



Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023

Panama City, Panama | 23-27 October 2023

Hosted by the Government of Panama

Overview and Outputs



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Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 explored resilience against climate risks, transition to a low-emission economy and collaboration on climate change solutions. Working together opens opportunities to address social inequality and invest in development that is good for humanity and nature.

LACCW 2023 was a platform to enable regional collaboration on climate action, contribute to the first Global Stocktake and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement.



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LACCW 2023 Partners

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 was made possible through collaboration by the host government, global partners and partners in the region. Thank you to all our partners for your ongoing cooperation and support.



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REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
— GOBIERNO NACIONAL —

**MINISTERIO DE
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Co-funded by:





América Latina y el Caribe

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Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá | 23 - 27 de octubre 2023

Auspiciada por el Gobierno de Panamá

Latin America and the Caribbean, a region of unparalleled natural and cultural wealth, also faces significant challenges caused by climate impacts... The time for action is now.

**Minister of Environment of
Panama**

Milciades Concepción

*At the Opening Ceremony of
Latin America and the Caribbean
Climate Week 2023*



As you engage in discussions this week, I encourage you to be bold in your collaborative endeavours, championing solutions that yield tangible results and inspire others to embrace the global shift toward a net-zero future.

**UNFCCC Senior Director of Programmes Coordination
Daniele Violetti**

At the Opening Ceremony of Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023



Panama City, Panama

This year's Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week was held at the Marriott Panama Hotel Albroom in Panama City, Panama from 23 to 27 October 2023.

Opening Ceremony

The formal Opening Ceremony featured remarks by Minister of Environment of Panama Milciades Concepción, Ministers from around the region and UNFCCC Senior Director of Programmes Coordination Daniele Violetti. A cultural event was also held to showcase the traditions of Panama.





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ClimateWeek AC

The cultural heritage of Panama was on display at the LACCW 2023 Opening Ceremony.

LACCW 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 started on Monday, 23 October. A high-level segment was held on Wednesday, 25 October with Ministers from across the region. Thematic Track discussions were held from Wednesday through to the Closing Ceremony on Friday, 27 October.



A Quick Look...

2,000+ Registered Attendees

58 Countries of Origin

18 Thematic Track Events

49 Affiliated Events

147 Side Events

40 Action Hub Events



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LACCW 2023 Events

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 featured more than 200 event sessions held in the Marriott Panama Hotel Albrook convention space. Events hosted by UNFCCC and partner organizations advanced discussions on key topics, showcased climate action and facilitated the UNFCCC process.



Youth Events

Youth engagement was in focus at LACCW 2023. This included bringing the voice of youth in the region to the UNFCCC process with three key sessions by Youth4Capacity:

- Empowering Tomorrows Workforce: Green Jobs and Renewable Energy Education
- Meaningful engagement of youth in policy-making processes
- Communicating the Climate Crisis: Learning from Community-Led Youth Initiatives



LACCW 2023 Thematic Tracks

LAC Climate Week 2023 offered a platform for policymakers, business, practitioners, and civil society to exchange on climate solutions, overcoming barriers and opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean. Discussions were designed to inform the GST with region-focused contributions around four major system-based tracks:

- 1. Energy systems and industry**
- 2. Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport**
- 3. Land, ocean, food and water**
- 4. Societies, health, livelihoods and economies**

18 Thematic Track Events were held at LACCW 2023.



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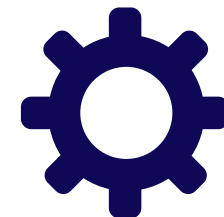


LACCW 2023 Events By the Numbers



147 Side Events

Side Events covered critical topics in detail. Organizers hosted events with experts to engage key stakeholders and constituents.



41 Affiliated Events

Affiliated Events advanced the UNFCCC process by engaging specific groups as directed by governments.



40 Action Hub Events

The Action Hub was held in the common area outside plenary to showcase inspiring and scalable action on the ground.



Virtual Participation

Select events were streamed to the UN Climate Change YouTube channel and MS Teams allowed for virtual participation for all events.



