



Urban Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean

CSTD 2012-2013 Inter-Sessional Panel

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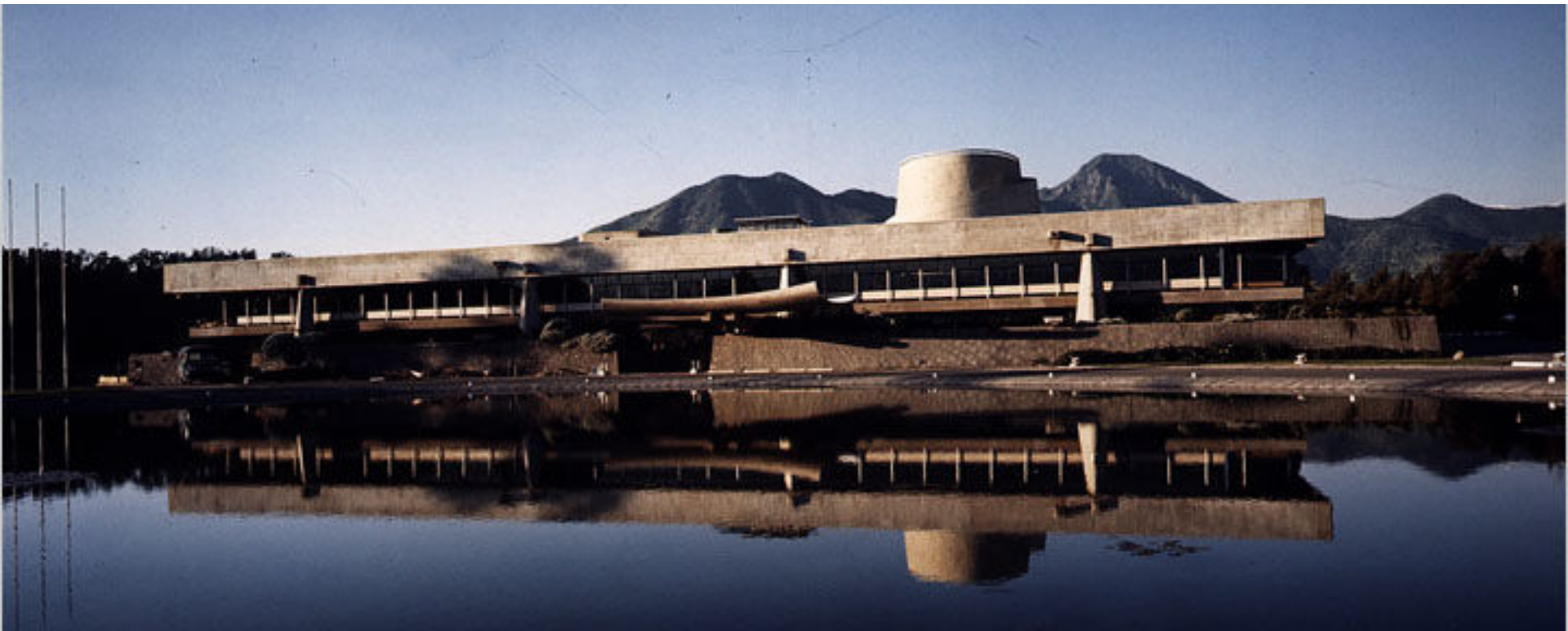
who we are



NACIONES UNIDAS
UNITED NATIONS

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division



UN Mandates/ International Agreements

Rio+20

Habitat Agenda

MINURVI



UN Action Protocol

Research

**Technical
cooperation**

**Capacity
building**



**Low-Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Rio+20 Final Report: 'The future we want'



- Paragraph 134

“We recognize that, **if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies.** In this regard, we recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration. We commit to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility. We also recognize the need for conservation, as appropriate, of the natural and cultural heritage of human settlements, the revitalization of historic districts and the rehabilitation of city centres”.

Rio+20 Final Report: 'The future we want'



- Paragraph 135

“We commit to promote **an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including through supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making.**

We also commit to promote sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled; affordable and sustainable transport and energy; promotion, protection and restoration of safe and green urban spaces; safe and clean drinking water and sanitation; healthy air quality; generation of decent jobs; and improved urban planning and slum upgrading...

We underline the importance of considering disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate risks in urban planning. We recognize the efforts of cities to balance development with rural regions”.

Rio+20 Final Report: 'The future we want'



- Paragraph 136

“We emphasize the importance of **increasing the number of metropolitan regions, cities and towns that are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design in order to respond effectively to the expected growth of urban populations in the coming decades.**

We note that sustainable urban planning benefits from the involvement of multiple stakeholders as well as from full use of information and sex-disaggregated data, including on demographic trends, income distribution and informal settlements.

We recognize the important role of municipal governments in setting a vision for sustainable cities,

from the initiation of city planning through to revitalization of older cities and neighbourhoods, including by adopting energy efficiency programmes in building management and developing sustainable, locally appropriate transport systems. We further recognize the importance of mixed-use planning and of encouraging non-motorized mobility, including by promoting pedestrian and cycling infrastructures.”.

