

# Legislación Economía

**COUNTRIES WITH  
THE BEST NATIONAL  
PARKS**

*COVID isolation reduced to seven  
days*

**MATCH MEXICO AGAINST PANAMA AT  
THE AZTECA STADIUM FOR THE 11TH  
DATE OF THE QATAR 2022 WORLD CUP  
QUALIFYING**

**THE UNLUCKY EXTREMES IN  
POLITICS**

**POLITICAL LESSONS LEARNED  
BY THE PANDEMIC**

**RISK FITCH RATINGS,  
REAFFIRMED PANAMA'S  
SOVEREIGN RATING**

*Comments on the suspension again (2023) in the implementation of the code of tax procedure of Panama in its entirety, in times of greater fiscal control (authorized electronic billing) and a regime that criminalizes tax crime*

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# Editorial

## Political lessons learned by the pandemic

The Center for the Future of Democracy at the University of Cambridge has just published a valuable paper called "The Great Reset, Public Opinion, Populism and the Pandemic".

The report preaches that it is a global vision of how the pandemic has changed political attitudes and beliefs.

### Also confess the following:

"We use data collected by YouGov from 27 countries and 81,857 people during the 2020-21 pandemic, along with data compiled by the HUMAN Surveys project from 79 sources and over 98 million people since 1958."

"We find strong evidence that the pandemic has reversed the rise in populism, whether measured using support for populist parties, approval of populist leaders, or agreement with populist attitudes." "However, we also find a disturbing erosion of support for core democratic beliefs and principles, including less liberal attitudes regarding basic civil rights and liberties

and a weaker preference for democratic government."

The grand conclusions of this document are revealing in that support for populism has collapsed during the 1920s and 21s pandemic and that populist leaders saw a 10 percentage point drop in their approval ratings since second half of the year 2020.

There is evidence that political polarization has decreased. The experience of facing a common crisis has proven to be a humidifying event for citizens in many societies.

The pandemic has also narrowed the economic gap in those regions that were traditionally seen as neglected and thus these regions have decreased their support for populist attitudes.

Some figures like Donald Trump have already left office. Others like Victor Orban, Jahir Bolsonaro and Recep Tayyip Erdogan face a tough fight for re-election. While support for democracy has weakened

and satisfaction with democracy remains fragile, the post-pandemic environment is likely to prove to be a more difficult environment for populist politicians to mobilize and maintain support.

The paper's approach was based on combining questions on democracy and trust in government taking a very wide range in order to generate a mega data set consisting of more than 6,845 unique surveys from countries, based on an analysis of trends global over time.

### **Among the questions that have aroused our interest are the following:**

In the pandemic, is it preferable to have a strong leader or let the experts make the decisions?

Most of the citizens who participated in the surveys of more than eighty countries, responded that it was preferable to let the experts make decisions and in cases in which strong leaders did not want to listen to the experts, almost all of them were terribly wrong.

### **What is preferable: confinement or satisfying democratic freedoms?**

In the countries that have had better results in handling the pandemic, the large populations were inclined to accept confinements.

### **In the electoral tournaments, where have the citizens leaned?**

In those countries in which there have been elections during the pandemic, opposition political parties have obtained better results than parties led by populists, for example: Benjamin Netanyahu, in Israel, lost the election, Manuel López Obrador lost seats to the opposition in the 2021 legislative elections, Andrej Babiš failed to win enough seats to continue as Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and in Chile the citizens rejected the

populist presidential candidate Jose Antonio Kast.

The same thing happened in Germany with the victory of the opposition coalition that supported the center-left candidate Olaf Scholz. Who has borne the greatest economic impact? The cities or the countryside.

Major urban centers such as London, Paris and New York suffered greatest impacts, while inland destinations may even have benefited from domestic tourism, relocation of professionals and rising house prices. In some countries traditionally neglected regions have received a strong government commitment to overcome traditional exclusion and avoid the resentment that has been the source of populist anger.

These findings are interesting to analyze in depth in our country to take public policy measures aimed at mitigating the serious effects of social inequality and the marginalization of indigenous communities, Afro-descendants and the poverty belts that exist in the cities of Panama, Colon, Panama East and Panama West.

*It will dawn and we will see...L&E*

# Invited Writer



## COMMENTS ON THE SUSPENSION AGAIN (2023) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF TAX PROCEDURE OF PANAMA IN ITS ENTIRETY, IN TIMES OF GREATER FISCAL CONTROL (AUTHORIZED ELECTRONIC BILLING) AND A REGIME THAT CRIMINALIZES TAX CRIME

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**W**hat effects could suspend the entry into force of the Tax Code.

In the first place, it is important to make it clear that it is understandable that the main reason why it is proposed to suspend again (January 2023) the entry into force of the Tax Procedure Code in its entirety, approved by Law 76 of 2019, responds largely measure to the financial situation that this house in the country, and that it is a fact, that for the adoption of this new Code that transforms the administrative tax system, implies allocating significant amounts in the budget, for the changes that the General Directorate of Income, however, has been lost sight of, that these changes are important in the face of the scenario posed by the validity of the crime of criminal tax fraud and greater control controls such as the adoption of authorized electronic invoicing, and that in consensus with the sectors connoisseurs of the matter, it was necessary to have a more guaranteeing and modern administrative tax system, which would really recognize and In an effective manner, the rights of taxpayers, in such a

way that, given the new scenario of the typicity of the tax crime, which among its causes considers the use of fraudulent invoicing, abuses and arbitrariness will be avoided, since the current Tax Code lacks regulations and concepts that provide this state of tax legal security, therefore, effects that could be generated by suspending the validity of the Tax Code can be summarized in leaving taxpayers defenseless.

