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## PROLOGUE

This report was prepared as part of the preparatory work for the general discussion on *Skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development* at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference.

The aim of this study is to illustrate the relationship between training and workers' skills, productivity and the growth of quality employment in Latin America societies through the analysis of the existing information and the study of some national case studies. The main focus is on the evolution of later decades, particularly since the end of the 1980's up to the present.

We will present a panorama of the region as a whole that will enable us to make comparisons with other regions in the world, focusing in particular on the evolution and outcomes in some countries which illustrate these relationships. Case studies that vary as regards levels of education and productivity were chosen. The national case studies selected are: Argentina and Chile, which have high indicators in population's participation in secondary education as well as in productivity; Brazil, which has lower rates of participation in education but medium levels of average productivity with big differences between the more developed regions and the rest of the country; and Peru, which has an important post-primary education coverage and lower productivity.

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