

Launch of the «Strategy for the Promotion of Formalization in Latin America and the Caribbean»



Date: July 18, 2024



Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (Lima, Peru time)



Location: Virtual event

Background

It is estimated that half of the region's workers do not have access to decent work in the formal economy. Addressing this challenge is an urgent priority. The ILO Recommendation on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy, 2015 (No. 204) provides a clear roadmap for action, strongly supported by its constituents, which consists of creating formal employment, facilitating the transition of economic units and workers to formality, and preventing informalization.

The evidence shows that to achieve these objectives, and in particular to reduce informality, strong, sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth is needed, accompanied by an integrated framework of formalization policies with a gender-sensitive approach and adapted to the reality of each country. These policies must be implemented through effective social dialogue processes and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms that ensure a multisectoral approach to the phenomenon of informality and its root causes.

In this context, the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has prepared the «Strategy for the Promotion of Formalization in Latin America and the Caribbean», known as FORLAC 2.0, which constitutes a guiding framework for activities to promote the transition to the formal economy in LAC during the period 2024-2030.

The overall objective of FORLAC 2.0 is to streamline and strengthen the ILO's comprehensive and coherent response to the transition to the formal economy in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period 2024-2030, in accordance with the needs of its constituents, thereby contributing to the achievement of decent work and social justice. Its specific objectives are to: design and deliver quality services and innovative solutions to ILO constituents, tailored to their specific needs and their social, economic, political, cultural and other contexts, to achieve formalization in the region; to promote actions at the national and territorial levels to foster an environment conducive to the development of

sustainable enterprises, improved productivity, formalization and decent work; and to build alliances with like-minded organizations at the regional level to maximize their capacity to influence the formulation of integrated formalization policies and strategies in each country, and to mobilize internal and external resources to expand FORLAC 2.0's reach.

FORLAC 2.0 provides ILO constituents with an integrated policy framework of innovative and effective formalization interventions with a gender equality and just transition approach. The key policy areas are: *a)* productive development; *b)* employment and skills development; *c)* social protection; and *d)* policies for the recognition and enforcement of labour rights, and sanctions and incentives for formalization.

Through FORLAC 2.0, the ILO will provide its constituents with a portfolio of services and technical cooperation, including: information and awareness raising; cutting-edge knowledge management and innovation capacities; capacity building of constituents (government institutions and employers' and workers' organizations); relevant technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of integrated and innovative policies and strategies; identification, design, implementation, evaluation and scaling up of innovative and cost-effective pilot interventions; strategies and methodologies for targeting interventions; South-South and triangular cooperation; and strategic alliances and fund mobilization. It will also strengthen dialogue processes and fora, as well as inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, aiming at the widest possible inclusiveness and representativeness.

A social dialogue and coordination body, the Tripartite Consultative Committee (CCT), will be established to guide the implementation and strategic follow-up of the strategy.

For all of the above, the Regional Office has planned to organize a virtual event that will serve as a space and an opportunity to present the main aspects of the FORLAC 2.0 strategy to the ILO constituents in the region.



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Objective

To present the «Strategy for the Promotion of Formalization in Latin America and the Caribbean» (FORLAC 2.0) and its implementation plan for the 2024-2025 biennium to ILO constituents in LAC, as well as to public and private entities, in order to provide a reference framework for the design of effective policies and strategies for the transition to the formal economy in the region.

Participants

The event is open to ILO constituents in Latin American and Caribbean countries, public and private organizations, international cooperation agencies and academics, among others.

Format

The event will be held in virtual format between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. (Lima, Peru time).

Languages

Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Expected results

At the end of the event, ILO constituents will be familiar with the «Strategy for the Promotion of Formalization in Latin America and the Caribbean» (FORLAC 2.0) and will take it into account in the design of effective policies and strategies for the transition to the formal economy in the region.

Agenda

08:45 – 09:00	Reception of participants.
09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks. ► Ana Virginia Moreira, Regional Director of the ILO Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
09:10 – 09:15	«Transition to the formal economy as a means and not an end». ► Frédéric Lapeyre, Director of the ILO Priority Action Programme on Formalization.
09:15 – 09:40	«The FORLAC 2.0 Strategy and its Operational Plan for the 2024-2025 Biennium». ► Efraín Quicaña, ILO Regional Specialist for Rural Economy, Productive Development and Formalization for Latin America and the Caribbean.
09:40 – 10:00	Comments from ILO constituents: ► Mónica Recalde, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MTESS), Government of Paraguay. ► Kaira Reece, Sustainable Development Secretary, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA). ► Ronald Ramlogan Chief Executive Officer, Employers' Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago (ECATT).
10:00 – 10:30	Comments by special guests: ► Francisco Sagasti, Former President of the Republic of Peru. ► Stefan Olsson, Deputy Director General for Employment, Skills and Social Policy, European Commission. ► José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
10:30 – 10:35	Closing remarks. ► Claudia Coenjaerts, Deputy Regional Director, ILO Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Moderator: **Claudia Ruiz, Chief of the Regional Programming Unit of the ILO Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.**