

METRICS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Policy Uses of Well-being and Sustainable Development Indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean

23-24 October 2019
Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia

SUMMARY AND KEY MESSAGES



Overview and key messages

On the 23-24 October 2019, over 50 speakers and almost 200 audience participants gathered in Bogotá at the Universidad of Rosario to explore the challenges and achievements of mainstreaming multidimensional metrics of well-being and sustainable development in policymaking. Over the two days of technical sessions, keynote speeches, and high-level panels, a diverse range of perspectives were shared from Statistical Offices, Planning Ministries, Ministries of Economy and Finance, Central Government, local and regional government, international organisations, academia, civil society and the private sector – from across Latin America, Europe and the world.

This document provides a summary of the discussions and presentations at the conference. On the first day of the conference, a technical workshop set the scene by showcasing relevant research and case studies (including contributions selected through a Call for Papers organised in Spring 2019). The second day was devoted to high-level policy discussions, and was opened by President Duque of Colombia, followed by remarks from Angel Gurría (OECD), Mario Cimoli (ECLAC), and Jolita Butkeviciene (EU).

Over the two days, a number of key themes and messages emerged related to the policy use of well-being and sustainable development metrics in the Latin American and Caribbean region, including:

- The policy relevance of more subjective measures in the LAC region. There is increasing recognition that indicators of people's perceptions (e.g. life satisfaction, trust in others and institutional trust, fears of crime, perceived discrimination) can bring important information to complement traditional objective indicators. The wave of recent protests and social unrest in countries in the region underlines the need to better understand citizens' lived experiences when making policy decisions.
- The need to better understand inequalities across the many dimensions of well-being and sustainable development. Inequality aspects which are particularly important in the region include gender, indigenous or other minority racial and ethnic status, and territorial (including the urban-rural divide, but also the general geographic distribution of well-being outcomes within countries).
- Work and work quality, including informal and unpaid work. The Latin American and Caribbean region has one of the highest rates of informal employment in the world, impacting workers' economic security and quality of life. Better understanding levels and patterns in informal work, as well as other aspects of work quality, are of key importance in the region. There is also a need to better measure and value the importance of unpaid work, particularly from the perspective of gender equality.
- The impact of violence and safety on people's well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean, including perceptions of crime and victimisation as well as impacts on specific groups and areas.
- The need to better link national and sub-national planning and monitoring, especially in the context of the SDGs. Priorities at the local level may not be the same as those at national level, and there will usually be a trade-off between locally-tailored metrics, and the need for comparability across departments and alignment with national development objectives.

- The need for further statistical innovation, development and harmonisation. It was clear that to meet the data demands of achieving well-being and sustainable development in terms of indicator coverage, granularity, timeliness and international comparability, there is much work that remains to be done. Innovations in the use of new data sources, such as big data and geospatial information provide one route to filling data gaps, but work is also needed with more traditional sources, such as household surveys, to include new questions and harmonised methods to ensure the availability of complete and comparable on well-being and sustainability outcomes.

The conference was held in the context of the EU Regional Facility for Development in Transition, and specifically as part of the project on [Metrics for Policies for Well-being and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), jointly implemented by the European Commission, the OECD and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In this respect, the conference was extremely valuable for highlighting the wealth of existing experience in measuring multidimensional outcomes and mainstreaming them in policy in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which will be immensely useful for informing future efforts. Examples from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and other countries across the region demonstrated that not only do LAC countries have a long history of multidimensional measurement (through the application of MPI and Basic Needs approaches) and whole-of-government policy making (through the established use of National Development Plans) but they are also pioneering new ways of mainstreaming multidimensional frameworks for well-being and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the SDG agenda. Experiences from Europe and other OECD countries showed that there is value in building partnerships and exchanging knowledge between countries within and outside the region, which the project will support.

The organisation of the conference would not have been possible without the support of the Colombian National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), the Colombian Department of National Planning (DNP) and the Universidad del Rosario. Particular thanks are due to the staff of the Economics Facility and Events Organisation Unit of the Universidad del Rosario, the interpreters, Sylvia Sofia Pedraza Ramirez for her input as rapporteur, and Yina Ramos, who acted as Master of Ceremony for the high-level event.

To see the full conference programme and access all presentations, background papers and session videos, as well as to find out more about the OECD-EU-ECLAC project, visit: www.oecd.org/statistics/lac-well-being-metrics.htm.

Day 1: Wednesday 23 October, Technical Workshop

Welcome remarks

The first day opened with welcoming remarks from Carlos Eduardo Sepúlveda Rico, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Rosario, Luis Alberto Rodríguez, Director of Colombia's National Planning Department (DNP), and Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director of the Colombian National Statistics Office (DANE). **Carlos Sepúlveda** recognised the conference as a unique opportunity to evaluate the efforts made so far to place multidimensional well-being at the centre of public policies and statistics, and emphasised the need to design instruments that allow the creation of new policies in search of sustainable and inclusive development as a priority for government, academia and private entities. **Luis Alberto Rodríguez** highlighted the importance of the conference, denoting the progress of a region that has become a benchmark for emerging countries. Finally, **Juan Daniel Oviedo**, pointed out that the summit, which arose from the OECD's leadership in development issues, is the ideal scenario for the creation of new metrics that respond to the shortcomings of the old ones. In this process, it is essential to take into account the current traps that govern our society: traps of productivity, social vulnerability, institutional and environmental, which will allow to have a multidimensional approach at the regional level, providing new metrics that lead development models and that allow us to navigate these traps.

Presentation of OECD-EC-ECLAC Project on Metrics for Policies for Well-being and Sustainable Development in Latin American and the Caribbean

Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Office of Statistics and Data, together with **Sebastián Nieto Parra**, Head of the LAC Unit at the OECD Development Centre presented the project and its objectives. Nieto Parra set the context, explaining that the current phase of "Development in Transition" is heightening a disconnect between traditional macroeconomic indicators such as GDP on the one hand and people's well-being on the other. It is therefore becoming increasingly important to see development from a multidimensional perspective that puts people's well-being at its centre.