### • How to reconcile the right to defense in cases of criminal tax fraud.

The right of defense in cases of criminal tax fraud, since they are matters that are already within the jurisdiction of the judicial sphere, are reconciled by adopting all the rules that the accusatory criminal system offers in this matter from the moment in which the General Directorate of Income files the first complaint for criminal tax fraud, and that it has been able to do so since May 2019, when the grounds for criminal tax fraud came into force through the Code of Tax Procedure and the classification in the Penal Code



of this crime, but the problem really lies, is what may happen before said complaints, since by postponing the entry into force in its entirety of the Tax Procedure Code, regulations such as articles 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, are absent, 209, 210 and 211 of the new Code of Tax Procedure that develop for the first time, clear and express rules on how tax actions should be carried out lization by the DGI to a taxpayer, where cases of possible administrative tax evasion or criminal tax fraud may arise, or Article 34 of said code; which establishes the principle of the autonomy of the fiscal periodicity, in such a way that it is clear that each fiscal period is independent of each other, which is vital when determining a possible crime of fraud, due to the amounts, which cannot be added from period to period, but must be judged independently for each fiscal period, which is essential when establishing whether a case reaches the alleged minimum amount of 300,000 balboas defrauded in order to know who is competent for a possible tax offense, a rule that is absent in the current Tax Code; or article 297 itself, which establishes how the DGI should proceed when sanctioning.

**• How is it explained that if the Code itself created the conditions for the moratorium and other tax benefits, its entry into force is suspended.**

Indeed, as indicated, the Code of Tax Procedure was excellent for serving as a legal framework that would allow functions to be delegated to the executive in times of "national emergency" in such a way that the postponements of terms and periods could be regulated through executive decrees. that could only be modified by law, and other tax benefits, because only the validity of those articles that the Tax Administration considered were convenient for its Administration at this time was brought forward, but they have forgotten or are unknown, the reality of the validity of tax crime, control measures such as authorized electronic invoicing and the need to advance the validity of articles that complement the new legal order, to maintain a tax system with more guarantees, as for example offered by articles that are still not in force, 145, 146, 147, 148 and 149 of the Tax Procedure Code, on the effects of opinions by c onults to the General Directorate of Revenue, which

has historically been questioned about its lack of legal connection, causing legal insecurity for both national and foreign taxpayers, something highly questionable in a scenario where there is now a criminalized tax fraud crime, which is not very attractive for foreign investment. Other articles absent from the Code of Tax Procedure, Article 13, which regulates retroactivity of the rules when they result in the most favorable for the taxpayer, when applying sanctions, which is key to the new scenario of penalties, which are reduced compared to those provided in the Tax Code; Article 19 establishes the concept of facts and simulation, as a prelude to differentiate the simulations of a malicious nature from those that are not malicious; article 20, on the general anti-avoidance clause, where said article makes clear the difference between tax avoidance and tax fraud or tax evasion, which is decisive to prevent the authorities from unduly prosecuting a taxpayer in a case with the possibility of penalty of prison, because one figure could not be distinguished from the other, considering that there is no prison sentence for tax evasion; Article 24, which expressly introduces in the ordinary fiscal procedure the principle of good faith in the taxpayer's actions, in such a way that, as well as the principle of innocence, fair treatment is given to a taxpayer indicated as alleged tax evader or fraudster of the treasury for the minimum of his efforts, among another series of articles pending to enter into force.

**• What is the reasonable time for the entry into force of the entire Tax Procedure Code.**

The truth is that the prudent time, in our opinion, has already passed, since the entry into force should have been in January 2020, that is, we are in debt with taxpayers, since the Crime of Tax Fraud, as we have said, came into force from the beginning of 2019, and now the measures that strengthen control such as authorized electronic invoicing and above all that these changes don't imply the destination of new budget amounts, because the tax administration already has the Department of Tax Fraud and qualified personnel to attend to 90% of the changes proposed by the new Code of Tax Procedure, and a full staff for the implementation of authorized electronic invoicing and They largely ignore a series of articles that only require correction, such as literals c and d,

numeral 1, of article 88, numeral 3 of article 89, which establishes the term and computation of prescription in response to the type of tax to prepare the report in which the DGI substantiates an alleged malicious conduct against the National Treasury, either for administrative tax evasion or criminal tax fraud, that there is currently a legal vacuum, since the rules that regulate the issuance of said report have been in force since 2019, therefore, this warrants this correction, in addition to the deadline to impose sanctions including administrative tax evasion, since when it was the case of criminal tax fraud, the rules of judicial criminal procedure would apply; (Article 89 should be corrected by adding literal d to the numeral, and in numeral 4, make reference to numeral 3 of the previous article); as well as the absence of Article 107, which recognizes the rules of the burden of proof, both for administrative purposes, and for matters of a fraudulent nature such as administrative tax evasion or criminal tax fraud; articles 129 and 130 pending; since these articles are complementary to articles 127 and 128 in force three months after the promulgation of the Tax Procedure Code, which is necessary for the correct development of the procedure through which cases of possible administrative tax evasion or fraud may arise. fiscal, and they were not initially introduced to complement the validity of articles 127 and 128 considering that the rest of the articles would come into force almost 6 months later, but it never happened. Also pending the correction of the 20 business days referred to in articles 127, 128, 208 and 209 of the Code of Tax Procedure.

