



# Speech by Econ. Eduardo Piña, Analyst of Studies and Proposals Of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

## Economic and Technical Cooperation

*Workshop to launch the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC). Pacific Alliance and South America*

*Puerto Vallarta, Mexico*

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Mr Iván Ornelas, Coordinator of International Affairs of the National Institute of the Entrepreneur (INADEM) of the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico;

Representatives of the governmental focal points for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises of the Member States of the Pacific Alliance and South America, specifically Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay, as well as representatives of other member countries of SELA who accompany us today;

Mr Juan Carlos Parra, Deputy Minister of Industries and Productivity of Ecuador;

Representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

Representative of CAF-development bank of Latin America;

Representatives of regional and subregional organizations;

Ladies and gentlemen who honour us with their presence at our event today.

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador Roberto Guarnieri, I warmly welcome you to this "Workshop to launch the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC). Pacific Alliance and South America" and thank the Government of Mexico, in particular the National Institute of the Entrepreneur (INADEM) of the Secretariat of Economy of Mexico, for the openness and support provided in carrying out this activity. I would also like to thank all participants for their attendance and interest in continuing to work with us on this project of great benefit to the region.

The Permanent Secretariat of SELA is convinced of the need to implement the Public Policy Index for MSMEs, as a tool that will contribute to improved performance of MSMEs through the evaluation and monitoring of public policy decisions and within the framework of comparability of results among countries.

In this connection, since 2015, with the presentation of the document "Methodological considerations for developing an SME Public Policy Index for Latin America and the Caribbean" at the "Regional Meeting on Public Policies for Promotion and Support of SMEs" in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, SELA has undertaken a systematic effort to develop and disseminate a conceptual and methodological adaptation of the Public Policy Index for SMEs created by the OECD, focusing on the structural characteristics of the economies in the region and the promotion of innovation, technological adaptation, and productive development.

Then, and as follow-up from the effort made in 2015, the Permanent Secretariat prepared in 2016 the document "Update Study on Public Policy Index for SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC)", which was presented at a regional meeting in San José, Costa Rica. This study identifies and documents successful cases of implementation of the Public Policy Index in other regions of the world (ASEAN, MENA, and Eastern European countries), deals with the status of public policies for MSMEs in the region and presents a detailed procedural framework for the optimal implementation. That meeting was aimed at governmental focal points for MSMEs of the Member States of SELA, as well as OECD officials, who expressed their interest in promoting the dissemination and implementation of the IPPALC in a joint effort with SELA.

Afterwards, and as a prelude to this event we are holding today, SELA and the OECD carried out the "Workshop on implementation of the Index of Public Policies for SMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPPALC)" with the purpose of disseminating a methodology for the launch of the

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IPPALC and identifying those countries that meet the requirements for its implementation and express their interest in adopting the indicator.

The valuable results obtained in response to these great efforts have encouraged many countries in the region to officially express their interest in implementing the IPPALC and to form subgroups of implementation by subregion.

This Workshop to launch the Public Policy Index for MSMEs in Latin America and the Caribbean aims to promote a space for synergy to share national views and opinions within the framework of the adoption of the IPPALC and to allow a comprehensive review and assessment of questionnaires about the dimensions considered in the project for the Member States of the Pacific Alliance and South America (Argentina Uruguay and Ecuador).

Thus, the analysis and debates that may arise from discussions during the meeting will serve to make changes to the assessment questionnaires and to obtain the final versions that will optimize the implementation and maximize the usefulness of the tool. In this connection, from the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and with the support of the OECD, after the huge efforts made, the time has come to launch the tool and to engage further in the compliance with the times and tasks required to achieve the expected results.

From the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, we will continue to promote the economic performance of MSMEs in a systematic effort that includes, in addition to the IPPALC, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Programme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SELA-SMEs Programme). To that end, the following activities are scheduled to take place during this year in accordance with our Work Programme:

- a) The "Workshop to support entrepreneurs in the protection of intellectual property rights: Protection of trademarks and patents from the perspective of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)", which will be held on 7, 8 and 9 June in Guatemala City, with the co-sponsorship of the Government of Guatemala through the Ministry of Economy (MINECO).
- b) The "Digital course on entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean", which will be carried out with the collaboration of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Administration (IESA) of Venezuela and will be convened in May to begin in June and end in December. In this course, we hope to train about 500 entrepreneurs.
- c) The "Training Workshop for MSMEs on continuity of business and operations vis-à-vis natural disasters", to be held in Belize City on 28, 29 and 30 June, with the co-sponsorship of the Government of Belize through BELTRAIDE.

In this connection, let me reiterate the commitment of the Permanent Secretariat to boost and support the adoption of the IPPALC as a tool of great impact, and provide better coverage to Central American and Caribbean subregions.

I wish you the greatest success in this activity we are about to begin. We are confident that it will contribute to the strengthening of MSMEs in the region.

Thank you very much.