Martine Durand continued by emphasising that countries need new metrics, tools and policy approaches to deal with the multidimensionality of sustainable development. She argued that while the SDGs are an important political achievement, and embody the paradigm shift towards multidimensionality in development, they also pose a number of challenges for policy makers. These challenges include: the high number of goals, targets and indicators, which are too wide-ranging and complex for high-level policy application; the lack of a conceptual framework allowing to distinguish between inputs, outputs, outcomes and processes; and data availability (as fewer than half of SDG indicators are Tier 1, with comparable, high-quality data). In this context, [the OECD-EC-ECLAC project on Metrics for Policies for Well-being and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) aims to ensure that relevant metrics are developed and used in policy making for achieving sustainable development in the LAC region. This is both a statistical and policy agenda, and the project provides a platform for international dialogue between policy sectors, and between statisticians and policy-makers towards: sharing knowledge on

what countries are doing in terms of statistical and policy frameworks for well-being and sustainable development, from across the Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions; identifying a limited number of common policy priority areas in the Latin America and the Caribbean and the required information base, drawing on the SDG indicators; and, supporting statistical development across the LAC region to inform the identified policy priorities, and setting out steps to fill identified statistical gaps. Culminating in the release of a final report and the organisation of a final conference in June 2021, the project will work with relevant partners in the LAC region through an established Regional Expert Network by: identifying a limited set of high-level, headline indicators (10-20) that reflect regional policy priorities, identifying methods to fill key statistical gaps, and gathering case studies and best practice on the policy use of well-being and sustainable development indicators.

Pelayo Rocés-Fernandez, Programme Manager of the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, highlighted the European Union's interest in contributing positively to the process, identifying the value of cooperating with Latin America. He stressed the EU can help provide the statistical and well-being measurement tools that already work in European countries, playing the role of facilitator of processes and forming global cooperation partnerships and funds. He underlined that the results of this conference would form part of the start of a process that forges the way for the next two years of cooperation work.

Finally, **Rolando Ocampo**, Director of the Statistics Division, ECLAC, pledged the ongoing support of his organisation and highlighted a number of issues to bear in mind when adapting a well-being framework to the priorities of the LAC region, including discrimination and racism, child labour, indigenous rights, cultural promotion, access to technology, social protection, social relations and environmental rights. He stated that a major priority for statisticians in the region is the integration of perception measures in official statistics. While a few statistical offices in the region have begun ongoing measurement of subjective well-being and measures of satisfaction in different life areas, there is a need for this to become standard practice. He emphasised the value of regional and international cooperation, to ensure the use of harmonised standards, and emphasised that ECLAC have a number of ongoing projects and networks (such as the Conference of American Statisticians) which will provide valuable inputs going forward.



Parallel session 1A: The use of well-being and sustainable development measures in government planning and budgeting

This session, moderated by **Martine Durand**, explored how governments in the LAC region and elsewhere are putting well-being and sustainable development measures at the heart of policymaking, with a focus on planning and budgeting processes.

Chiara Assunta Ricci, presented the experience of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance in including Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being (ESW) indicators into economic and budgetary planning. In 2016, a reform to the budget law made it mandatory for ESW indicators to be integrated into the economic and financial planning cycle. Every April, a special Annex accompanies the main Budget document reporting on the evolution of selected well-being indicators over the previous three years, and forecasts for the next three-year period under an unchanged policy scenario; the following February, a separate report shows the updated forecasts in light of the Budget decisions taken. For this purpose, 12 indicators were selected from the full set of 130 ESW indicators produced by the Italian Statistics Office (Istat), on the basis of parsimony, statistical availability, analytical feasibility and sensitivity to policy change. These indicators cover the dimensions of economic well-being, health, education and training, work-life balance, security, politics and institutions, environment, and landscape and cultural heritage, following the recommendations of the Sen-Stiglitz-Fitoussi Report. Adapting analytical approaches to integrate the new multidimensional framework into budget decision-making is an ongoing and intensive process, with forecasting methods developed for 4 of the 12 indicators to date. Ricci emphasised that while much progress has been made, the initiative to incorporate well-being metrics into the policy cycle can only be successful if the government's numbers become material for discussion for insiders and also for public opinion as a whole, and set out a number of key challenges to achieve this, including: fostering a country-wide discussion with civil society, the private sector and ordinary citizens on what matters most for well-being; involving academia and other experts on improving analytical methods; and making continued efforts to overcome silo-based policy-making by encouraging all government departments to consider well-being outcomes in the impact of their programmes.

Next, **Lucas Gómez**, Director of Monitoring and Public Policy Evaluation in the Colombian Department of National Planning (DNP) began by giving an overview of different multidimensional measurement frameworks that have been influential in the design of Colombia's latest national development plan, "*Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad*", including the OECD Better Life framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). He underlined that, in general, Latin American governments face three key challenges when designing their national development strategies: first, to design policies that can maintain the results achieved to date in improving social conditions; second, to develop a new public policy architecture that cuts across sectoral and territorial departments and broadens social protection; and third, to adapt the SDG agenda to each country's national priorities. Gómez emphasised that the focus on the territorial dimension is particularly important, given that the challenges and priorities can be completely different at the sub-national level. "*Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad*" takes a multidimensional approach that focuses on key well-being themes (such as security and sustainability), vulnerable groups (such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and women) and territorial challenges, which is completely aligned with the SDGs. The plan was developed with cross-governmental support, and monitoring will be informed by information collected by the statistical office, DANE, DNP and

Department of Social Prosperity. Throughout his intervention, Gómez emphasised the central importance of measuring subjective well-being, and understanding citizen's perceptions – not only for a deeper understanding of people's situation, but also for communicating on where government action has an impact for achieving better lives. Finally, Gómez argued that a well-being and sustainable development agenda cannot be achieved by a single administration, and needs to be tied to a long-term institutional vision. The Development Plan was designed with this long-term vision in mind, and Lucas stated that Colombia's entry into the OECD, with its focus on "Better Policies for Better Lives" will help institutionalise a well-being approach across government departments.

Finally, **Frank Murillo**, Director of the Global Network and Leader for Agenda 2030 in the Social Progress Imperative, shared his experience working with Latin America countries. Social progress is understood as a society's ability to meet the basic needs of its citizens, enabling them to achieve and sustain a quality of life and creating conditions for all individuals to reach their potential. Thus, the Social Progress Index is used as a consultative tool to understand the needs of populations at the national level, and to prioritise efforts to measure impact, and the allocation of resources in policies. It has been applied in a number of contexts in the Latin American and Caribbean region (including being used to design the National Development Strategy of Paraguay), as well as around the world. According to Director Murillo, the aim is to position the index as a common language of collaboration, along with the positioning of local networks committed to working together, using the new information to generate real change. In this respect, the collaborative process is almost more important than the measurement itself. He said that when adapting a global framework such as the SPI to national or local contexts, there is always a trade-off between granularity and international comparability to be navigated.