**•Panama could be affected in its legal security and investment attraction.**

Personally, I think so, legal certainty and the attraction of investments are affected, because we must remember that another reason for adopting the new order of tax codification based on the Tax Code model prepared by the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations CIAT and other international organizations, was not only to adjust it to the new reality of living in a country with the Crime of Tax Fraud typified in the Penal Code, but also to raise the country's competitiveness, since in the ranking of the countries that better make it easier to carry out business or commercial activity, specifically in the category

"services provided by the Tax Administration" Panama is not well positioned, above all, in the measurement of time, such as the time for tax refunds, the time in which they are resolved conflicts, with a high delay in resolving appeals for reconsideration, the times in granting exonerations, the lack of legal urity due to the queries raised by the general directorate of income, among other deficiencies, which seek to be corrected with the new Code of Tax Procedure, which with a new postponement sends a contradictory message to investors, and especially to national taxpayers who they are once again deprived of a treasury-taxpayer relationship on a true level of equality.

**• How would it affect the country's processes of adaptation to international regulations to suspend the entry into force of this legal instrument for almost a year and a half.**

In this aspect, we must clarify that the adjustments to international regulations should not be affected, since we remember that international organizations, such as the FATF or the OECD, what interested them in Panama, was on the one hand, the typicity of the Crime Prosecutor, so that it would be known by a more competent body for this crime, such as the Public Ministry in the context of International Criminal Assistance, and this facilitates international cooperation in the fight against international tax evasion and on the other hand, the adoption of International Tax Information Exchange Treaties or Mechanisms, which the General Directorate of Revenue can fully comply with the Tax Procedure Code or without the Tax Procedure Code, since if in the development of these functions abuses or arbitrariness could be committed by the DGI to its national or foreign taxpayers, that does not matter to the FATF or the OECD, for e So it is that always, it was stated to those who opposed the adoption of the tax crime and the exchange of international tax information because it was pressure from international organizations, that the Code of Tax Procedure had nothing, nor has it to do with the pressure of international organizations, and that in reality it is a struggle of many years of tax advisors and taxpayers who understand the advantages and benefits of the Tax Code based on the model that includes the good practices of what a

taxpayer relationship should be, the same as happens with the adoption of electronic invoicing authorizes that it has nothing to do with international pressures, but unfortunately due to the lack of culture and tax education, the common citizen does not understand the advantages and rights that these legal instruments offer them, and on the other hand, We cannot hide the fact that there is a group of professionals who are knowledgeable in the matter who are detractors of these instruments, but especially because they feel they did not obtain the leading role they would have wanted in their elaboration.

• **Most valuable effects of the Code of Tax Procedure for Panama.**

The most valuable effects of the Tax Procedure Code, this time, we are going to describe them for each of the articles still suspended, such as article 230, which establishes which are the unattachable assets in the coercive collection processes of the DGI and established peace and tranquility of the taxpayers, among these assets we highlight the tax family heritage or the main home; article 258, which more clearly regulates the sanctioning power of the DGI, article 260, principle of innocence, will continue to be absent, article 261 criminality rules will also continue to be absent, article 263, retroactivity of the more benign regulations to the offender, article 264 modalities of extinction of sanctions, article 265, offending subjects, article 266, accomplices of administrative tax evasion, article 267 that excludes the opinions of professionals from being considered actions of complicity of tax crimes, article 268 subjective responsibility, article 269 defenses of responsibility, article 270, legal certainty of infractions article 271, voluntary regularization of sanctions, article 272, joint responsibility, articles 274 and 275 aggravating and mitigating sanctions, article 277, graduation of sanctions, article 280, classification of taxes, describes the difference between contraventions, evasion, fraud tax ion and economy of option, article 294 contempt for delays in sending files from the DGI to the tax court, and sanctions for advising tax avoidance, articles 380 and 381, guarantees and rights of taxpayers, as well as the suspension of the articles that regulate tax arbitration that put us at the forefront of alternative dispute resolution methods and give the country competitiveness, and the appointment of judges is extended taxes necessary to discharge the arrears of files due to conflicts. *L&E*

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# Norms of INTEREST

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND FREE SPONSORSHIP

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**W**ith the approval of Law 268 of December 30, 2021, some articles of the Judicial Code are modified, with the modification falling on articles 413 and 1446 of the Code.

The reform of article 413 focuses on the fact that the lawyers of the Public Defense Institute have to act in defense of the interests of any person who has the right to legal assistance or free procedural sponsorship, before the reform there was no mention of the Free litigation sponsorship.