Opportunities to Engage

Each event opened space for discussion on critical topics for the region. Side Events aligned with Thematic Tracks. An Action Hub featured action on the ground and Affiliated Events advanced multilateralism.



LACCW 2023 Thematic Track Outputs

Track 1 – Energy systems and industry

Discussing the energy transition to efficient and low-emission energy systems, barriers to action investment and innovation for sustainable development.

Track 2 – Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport

Covering all aspects of cities and human settlement, infrastructure, transport, nature-based solutions, waste and social impact of policy and investment.

Track 3 – Land, ocean, food and water

Exploring challenges and opportunities in leveraging land for adaptation, collaboration on oceans, the water-climate nexus and resilient food systems.

Track 4 – Societies, health, livelihoods and economies

Discussing the circular economy, whole of society approaches to transformation, human health and livelihoods, including decent jobs and skills building.

Thematic Track 1

Track 1 focused on energy and industry, including transition to a low-carbon economy and achievement of the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goals.

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most affected regions by climate change but also has a high potential to make the transition of its energy matrix to a green economy given the abundance of natural resources. To do so, we heard that it is imperative to tackle changes in national/subnational regulations, finance mobilization and capacity building for new and emerging technologies.

A significant increase in finance must be deployed from the current 0.5% of the region's GDP to almost 5%. To do so, investment must be made in key sectors with the capacity to contribute to sustainable recovery. In addition, the role of the State is central with fiscal efforts in a context of fiscal deficit, along with greater need for international cooperation and concessional financing. Finally, the private sector must not be left behind since it is an essential actor.

Thematic Track 1

Rooms were vocal towards the long-term benefits that green hydrogen will have to accelerate the decarbonization of the economies. However, countries must ensure that policies are deployed to safeguard investment in the hydrogen supply chain. For example, incentivizing local production of technologies, building capacity of potential consumers (industries, transport) and identifying consumers beyond national boundaries.

Common elements to the energy transition involved energy access, renewable energy, transport and energy efficiency, including rehabilitation of existing hydro power plants and more efficient technologies. The expected increase in the region's demand for cooling must not be detached from the use of modern and more efficient technologies, mainly air conditioners, refrigerators and district cooling systems.



Thematic Track 1

Stakeholders outlined a goal to expand cooling system to protect vulnerable communities from extreme heat to keep food fresh and vaccines safe while moving away from inefficient and polluting cooling systems. Committing to the Global Cooling Pledges was highlighted as a way to reduce cooling-related emissions across all sectors.

We heard a call that the energy transition has to be just and must close the gap to provide clean and green energy to the entire Latin America and Caribbean population.



Thematic Track 2

Track 2 on cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport brought together a wide, balanced and representative range of stakeholders, including cities and regions, indigenous communities, experts, academicians, civil society and high-level speakers.

The track opened with focus on mobilizing finance for subnational regions, speakers highlighted the need to adopt a multilevel consultation engagement for policy planning and collaborate to make diverse sources of finance more accessible, particularly to the youth.

The session on conservation solutions highlighted how local knowledge and conservation of ecosystems are critical and vital for ensuring the sustainability of resilient urban communities.



Thematic Track 2

One session focused on building decarbonization and resilience and featured a strong call to action for governments in the region to sign up to the Building Breakthrough. With a target of “near-zero emission and resilient buildings are the new normal by 2030”, the initiative can serve as a joint vision and a rallying point for all countries.

On sustainable transport, speakers acknowledged the range of measures being taken in LAC cities focuses on improving public and private vehicle technology. We heard solutions in the shift to less carbon-intensive modes, such as public transport, walking and cycling, and a call to avoid unnecessary motorized trips based on proximity and accessibility.

Finally, an engaged hybrid discussion on Nature Based Solutions for urban development put the focus on the coastal areas and reiterated the importance of combining scientific knowledge and technology to the local knowledge and solutions. It also emphasized the need for constructive partnerships at all levels and awareness of the benefit and co-benefit of adopting nature-based solutions at scale.

Thematic Track 3

Track 3 on water, food, land, and the ocean kicked off with a session on water security in which we were reminded that investing in social improvements and well-being can facilitate investment in infrastructure because people see and appreciate the value of what is built hence, they are more likely to maintain it.