Parallel session 1B: Innovations in wellbeing measurement in national statistical offices

Latin American national statistical offices are pioneering new approaches to measuring well-being and sustainable development at the national and local levels. **Juan José Viteri** presented the experience of the Ecuadorean statistical office, INEC, in developing a Multidimensional Well-being Index. Viteri explained that INEC's effort were driven by both national and international factors. The concept of "Buen Vivir" (Living Well) has been incorporated into Ecuador's constitution since 2008, recognising not only the rights of individuals but also communal rights, and the rights of nature itself. The widespread global recognition of the value of well-being measures for formulating, guiding and evaluating public policy within a broader multi-dimensional perspective was also influential. In order to identify the dimensions and indicators to build the Index, INEC undertook a substantial consultative process with international experts, academics, civil society and private sector representatives, international organisations, and discussion groups made up of Ecuadorean citizens. This process resulted in the selection of 25 indicators across seven dimensions of well-being for Ecuador: housing, water and sanitation, health, employment and economic security, education, community relations and subjective well-being, and environmental practices. These measures were then combined to create a single index using an adapted version of Alkire and Foster's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) methodology. Similar to the MPI approach, the Multidimensional Well-being Index ascertains thresholds for each sub-measure in order to identify the population who are experiencing multidimensional well-being, and those who are well-being deprived.

Andrea Lorenzetti, Director of Sector Statistics of the Argentinean national statistical office, INDEC, presented the Integrated System of Social Statistics (SIES) that is being used to improve social information and optimise technical resources, in order to adapt the OECD well-being measurement framework in Argentina. Lorenzetti explained that to understand how to adapt the framework, INDEC consulted with international and regional experts as well as with contacts in all provinces of the country. They also undertook an analysis of data availability that showed that 65% of the indicators of the OECD framework can be calculated with existing surveys, 25% with registers and 15% with censuses. However, 40% of OECD indicators cannot currently be calculated with existing national data sources. Another fundamental advance of the INDEC analysis is the identification of other relevant dimensions to measure well-being in Argentina, notably labour informality, child labour and unpaid work. The next key steps will include the definition and publication of well-being indicators for Argentina, which will enrich the dialogue on synergies at the regional level.

To close this first parallel session, the Director DANE, **Juan Daniel Oviedo**, presented results for a number of innovative measurement initiatives in Colombia including on subjective well-being, subjective poverty and social capital. He showed that while subjective well-being is generally high across Colombia, there is a significant degree of regional variation between sub-national territories. There is an even greater degree of territorial variation for subjective poverty, with only 13.6 per cent of people in Bogotá considering themselves poor, compared with 76.3 per cent in the region of Chocó. In general, people who consider themselves to be poor report lower levels of satisfaction across a range of measures such as health, safety and life satisfaction. Oviedo concluded by presenting results from its module on Social Capital in the 2019 Political Culture Survey, the report of which was launched on the second day of the conference, and covers five dimensions: groups and networks, trust and reciprocity, collective action, social cohesion and inclusion, and subjective well-being. Among other findings, the survey showed that trust in almost all institutions has fallen in the period between 2017 and 2019.

Parallel session 2A: Subjective well-being measurement for policy

The moderator, **Rodrigo Márquez**, Doctor in Sociology at FLACSO, Chile, opened the session by asking what is the ultimate objective that we should seek by placing individuals at the centre of policies for well-being, and arguing that it is to increase people's subjective well-being, or happiness. He emphasised that the importance of subjective well-being measurement is no longer in question, thanks to a wide body of evidence supporting its validity and value for informing public policy.

Yadira Díaz, postdoctoral researcher at the Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá-Colombia, opened the interventions with a presentation on the use of the 'equivalent income' approach to understand how individuals' preferences for different well-being dimensions can differ. The equivalent income approach uses life satisfaction regressions for income and non-income dimensions of well-being to derive information on the hypothetical level of income that combined with the best possible value level of the other non-income dimensions, would place the individual in a situation that he or she finds equally good as his or her actual situation. Díaz and her colleagues' research used a rich dataset from Ecuador to look beyond the usual dimensions included in equivalent income research to date (income, housing quality, illness and unemployment) to include social isolation, gender-based violence, unfair treatment, political participation and empowerment. The analysis showed that these additional aspects are significant determinants of life satisfaction, and

considering this wider range of dimensions changes the picture of those considered the most deprived. Only around 39 percent of those considered the most deprived when all life dimensions are included are among the most deprived based on equivalent incomes including only the basic dimensions (income, health, unemployment and housing quality). Diaz stressed that this work highlights the importance of adding more dimensions that matter to people's lives in policy evaluation frameworks, as well as using more participative processes to identify those dimensions that matter most.

Mariano Rojas, Professor of Economics at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Mexico Campus and Autonomous Popular University of the State of Puebla, Mexico, presented research on the drivers of subjective well-being in Latin America. While many commentators often point to the discrepancy between the relatively high subjective well-being levels and relatively poor objective conditions evidenced in the region as the "Latin American Paradox", Rojas stated that the high levels of subjective well-being generally reported by Latin Americans represents a real asset that should be taken into account by the region's policy makers, and not something to be dismissed as a puzzling anomaly. He expanded by demonstrating the exceptionally important role of strong family and friendship ties for driving well-being in the region, and argued that this is not something to be taken for granted, but rather something that should be fostered and safeguarded through adapted policies. He underlined that if the ultimate aim of development policies is to improve people's well-being, than measuring people's experiences and perceptions through subjective measurement becomes a necessity rather than a luxury. He concluded by saying that not only can subjective well-being measures help to design better policies that take a broader view of overall well-being, rather than focusing only on deprivation, but can also assist in communicating on government efforts with citizens, as the public tend to care more about these kind of indicators. This is especially important in the current regional context of social upheaval where there is a clear gap between the most common measures being used to inform policy and the experience and perceptions of citizens.

Finally, **Lina Martinez**, Director of the Observatory of Public Policies, Icesi University, Cali, contributed to the discussion with a presentation on the CaliBRANDO project, measuring the well-being of citizens in the Colombian city of Cali. Cali is a city that experiences relatively high levels of violence and relatively low material conditions overall, but where aggregate life satisfaction scores are high. Martinez showed the importance of looking beyond aggregate scores and taking a more granular approach by demonstrating that at the local level, neighbourhoods with poorer socio-economic conditions, high levels of insecurity and weak access to quality public services had much lower levels of life satisfaction and trust in institutions. Finally, Martinez explained that results show that while people may be happy in their individual sphere (at the family level and in their interpersonal relations) they tend to be less satisfied in their collective or governmental sphere (goods and services) demonstrating the importance of evaluating subjectivity both individually and collectively.

