

# LATIN AMERICA 2025-2030: UNCERTAINTY AND RECONFIGURATION

12 TRENDS THAT WILL GENERATE CHANGE

OXFAM DISCUSSION PAPER



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## REVIEW OF CURRENT DYNAMICS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

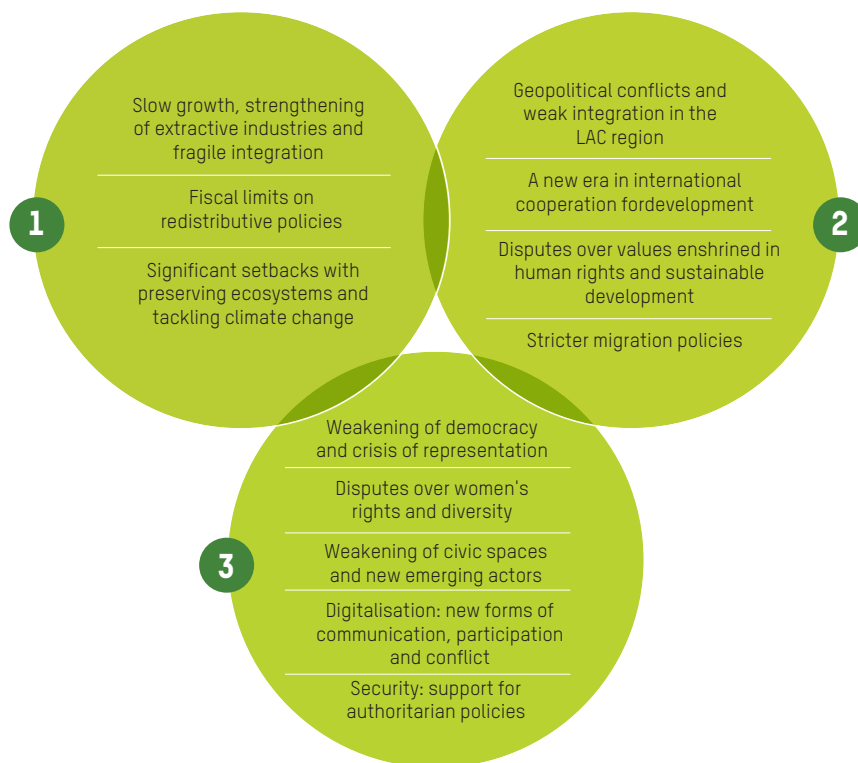
In 2025, there is a widespread perception that the world is entering a period marked by high uncertainty and a major realignment of political, economic and social dynamics. Across Latin America, countries already face significant challenges in revitalising their economies, reducing inequalities, strengthening democratic institutions and addressing the growing effects of climate change.

This analysis identifies the main geopolitical, economic and social trends that could shape Latin America and the Caribbean between 2025 and 2030. The process drew on a review of academic literature, recent media analysis and consultations with 42 regional experts.

The trends identified for the region indicate a more adverse political, economic and international cooperation environment that will hinder efforts to advance sustainable development, reduce inequalities and expand rights.

Twelve trends have been identified and analysed for this document that are grouped into three areas:

- 1 THE FUTURE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN TIMES OF UNCERTAIN**
- 2 CHALLENGES IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD WITH GEOPOLITICAL DISPUTES**
- 3 RENEWING DEMOCRACY AND DEFENDING RIGHTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED**



## TRENDS IN AN UNCERTAIN CONTEXT

At the global level, there are clear signs of declining multilateralism, the emergence of a multipolar order, the influence of neo-nationalist economic agendas, the rise of populist leaders, an increase in armed conflicts, growing middle-class discontent and the expanding role of communication technologies in political and social life

These structural shifts, both global and regional, have intensified under the policies introduced during Donald Trump's second term in the United States.

These developments are especially relevant for Latin America given its geographic proximity, economic ties and long-standing relationship with the United States.

There is currently an unusual convergence of structural challenges and disruptive political shifts that is reshaping the region's future economic and socio-political outlook. This document provides an initial overview of the main trends Latin America may face over the next five years, drawing on recent analytical reports and the views of 42 experts consulted by Oxfam in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The specialists interviewed expressed largely negative or uncertain expectations about the region's direction.