In financing the water sector, an interesting observation was that the region has many actors who are willing and ready to finance innovations and projects. However, one of the greatest challenges is the capacity to attract/tap into existing funds or access funding. Lack of relevant data makes it difficult to structure project financing instruments even though resources may be available.

Further on data for the water sector, there was an emphasis on the need to build robust systems that enable the LAC region to understand and predict medium and long-term impacts. However, it was also emphasized that in the short term, alert systems for communities that usually experience first-hand impacts should be integrated to ensure their protection and subsistence.

Thematic Track 3

Data, information, and knowledge were further underscored as critical for land use management and food security, for which digital technologies are available. Free and proven tools were showcased.

Issues on saltwater intrusion especially in low-lying coastal areas are pertinent, yet they remain unaddressed and require critical attention within the region to enable countries affected to effectively adapt.

The session on sustainable land use management highlighted the need for major transitions, which should be addressed in an integrated manner.

Speakers highlighted experiences that showed an integrated approach delivers co-benefits to communities, including women's empowerment to participate in the markets, access to education and protection of biodiversity.



Thematic Track 3

We learned of successful initiatives on land use, forestry management and sustainable agriculture, where inclusion and equitable sharing of benefits remains a critical challenge. Speakers underscored the gap between policies developed at the global level and reality at local level, especially when policies don't factor in local context.

They also mentioned that transition and transformation imply risk, so we must understand barriers and adapt enabling environments with relevant partners through co-innovation and social innovation. Speakers identified the following as key for transformation:

- Integration
- Political will
- Innovation including social innovation
- Integration of local knowledge and empowerment of local know-how
- Inclusion and equitable sharing of benefits
- Scientific evidence



Thematic Track 4

Track 4 was held with focus on economies, societies, livelihoods and health. We heard that the LAC region shows great leadership in piloting and implementing diverse new climate finance instruments. We also heard that finance needs to adjust to project types and development goals, tailored to specific country context and needs.

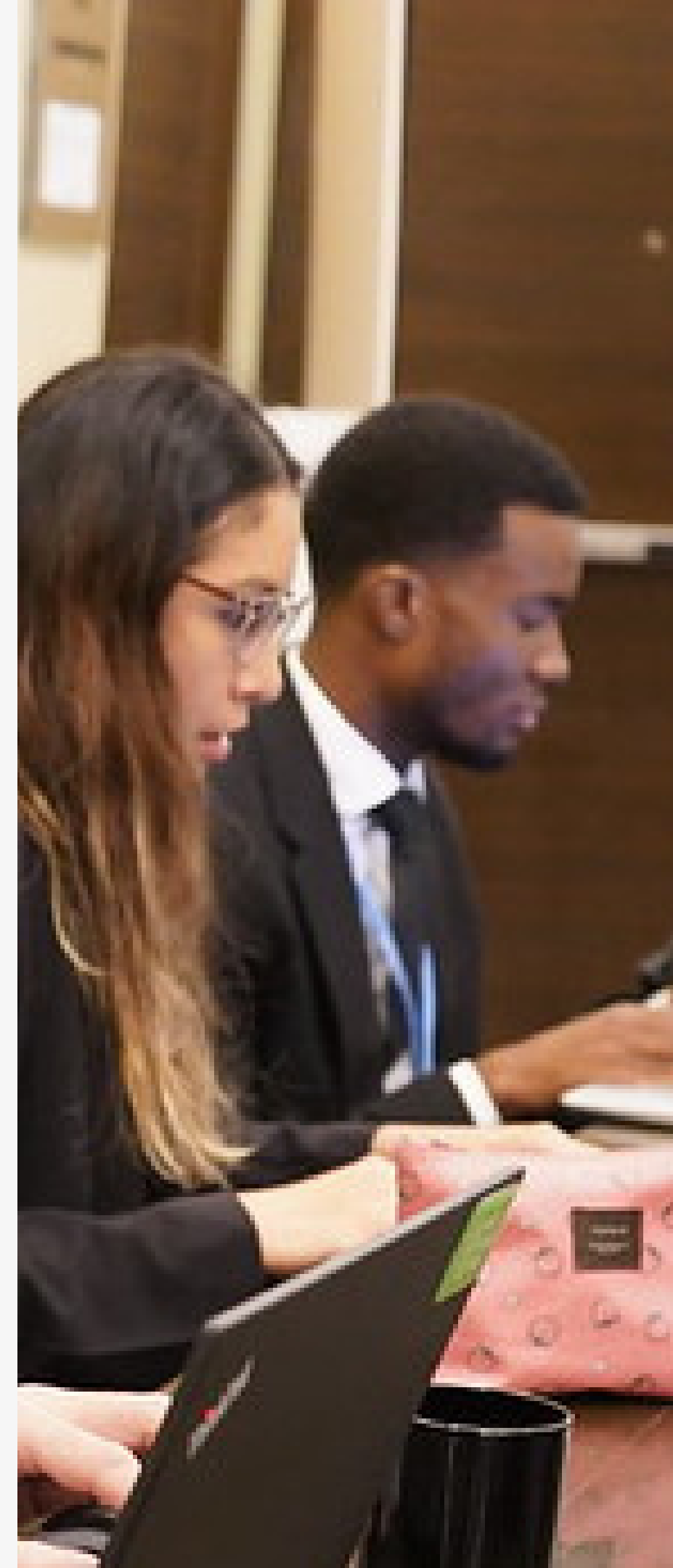
Data is essential. Without continuous monitoring and adequate KPIs, climate finance will not work. Reforms to the international financial system can ensure sustainable access to funds for those who need it the most, without exacerbating debt distress.



