

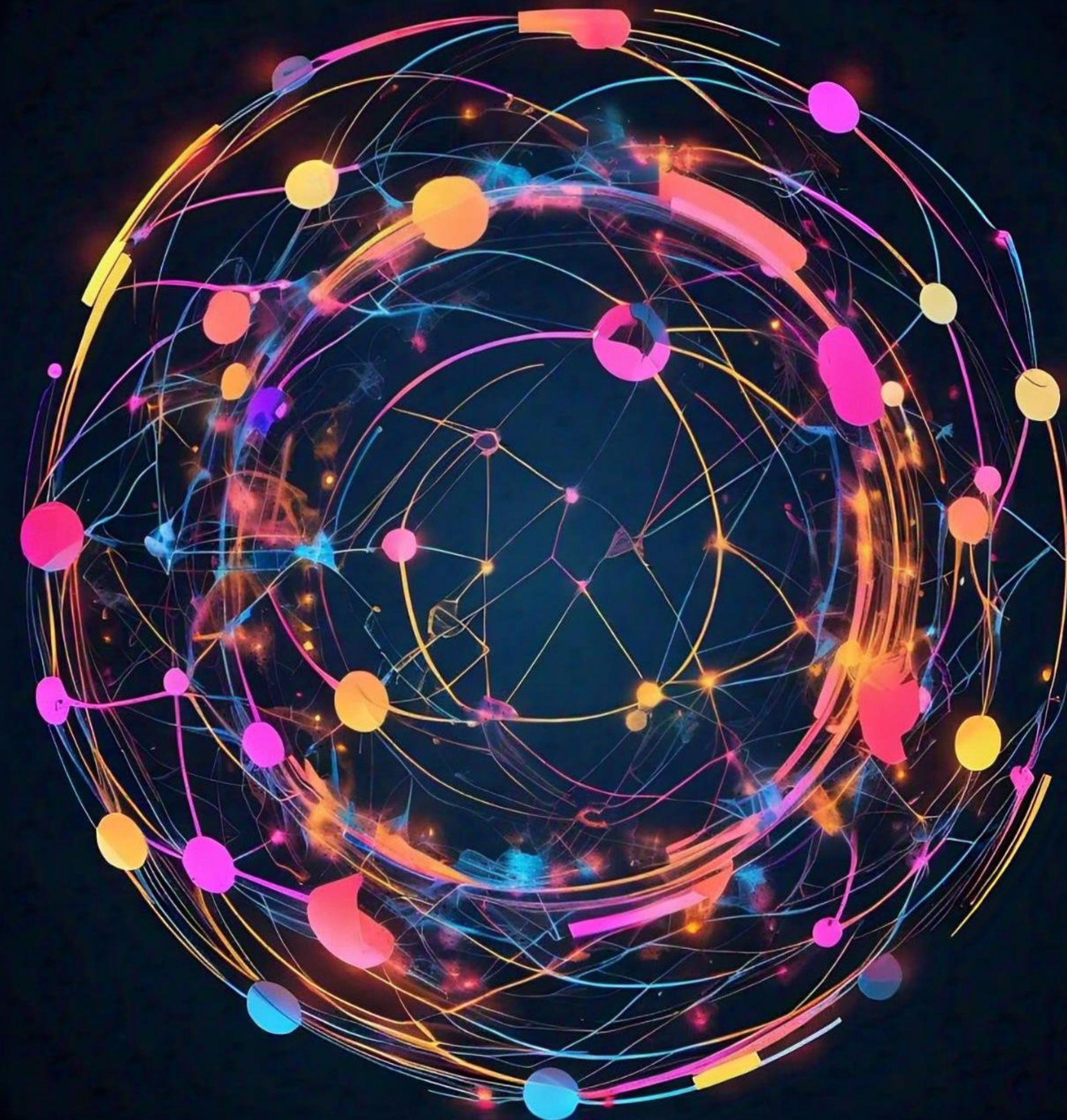


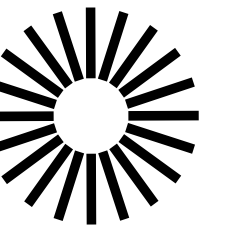
The eLAC Action Plan for the Caribbean

Demetris Herakleous,

Associate Economic Affairs Officer

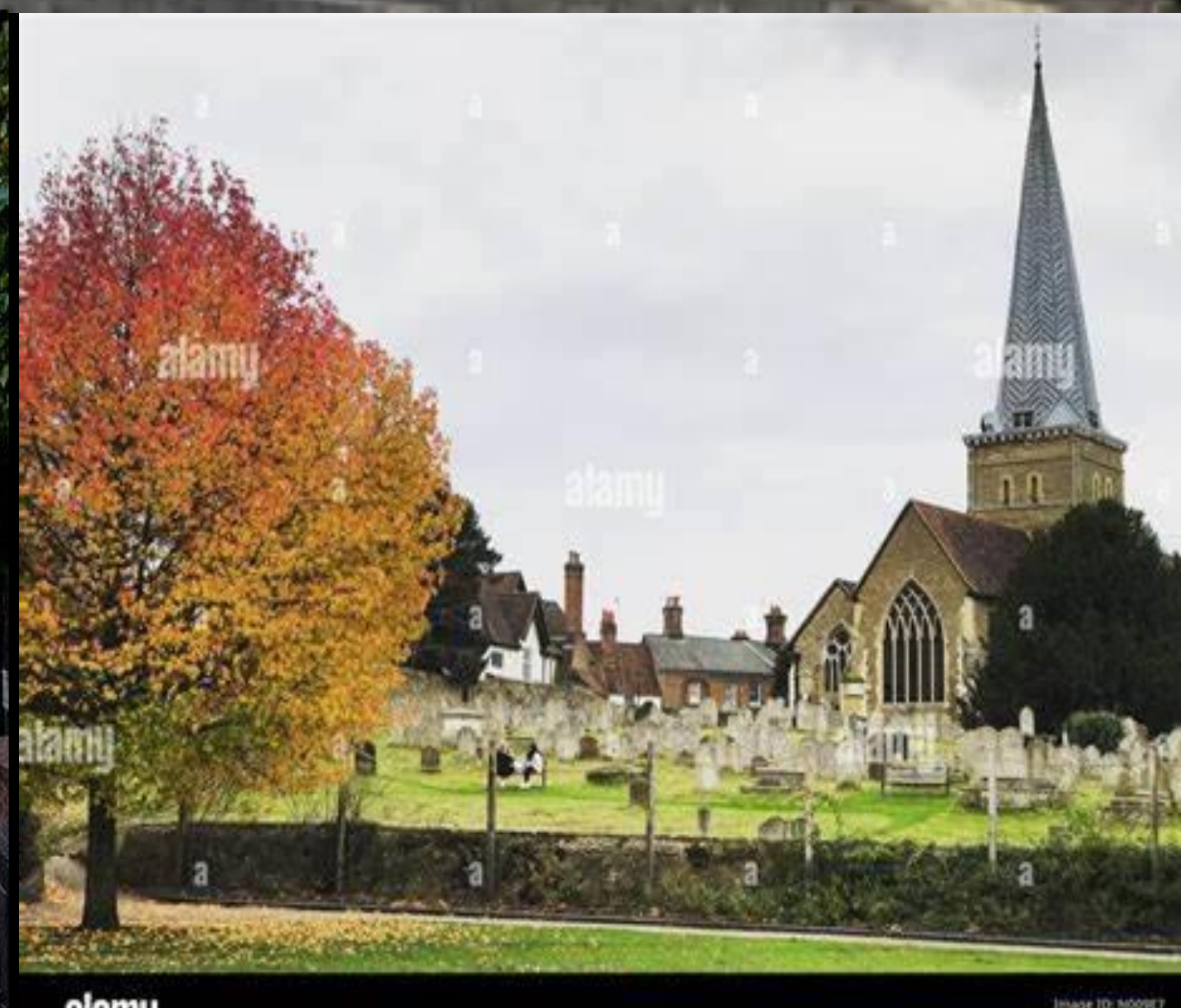
Innovation and New Technologies Unit,
Division of Productivity Development and Managment, ECLAC