Parallel session 2B: Adapting the OECD wellbeing framework to the Latin American context: applied examples

The OECD has been working to promote the measurement of well-being and to incorporate the notion into policy-making, guided by a multidimensional framework of current well-being and the resources needed for the sustainability of well-being. This session presented examples of how the framework has been applied and adapted to the Latin American context. **Oscar Gasca Brito**, General Coordinator of Regional Operations of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico, presented the initiatives that have emerged in Mexico since 2011, when the OECD Better Life Initiative was first launched. Mexico has had a long interest in the issue of well-being measurement, dating back to a conference on the issue in 2011, where a number of priority issues for the country emerged, including education, working conditions, housing, economic situation, interpersonal relationships, availability of free time, access to social protection, effective citizenship, rule of law, and ethnic and gender equality. From this interest, and building on the work of the OECD, INEGI established two initiatives to adapt the OECD well-being framework: a project to support the state of Morelos in incorporating well-being measures into its State Development Plan, and a public website presenting well-being indicators at the state level. When working with Morelos, the first step was a broad consultation process, involving input from experts from the OECD, INEGI, CONEVAL (Mexico's policy evaluation council), as well as from a number of different policy sectors (education, environment, social, security and justice), the Chamber of Commerce, four municipalities and the Morelos State Institute for Development and Municipal Policy. This process led to the selection of 9 dimensions and 16 indicators, including access to basic services, victimisation rate, female participation rate, air quality, access to public transport and obesity rates. The state government of Morelos now uses these indicators to monitor progress in the priority policy areas established in its plan: income, education, employment, housing, access to services, housing, health, environment and safety. After the success of the Morelos experiment, INEGI adapted this approach (again through a consultative process) to produce well-being indicators for all states in Mexico, via a dedicated website.

Harrison Sandoval, analyst at the non-profit organisation ProPacífico, presented an adapted version of the Better Life Index for the Colombian Pacific region. The Pacific region has been particularly impacted by the historical conflict, with a high presence of armed guerrilla forces. It also has high levels of multidimensional poverty, and a significant share of the population (around 1 in 3 people) belong to traditionally vulnerable indigenous and ethnic minority groups. ProPacífico selected 29 indicators across 10 dimensions of well-being that map closely to the dimensions of the OECD framework, allowing to compare well-being levels across the different departments of the region, and made the results available through a website. This work allowed to broaden the discussion on development in the region, taking into account local priorities. It also helped to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to facilitate the exchange of good practices and the design of public policies, while also exploiting the potential of a range of new statistical tools in the country and region. Future work will include deepening the measurement and analysis of subjective well-being.

Finally, **Sebastián Nieto Parra**, from the OECD Development Centre and **Juan Miguel Gallego**, Associate Professor at the Universidad del Rosario, presented a joint study on the well-being in the informal economy. The aim of this study was to combine measures of informality with indicators of well-being and poverty variables in order to better understand

the link between the three, with a focus on the household level. The topic is particularly relevant in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, since informality hinders the consolidation of the growing middle class in the countries of the region. The study reveals that informality is related to lower levels of well-being, mainly in the dimensions of education, income and employment, work-life balance and subjective well-being. However, data availability is limited, and some key dimensions are not yet included in national household surveys. This undermines effective public policy design, as they cannot be based on concrete evidence and specific evidence in certain areas. On the other hand, the authors explained, work is still ongoing on the formulation of additional well-being indicators within other dimensions of the OECD well-being framework that can be analysed for the formal and informal employment sectors.

Parallel session 3A: New data sources for informing well-being and sustainable development policy

This session explored experiences with the use of new data sources to measure relevant aspects of well-being and sustainable development, such as administrative data, geospatial data, collective source data and other innovative approaches, that have optimised the information gathering process. **Alejandro Ruiz**, researcher in the Directorate-General of Integration Analysis and Research in INEGI, Mexico, began the session by presenting two innovative projects using new data sources. The first sought to measure and report the mood of Twitter users in Mexico through machine learning methods. The project began with the input of 10 000 volunteer workers from INEGI and students from TecMelenio who manually classified a sample of 54 000 “training” tweets as being either positive or negative. This information was then used to create a machine learning programme which could automatically calculate a “positivity coefficient” to determine the level of positivity or negativity of individual tweets, and collate this information to obtain an overall picture of the mood of Mexican Twitter users in real time. Ruiz showed that it was possible to track the rise and fall in the mood of Twitter users relating to specific events such as seasonal holidays, and important sporting, political and cultural events. The second project sought to measure population movements and generate metrics of resilience in the context of natural disasters. In 2017, Mexico experienced two earthquakes with great economic and human cost. In order to measure their economic effects, an inter-institutional coordination network was created between BBVA, Telefónica and INEGI using data from specific BBVA points of sale to derive counterfactual results based on data from points of sale that were not affected by the earthquake. Thus, an approximate level of economic losses for the country was calculated. In terms of mobility, Movistar (which is part of Telefónica) used the data captured by its antennas to understand atypical patterns of population movement in Mexico City and its municipalities at a time of natural disaster.

Sandra Liliana Moreno, Director of Geostatistical Information of DANE, Colombia, presented experimental use of geospatial data to fill data gaps for measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These methods have been used for three indicators to date: SDG indicator 11.3.1 that measures how much the urban footprint is growing in relation to population growth; SDG indicator 9.1.1, which measures the percentage of the population living less than 2 kilometres from a road all year round; and SDG indicator 11.7.1, measuring the built-up area of the cities and the percentage of the area destined for public use. A combination of Census, satellite and topographical information was used to collect highly granular and timely data for all three indicators. Moreno concluded that to be able to collect useful geospatial information requires a certain creativity to update the information and make it useful for the territory.

Ricardo Álvarez, Researcher at MIT's Senseable City Lab, echoed the other panellists, in saying that we are seeing the evolution of cities towards entities capable of generating large volumes of data, in a rapid process of urban digitalisation, allowing us to find hidden realities. He stressed that it is central to generate the interfaces, laws, methods, services, regulations, projects and incentives to optimise the distribution of the benefits of the digitisation process, quoting that "the future is already here, it is just not evenly distributed". At the governmental level, the possibilities for creating impact policy tools through the collection of new data are wide. The release of taxi data in New York can be provided as an example: it was found that if New Yorkers were willing to share their journey by taxi and deviate 2 minutes from their path, 47% of the taxis needed to meet demand could be reduced; and increasing the diversion to 5 minutes, 87% of taxis could be shared. In this way, social impact policies can be proposed that relate to the current capacity for processing and action.

