Regional cooperation key to mitigating effects and building back better from COVID-19, speakers say at annual Second Committee Dialogue with the Regional Commissions

As the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to batter the economies of all countries, regional action is crucial to fostering the multilateralism required to recover and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals. Against the background of the 75th Anniversary of the UN, the annual Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions with the GA Second Committee demonstrated how regional cooperation and integration have contributed to decades of economic and social development in the regions and showcased how the Regional Commissions, based on the trust and knowledge of the countries they serve, continue to advocate policy solutions, catalyze action and help to build partnerships across development goals, thus laying the basis for long term cooperation in the regions.

- Webcast
- Concept Note
- ECA Presentation
- ESCAP Presentation
- ECLAC Presentation
- ESCWA Presentation
- UNECE Presentation
- UNECE Statement
Building a better post-Covid 19 world and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Regional analysis and policy responses

ECA

Research and analysis

- 2020 Review of progress made on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020
- Facilitating Cross-Border Trade Through a Coordinated African Response to Covid-19

News and press releases

- ECA and Partners discuss conducive Energy Regulatory Environment to attract investment (News – 16 October)
- ECA to host intergovernmental session on skills and competences for economic diversification in Central Africa (News - 15 October)
- StatCom7 ends with call on Africa to prioritize digitalizing continent's statistical systems (News – 15 October)
- Innovative research on preferential trade arrangements in Africa reviewed by Experts (Press Release – 14 October)
- Ethiopian President calls for modern African statistical systems for effective policy and decision-making (Press Release – 13 October)
- Webinar: AfCFTA and COVID19 mitigation in North African trade strategies (Webinar – 12 October)
- 7th Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (Event – 9 October)
- Experts meet to review a study on Negotiating Institutions: Putting in the Right Foundations in Central Africa (Press Release – 7 October)
- Nouakchott studies use of IPRT tool to step up SDGs & Agenda 2063 implementation (Press Release – 7 October)
- ECA, Smart Africa & Future State launch Africa Data Leadership Initiative (Press Release – 6 October)
- AfCFTA: The Government of Niger, the ECA and the Organization of Industrial Professionals of Niger organise the 4th edition of the trade fair “100% Made in Niger” (Press Release – 6 October)
- ONE and ECA Report on Remittances urge governments to help preserving this Lifeline for Africa hindered by the COVID-19 (Press Release – 6 October)
- To build back better, make African trade greener (Op-Ed – 5 October)
- Experts meet to review a new study on preferential trade agreement compliance (Press Release - 5 October)
- ECA trains Tunisian leaders on use of IPRT tool to facilitate development monitoring (Press Release - 5 October)
- On World Habitat Day Guterres calls for heightened efforts to improve housing (Press Release - 5 October)
- Harmonization of standards across Africa is vital to the realization of trade and industrialization potential of the AfCFTA (Press Release - 3 October)
- ECA and IIF Host Private Investors, African Finance and Development Ministers to Discuss the Role of Private Capital During the Crisis, and Post-Pandemic Recovery (Press Release – 1 October)
- Showcasing the African Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP): Engaging ECOWAS member states (Webinar- 30 September)

Resources
ECLAC

Research and analysis

- **U.S. Economic Outlook: First Half 2020** (Publication – October)
- **Political and social compacts for equality and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the post-COVID-19 recovery** (Publication-October)
- **Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2020. Main conditioning factors of fiscal and monetary policies in the post-COVID-19 era** (Publication-October)
- **Latin American Economic Outlook 2020: Digital transformation for building back better** (Publication- October)

News and press releases

- **Presentation of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE)** (Press release – 25 October)
- **Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020: Economic Statistics for the Future** (Event – 14-16 October)
- **It is Necessary to Incorporate the Gender Dimension into Fiscal Policies amid the Pandemic and the Care Economy into a Transformative Recovery: Alicia Bárcena** (Press Release – 9 October)
- **ECLAC Stresses Crucial Role of Regional Integration and Importance of Public-Private Partnerships for the post COVID-19 Recovery** (Press Release – 8 October)
- **ASOCAJAS Colombia Forum “Building capacities: the path to development”** (Event – 8 October)
- **In times of pandemic, it is imperative for countries to prioritize care and protect the rights of older persons** (News - 8 October)
- **Alicia Bárcena Urges for Strengthening Triangular Cooperation in the Region and Fostering its Role as a Catalyst of the Post-Pandemic Recovery** (Press Release – 7 October)
- **For the Recovery and a Transformation towards Sustainable Economies and Inclusive Societies, Active Macroeconomic Policies must be Maintained and Deepened** (Press Release – 6 October)
- **CEPAL llama a romper el silencio estadístico para evitar que la crisis del COVID-19 profunde los nudos estructurales de la desigualdad de género en la región** (Press Release – 1 October)
- **“Reactivation of the SICA Region in the post- COVID era”- Parlacen Conference** (Press Release- 30 September)
- **The impacts of COVID-19: an opportunity to strengthen the realization of the human rights of Afro-descendant populations in sustainable development** (Press release- 21 September)

Resources
ESCAP
Research and analysis

- Communities Of Practice – A Stop-Gap Solution During A Pandemic Or Here To Stay? (Blog – 15 October)
- The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: Migration In North And Central Asia (Blog – 13 October)
- Bhutan's First Sovereign Bond: Financing Lessons During The Pandemic (Blog – 6 October)