Rio+20 Final Report: 'The future we want'



- Paragraph 137

“We recognize that **partnerships among cities and communities play an important role in promoting sustainable development.** In this regard, we stress the need to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and platforms, partnership arrangements and other implementation tools to advance the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda with the active involvement of all relevant United Nations entities and with the overall aim of achieving **sustainable urban development.** We further recognize the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda.”

UN-HABITAT Global Plan of Action



- Paragraph 1

“We recognize **the imperative need to improve the quality of human settlements, which profoundly affects the daily lives and well-being of our peoples.**

There is a sense of great opportunity and hope that a new world can be built, in which economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development can be realized through solidarity and cooperation within and between countries and through effective partnerships at all levels. International cooperation and universal solidarity, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in a spirit of partnership, are crucial to improving the quality of life of the peoples of the world.”

Urban trends and forecasts in Latin America and The Caribbean: 4 key facts.

- 1. High levels of urbanization and persistence of urban growth.**
- 2. Urbanization of poverty.**
- 3. The importance of urban economy in the macroeconomic context of the countries.**
- 4. Megacities are on the rise.**



Latin America's cities today...

260 million people live in 198 large cities in Latin America

In 2007 these 198 cities generated \$3.6 trillion of GDP—equal to the GDP of India and Poland combined

The top ten cities have a population of 95 million with average per capita GDP of \$18,000 and total GDP of \$1.7 trillion in 2007—30 percent of the region's total

NOTE: All data are for 2007. All GDP, per capita GDP, and GDP growth are measured at purchasing power parity.

Source: McKingsey & Company, 2011.



... and tomorrow

315 million people will live in 198 large cities in Latin America in 2025—more than the population of the United States today

50 million people will enter the potential labor force by 2025—more than the working-age population in France today

65% of Latin America's growth to 2025 will come from 198 large cities

By 2025, 198 large cities will generate GDP growth of \$3.8 trillion —almost three times Spain's total GDP today

198 large cities will have per capita GDP of \$23,000 in 2025—more than the per capita GDP of Portugal in 2007

NOTE: All GDP, per capita GDP, and GDP growth are measured at purchasing power parity. Source: McKingsey & Company, 2011.

1. High levels of urbanization and persistence of urban growth.

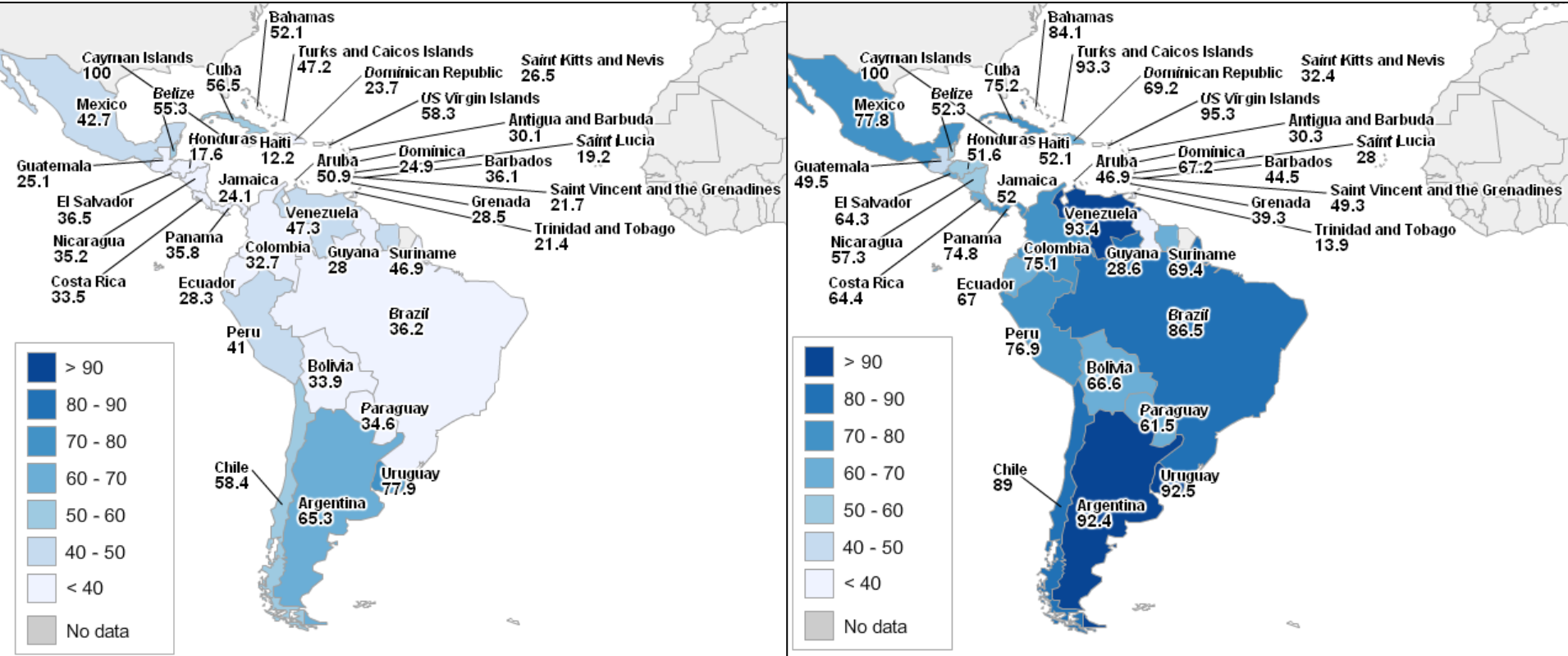
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, **80%** of the population already lives in cities. Although this is the **largest proportion in the world**, this figure is projected to grow to **85%** by **2030**.