Finally, **Ricardo Garzón**, Government and Sustainability Manager of Telefónica Colombia, explained how telecommunications data can be used for social good - stressing the need to coordinate the business line of private companies with the Sustainable Development Goals. Garzón recognises that nearly half of the challenges imposed by the SDGs require private sector contributions, and estimates that the same proportion requires digital solutions to be met. Examples of the use of massive telecommunications data are the Magic Box initiative in alliance with UNICEF, where a mapping is sought to prevent natural disasters by crossing rainfall information with unusual call volumes. Another example is the measurement of air quality in urban areas where vehicle mobility is measured and environmental alerts are cross-referenced in order to estimate the environmental quality of the next day. The challenge is both technical and institutional, as there is a need to create legal frameworks for the use of the data, along with the alignment of public-private incentives related to academia. Garzón also referenced the ethical challenge, since it is important to remember that behind each piece of data there is an individual. Privacy gives confidence to users and this should be guaranteed from statistical offices.

Parallel session 3B: Multidimensional inequalities and minority group differences in well-being outcomes

This session presented innovative approaches to measuring disparities in well-being and development outcomes, analysing multidimensional inequalities and focusing on rural areas and minority ethnic and indigenous groups. **Javier Olivera**, from the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) shared his research evaluating the impact of the "Pension 65" programme in Peru on the well-being of different ethnic groups. Peru is a highly ethnically diverse country (with large Mestizo, Quechua, and Aymara populations), and Olivera stated that people of different ethnic origin may have different perspectives on what a "good life" is, referring to the indigenous concepts of *suma qamaña* (to live well together and to live life fully) and *suma jakaña* (to live in harmony with oneself). Olivera's analysis of the impact of the pension reform showed that there was a different impact on the Aymara population compared to the other ethnic groups, which may in turn be linked to different well-being preferences expressed by the Aymara respondents. For example, the Aymara tended to place much higher value on non-material dimensions of well-being, such as health. He concluded by emphasising that ethnic differences matter for determining well-being outcomes and should be taken into account in policy design and evaluation.

Angélica Solano, researcher at the non-profit Inclusión SAS, presented an analysis of poverty in the rural, indigenous and Afrodescendant populations of Latin America. She showed how indigenous and Afrodescendant populations are much more likely to experience monetary and multidimensional poverty as well as deprivation in basic needs in the countries of the region. She concluded with a number of recommendations including: revising the methodology for the estimation of rural income and consumption, to incorporate aspects of rural household economies; advancing in the construction of comparable indicators of relative poverty and rural subjective poverty for the region; advancing in the design and implementation of multidimensional measures of rural poverty; and implementing a multidimensional poverty measurement for the indigenous and Afrodescendant population.

Finally, **Alex Prats** of Oxfam Intermón presented the Multidimensional Inequality Framework developed by Oxfam, LSE and SOAS and based on a “Capacity Approach”. The framework includes seven dimensions of life, and aims to understand inequalities and compare them between different population groups. For each domain, it identifies possible causes of inequality and the most relevant policies. Due to the scarcity of data on wealth, Prats argued that there is a need to increase investment in generating disaggregated data, especially by socio-economic level - which requires a critical effort on the part of governments and international institutions. Another challenge includes generating an integrated multidimensional analysis, rather than a sum of isolated analyses: given that no tool is perfect, synergies and complementarities between different approaches must be exploited. Prats concluded by insisting that if these processes are to inform public policy, there must be greater clarity in how the problem of inequality is addressed at the institutional level, ensuring a multi-sectoral approach.

Parallel session 4A: Innovations in the measurement of multidimensional poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean

The multidimensional poverty approach has had a major influence on the Latin American and Caribbean region, changing the way governments measure and address deprivation. This session presented new ways to apply the principles of multidimensional poverty measurement to policies and actions in different contexts. **Rolando Ocampo**, Director of ECLAC’s Statistics Division, opened the session by presenting his team’s efforts towards the creation of a regionally comparable multidimensional poverty index (MPI). While many countries in the region have official measures of multidimensional poverty (nine currently, with a tenth – Paraguay – in development) they are based on national definitions are therefore not comparable across countries. On the other hand, the Global MPI, which is available for all countries in the world, is not necessarily adapted to the specific policy priorities of the region. Ocampo demonstrated some of the differences in dimensions, indicators and other methodological considerations (such as deprivation thresholds, and survey question wording) in the national MPIs of the region that prevent comparability. He argued that given the demonstrated value of the multidimensional poverty approach for guiding policy decisions in many of the region’s countries, there is a clear value-added to bringing greater coverage and harmonisation to national multipurpose household surveys in order to move towards a regionally comparable definition and measurement. This work would require a high level of statistical coordination among Latin American countries, but could bring great benefits.

Jhonatan Clausen, researcher at the Human Development Institute of Latin America of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, argued the need for a version of the MPI that is

adapted to the needs of the rural population. He presented a rural multidimensional poverty analysis for Peru which included a number of dimensions that are not usually taken into account in the MPI approach: social connectivity (communication, access to networks and discrimination), citizenship (trust, freedoms and knowledge), security (perception of security and victimisation) and livelihoods (employment, income shocks and financial dimension). He showed that 60% of rural Peruvians suffered deprivation in at least three of the nine dimensions, and the “new” dimensions accounted for over 30% of multidimensional poverty. In addition, almost half of the rural Peruvians identified as multidimensionally poor by this adapted measure are not counted as poor by the traditional monetary measure. He also noted that indigenous populations are overrepresented amongst the multidimensionally deprived rural population in Peru.

Finally, **Katharina Hammler**, Director of Monitoring of Fundación Paraguaya, presented the “Poverty Stoplight”, a participative project that aims to measure well-being of a specific community in Paraguay, while closing the gap between data producers and data users. Hammler explained that as the people from whom the data are collected are far removed from the people who analyse and interpret them, this results in a lack of confidence in statistics as people do not feel adequately represented and included. This also hinders the use of these for the generation of public policies, being insufficient to cover the real needs of the population. The Poverty Stoplight collects data through a self-evaluation survey which has been designed to be as accessible and easy-to-understand as possible, even by illiterate respondents. Respondents are presented with scenarios related to different well-being dimensions, and are asked to categorise their personal or household situation as red (extreme deprivation), yellow (some deprivation) or Green (no deprivation). Hammler argued that this facilitates the participant’s understanding of the survey and creates a conception of ownership in the data being provided, making them more reliable. With this information, a map of indicators is drawn up where the individuals surveyed choose which they would like to work on as a priority. This methodology contributes to closing the gaps, and helps to direct a solution to the problem of representation since it is the people who provide the data, giving them the power to say what their problems and needs are. On the other hand, the lack of confidence in the data is solved because there is a common language regarding this issue, and priorities are better managed helping the negotiation. As a last point, decision-makers can put the data in the context of the population by identifying the “green” or “red” sub-groups in the community.