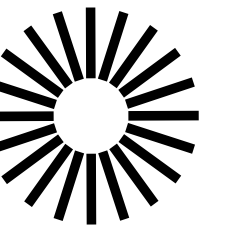




Godalming, Surrey, UK

First Public Electricity Infrastructure
1881





625
million

- People don't have access to electricity Infrastructure

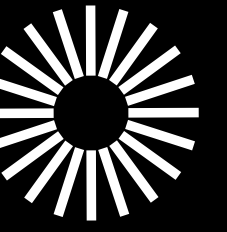
7.9%

- World Population

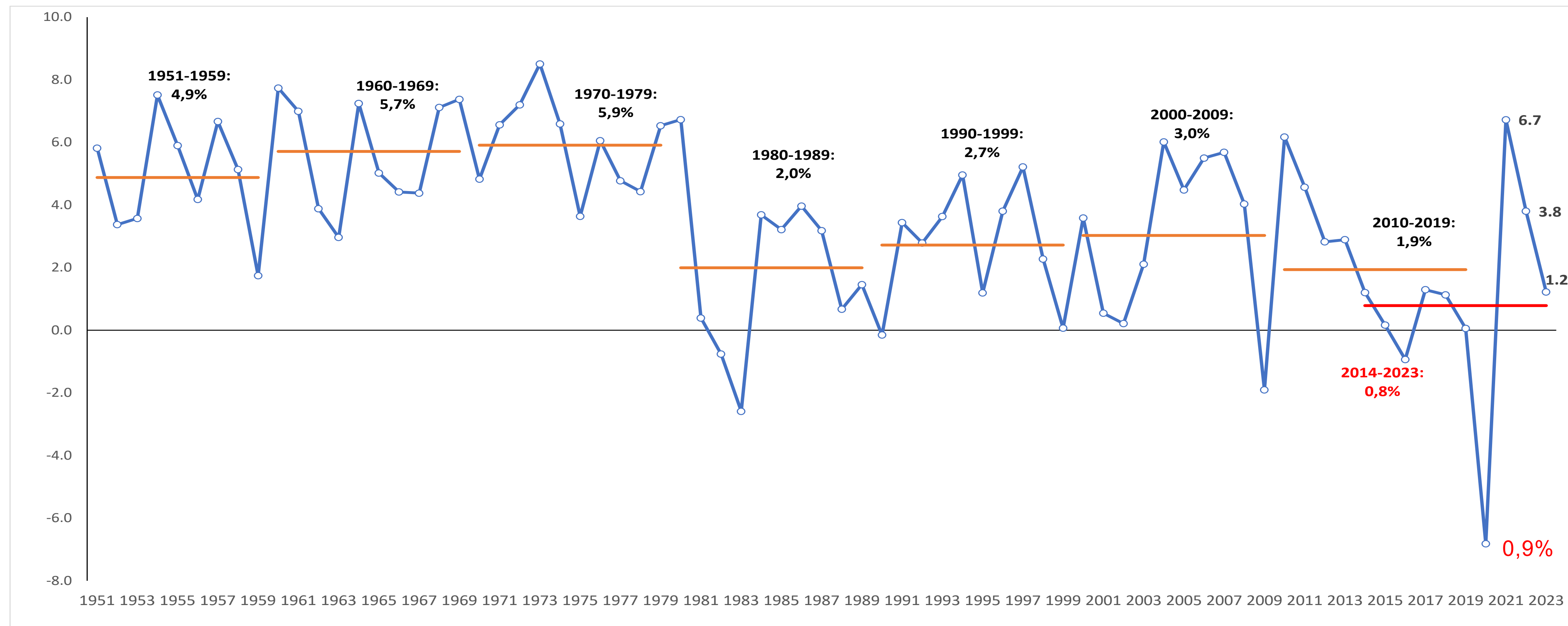
20 Countries

- Electricity infrastructure reaches less than 50% of the population

Latin America and the Caribbean has just gone through a decade even more lost than the infamous 'lost decade.'