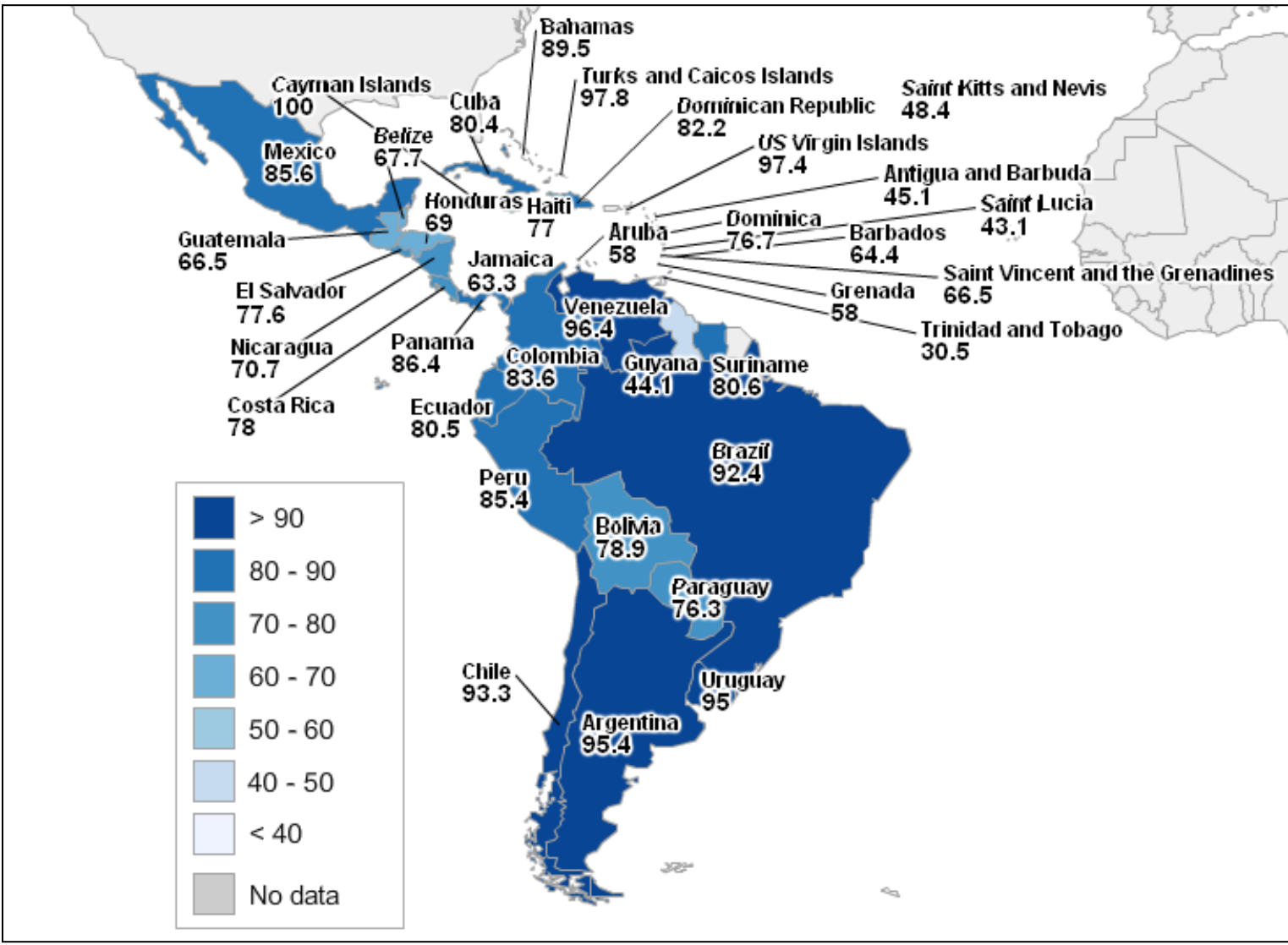
1950 and 2010: Percent of national population in urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1950

2010



2040: Percent of national population in urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Source: CELADE, 2010.

2.The urbanization of poverty.

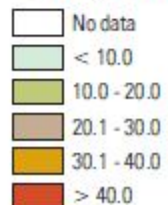
- **Urban sprawl** in an environment of poverty exacerbates **urban disparities and inequality**.
- Around **23%** of urban residents in Latin America and the Caribbean live in slums without access to basic services, such as **housing, clean water** and **sanitation**.
- In **Brazil**, around **45 million** people live in **slums**.
- Even though the percentage of people living in slums is **decreasing**, the total numbers in the developing world are still **rising** due to **population growth**.