Parallel session 4B: Measuring well-being and sustainable development for regional and municipal policies

Measuring well-being and sustainable development at the local or regional level encompasses local specificities and amplifies opportunities to connect indicator results with actions that make a difference in people's lives. This session introduced different sub-national approaches to measuring well-being and sustainable development for policy. **Roberto Angulo**, Founding Partner of Inclusion SAS, presented a methodology for the definition of metropolitan areas, such as Barranquilla (Colombia), based on the identification of multidimensional territorial interdependencies. Angulo showed how, by looking at different types of flows between departments, policy makers can gain a more nuanced understanding of the incidence and intensity of ties across departmental borders, which in turn can help inform the impact of certain municipal policies, which may spill over across official zoning limits. For example, Angulo studied the cross-municipal flows and spill-over effects in the dimensions of mobility (people going to work in another municipality), economy (agricultural, industrial and transferable services surplus) public

services and protected environmental areas to show the level and nature of multidimensional integration, but also isolation between municipal areas in and near Baranquilla.

Luis Sáenz, National Coordinator of the “Cómo Vamos” network in Colombia (RCCCV) presented a number of projects of the network, whose objective is to contribute to the development of more effective and open local governments across the country (with a model that has been replicated across Latin America). As part of this effort, the RCCCV has joined the Global Initiative for the Territorialisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), creating an open data platform (www.ciudatos.com), with a toolbox for prioritising local targets and indicators to 2030. In this platform, a battery of 50 indicators is used across various area (monetary poverty, infant mortality, unemployment, for example), with the vision of proposing different goals for each city with a traffic light system that allows to track changes in time. The work done so far has generated interest both from the public and private sectors and from civil society. However, the introduction of a new SDG monitoring tool for local governments requires not only resources, but also statistical capacity building.

Finally, **Julio Saguir**, Secretary of Public Management and Planning of Tucumán, Argentina presented the SEP – Provincial Statistical System: a set of statistical services belonging to provincial and municipal agencies, departments and state entities, established by the Provincial Law. Secretary Saguir explained that, through the national household survey carried out by INDEC, it was possible to collect data for the Tucumán agglomerate, which represents approximately 40% of the province. With an analysis based on the SDGs, argued the Secretary, these data can be better organised at the provincial level, and facilitates cooperation and coordination between ministries at the national level. However, the challenge of generating metrics at the local level, as well as the effective use of metrics for public policies, was reiterated. According to Secretary Saguir, new data sources can be a strengthening factor at the sub-national level.

Day 2: Thursday 24 October, High-Level Event

Inaugural session

José Alejandro Cheyne García, Rector of the Universidad del Rosario, opened the second day of the conference reminding the audience that it coincided with the celebration of the 365th anniversary of the University's existence. Over time, it has committed, as an institution, to supporting Colombia's national agenda, always with a view to innovate. The Rector provided various examples of the University's contributions, including its work on informality, in partnership with 18 other institutions among which figures DANE. Rector Cheyne expressed his belief that today, all actors involved in economic analysis understand the complexity of people's well-being and the fact that it goes beyond measuring growth, inequality and poverty. According to Cheyne, the recent social discontent in the region is proof of this complexity, and it is encouraging young people to find new solutions. His vision of the Universidad del Rosario is that it is a space for debate and reflection to build an agenda through dialogue, finding policy solutions to improve people's well-being.

The Secretary-General of the OECD, **Angel Gurría**, began his opening remarks by stressing that Latin America as a region still faces specific challenges: 30% of Latin Americans live in poverty, 40% are part of the vulnerable middle class with low quality jobs and insufficient social protection, and the GINI coefficient is rising for the first time in 15 years. As a result, the confidence individuals have in institutions and in democracy is undermined, placing greater importance on metrics that foster more people-focused public policy. Examples can be found throughout the region of countries that have incorporated multidimensional measurement into official statistics: Ecuador, Mexico, and Colombia for instance. For Secretary-General Gurría, their participation in this project is key to consolidate and strengthen the instruments countries have at hand to make "better policies for better lives".



Adding to the points raised above, **Mario Cimoli**, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, highlighted the institutional convergence of this process, in which discussion, support and international complementarity of work are fundamental points. This goes beyond governments to include international organisations that should and can work together for social needs. However, according to Cimoli, these social needs can only be met by dissociating metrics from previous development models, so that they are better suited to interpret new realities faced by individuals in the global economy.

Representing the European Commission, **Jolita Butkeviciene**, Director for Development Coordination in the Latin America and the Caribbean, affirmed that the primary motivation of the conference was to strengthen the region's capacity to develop multidimensional indicators through a coordinated effort between the OECD, the European Union and ECLAC. Essentially, these indicators must allow to better visualise interconnected realities across countries, offering operational measures to guide more accurate decision-making. According to Butkeviciene, better indicators would offer a more objective view of reality, which should be the basis for designing better policies. They should reveal not only what is missing, but also targets to aim for. Finally, they must lead to a consensual view of the challenges and possibilities faced by societies today, building social cohesion and facilitating the defence of human rights and freedom of speech for all citizens.

Following the opening remarks for the second day of the conference, the President of Colombia **Iván Duque Márquez** delivered a Presidential Address in which he highlighted the importance of equality and social dialogue. For President Duque, working towards a more equal society means placing social justice at centre stage, in harmony with economic and entrepreneurial development. This implies bridging divides and closing gaps whilst following macroeconomic principles that contribute to consolidating transformation processes, for instance by controlling inflation to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population. It also implies improving the focus of social programmes by developing indicators that reflect the population's reality. According to President Duque, the need to measure and monitor these goals is a key element behind the Conference's relevance. Other driving factors of equality that figure in the National Development Plan include boosting productivity, improving educational opportunities at all levels, expanding access to renewable energy and increasing access to bandwidth in households throughout the country.



Panel: Connecting measurement to policies for well-being and sustainable development: Challenges and achievements in Latin America and the world

Improving people's well-being in an equitable and sustainable way requires broader measures that take into account the full range of social, environmental and economic outcomes that matter for people's lives. However, better measurement alone is not enough – for metrics to be used in policy, they need to be accompanied by innovation in government decision-making processes. This session presented perspectives and experiences from countries that are taking steps to make more people-focused policies, exploring the lessons learned and obstacles encountered.

