Rethinking the social contract in times of COVID-19
12th International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean
Tuesday, 15 December 2020

16:00 – 17:00 CET  High-level Presidential dialogue: Towards an inclusive and sustainable recovery

Of all emerging and developing regions, Latin America and the Caribbean is the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis is bringing new challenges and opportunities to rethink development models, and put people’s well-being at the centre. What are the main policy priorities for a sustainable and inclusive recovery? How should countries involve various actors, including civil society and private sector, in this agenda?

H.E. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of the Republic of Costa Rica
Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Mauricio Claver-Carone, President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

17:00 – 17:45 CET  Stakeholder dialogue: A new role for non-state actors in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis

Renewing social contracts in the region requires a strong consensus amongst citizens around a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated development strategy, where all voices and actors are heard, to boost productivity, inclusion, and promote more formal jobs. What new roles can non-state actors play – civil society, international and non-governmental organisations, the business sector and academia – to enable such recovery?

Panel discussion
Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Maurizio Bezzeccheri, Head of Latin America, ENEL
María Barón, Lead Civil Society Co-Chair, Open Government Partnership Steering Committee/Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo
Andrea Costafreda, Programme Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, OXFAM

Moderator: Mario Pezzini, Director OECD Development Centre and Special Advisor to Secretary-General on Development
The Covid-19 crisis highlights the global nature of many development challenges. When designing national policies to improve the well-being of citizens, policy-makers need to consider global trends—e.g. climate change, digital transformation or migration—while offering local responses. This stresses the need for a renewed international and regional cooperation for development, where new partnerships support domestic capacities to respond locally. The pandemic brought to light the fragility of governance structures at all levels: no country can overcome the crisis on its own.

Panel discussion
Koen Doens, Director General, International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
Arancha González Laya*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, EU and Co-operation, Spain
Moderator: Benigno López Benítez, Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Concluding remarks
Manuel Escudero, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD, Chair of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre

* To be confirmed