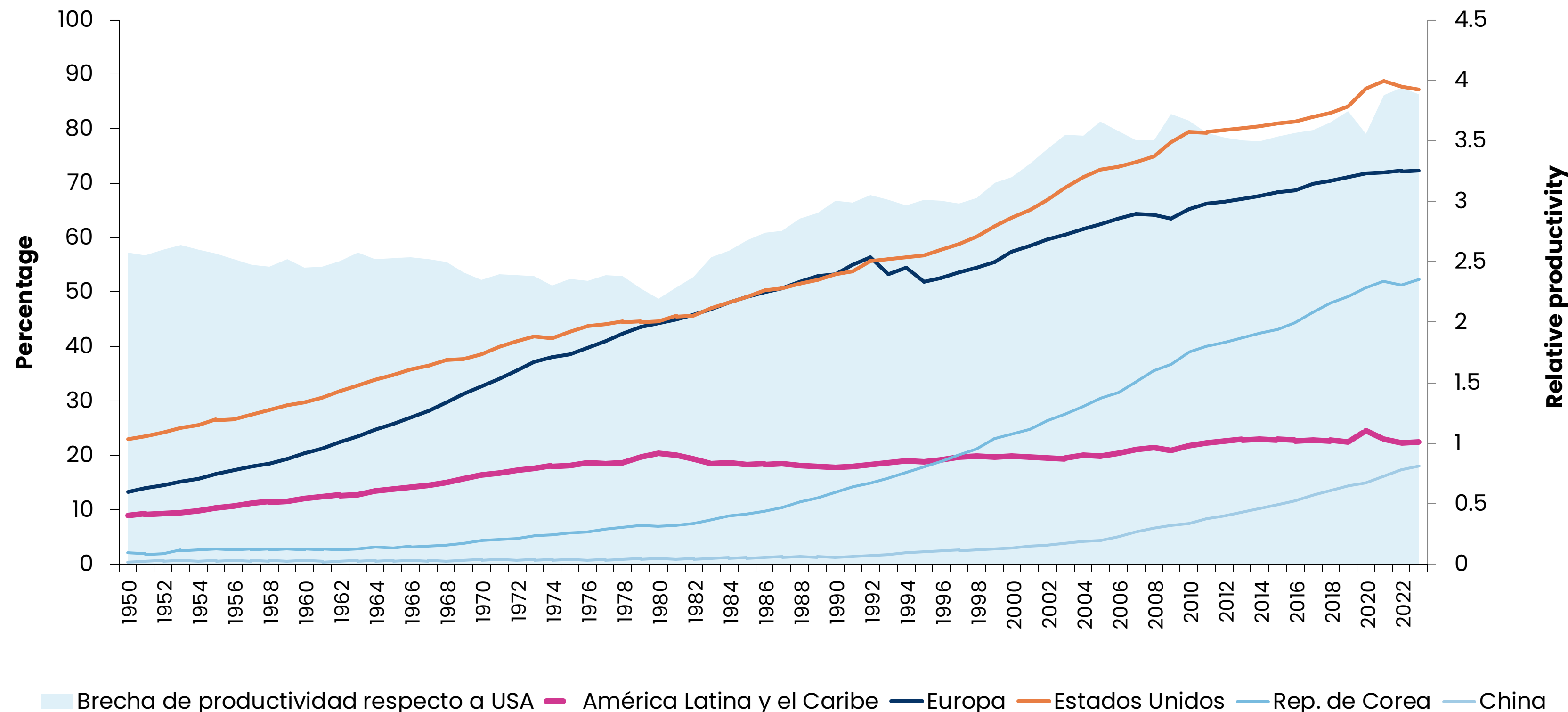
Latin America and the Caribbean: GDP Growth Rate, 1951–2023



Fuente: Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), sobre la base de cifras oficiales. Para 2022 y 2023, corresponden a proyecciones de la CEPAL.

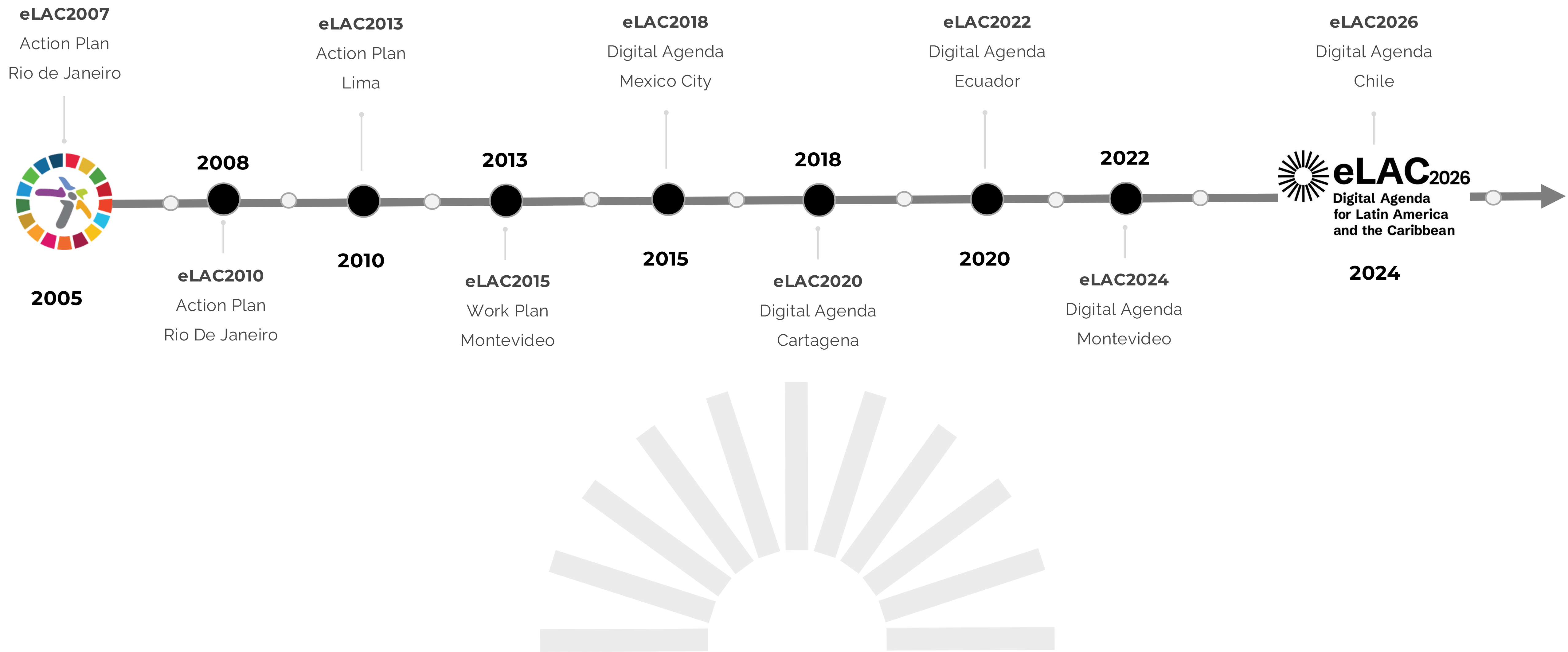
Low growth explained by stagnation and a decline in productivity in recent decades

Output per hour worked (US\$) and productivity gap with the United States, 1950–2023



Fuente: CEPAL, 2024/IMF, 2024

Digital Agenda for LAC (eLAC) 20-Year Process



**“...to promote more productive,
inclusive, and sustainable
development in the region through
digital transformation...”**

