JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP OEA/Ser.E

Meeting of High-Level Authorities GTCC/INF.27/20

3 April 2020 5 April 2020

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**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

We are facing the COVID-19 pandemic with fragmented health systems and no universal coverage, at a time when more than 47% of the population are without access to social security.

This will have grave economic and social consequences. We forecast that in 2020, the region will post negative growth of -1.8%  or more. If the base data are confirmed, our current total number of poor people will rise from 186 million to 220 million, and the 67.5 million inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean who currently live in conditions of extreme poverty will increase to 90.8 million.

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To support the follow-up and monitoring of progress in the medium and long terms, ECLAC has developed this **Observatory, the purpose of which is to compile and make available the public policies that the countries of Latin American and Caribbean are adopting to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**, **together with analyses of the economic and social impact they are expected to have at the national and sectoral levels** ([www.cepal.org](http://www.cepal.org)). In addition, we have relaunched a broad array of intergovernmental meetings (ministers of finance, social development, women’s affairs, older people, planning) using teleconferencing technology, to exchange experiences and good practices and to provide venues for cooperation.