Another modified article was article 1446, which

contains the conditions that a person must meet to be entitled to legal assistance or free sponsorship, establishing three conditions: 1. That the person cannot earn the equivalent of twelve months of minimum wage year. 2. That the real estate that he owns must not reach US\$20,000.00. 3. That the assets not intended for housing that do not reach a value of US\$10,000.00. Before the modification, points 1 and 2 referred to the sum of US\$5,000.00 per year, that is, the value increased, which may have an impact on the number of people who could require legal assistance or sponsorship. legal free. *L&E*

## MODIFY THE TIME TO DETERMINE THE SEPARATION OF FACT

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In recent days, Law 269 of December 30, 2021 was sanctioned, through which articles 212, 213 and 218 of the Family Code are modified, whose reforms began to govern as of December 31, 2021.

We emphasize that before the reform, to claim a de facto separation as a casual divorce, more than two years had to have elapsed, now with modification it will be possible to claim a de facto separation for more than a year. In other words, the term of two to one year of separation is reduced in fact even when they live in same roof.

Another point to highlight is that now the grounds for divorce by mutual agreement can be claimed when the marriage has been celebrated for at least one year, that is, the term of celebration of the

marriage is reduced from two years to one year.

As for the statute of limitations to plead, the cause of absolute abandonment by the husband or father of her duties or by the wife or mother, is reduced from two years to one year from the day on which the caused abandonment.

Finally, it is established that the agreements on custody, communication and visitation regime and food of the sons or daughters who are entitled to them, will be binding and mandatory between the parties. Everything indicates that the reform is aimed at reaffirming the obligation of the father and mother to comply with custody, communication and visitation regime and food. *L&E*

# BANANA WORKERS HAVE A SPECIAL REGIME

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**T**hrough Law 278 of December 30, 2021, special provisions are established for workers dedicated to the activity or industry of cultivation, harvesting, packing and marketing of bananas.

The purpose of Law 278 is to grant special protection to workers in the banana industry, based on the principles of equity, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, respect for the dignity of the worker and the right to work, as constitutive elements of human rights.

It has been provided that the employment relationship will be considered for an indefinite period of time for workers dedicated to the activity or industry of the cultivation, harvest, packing and marketing of bananas, when two employment contracts for a defined period of time are concluded successively and continuously.

Similarly, it has been established that companies engaged in the activity or industry of cultivation, harvesting, packing and marketing of bananas, must privately contract insurance policies that provide protection to temporary, permanent or temporary workers, for the risks professional illness, work accident or common illness that incapacitates them to perform their duties, either partially or totally, temporarily or permanently, or due to their death.

Within this context, the insurance will cover

hospitalization expenses, medications, surgical interventions and others that are necessary to achieve the worker's recovery, as well as provide an economic subsidy during the period of incapacity and will compensate their relatives in the event of death.

With regard to salary, it has been indicated that salary rate of workers dedicated to the activity or industry of cultivation, harvesting, packing and marketing of bananas, will be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the collective labor agreement.

It contemplates Law 278, which prohibits the application of numeral 1 of article 212 of the Code to workers dedicated to the activity or industry of cultivation, harvesting, packing and marketing of bananas, as it is a permanent and continuous activity.

In this regard, we want to point out that article 212 establishes exceptions to job stability and number 1 provides that workers with less than two years of service do not have job stability, meaning that the workers described are not within the exceptions, for which can be understood that they do not have to wait two (2) years to acquire job stability, but rather they acquire it from the beginning of the employment relationship. *L&E*



## OPERATION OF RURAL, MOBILE AND MODULAR BOVINE MEAT SLAUGHTER STATIONS IS REGULATED

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**E**xecutive Decree No. 4 of January 21, 2022, establishes that the operation of rural, mobile and modular stations for the slaughter, dressing and/or distribution of beef, pork and other species will be allowed, after meeting the requirements to obtain sanitary authorization and plant certification.

It is worth mentioning that rural, mobile and modular stations for the slaughter, dressing and/or distribution of beef, pork and other species are considered facilities that can be moved from one site to another, which have an appropriate design that is

easy to clean and disinfect, with adequate operational conditions to work temporarily or provisionally in rural areas or remote from towns and that are distant from traditional slaughter establishments.

It is important to point out that health assurance and control measures applied to activities and operations carried out in rural, mobile and modular stations must guarantee welfare of animals, slaughter and slaughter with safety and hygiene, traceability, quality and safety of meat and prevention of environmental contamination. *L&E*

# SOLIDARY PANAMA PLAN

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The Ministry of the Presidency issued Executive Decree No.11 of January 13, 2022, by which the new Panama Solidarity Plan is created, with the purpose of attending to the urgent needs of the people or population groups that are in socioeconomic vulnerability situation produced by the pandemic and allow the development of new skills for life and work, to achieve an effective transition towards their insertion or reintegration into the labor market.

The Decree provides that the plan continues with benefits such as solidarity food bags, the solidarity digital voucher and the Solidarity Employment Program, the latter being a new form of solidarity support.

The Decree establishes that the administration, coordination and execution of this new plan will correspond to an Interministerial Commission that will be chaired by the Minister of the Presidency and will be made up of the Ministers of Social Development, Labor and Labor Development, Agricultural Development, Commerce and Industry, Health, Education, Economy and Finance, the National Authority for Government Innovation and the National Decentralization Authority.

The Interministerial Commission, in coordination with other entities, may execute other modalities of solidarity support, taking into account the socioeconomic vulnerability of the people or groups of people, duly identified.