1990–2000: Percentage change in slum proportions in selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (estimate).

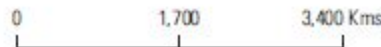
Slum proportions of selected countries in Latin America and The Caribbean (1990)



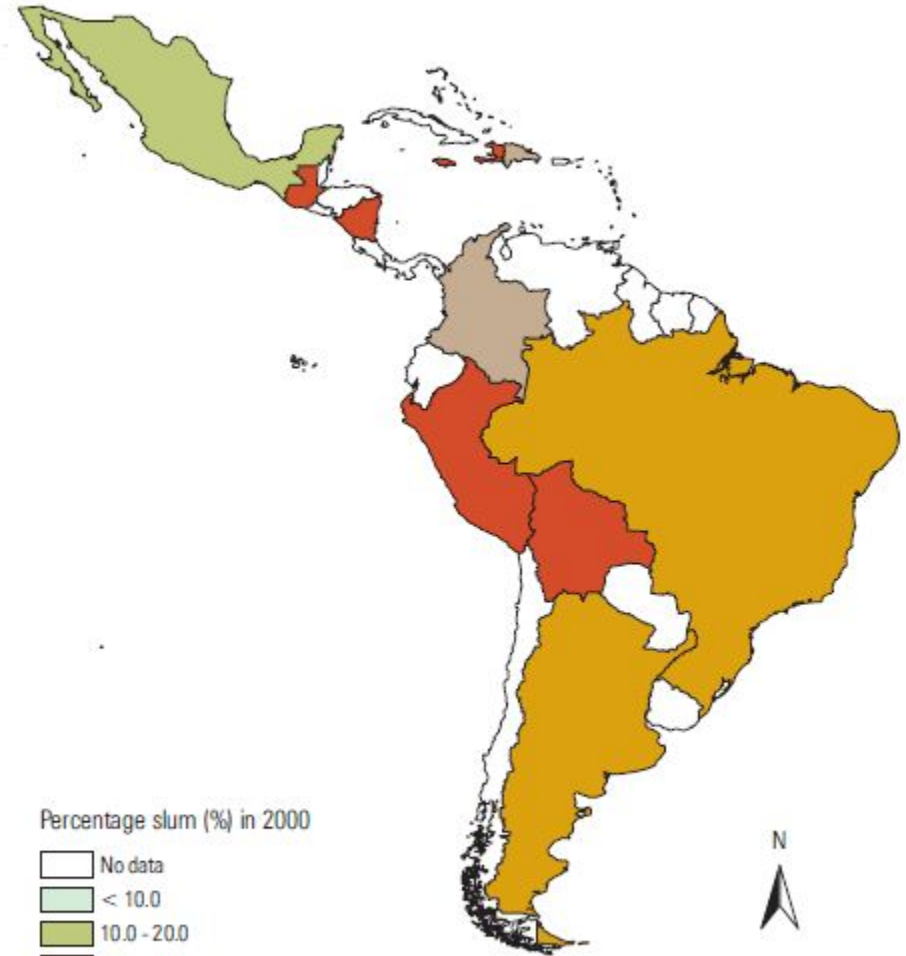
Percentage slum (%) in 1990



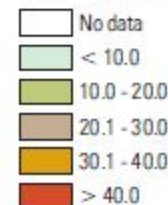
Source: UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, 2009



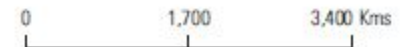
Slum proportions of selected countries in Latin America and The Caribbean (2000)