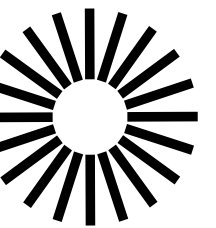
eLAC2026 Agenda

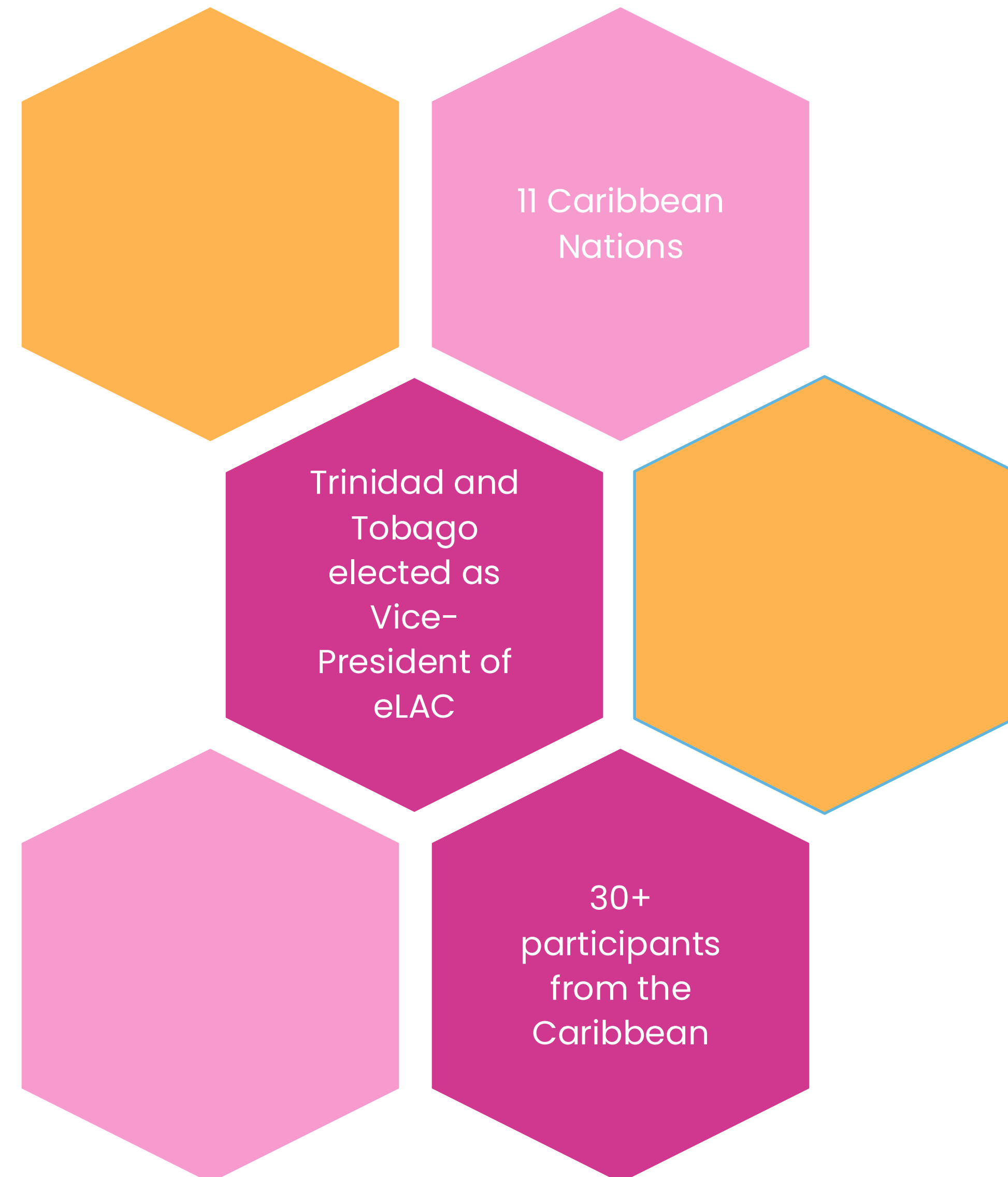
**“...Reaffirming the commitment to
fostering an inclusive, safe,
sustainable and just digital
transformation that enables Latin
America and the Caribbean to fully
harness the opportunities
presented by the digital revolution
and new technologies while
addressing structural development
gaps...”**

Declaration of Santiago

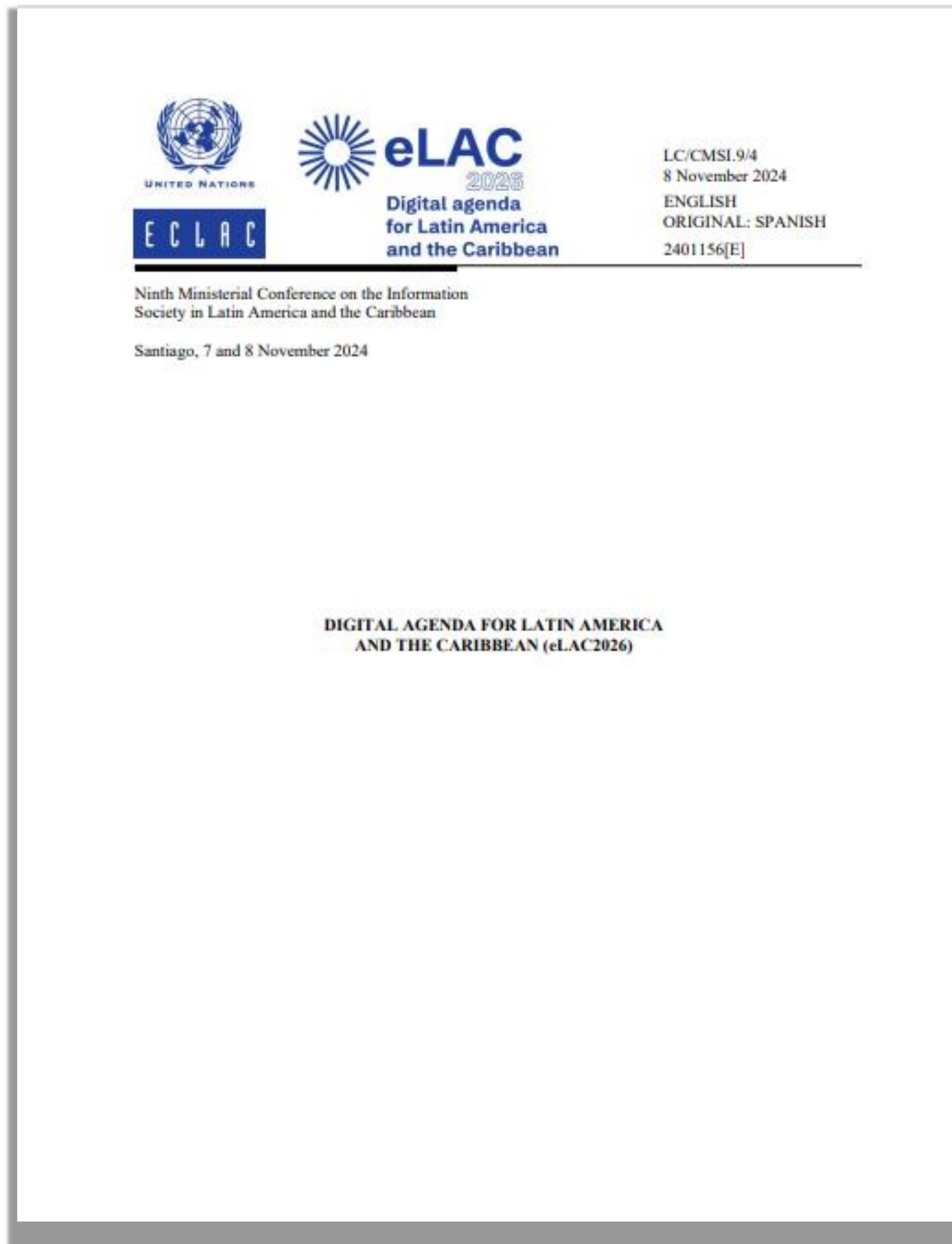
November 8. 2024

eLAC 2026, Ministerial Conference November 2024, Santiago)