On the other hand, only people or population groups of legal age, who as of December 2021, remained active beneficiaries of the old Panama Solidarity Plan, will be considered beneficiaries of the Digital Solidarity Voucher, according to the database of the AIG; and that they are also within the groups of people in a situation of socioeconomic vulnerability, duly identified by MIDES, according to the social record that will be implemented for that purpose.

According to the Decree, it will correspond to the AIG to implement, manage and maintain the technological application of the Digital Voucher, as well as the digital means by which its effective reception and management will be assigned, managed and guaranteed, which will be carried out in coordination with the MEF, MIDES, MICI, MITRADEL, MIDA, the Electoral Court and the autonomous and semi-autonomous

entities, and state companies that may influence the new plan while the Covid-19 pandemic lasts.

It should be noted that businesses that participate in new Panama Solidarity Plan, in solidarity digital voucher modality, must be registered in the technological application developed by the AIG or in any other method established for that purpose.

With regard to payments or reimbursements that must be made to registered businesses, these must be coordinated with the MEF and will be subject to control by the Comptroller General.

For the purposes of the new solidarity work modality, we can indicate that MITRADEL officials have indicated that under this modality it is about achieving labor insertion in the formal sector of those men and women who are unemployed and who are beneficiaries of the Plan Solidary Panama. *L&E*



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# DIGITAL VOUCHER OFFICE

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As a result of the approval of the new Panama Solidarity Plan, Executive Decree No. 3 of January 17, 2022 is issued, creating the Digital Solidarity Voucher Office, as the office responsible for assisting in the execution of the digital solidarity voucher of the new Panama Solidarity Plan, through the identification of the beneficiaries, through the application of the social file implemented for this purpose.

Among the functions of the Office, are those of: 1. Organize, coordinate and direct, in an effective manner,

the execution of the modality called solidarity digital voucher, of the new Panama Solidarity Plan. 2. Evaluate the results-based management of the solidarity digital voucher, taking as a reference the objectives established by current regulations. 3. Support coordination for the development of joint activities with social organizations and authorities in the area, in order to manage the co-responsibilities established by the interministerial commission of the Panama Solidarity Plan. *L&E*

# COVID ISOLATION REDUCED TO SEVEN DAYS

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On December 23, 2021, Resolution No. 3132 of December 23 was issued and by which, the definitions of close community contact, whether work, family and social and health environment, and the actions to be followed as evidence, are approved. quarantine or isolation and biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of Covid-19.

Taking into consideration, the specialty of the subject on January 14, 2022, Resolution No. 0029 is issued, which annuls Resolution No. 3132, in the sense of clarifying some points such as that related to people

with symptoms highly suggestive and with a negative antigen test, a PCR must be done, as well as defining the moment from which the count of forty or isolation begins.

However, following behavior of virus, Executive Decree No. 5 of January 24, 2022 is issued, authorizing self-applied tests to detect COVID 19 and swab centers in companies and businesses, reducing isolation of positive cases. to seven (7) days.

We will present a table with the summary of the commented norms, for a better understanding:

QUARANTINE (CLOSE CONTACT OF COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON)			
STAGE	QUARANTINE**	TEST	MEASURE
Person <b>with symptoms</b> , close contact of positive COVID-19 case, <b>with or without</b> complete vaccination schedule *	5 days	Antigen on day 5	<b>Negative:</b> Quarantine ends.
Person <b>without symptoms</b> , close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, <b>without</b> a complete vaccination schedule *			<b>Positive:</b> Goes to Isolation.
Person <b>without symptoms</b> , close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, with a complete vaccination schedule *	Not Quarantine	Antigen on day 5	<b>Negative:</b> it continues the same without quarantine.
Person Recovered from COVID-19 (last 90 days), <b>without</b> symptoms.			<b>Positive:</b> Goes to Isolation.

\* **Complete vaccination schedule:** Over 16 years with 3 doses.  
From 12 to 15 years with 2 doses.  
From 5 to 11 years with 1 dose.

\*\***Day 1:** is the first full day after last close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.



ISOLATION (COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON)			
STAGE	ISOLATION**	TEST	MEASURE
Positive test for COVID-19	7 days	Antigen on day 5.	<p><b>Negative:</b> he returns to work.</p> <p><b>Positive:</b> Continue in Isolation and repeat antigen test on the 7th. day.</p>
		Antigen on the 7th day in a patient with a positive test on the 5th day.	<p><b>Negative:</b> returns to work.</p> <p><b>Positive:</b> Continue in Isolation and repeat antigen test on the 7th. day.</p>

**\*Day 1:** it is the first full day after the onset of symptoms (in symptomatic patients).  
Or the first full day after positive test sample collection (in asymptomatic).

We consider it opportune to point out that, although the aforementioned Decrees regulate matters concerning close contact, forty, isolation and tests, from a medical point of view, we cannot fail to mention that our current labor legislation does not contemplate specific regulations to regulate the period of forty for close contact with a positive, which is understandable, because the Code dates from the year 1971, the date on which it was drafted but came into force on April 2, 1972.

That is why we have listened to the labor authorities, recommending that employers and workers reach agreements on how quarantined days would be recognized for having had close contact with a positive person. It has been recommended to apply them to vacations, the disability fund, time-by-time payment, among others, emphasizing the importance of reaching agreements.