Percentage slum (%) in 2000



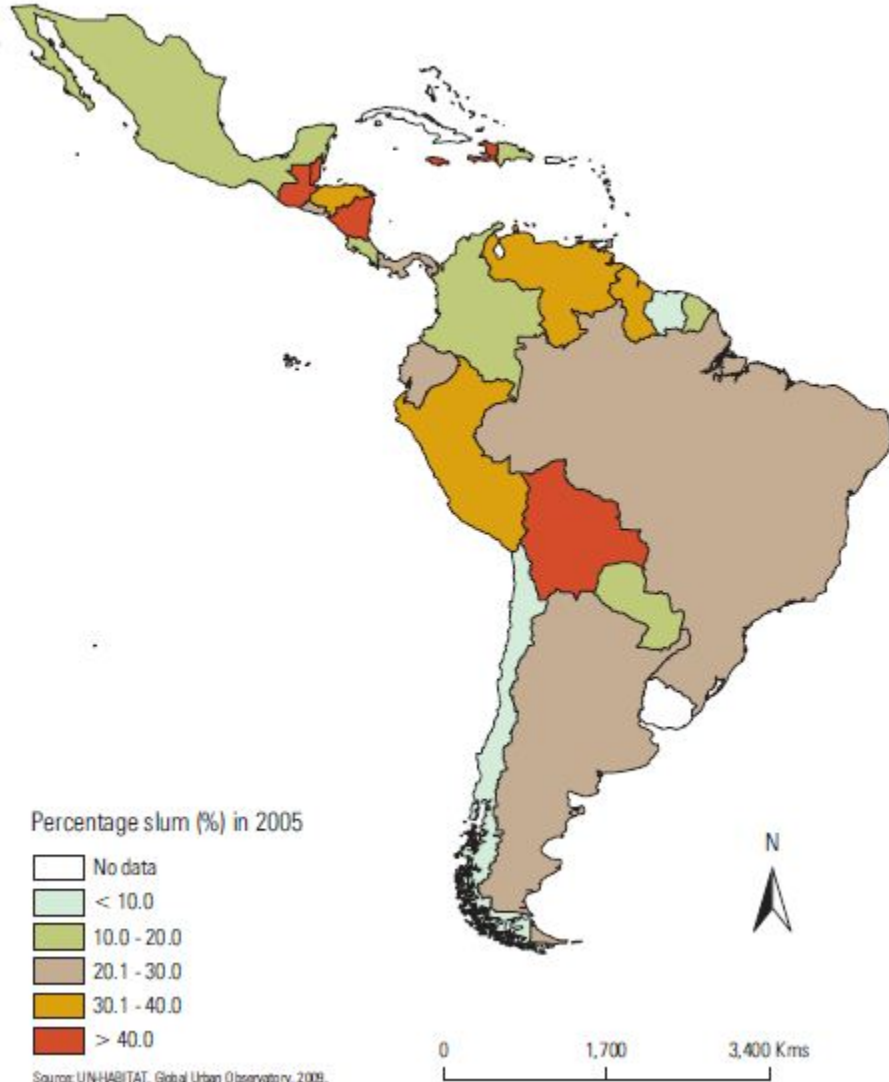
Source: UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, 2009.



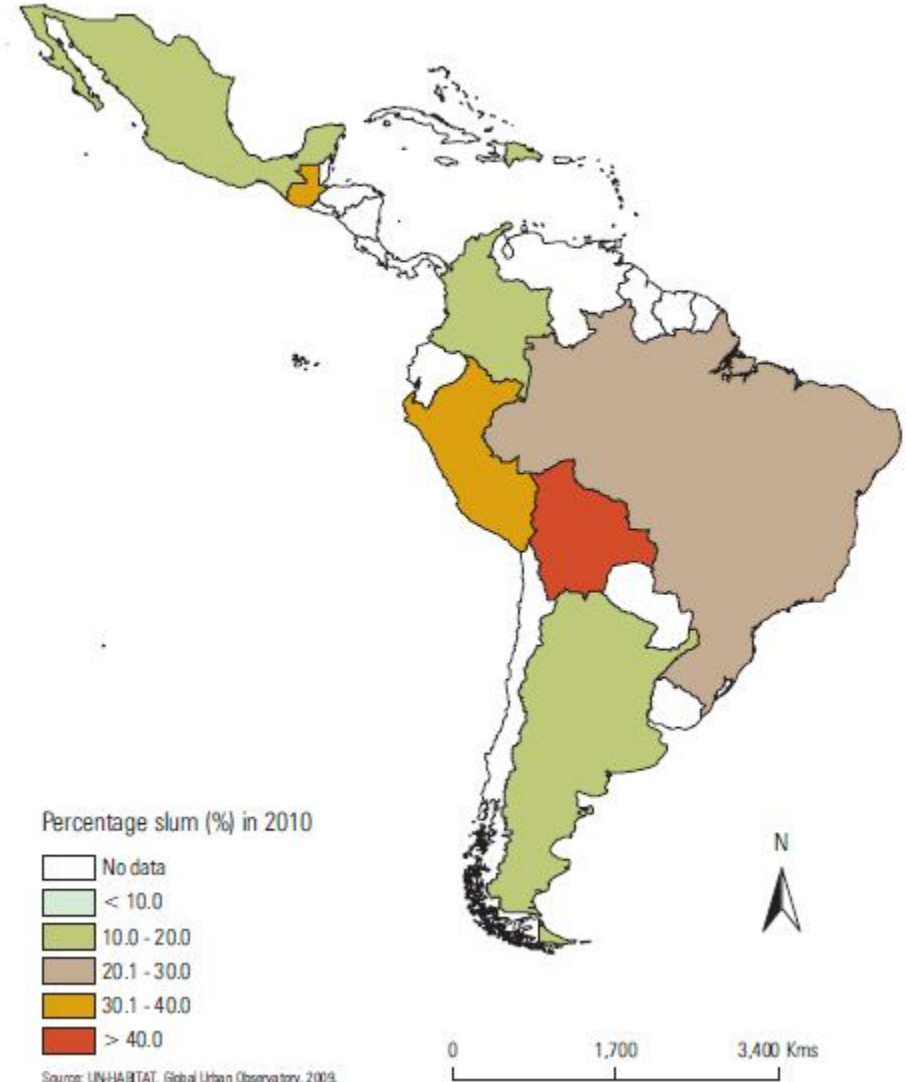
Source: UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, 2009.

2005–2010: Percentage change in slum proportions in selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (estimate).