7-8 



eLAC2026: A Regional Digital Agenda



- **Leveraging digital technologies for economic growth**
Focusing on using digital technologies to drive economic development and prosperity across the region
- **Promoting social inclusion**
Utilizing digital tools and services to expand access to opportunities and reduce inequalities
- **Fostering sustainable development**
Harnessing digital solutions to support environmentally-friendly and climate-resilient progress
- **Enabling meaningful connectivity**
Expanding affordable, high-speed internet access to connect all communities
- **Investing in robust digital infrastructure**
Building resilient broadband, mobile, and other digital infrastructure across the region
- **Promoting ethical AI development and adoption**
Ensuring the responsible and equitable use of artificial intelligence technologies
- **Fostering digital innovation and entrepreneurship**
Supporting the growth of a vibrant digital economy and ecosystem
- **Building digital skills and knowledge**
Investing in education and training to develop a digitally-skilled workforce

The Santiago Declaration: A Digital Vision


UNITED NATIONS


eLAC
2026
Digital agenda
for Latin America
and the Caribbean


ECLAC

8 November 2024

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

2401157[E]

Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 7 and 8 November 2024

SANTIAGO DECLARATION

The representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Santiago on 7 and 8 November 2024, on the occasion of the ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and mindful of the potential for information and communications technologies to facilitate and advance efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society and the commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, and recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society,

Aware of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in pursuing regional cooperation processes and partnerships in digital matters, to inspire the fundamental principles and values of solidarity and inclusion, freedom, participation, security and sustainability in the area of digital transformation,

Recognizing that, in the 19 years since the Rio de Janeiro Commitment established the importance of consolidating an international agenda on the information society, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant contributions in building a common vision for building an inclusive information society in the region,

Bearing in mind the joint efforts of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to foster sound governance of artificial intelligence ecosystems and to promote them as well as their ethical and responsible use, and recognizing the steps taken towards a framework for cooperation to promote the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development of artificial intelligence, strengthening intergovernmental and multi-sectoral cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the Global Digital Compact adopted at the Summit of the Future, held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2024,

Unified Regional Vision

A shared commitment to digital progress across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cooperative Action

Emphasis on regional collaboration to drive digital transformation.

Digital Sovereignty

Asserting regional control over digital futures and development.

Continued Momentum

Sustained commitment to the eLAC2026 initiative and regional digital agenda.



Overcoming Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Digital Age: The Transformative Potential of Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

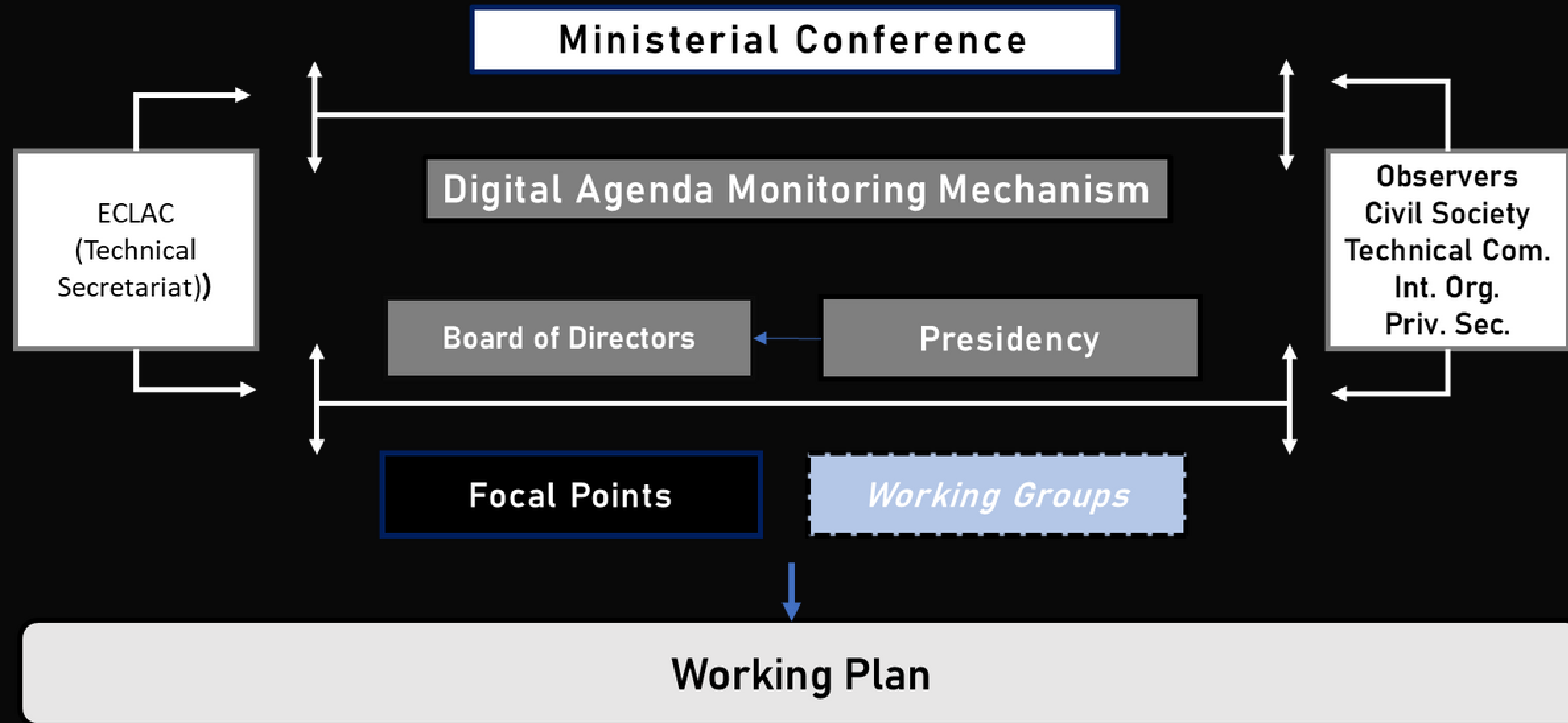
Key Focus Areas:

- *Improving digital infrastructure and connectivity.*
- *Developing digital skills and human capital.*
- *Promoting ethical and responsible AI adoption.*
- *Harmonizing digital transformation with productive development policies.*

Digital Transformation as a Catalyst: Digital technologies and AI offer a unique opportunity to address development traps.