News and press releases

- Social Protection: A Right For All, Or A Privilege For A Few? (Media Advisory – 8 October)
- Launch of Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2020 (Media Advisory – 8 October)
- Mongolia Accedes To The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement As Its Seventh Member (Press Release – 29 September)
- Bhutan issues first sovereign bond to meet increasing fiscal financing needs in fighting COVID-19 (Press Release – 23 September)
- 8 UN Organizations Stress Critical Role Of International Transport And Integrated Supply Chains For COVID-19 Recovery And The SDGs (Press Release – 18 September)

Resources

- An update on Asia-Pacific economies' preferential trade agreements (ESCAP Trade Insights: Issue No. 29) (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 8 October)
- Producing land cover change maps and statistics: Step by step guide on the use of QGIS and RStudio (Manuals, guidelines, training materials – 5 October)
- A Study on the Costing, Operational Principles and Modalities of a Proposed South Pacific Internet Exchange (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 2 October)
- COVID-19 and its impact on shipping and port sector in Asia and the Pacific (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 2 October)
- ESCAP-ENEA Newsletter - September 2020 (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 30 September)
- 2020 ESCAP Population Data Sheet (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 30 September)
- Seamless and smart connectivity along the Asian Highway network in the time of COVID-19 (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 30 September)
- Pathways to manage cascading risks and protect people in South Asia: Key takeaways for stakeholders (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 25 September)
- Policy responses to COVID-19, Repurposing National Highways for Good (Public Information and Advocacy Materials – 25 September)
Research and analysis

- [Syria at War: Eight Years on](Report 23 September)

News and press releases

- [Building Forward an Inclusive and Accessible Lebanon](Press Release – 14 October)
- [Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Kuwait](News – 28, 29 September – 13 October)
- [ICC and United Nations launch Centre of Entrepreneurship in Beirut to support small businesses in the Arab region](News – 9 October)
- [Resource Efficiency in the Arab Region: Monitoring Progress of SDG 12 and Building Back Better from COVID-19](Event – 7-8 October)
- [Generating productive and inclusive employment in Lebanon](News – 7-8 October)
- [4th Arab Digital Content Forum](Event – 5-7 October)
- [Lebanese Ministry of Labor and ESCWA launch initiative: Free online courses with certification to support Lebanese careers](Press release – 8 October)
- [International Translation Day 2020](Event – 30 September)
- [Social Spending for Inclusive Growth in the Middle East and Central Asia](Webinar Event – 29 September)
- [ESCWA at the Arab Day of Agriculture](Event – 27 September)
- [Launch of UN 2020 e-Government Survey in Arabic](Press release – 25 September)
- [Losses exceeding $442 billion and millions in need of humanitarian assistance: the catastrophic repercussions of 8 years of war in Syria](Press release – 23 September)

Resources

- [Social justice policy gap assessment](
- [Prevalence of COVID-19 in the Arab Region](
- [COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker](

UNECE

Research and Analysis

- [Trustworthy official statistics help us all overcome crises, now and in the future](Blog -20 October)
- [Better risk management should guide our action to build back better](Blog – 13 October)

News and press release

- [Building Back Better: Innovation Enhancing Procurement for Sustainable Development](Webinar Event – 27 October)
- [Building Back Better: Using Platforms to Enable Sharing and Progress towards the Circular Economy](Webinar Event - 21 October)
- [Informal consultations of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies](Event - 21 - 27 October 2020)
the aftermath of COVID-19 (Press release - 20 October)

- UNECE launches initiative to support internationally-comparable data collection on COVID-19 impact on gender equality (Event – 16 October)
- UNECE launches handbook on sustainable urban mobility and spatial planning to help steer cities’ green recovery (Press Release – 16 October)
- UNECE issues guidelines and best practices for small businesses in critical raw material supply to assure post-COVID-19 resilience (Press Release - 7 October)
- UNECE tools and resources help countries reap the benefits of trade for their sustainable development strategies (News - 7 October)
- UNECE helps ensure statistics capture all aspects of economies in an ever-changing world (News - October)
- The pandemic shows need for resilient and sustainable cities, say local authorities as UNECE Forum of Mayors paves way for more inclusive multilateralism (Press Release – 6 October)
- UNECE Sustainable Cities Week promotes sustainable urban development for a resilient future (News – 2 October)
- New joint programme will support countries in upholding rights and dignity of older persons during COVID-19 and beyond (News – 1 October)

Resources

- COVID-19 and Sustainable Energy
- Platform for National Statistical offices (NSOs)
- Issue-based coalitions in the region
- Food Outlook
- Observatory on Border Crossings Status
- Data Sources on Coronavirus impact on Transport
- COVID-19: the role of the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health
- COVID-19 and Official Statistics
- Resource list on COVID-19 and older persons

Joint Events and Publications

- SDG Moment: The Heads of the Regional Commissions join the SDG Moment with a status of progress on the SDGs in the regions and outline pathways and opportunities towards a green, inclusive and gender-equal recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, in line with the vision enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.
- SDG Action Zone: Featuring voices representing stakeholders from the regions, the regional breakout session brings to the forefront the initiatives and solutions that are being tested and that have transformative potential to reverse SDG trends, have an impact on people’s lives and contribute to building back better in a post-Covid-19 world.
- 8 UN organizations stress critical role of international transport and integrated supply chains for COVID-19 recovery and the SDGs (Press Release - 18 September)
- COVID-19: Towards an inclusive, resilient and green recovery — building back better through regional cooperation - Provides key policy messages from the regional commissions and highlights the vital role of regional cooperation in an effective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
For more information, including previous issues of Newsletter, please visit our website:
www.regionalcommissions.org

or email: rcnyo.records@un.org

Websites of the UN Regional Commissions:
ECA
ECLAC
ESCAP
ESCWA
UNECE