Slum proportions of selected countries in Latin America and The Caribbean (2005)



Slum proportions of selected countries in Latin America and The Caribbean (2010)



3. The importance of urban economy in the macroeconomic context of the countries.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, **city economies** can be **bigger** than some neighbouring **national economies**. The GDP of **Buenos Aires**, for instance, is **three times bigger** than the national GDP of **Ecuador**.

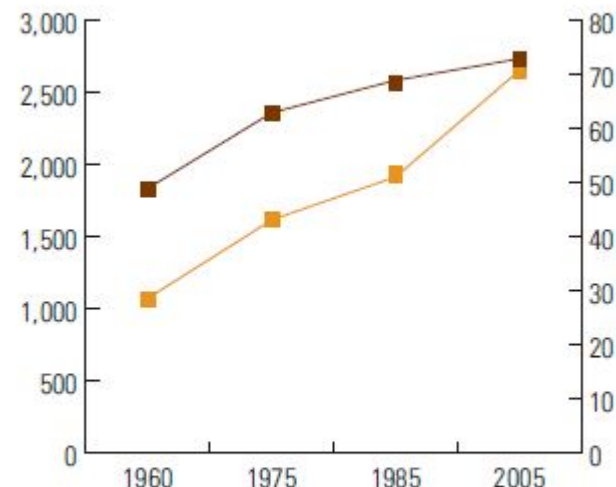
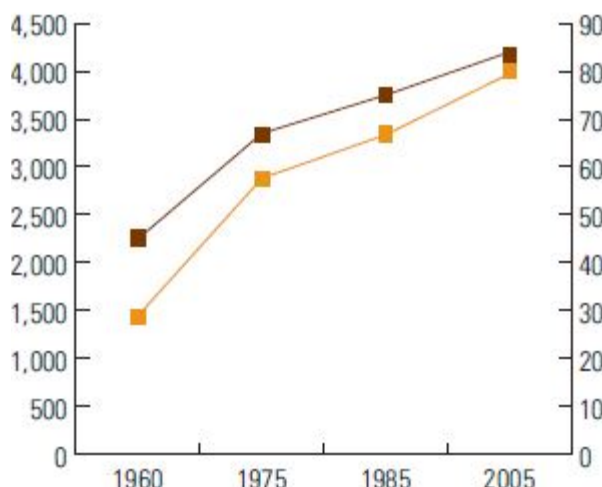
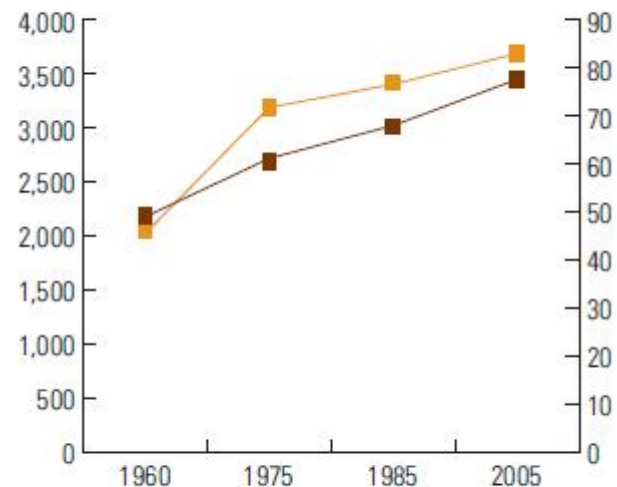


1960-2005: Economic growth and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