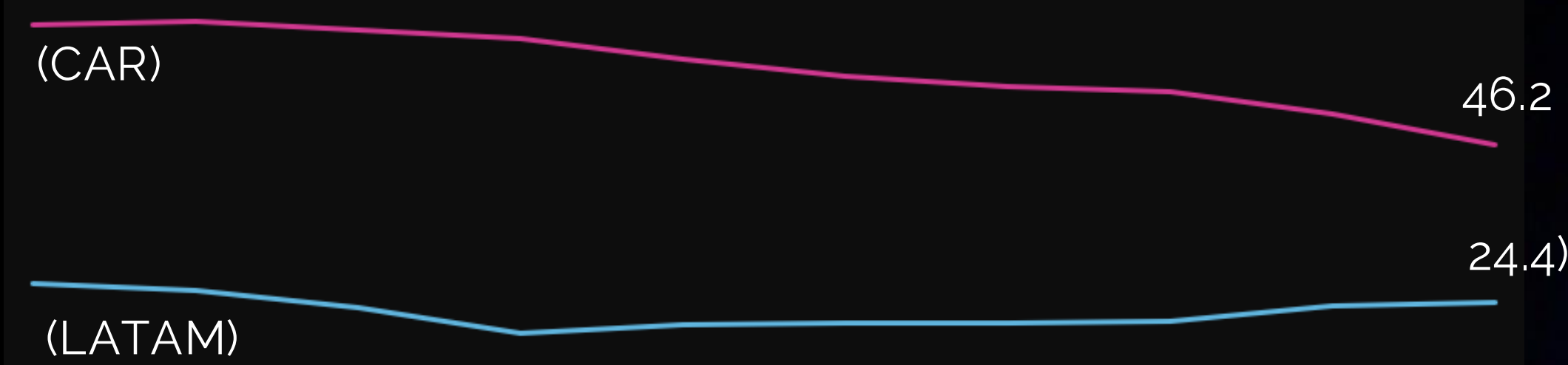
- *Boosting Productivity: Through business digitalization and innovation.*
- *Reducing Inequality: By expanding access to services*



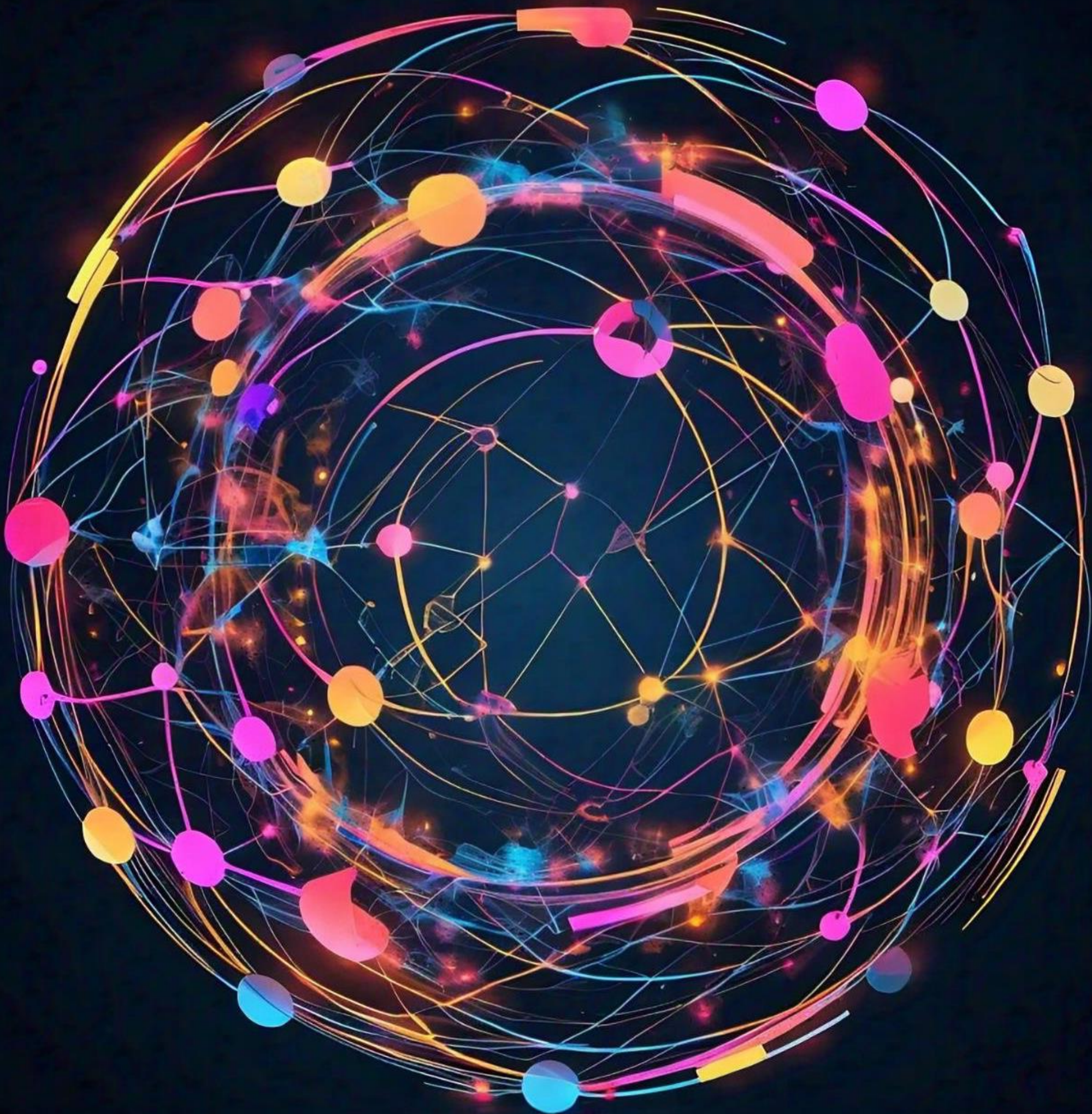
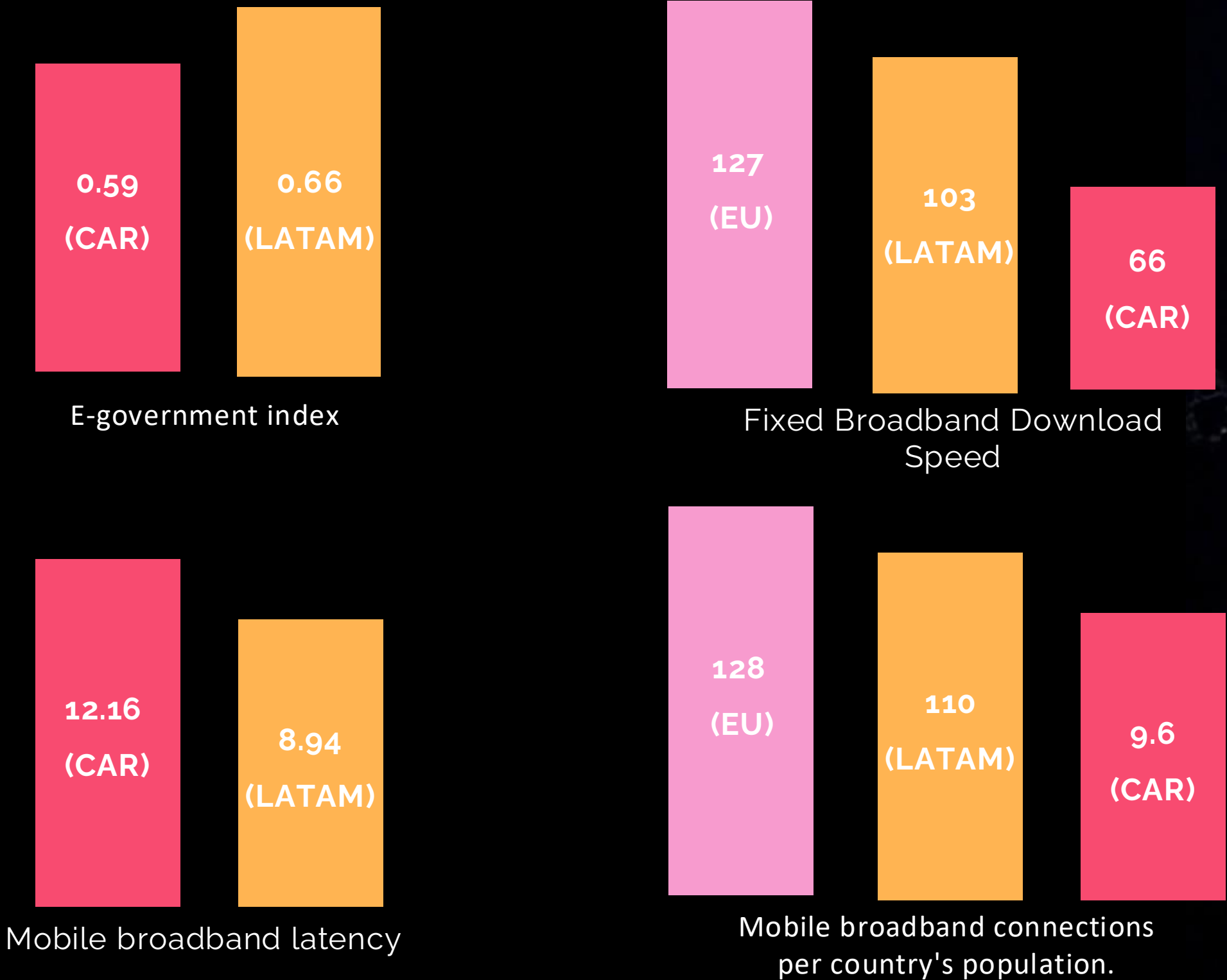