Many referred to a sense of uncertainty, setbacks, fear and frustration. Their concerns relate in part to the impact of policy decisions adopted during the first 100 days of Donald Trump's administration, particularly in the areas of immigration, trade and security. Notably, 85 percent of the experts consulted believe these measures will not be temporary and will generate medium- and long-term effects on global politics and the international economy.

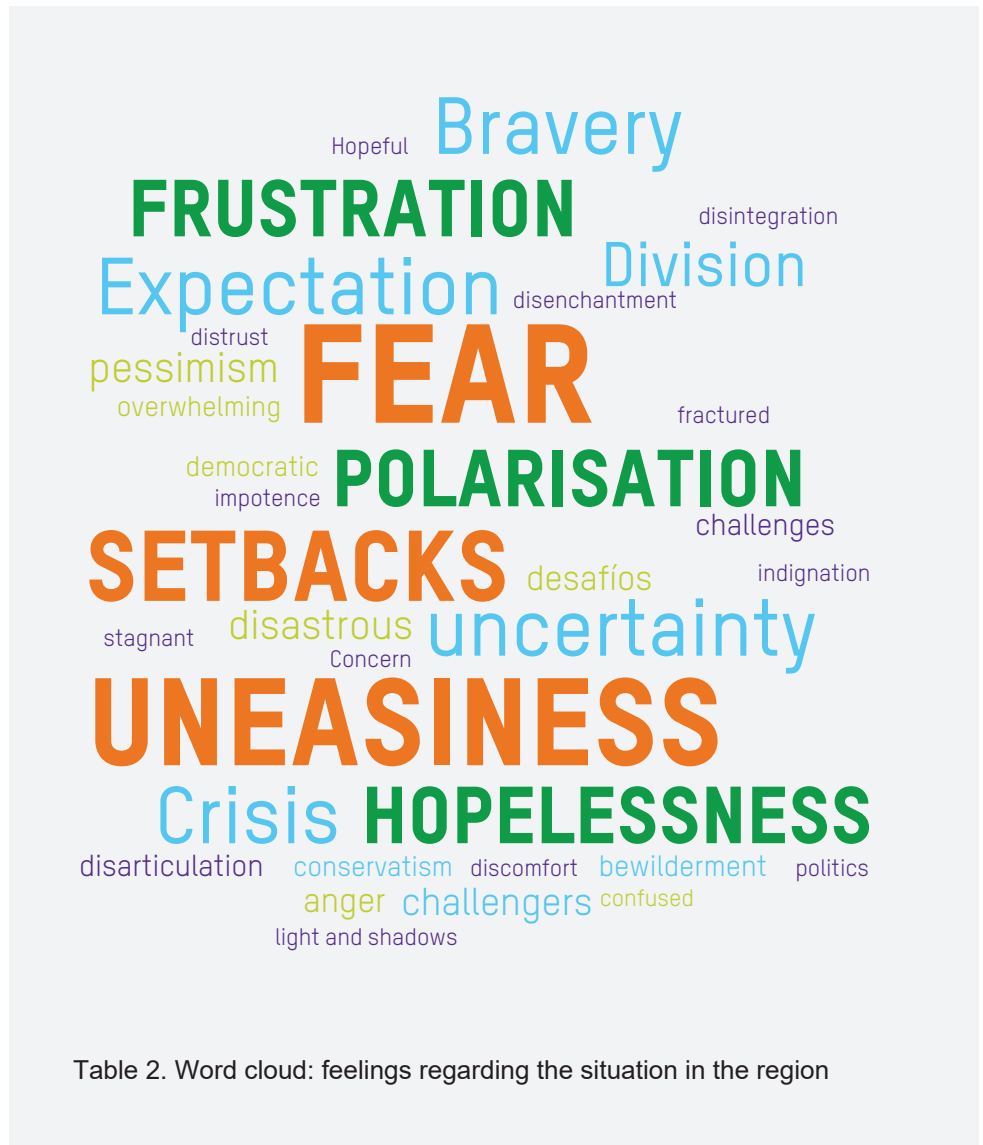


Table 2. Word cloud: feelings regarding the situation in the region

## 12 TRENDS

1

THE FUTURE OF  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICIES IN TIMES OF  
UNCERTAINTY

### 1. Slow economic growth, strengthened extractive industries and fragile international integration

The region is experiencing a slow economic recovery marked by low productivity and a large informal sector. This model reinforces the intensive extraction of natural resources, which increases social tensions and heightens environmental vulnerability.