LAC - Economic Growth and Urbanization

Brazil - Economic Growth and Urbanization

Colombia - Economic Growth and Urbanization



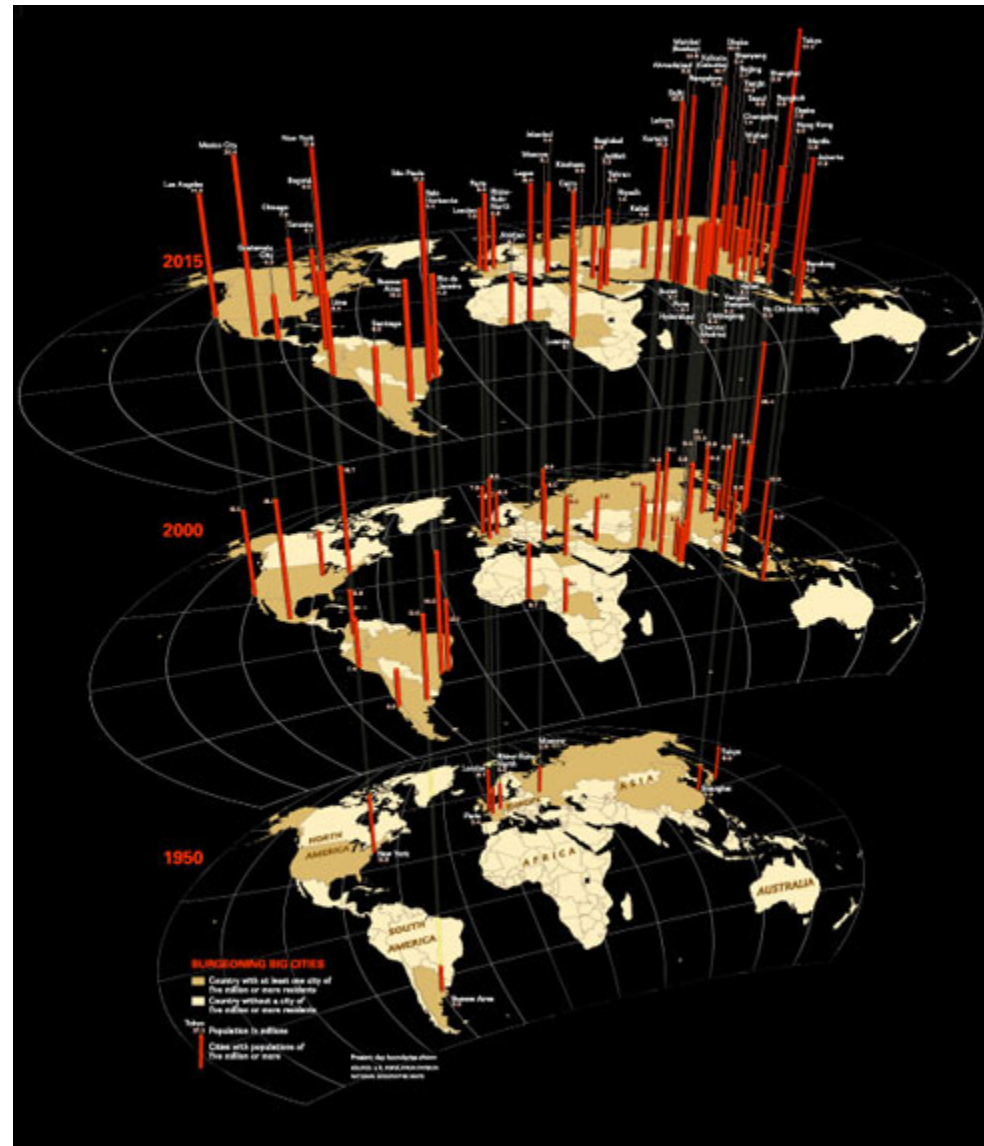
—■— GDP per capita (constant US\$)
—■— Proportion Urban (%)

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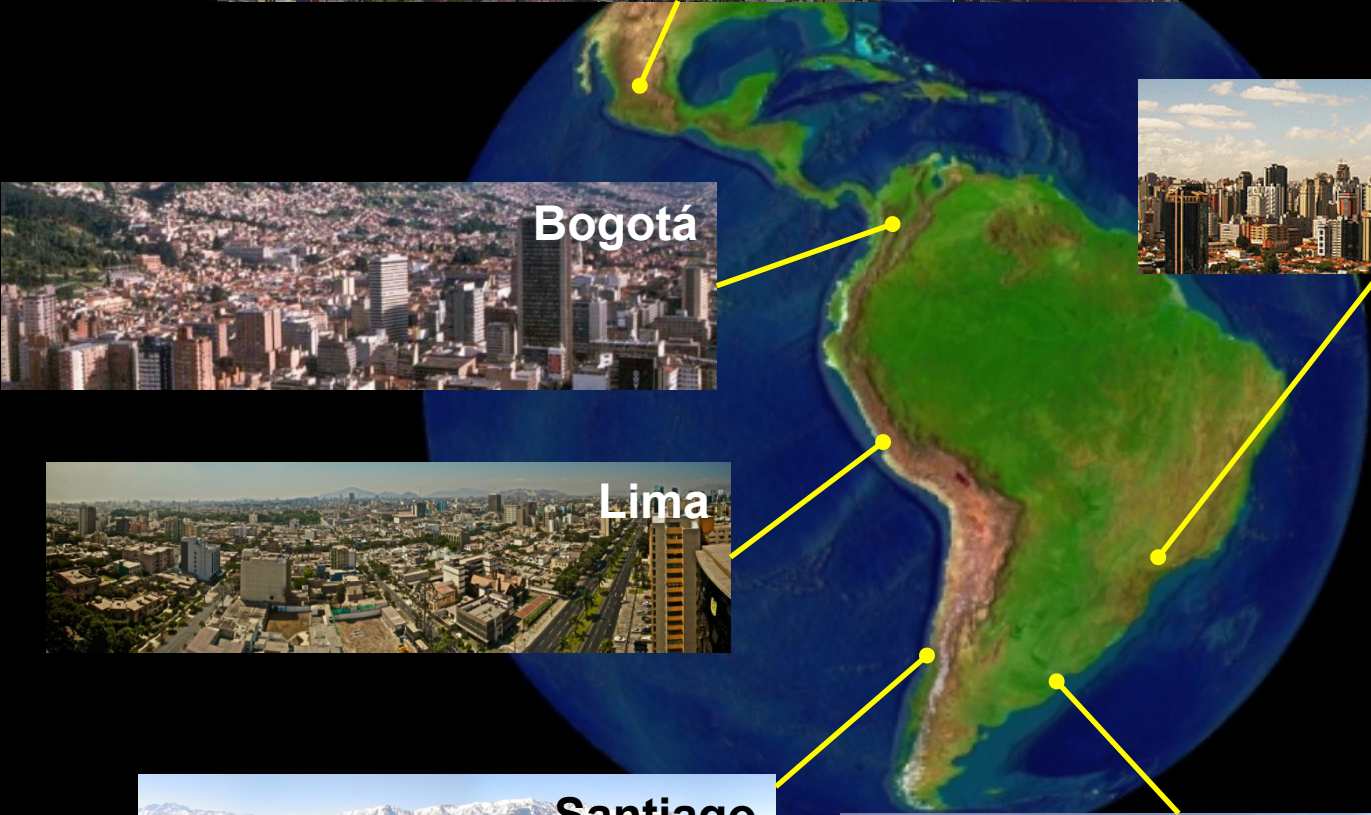
—■— GDP per capita (constant US\$)
—■— Proportion Urban (%)