Martine Durand, moderator of the panel, highlighted that we are currently in the first year of implementation of Colombia's National Development Plan: "Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad". Her first question for **Luis Alberto Rodríguez**, Director of the DNP, was regarding the challenges of adopting a multidimensional approach to development across Colombia's different departments and levels of governance.

The Director of DNP confirmed that Colombia has worked extensively on an institutional framework capable of delivering all the goals set out in the Government's agenda, in terms of fiscal policy, constitutional rights and national planning. This, in his view, is a first challenge for carrying out a given approach to development, across municipalities but also across different departments within Central Government. Secondly, in order to withstand political change at municipal and departmental levels, the National Government developed a tool kit for local authorities that helps to guide them on how to carry out the National Development Plan and their respective levels, providing an opportunity for close collaboration. Third and finally, he stated that metrics are crucial for implementing the Government's approach to development, in order to put their goals into perspective at a global level with the use of SDG indicators, but also for monitoring purposes at a local level.

The second panelist, **Carlos Alberto Pereira Olmedo**, Minister-Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of Technical Planning for Economic and Social Development, Paraguay, presented the context in Paraguay where the objectives of sustainable development have been recently conceived by the means of public consultation, approaching civil society and municipal councils to better understand their needs. Moreover, these objectives are dealt with at a parliamentary level in the Senate, to ensure that the country's legislation is not dissociated from its people. Through social dialogue, the Technical Secretariat found that in Paraguay, the main priorities for the population as a whole include access to universal public healthcare, tackling informality, educational reform and infrastructure.

Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention and former Minister of Slovenia stressed that beyond establishing protocols for the protection of the Alpine region in line with the SDGs, the most important success factor of the Convention has been providing a platform for dialogue. She sees the Convention as a concrete example of how the SDGs can be implemented, i.e. through close cooperation in the face of common challenges, and not through competition. When questioned about her experience developing the Slovenian National Development Plan as Minister, Smerkolj affirmed that generating a long-term national development strategy based on wide-scale public consultation can effectively contribute towards making it more resistant to political change. Although there is no guarantee that an administration will give continuity to the previous administration's strategy, a vision for and by the people on basic long-term objectives is difficult to discard.

Tony Burton, ex-Economist and Deputy Head of the New Zealand Treasury, brought to the session his experience in integrating well-being approaches into policy processes across different areas of New Zealand's government. Burton emphasised the need to keep people's daily tasks in mind, and concentrate on how a well-being approach could potentially improve the way in which these tasks can be carried out: this ranges from specific outputs such as the budget for Treasury, to communication about what Government is doing in terms of processes and legislation. Secondly, New Zealand drew inspiration from other initiatives regarding how to go beyond GDP in the measurement of progress, whilst engaging with different communities at a national level. A third point Burton added was the importance of taking a clear view of the approach's flaws, and ensuring that civil servants' objectives remain tangible. Different departments in Government used different tools to facilitate the transition to a new approach: in the case of the Treasury, it was a cost-benefit analysis tool adapted to a multidimensional framework, used in a standardised way.

Finally, **Andrea Lara Guevara**, member of the Technical Coordination of the Agenda 2030 team from the President's Office, Mexico, shared her experience from the Mexican government in implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as the main challenges faced so far. According to Lara Guevara, a first step to take was to adapt a cross-cutting agenda to the different sectoral priorities of the Government as well as to the realities of the national population. In this regard, a diagnosis was carried out in order to adapt the objectives to the National Development Plan, which took into account austerity measures imposed by the Government. This process gave way to further dialogue among sectors, in order for the 2030 Agenda to be seen as a tool that gives coherence to public policy, not just as an end in itself. An example of concrete action to move in this direction is the budget for 2021, for which the methodology will be reviewed in order better align Government priorities with current levels of progress towards the SDGs.



Keynote speech: Sustainable Development Indicators: Too Few or Too Many?

Ravi Kanbur, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs at Cornell University, delivered a keynote speech which gave an overview of multidimensional measurement approaches to development, from the first Human Development Index in 1990, ranging through the 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 unique indicators of the SDG Agenda. He argued that while, on the one hand, it can always be said that there are too few Sustainable Development indicators, as they will never be able to cover every issue or special group. He notes, for example, that indigenous and disabled people get insufficient consideration in the existing list. On the other hand, it can be said that there are simply too many indicators to be useful from a practical policy perspective. He raises an argument that the “bandwidth” of policy discussions is likely limited to a relatively small number of high-level priorities, and that 232 indicators is too many to be taken seriously by policy makers. Additionally, there is a statistical capacity barrier to monitoring a large number of indicators, particularly in low-income countries. Although, in theory, the Global List of indicators is intended as a “smorgasbord” for countries to select the most appropriate measures for them, in practice this is not the spirit in which statistical discussions around the SDGs have been conducted to date. To guide the potential “narrowing down” of the longer list, Kanbur referred to the principles of the 2017 report of Atkinson Commission on Measuring Global Poverty, which stated “... a long list would be counterproductive... In order to be effective, the list of indicators included in the... portfolio has to be sufficiently short that the new indicators get attention from the outside public and from policy makers.” These principles for selecting policy-relevant indicators include: global data coverage, transparency and ability to identify the essence of the problem, a generally accepted definition with clear normative interpretation, sufficient robustness and statistical validity, a clear structure of accountability for definition and construction, and making use of existing information wherever possible. Kanbur asked provocatively how many of the SDG indicators would stand by these principles and suggests that as we near the halfway mark for the 2030 Agenda, the time is right for countries to concentrate on a smaller number of high-level indicators.



Panel: Placing well-being and sustainability at the center of development strategies: implications for measurement, policy and international cooperation

The concept of Development in Transition underscores the changing context of global development and, in particular, the new and complex challenges faced by countries. Moving from a narrow vision to a multidimensional vision of development that prioritises equitable and sustainable well-being outcomes is key to adapting to these new realities. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embodies this necessary paradigm shift, but also presents policy makers with a complex array of goals, targets and indicators to navigate. This session discussed the implications for statistical offices, government departments and cooperation agencies of making well-being and sustainable development the ultimate goal of development policy formulation in the region.