#### Fiscal and political constraints on redistributive policies

Tight fiscal conditions and limited social consensus are constraining redistributive public policies. Social spending is declining, and anti-state rhetoric is expanding, reducing the space for new agreements aimed at increasing equality.

### 3. Risk of major setbacks in ecosystem protection and climate action

Pressure to accelerate economic growth and limited international commitment are undermining progress on sustainability. Extractive industries continue to expand, while policies supporting ecological transition have weakened and interest in meeting global climate commitments has declined.

2

CHALLENGES IN A  
MULTIPOLAR  
WORLD WITH  
GEOPOLITICAL  
DISPUTES

#### 4. Disputes over values linked to human rights and sustainable development

Conservative debates questioning the legitimacy of human rights, gender equality, diversity and the SDGs are gaining visibility. These sectors are expanding their political and media influence and challenging earlier agreements on rights and development.

#### 5. Geopolitical tensions, shifting spheres of influence and weak regional integration

The United States has resumed a strategy centred on regional control through restrictive migration and security policies, while China continues to expand its economic presence. Latin American responses to these dynamics remain fragmented and lack a shared regional vision.

#### 6. A new era in international development cooperation

The closure of USAID and the withdrawal of several European donors are reshaping the regional cooperation landscape. Funding for human rights and civil society is declining, while multilateral development banks are gaining influence with approaches that prioritise technical solutions over social transformation.

#### 7. Tightening of migration policies

Migration has become a central issue in relations with the United States and is now shaped by mass deportations, new charges on remittances and coercive measures that affect rights and local economies. Regional responses remain weak and uncoordinated.

#### 8. Weakening of democracy and crisis of representation

Dissatisfaction with democratic institutions is increasing, authoritarian leaders are gaining prominence and political polarisation continues to deepen.

#### 9. Political disputes over women's rights and diversity

The gender and diversity agenda are confronting a coordinated ideological pushback. Regulatory rollbacks are being promoted, and institutional and financial support for previously achieved rights is weakening.

#### 10. Public security: growing support for authoritarian measures

"Iron fist" security policies are gaining support as a response to rising crime. These measures often restrict rights and reinforce authoritarian leadership without addressing the structural drivers of violence.

#### 11. Shrinking civic space and the emergence of new actors

Civic space is under growing pressure as governments adopt measures that restrict participation. While new forms of mobilisation and protest are emerging, traditional organisations face reduced influence because of shrinking civic space and declining resources.

#### 12. Digitalisation and new ways of communicating, participating, polarising and generating conflict


Digital platforms are reshaping political engagement by expanding participation while amplifying misinformation and hate speech. Fragmented digital environments have weakened public debate and made consensus-building more difficult.

3

RENEWING DEMOCRACY  
AND DEFENDING RIGHTS THAT  
HAVE ALREADY BEEN  
ACHIEVED

## IMPLICATIONS

Identifying trends that will shape the region through 2030 requires a medium-term perspective. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean face decisions that demand coordinated planning. This analysis supports strategic choices, institutional planning and alliance-building in a context of constant change. It calls for concrete proposals, inclusive dialogue, active solidarity networks and new narratives centred on social justice, democracy and care for the planet.

 [Access the full report here](#)

This analysis has been prepared by the Oxfam in LAC and aims to encourage reflection on the current regional context that is marked by high levels of socio-political uncertainty and institutional transition. This publication also aims to contribute to debate regarding a renewed influencing agenda for the region. For further information, please contact [veronica.paz@oxfam.org](mailto:veronica.paz@oxfam.org)