4. Megacities are on the rise.

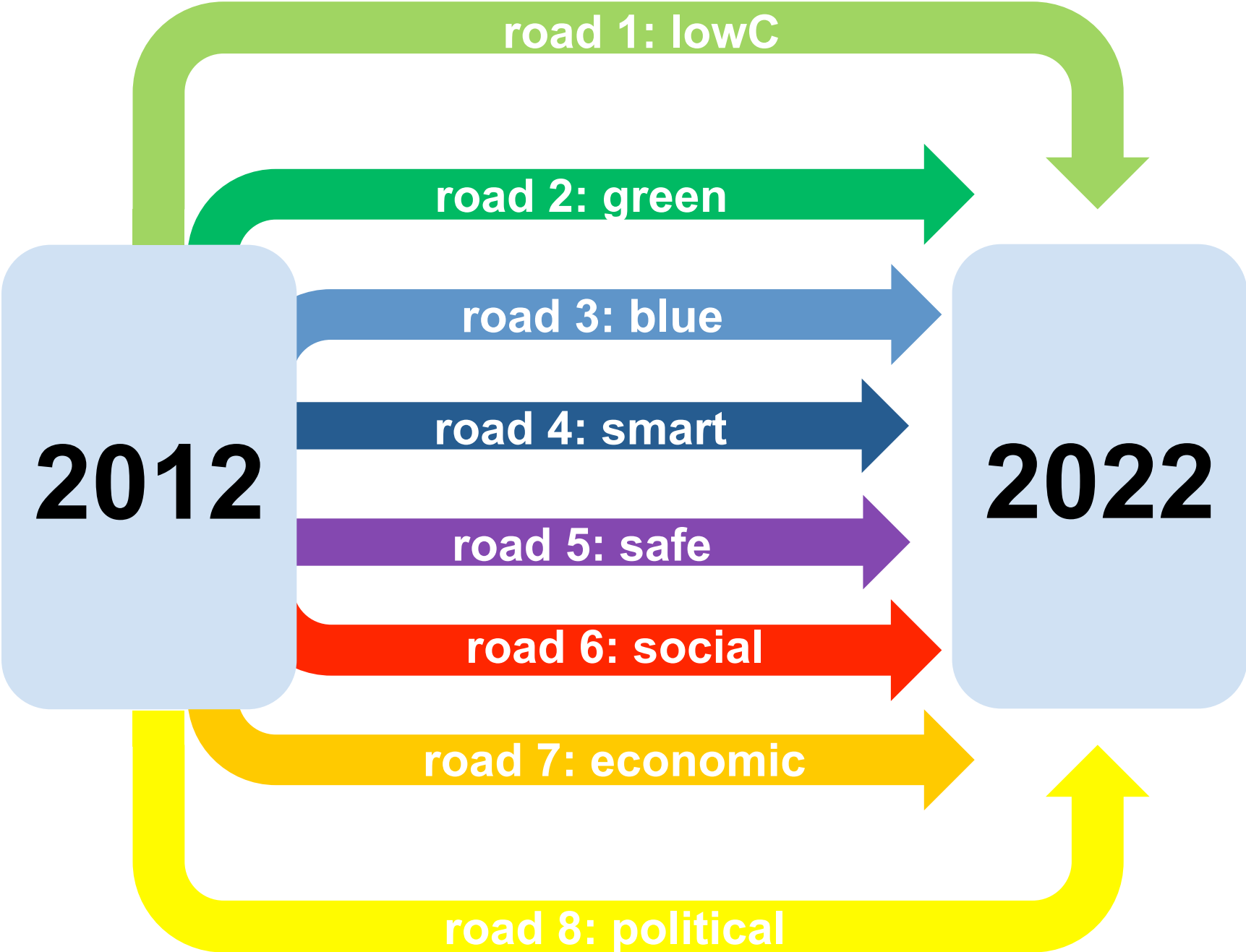
- In **1950** there was just **one** city with a population of more than **5 million** in Latin America — Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- In **2015** there will be **nine**, of which two, **Mexico City**, Mexico and Sao Paulo, Brazil, will surpass the **20 million** mark.



Megacities



2022 Urban Roadmap for Latin America and the Caribbean





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