

Webinar of the Development Banking Community of Practice ALIDE – IDB - ECLAC

Economic Outlook 2026 for Latin America and the Caribbean

and its Implications for Development Banking Action

Organized by: Comunidad de Práctica

ALIDE–IDB–ECLAC Development Banking Community of Practice
Webinar "Economic Outlook 2026 for Latin America and the Caribbean and its Implications for Development Banking Action"

Date: January 29, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM (Lima Time, GMT-5)
Duration: 60 minutes.
Platform: ALIDE Zoom

CONCEPT NOTE

• JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE

Latin America and the Caribbean continue to face a low growth capacity trap. ECLAC projections indicate that the region is expected to grow by around 2.3% in 2026, slightly below the 2.4% projected for 2025, thus marking a sequence of four consecutive years with growth rates of approximately 2.3%. This performance takes place in an uncertain global environment and amid internal constraints that limit higher growth in investment, productivity, and the capacity to generate formal employment.

The region's economic outlook presents mixed signals. While inflation continues to decline, enabling more accommodative monetary stances, growth in private consumption is slowing. Investment, although recovering, remains subdued, and gender gaps in labor markets persist. Meanwhile, external accounts show moderate but persistent deficits, with vulnerabilities linked to dependence on primary exports and rising interest payments. Escaping the low growth capacity trap requires more coordinated policies and strong institutions to manage and sustain them over time. This calls for combining fiscal sustainability with increased investment, monetary policies focused on stability, and the scaling up of productive development policies to foster innovation and quality employment. Only through this comprehensive approach can the region strengthen its resilience and move toward more productive, inclusive, and sustainable development.

The objective of the webinar is to analyze the economic outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2026, and the main risks associated with the international environment. It will address the potential impact of global growth trends and rising geopolitical and trade risks. On the domestic front, attention will be given to weak internal demand driven by private consumption, low job creation, and persistent structural deficiencies in labor markets, as well as the limited room for maneuvering of macroeconomic policy.

The analysis will place particular emphasis on the role of development banking as a key actor in mitigating risks, mobilizing financing, and seizing opportunities in a context of heightened uncertainty.

• METHODOLOGY

The event will be conducted as a virtual panel (webinar), with the participation of specialists and representatives from ECLAC, S&P Global Ratings, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The panel will present the results of economic

performance in 2025, the economic outlook for 2026, and the main risk factors and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating a comparative perspective of the international and regional context.

At the end of the session, a question-and-answer segment will be opened to facilitate discussion between participants and panelists.

• AGENDA

Time	Activity / Moderator: Jesús Gutiérrez, IDB–ALIDE Consultant
10:00 -10:05	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** Romy Calderón Head of Economic Studies and Information Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE)
10:05-10:50	• **Economic Performance and Outlook for 2026** Esteban Pérez Caldentey Chief, Development Financing Unit Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) • **Outlook on the Economy, Global Financial Markets, and Risks and Opportunities for LAC** Elijah Oliveros-Rosen Chief Economist for Latin America and Emerging Markets S&P Global Ratings • **Structural Challenges and the Role of Development Banking in the Current Context** Sebastián Nieto Parra Regional Head - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean Unit -, Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
10:50-11:00	Questions from the Audience Closing of the Meeting

• TARGET AUDIENCE

- Representatives of development banks in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Officials from regional and multilateral financial institutions.
- Specialists in economics and regional development.

• EXPECTED RESULTS

- Analysis of the economic implications for LAC arising from the global environment.
- Identification of strategies to mitigate the risks associated with these factors.
- Understanding the risks and opportunities in international credit and capital markets.
- Concrete recommendations for the role of development banks in this context.

- **LANGUAGE**

The webinar will feature simultaneous interpretation services through an AI-based solution integrated into ALIDE's Zoom platform, enabling real-time interpretation between Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Chinese, among other languages, thereby facilitating access and participation for a diverse international audience.