peru: SDGs Working Group

- Still few initiatives in place.
- 5 Private universities in a consortium effort.
- Sharing research results by annual events where policy makers are involved.
- Annual common Call for interdisciplinary research.





# 6. Ways Forward





- Where are breakthroughs needed? Where are targeted changes required to reach populations persistently excluded?
- Where could other countries' experiences inform breakthroughs? Are there case studies to learn from in bending curves toward longer-term progress?
- Where will near-term decisions drive outsized long-term effects? Some policy decisions are inherently long term in nature. Long-term effects need to be consistent with medium-term SDG outcomes, and vice versa. (Infrastructure and educational systems need to consider multiple decades when evaluating trade-offs).



# Concluding Remarks

- Knowledge gaps and their order of magnitude differ. They vary from one geographical area to another. In this context, science empowerment and capacity building on research, data collection, analysis and assessments on SDGs and its linkages are essential.
- Important interlinkages within and between goals and associated targets to support action in middle income countries.
- Finding synergistic SDGs considering the region characteristics and circumstances.
- Considering institutional inertia, context-sensitive evaluation is key.

# Concluding Remarks

- In-depth understanding of local situations will be critical and it is a feasible goal in the Latin American context.
- **Characterising** sustainable development and identifying **causation** to SD depends on in depth analysis.
- In this sense, universities can help a more strategic and integrated implementation.



## ...an always keep track on policy makers

- Countries are likely to prioritize certain goals, targets and indicators over others.
- During this exercise the “less effort” rule should be avoided.
- Evidence-based policy then has a room to influence state of things by showcasing its findings.



# iGracias!

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