In the case of those who have contracted the virus, there is no major problem since the isolation period, whether it is seven or ten days, is applied to the disability fund that the worker has accumulated at the time; However, there may be cases in which the worker doesn't have enough days in the fund, either due to the date of entry or because has already used them, which would imply that, in the same way, the parties would have to find a way to recognize to worker the pending days of isolation.

But beyond the formula agreed upon by the parties for recognition of the quarantine, we must not leave aside the fact that the worker who had close contact must present the documentation that supports his absence due to quarantine, given that the legislation labor force, if it forces the worker to justify his absences from work.

With respect to absences, we must indicate that justified and unjustified, paid and unpaid absences, which is precisely the case of quarantine due to close contact, since the absence is justified but unpaid, unless the parties agree on how to remunerate it, of the importance of the justification for quarantine.

It must be considered that the employer must continue to raise awareness among its workers, to continue complying with biosafety measures, in order to minimize the effects that the outbreaks or spikes of Covid-19 could have on the functioning and operation of the company, especially all the economic and financial part, which is important to preserve the source of work. A balance must be sought between the preservation of the source of employment and the health of the workers.

The task is not easy, but you have to do it not only for your own benefit, but also for our country and especially for the people who live in this small, beautiful and unique country. *L&E*

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# Consulta Doctrina y



# JURISPRUDENCIA

**THE PLENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE, DECREES A FINAL DISMISSAL, AS THE COMMISSION OF A PUNISHABLE ACT WAS NOT ACCREDITED, WITHIN THE INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE ALLEGED COMMISSION OF A CRIME AGAINST THE ECONOMIC ORDER (MONEY LAUNDERING, AN ACT INVESTIGATED EX OFFICIO, WHICH WILL TAKE CARRY OUT THE SECOND SPECIALIZED PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME**

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## THE SUMMARY INVESTIGATION

By Resolution of December 23, 2021, the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice, pronounces on the file containing the summaries for the alleged commission of a crime Against the Economic Order (Money Laundering, an act investigated ex officio, by the Second Specialized Prosecutor's Office Against Organized Crime, which is related to the probable connection of crimes, object of an investigation carried out in the Federative Republic of Brazil. In the development of the investigation, the investigating officer ordered the practice of investigation proceedings search, visual inspection, registration and collection of evidence and through Ruling No. 1 of May 21, 2018, investigative proceedings are carried out on a plural number of people, aimed at clarifying the alleged commission of the crime Against the Economic Order, in the modality of Money Laundering, contemplated in Title VII, Chapter IV of the Second Book of the Penal Code. the complete innocence of the imputed charges is revealed and it is mentioned that the activity carried out was related to the sale of services, whose purpose

was to suggest that the sales speeches be consistent with the new normative reality in Panama, specifically in the issue of Due Diligence, and it is that before the enactment and entry into force of Law 23 of April 27, 2015 (August 2015 - adaptation period for firms to comply with due diligence), Law 2 of 1 February 2011, required registered agents to take preventive measures only on intermediary or institutional clients as known by law. Since, with the approval and entry into force of Law 23 of April 27, 2015, due diligence had to be carried out not only on clients, but also extended to end users or owners of the companies incorporated by the Agent. Panamanian registered. It is also pointed out that certain transcripts of voice messages, disclosure of these communications, through their transcription in the inquiry order, is considered a violation of privacy, and a violation of the principle of secrecy and/or confidentiality of communications in this client-lawyer case, since such disclosure is gave without their authorization, failing that, without the authorization of the Supreme

Court of Justice as the competent authority for this.

## CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PROSECUTOR

When assessing the records included in this summary, the Tax Magistrate verified that the development of the investigation, which began on January 29, 2016 and ended on May 17, 2019 (closing resolution), one of the accused persons was protected by Electoral Criminal Jurisdiction, on two (2) occasions, first on the occasion of her application for the position of Deputy and second, on the occasion of her application for the position of Alternate Deputy, in the General Elections of May 5, 2019, where she is elected and proclaimed in said position of popular election. The foregoing is important for the results of the criminal process, since being protected by the criminal electoral jurisdiction, this forced the agent of the Second Specialized Prosecutor's Office Against Organized Crime, in charge of the preliminary investigation, to observe compliance with the requirements of the electoral regulations. That is to say, once the guarantee of said jurisdiction has been noted, suspend the investigation in relation to the appraised, and request the Electoral Court, the lifting of the electoral criminal jurisdiction, and the authorization to continue with the investigation, in accordance with the provisions of articles 259 and 267 of the Electoral Code. The investigating agent, as soon as he became aware of the guarantee of the electoral criminal jurisdiction, had to suspend the processing of the process and request the Electoral Tribunal to lift the jurisdiction, under penalty of invalidating the proceedings, in accordance with the provisions of article 267 of the Electoral Code. It is noted in this regard, that the aforementioned agent of the Public Ministry, did not comply with this requirement of the aforementioned article 267 of the Electoral Code, despite having been the one who requested the certifications of electoral criminal jurisdiction, for which it is not understood, why did not order the suspension of the process, and requested the Electoral Court, the respective lifting of said procedural guarantee, to avoid incurring in a probable cause of nullity. Thus, Magistrate Luis Ramón Fábrega S, acting as Prosecutor, issued a new Fiscal Hearing No. 001 of November 1, 2021, in which he recommends that the Honorable

Magistrates of the Plenary Court of the Supreme Justice, that, at the time of deciding on the merits of this criminal investigation, they do so by dictating a FINAL DISMISSAL, in accordance with the provisions of number 1 of article 2207 of the Judicial Code.

