

Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2019 Key Messages for the UN Climate Action Summit

Overarching: Great potential to be realized by leadership and finance

- Potential for enhancing ambition exist in all sectors and could be realized through cooperation among actors and enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks that are vertically integrated.
- Key to a low carbon and climate resilient LAC will be the commitment of leaders and the engagement of all stakeholders for an economic transformation that is just.
- Finance and financing mechanisms targeted at supporting cities and subnational regions must be scaled up, including strengthening capacities to access finance.

1. Transport: Sustainable mobility and low emissions transport to address the highest source of emissions

- Governments at all levels must develop policy frameworks to usher a transition to low emissions transport; the market and the industry will follow suit.
- LAC cities have the highest average number of buses per capita in the world, which offers opportunities to scale up urban mobility solutions in the region.
- Favourable conditions for low emissions vehicles include the large potential for renewable sources of energy as well as advanced biofuels.

2. Industry: is moving and could be further motivated

- Industrial sectors (cement, steel, chemicals) are taking steps to decarbonize through renewable energy; efficiency in energy use, processes and materials; and the adoption of a circular economy.
- Companies must scale up their actions and plans to increase resilience against climate change by incorporating adaptation into their operations and business plans.
- Targeted policy and regulatory frameworks are required to support and motivate the industrial sector to continue investing in decarbonization and increase adaptation.

3. Urban: the epicenter of climate awareness and action

- Cross sectoral climate risk assessments must be used to strengthen disaster reduction plans and to articulate them with NDCs and NAPs; this is essential to increase the resilience of urban dwellers.
- Urban climate action has already generated positive results; further integration of climate considerations into urban development will require the right policy frameworks and the engagement of real estate developers and financial institutions.

NBS: 25 per cent of forest and arable land opens a world of possibilities

- The potential for low emissions and climate resilient LAC is enormous through the protection and the restoration of forests and the adoption of climate technologies and practices in land use.
- Evidence shows that results based payments from REDD+ and related policy can deliver a decrease in deforestation rates and can be scaled up to increase ambition;
- Experiences with small-scale farmers, supply chains and others point to the imperative of increasing support for climate smart agriculture to turn the sector into a solution.
- Adaptation action is essential in coastal zones, low lying areas and small islands; failure to act poses a threat to the economies and livelihood of the communities that depend on oceans.

4. Energy: thinking long term and right frameworks to tap on a large and clean source of energy

- Decarbonizing energy will require long-term planning, strategies and policies targeted to energy production and use in transport, industry and buildings. Cities will be key drivers of change.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are economically viable and readily available today; successful business and financing models abound in the region and can be replicated and be promoted through policy, legal and financial frameworks.
- Stakeholder dialogues are crucial for designing strategies that reduce the economic and the social impact caused by decarbonization in the energy sector.