The session's moderator, **Mario Pezzini**, Director of the OECD Development Center, began by asking **Rolando Ocampo**, Director of ECLAC's Statistics Division, whether the current path traced for the region for reaching sustainable development objectives is limited by the external approach to benchmarking, which to a certain extent could keep countries "trapped" in a specific vision of development that impedes innovation. Ocampo emphasised that since the launch of the 2030 Agenda, ECLAC has channeled efforts towards guiding countries of the region in adapting to and complying with the SDGs. An example is the ILPES (*Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning*), which provides training in the adjustment of objectives for National Development Plans. Moreover, ECLAC engages in statistical capacity building in the region so that accurate information can be produced at a national level, and then incorporated into strategies to enhance accountability on the fulfillment of their objectives. In this sense, ECLAC provides countries with methodologies for collecting data and presents various possibilities to policy makers for them to develop strategies making use of indicators in coherence with the 2030 agenda. Statistical gaps within and amongst countries have generated a cooperative process at a regional level in order to find solutions to reduce them (including through the use of geospatial data), and to create new indicators that are better adapted to the realities of the continent.

Juan Daniel Oviedo argued that the support National Statistical Offices can provide to policy-makers in pursuing the 2030 agenda is linked to international standards of data management. In a multilateral context, their objectivity and independence are not based on the scheme of government, but on the follow-up of good practices for statistical production. However, in the development of these standards, statistical offices are beginning to take on a role of stewardship in the development of public policy strategies, which is no longer limited to support. According to Oviedo, in Colombia DANE is responsible for the production of "basic" strategic statistics that are in line with international standards, but also for defining new scenarios where statistical information should be generated in order to guide the implementation of national development plans. Adding to the point made by ECLAC's Chief Statistician, when specificities arise from the implementation of national policy they present an opportunity for statistical innovation, as seen with geospatial data as well as with measures of social capital, subjective well-being and informality in Colombia. For Oviedo, the greatest added value of NSOs is hence their ability to respond to local issues by generating an enriched discussion on what must be measured in the context of the 2030 Agenda.



Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Social Policy Coordination in Argentina, stated that the 2030 Agenda is a new development paradigm from an economic, social and environmental point of view, but also from an ethical and political point of view, providing a common language through a shared conceptual framework. Thus, it is simultaneously a legitimate management tool for decision makers and a long-term agenda for governments to follow. One of the main priorities for the region, according to Agosto, is supporting the digitalisation of statistical processes – particularly in the case of registration data in Argentina.

Another important dimension, stressed the moderator, is cooperation between countries and institutions in order to make progress in overcoming the pitfalls of current development models. The international cooperation system is facing a transition, and the approach is no longer based on assistance to eradicate extreme poverty. **Andrea Vignolo**, Executive Director of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation, faces this reality on a daily basis. She explained that the single criteria used for development aid in Uruguay is income per capita. In this sense, she underlined that there is still much to be done in the political and technical areas of measurement since they are not taken into account despite their theoretical validity. On the other hand, she mentioned that 2030 Agenda has been an excellent platform for positioning the concept of multidimensional development, as well as serving as a guide for development. In Uruguay, international cooperation is considered as a policy that promotes development, supporting multilateralism, which explains the absence of a national development plan until very recently. This year, a long-term strategy was developed through a consultation process and eventually approved, providing three main axes considered as priorities to improve human capital (production, social and gender transformation). A specific document on international cooperation for the country has also been produced, which conveys the need for Uruguay to be a recipient of international cooperation due to structural gaps, but to also offer technical cooperation for multidimensional, sustainable development.

To close the session, **Lars Bredal**, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Colombia, European Union expanded on the EU's logic on development aid, and the indicators behind it. For Bredal, if a single indicator were to be chosen for development aid it would be infant mortality, as it provides valuable insight into the complex realities of countries of medium-high levels of income. The panelist also mentioned that cooperation is not restricted to aid: in Colombia for instance, cooperation with the EU is omnipresent across most sectors, and when it is not in the form of aid, it can be commercial, through companies seeking to invest in the country. Cooperation tends to be restricted to specific government priorities and to certain territories where vulnerabilities are higher. However, for Bredal, regardless of the potential results of cooperation, those providing it must keep in mind the fact that they are “guests”, and that local authorities alone decide on strategic priorities. He believes that a regional framework for measuring well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean can contribute to tackling one of the most widespread issues affecting all countries, inequality, and ultimately to increase well-being.

High-level wrap up panel

To wrap-up the two-day conference, the final panel was moderated by the journalist **Daniel Pacheco**, Director of Zona Franca. He stressed that the current context in Latin America and the Caribbean has enhanced the relevance of the conference, which was not a simple discussion among international panelists about a technocratic void, but rather a rich debate on incorporating new metrics into policy in order to find new paths for action.

Mario Cimoli emphasised the importance of understanding the economy and the behavior of people within a specific reality in policy-making, with an awareness of people’s motivations, and of the potential discrepancies between policy models and people’s expectations. In other words, it is essential to search for new metrics in order to know where each level of society stands, since decision-makers are often biased by pre-conceptions, making sound socio-demographic classification challenging.

Martine Durand reacted to this point by reminding the audience that the OECD’s initiative to measure well-being stemmed from the inefficiency of a particular model in foreseeing the global economic crisis. In this sense, the purpose of well-being metrics is to put what matters to people at the centre of policy, as opposed to making assumptions on the preferences of average rational individuals. According to Durand, what differentiates a well-being approach to policy from traditional approaches in a welfare state is that it allows to highlight trade-offs and synergies, feeding into *ex ante* impact assessment. She also mentioned that a number of lessons are to be learned by experiences across OECD countries so far, particularly in terms of legislating and budgeting, two instruments that can contribute to forcing collaboration in government in areas where it does not exist.

For **Mario Pezzini**, the conference demonstrated that certain countries still do not have a voice in multilateralism, and the original model for international cooperation is under threat. A new approach, supported by the EU, which accounts for the necessary adjustments has been coined “*Development in Transition*”. This approach has a primary focus on metrics not only to enhance accountability but also to adapt to new social realities, and avoid a dismantlement of the multilateral system.



Finally, **Alenka Smerkolj** stated that in her capacity as Minister, she had to coordinate efforts in elaborating a long-term “umbrella” national strategy, engaging with society as a whole in the process. As a result, Slovenia now has a well-being agenda, aligned with the SDGs. However, the greatest challenge she encountered was not specific to Slovenia: governments are by nature sector-based, which can lead to disputes regarding cross-cutting issues. For Smerkolj, the solution was dialogue, encouraging engagement and constructive discussion. The most needed structural change is therefore to break down silos, whether at a national scale in government or at an international level to improve cooperation.