## MEMORANDUM OF ADHERENCE TO TAX HEARING N°001 of NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Mr. Basilio González E., legal representative within the aforementioned summaries, presents before the Substantiating Magistrate - Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice, a document of Adhesion to the Fiscal Hearing No. 001 of November 1, 2021, whose purpose that is, that the criterion be granted in the recommendation of the Prosecuting Magistrate of the case, when estimating definitively override and consequently lift the personal precautionary measures that weigh on his client, since the investigated facts do not constitute a crime. He explains that what was done by the Prosecutor's Office, in the sense of carrying out acts of investigation concerning, without having a formal link to the process, even requesting information protected by the right of confidentiality of correspondence and confidential information that should only be requested by the competent authority, with specific objects that motivate it. That through Fiscal Hearing No. 001 of November 1, 2021, the Fiscal Magistrate recommended, after analyzing the procedural records, to dictate a definitive dismissal of the case, considering that the present investigation does not constitute a crime. It points out that the alleged conduct that is framed as the binding element of its principal, constitutes an activity of the legal profession, since in addition to giving an opposite meaning to the communications, obtaining them is illegal because they have been prosecuted in direct violation of articles 25 (prohibition of self-incrimination as a guarantee of due process) and 29 (inviolability of communication and correspondence), both of the Political Constitution. It states that the questioning of the professional activity of the lawyer constitutes a disastrous precedent, which would imply the interference of motivations other than the procedural ones, which constitutes a dangerous usurpation of the work of the legal professional, to the detriment of his contribution to society as a liberal



professional who guarantees the rule of law and is a fundamental part of the legal certainty of the country.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE PLENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE**

This Collegiate Court pronounces on the qualification of the summary, in order to determine if the proceedings are in accordance with the budgets of the criminal type of Money Laundering. In this order of ideas, it warns that the Second Specialized Prosecutor's Office Against Organized Crime filed charges against one to a plural number of people, for the alleged commission of a crime Against the Economic Order in the modality of Money Laundering, typified in Chapter IV , Title VII of the Second Book of the Penal Code. The criminal type in which the Second Specialized Prosecutor's Office against Organized Crime presumably adapts the behavior displayed, is described in article 254 of the Penal Code. The considerations that correspond to this Tuiton, based on the Principle of Typicity, is to establish whether the behavior displayed, which is evidenced in the emails, voice messages, and in the documentation obtained in the search proceeding, considered as probative elements by the Prosecutor's Office Second Specialized Against Organized Crime, effectively falls within a criminal type, and consequently, may be considered unlawful, subject to criminal sanction or otherwise, such behaviors do not have the appearance of a crime, and therefore, what corresponds is to dictate Final Dismissal. It is important to highlight that a large part of the evidence that the Prosecutor in charge of the investigation, for the alleged commission of the crime of Money Laundering, deals with the content of emails and voice messages (period- 2015-2017), as well as documents that were obtained in a search proceeding carried out and that are related to the professional activity of law and which are protected by the confidentiality and professional secrecy of the client-lawyer relationship, enshrined in regulatory bodies and provisions such as Law 9 of April 18, 1984 (By which the exercise of the legal profession is regulated), and in article 912 of the Judicial Code. For the decision of this criminal case, considers the Plenary of this Judicial Superiority, to highlight that although in the period (2010-2014) that includes the investigation of facts that constitute

the crimes preceding Money Laundering, by the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil, wasn't in force in our country, Law 23 of April 27, 2015, which entered into force on April 28, 2015, and was regulated by Executive Decree No. 363 of August 13, 2015, of the Ministry Economy and Finance; It is observed that the summary investigation that concerns us began in February 2016, the aforementioned regulations being already in force. Therefore, these documents, emails and voice messages shouldn't be considered as incriminating evidence, due to professional secrecy or legal professional privilege in the defense of the client. The legal considerations mentioned in the preceding points, allow the Plenary of this Judicial Superiority, to infer that what has been done, subject to criminal investigation by the Public Ministry - Second Specialized Prosecutor's Office against Organized Crime, does not constitute a typical, unlawful and guilty conduct, Therefore, the Plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice concludes that the facts investigated do not constitute crimes, therefore, it decides to DECREE, its FINAL DISMISSAL.