Monitoring Mechanism for the Agreements of the Ministerial Conference

Latin America and the Caribbean: Similar Challenges, Different Realities

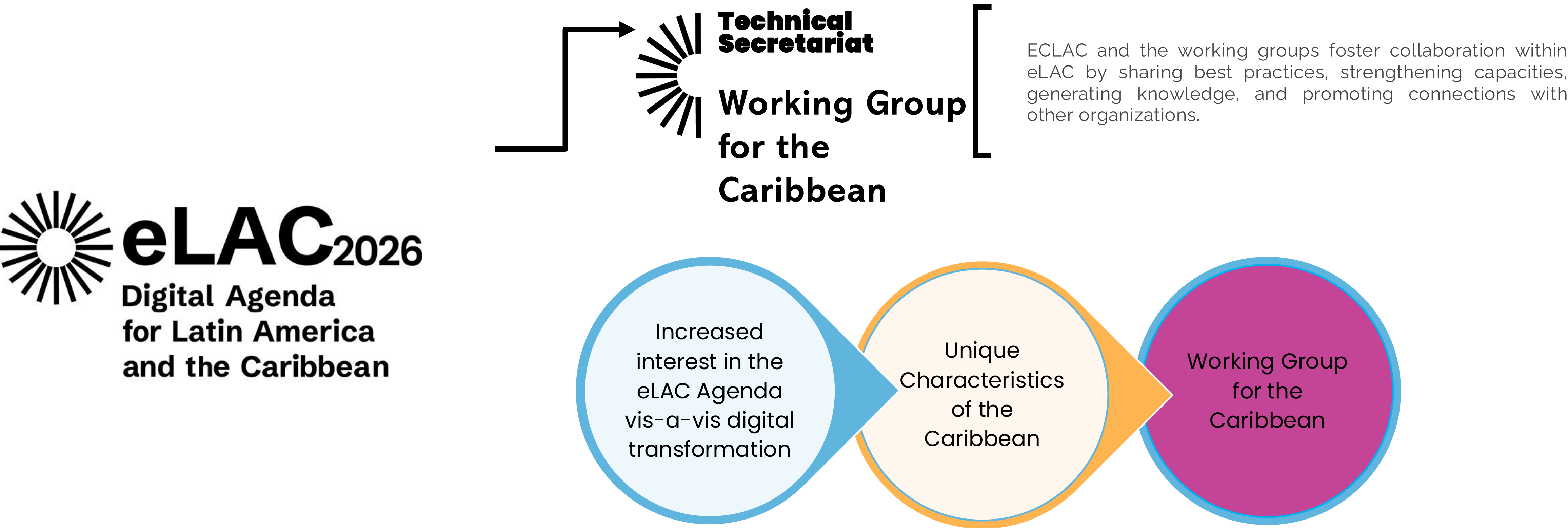
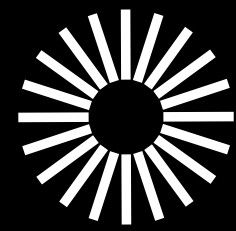