Thematic Track 4

In climate finance, stakeholders discussed presenting common needs of the LAC region in a coordinated manner to the international arena to strengthen negotiations. Financing tools must be based on solid social indicators to increase wellbeing at the same time of tackling climate change, because the region has to deal with poverty, unemployment and other realities that are interconnected.

Considering livelihoods, it is important to understand and respect ancestral management and governance that is often more respectful and in harmony with the environment. We heard a need to raise awareness on correlation between climate impacts and consequences for communities – poverty and inequalities exacerbated due to impacts and lack of resources and infrastructure in the region.



Thematic Track 4

We heard the critical role of youth in engaging to help collect data, draft laws to protect livelihoods, raise awareness and provide capacity building while engaging with policy-makers and using mechanisms such as the Local Conferences of Youth to move the climate agenda forward.

Education is also critical. Raising awareness, education and training is key to empowering people to adapt and be part of policy-making spaces. Adaptation projects require communicative participation and need to be co-designed. High-resolution data collection, monitoring and analysis of different categories of human mobility is also critical.



Thematic Track 4

There was a call to enhance the enabling environment to reduce mobility risks and vulnerabilities. Investment in risk reduction in flood and drought prone areas, particularly for lower-income groups; access to drought-resistant crop/livestock support, strengthening social services and green economy alternatives can strengthen resilience.

Track 4 sessions also highlighted the fragmented nature of climate change and health discussions, stressing the importance of humanizing climate impacts on health.

Stakeholders emphasized the need for preparedness, immediate action and equity in addressing climate-related health risks. Challenges include empowering the health system for cross-sectoral dialogue, financing, evidence collection and capacity-building. The LAC region showcases scalable successes in developing strategies and surveillance for early identification and intervention of environmentally influenced diseases.

LACCW 2023 Recognition

LACCW 2023 successfully brought together leaders and stakeholders for solution-oriented discussion. UN Climate Change would like to recognize the leadership of the Government of Panama, collaboration by global and regional partners and the participation of dignitaries, delegates and stakeholders.

The success of LACCW 2023 is your success to share.



LACCW 2023 Resources

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 featured more than 200 sessions, four Thematic Track discussions and virtual participation. More information on LACCW 2023 can be found at the following links:

- [LACCW 2023 Webpage on the UNFCCC.int site](#)
- [LACCW 2023 Session Details](#)
- [LACCW 2023 on YouTube](#)
- [LACCW 2023 on Flickr](#)



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Thank You