Mobile Broadband Digital Divide between EU27 and LAC, and EU27 and the Caribbean

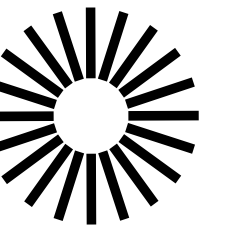


*Data from ECLAC's Digital Development Observatory

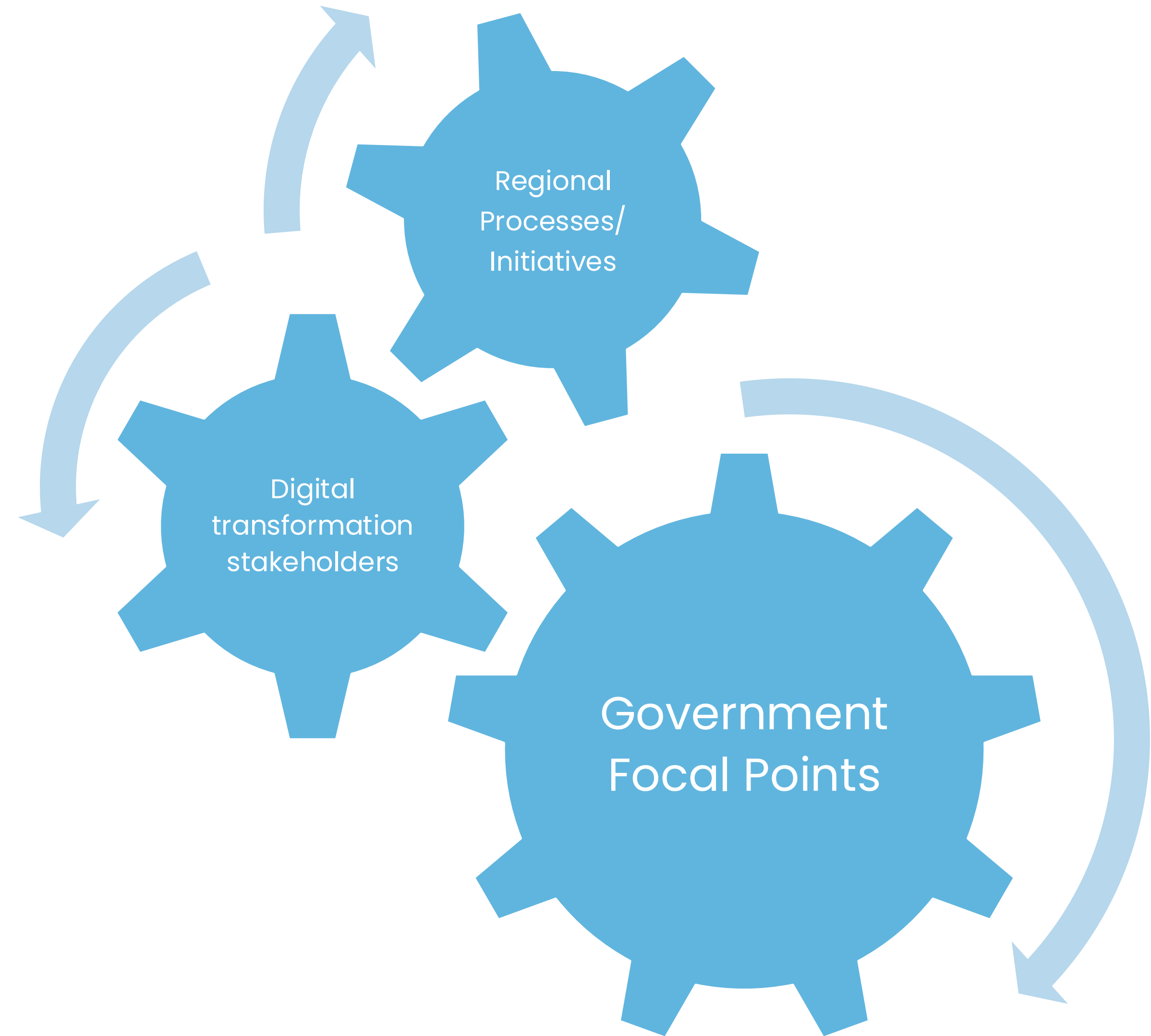
Instruments to Support the Implementation of the eLAC Action Plan for the Caribbean



On **January 28, 2025**, at its first meeting, following the **Ministerial Conference**, eLAC's **Board of Directors** decided to establish the **"eLAC Working Group for the Caribbean."**

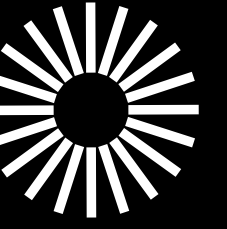


***Who can be part of
the eLAC Working
Group for the
Caribbean?***

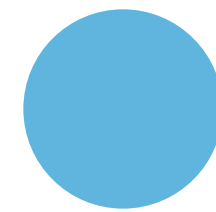


ECLAC serves as the Technical Secretariat, ensuring ongoing coordination and support for the activities of the Working Group.

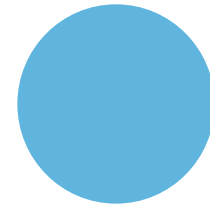
eLAC Working Group for the Caribbean Structure: Sub-Working Groups (SWGs)



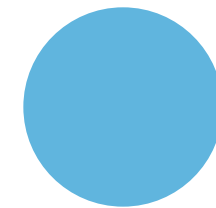
SWG 1: Artificial Intelligence (AI)



SWG 2: Digital Sovereignty and Cybersecurity



SWG 3: eGovernance



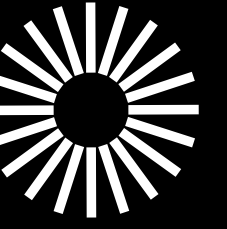
Policy making

enhancement tools

- **Studies**
- **Dialogues**
- **Presentations**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **KPIs**

Sub-working groups - thematic focus and dynamic format to achieve better workload allocation and results

First Products recommendations from Sub-WG



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

1. Facilitate the development of standards and guidelines for data quality assurance in AI, supporting related regional study and policy dialogue.
2. Promoting a dialogue on the Creation of a Caribbean LLM
3. Promote AI Strategies development with Technical Assistant
4. MAP AI Governance efforts, and create a report per country as part of a regional readiness assessment
5. Develop a study as part of the Baseline Analysis for the impact of AI in the sectoral productivity
6. Create a Practical guide and Capacity activity for the use of AI public sector

Digital Sovereignty & Cybersecurity

1. Develop a study to explore the Data Embassies Concept and organize a high-level dialogue to achieve bilateral and multilateral agreements.
2. Facilitate regional dialogue and supporting study on critical infrastructure, including Domain Name System governance and cybersecurity, to shape a secure digital development strategy for the Caribbean
3. Build on existing work being done in the Region: CARICOM Cyber Resilience Strategy 2030; Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan (CCSCAP)
4. Collaborative Mechanisms for Security and Resilience

eGovernance

1. Enhancing discussion on interoperability between national entities
2. Promoting the opportunities for DPLs supporting opportunities like World Bank, CAF and Co-Develop
3. Assessing the legal and political requirements within each country for integrating national e-ID systems.
4. Identify mechanisms for citizen engagement and participation
5. Pursue capacity building mechanisms for the public service such as India's Karmayogi Bharat

Thank you

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Digital Agenda for Latin America
and the Caribbean (eLAC2026)