## **CONCURRING VOTE MAGISTRATE MARIBEL CORNEJO BATISTA**

In response to the principle of separation of functions contained in article 5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, since the Prosecutor is the one who is responsible for carrying out the Criminal Action, he could not, as a member of the Plenary, opt for a decision other than the one proposed. However, I must specify that I do not share some aspects of the ruling, contained in the section called "ANALYSIS OF THE PLENARY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE", on page 45, first paragraph of the resolution, it is stated that: "it is up to this Association, based on the Principle of Typicity, to establish whether the conduct displayed. However, later on, on the next page (end of number 2), it is stated that: "...this criterion was used to link the defendants, without individualizing the presumed conduct with the appearance of being punishable, in which each of them could incur...". The Plenary only has to pronounce itself because it is competent to do so. There is a contradiction on this point (number 2), since on page 46, it is stated that "...the Prosecutor in charge of the investigation, does not specify the



illicit conduct from which the money, securities or property that she estimates may have received, deposited, negotiated or transferred originate to give it the appearance of legality...", however, in the last paragraph of page 46, which continues on page 47 (item number 4), it is indicated that "The documentation included in this criminal case, related to the investigations of the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil, show between In the years 2010-2014, the people who were being investigated in that country had allegedly committed crimes of corruption, tax evasion, tax evasion, and fraud, making use of company or corporate structures. In that sense, with the usual respect, I present my CONCURRING VOTE. *L&E*



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## TAX ADMINISTRATIVE COURT INDICATES TO TAX ADMINISTRATION THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING ALL PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS THAT SUPPORT AUDITS CARRIED OUT FOR CASES OF ADDITIONAL LIQUIDATION

COMPETENCE: ADMINISTRATIVE TAX COURT.

JUDGE: ANEL JESUS MIRANDA.

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2022.

Casilda Quiróz - Legal Assistant  
casilda.quiróz@rbc.com.pa

The forensic firm RIVERA BOLIVAR Y CASTAÑEDAS, as special representatives of the taxpayer CORONADO DEVELOPMENT, INC. filed an appeal against Resolution 213-3785 of June 2, 2010 issued by the Provincial Revenue Administration of the province of Panama of the Ministry of Economy and Finance before the Administrative Tax Court.

On June 2, 2010, the General Directorate of Revenue, through Resolution No. 201-3785, orders an Additional Settlement for the sum of B/. 247,764.79, for income tax differences, plus the sum of B/. 30,569.18, in concept of Complementary Tax corresponding to the period 2006, these amounts arise from an investigation that was carried out on the taxpayer where they established that the Sworn Declaration of Income for

the fiscal period 2006, maintained a proven difference in which they increase the Net Taxable Income.

In this sense, the taxpayer, through his legal representative, filed an Appeal for Reconsideration on the aforementioned resolution, which was resolved through Resolution No. 201-2525 of April 19, 2018, where he maintained in all its parts the act of original resolution.

The firm Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas, once notified of the resolution where the appeal for reconsideration is resolved, filed an Appeal in a timely manner stating that its client is engaged in the sale of real estate (Lots and houses) as an ordinary line of business, Therefore, both for the determination of their taxable

income, the income tax and the Complementary Tax, costs and expenses can be deducted, for which the intention of the Tax Administration is to limit the taxpayer to only being able to deduct the costs related to the value of the land, the legal signature also manifests that legal provisions have been violated such as articles 1220, 1220-AY 1764 of the Civil Code, as well as articles 1 and 3 of Law 106 of 1974 and articles 699 and 701 of the Code Fiscal.

### CONSIDERATIONS OF THE COURT:

The Court stated that the audit report shows that the company CORONADO DEVELOPMENT INC., is dedicated to the activity of marketing and selling lots, which it has been doing since 2005, therefore, the Court concludes that the taxpayer maintains as Ordinary Turn of his business the sale of lots and farms.

The Court stated that the origin of the controversy is based on an Additional Settlement for Income Tax, product of the differences found within the form of the Sworn Income Statement. Therefore, the court analyzes whether said Settlement was issued within the term established in article 720 of the Tax Code, which mentions that the term to issue Additional Settlement through a Resolution must be carried out within three (3) years following the the filing date of the return, resolutions issued after three (3) years following the filing date will be null and void, and consequently, the taxpayer will not be required to pay the amount of the additional settlement contained. in said resolution.

Once all the evidence presented by the taxpayer

has been analyzed, the Administrative Tax Court declares null the Additional Settlement made to the taxpayer, for Income Tax for the year 2006, required by Resolution 213-3785, for exceeding the term of three (3) years established in Article 720 of the Fiscal Code and revokes the requirement of the Complementary Tax because it is not caused by the distribution of profits and the payment of the dividend tax, in accordance with the provisions of article 110 of Executive Decree 170 of 1993.

### RESOLUTIVE PART:

The Administrative Tax Court resolves: To decree NULL the Additional Settlement for Income Tax for the sum of B/. 247,764.79 required from the taxpayer CORONADO DEVELOPMENT INC.

Revoke the requirement of the Complementary Tax for the sum of B/. 30,569.18 required from the taxpayer CORONADO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

### OPINION:

I consider the Court's decision correct, since it is evident that Panamanian legislation currently limits the ability of the treasury to issue additional settlements, however, it is the duty of the Tax Administration to comply with the parameters of the investigations and audits carried out on the In the same way, the taxpayer must provide all the documentation in a timely manner when requested, in this case, by the Tax Administrative Court, since in this way the controversy can be resolved in a favorable time for both parties. *L&E*

# Politics

## THE UNLUCKY EXTREMES IN POLITICS

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lately we have observed extreme political positions in the Latin American electoral processes, which result in our countries being inclined to favor the political extremes, mainly those on the left over those on the right, originating with their exclusive proposals a more tense and irritable society, having both positions have the same flaws, especially that when they gain power, instead of strengthening democracy they tarnish it, not respecting those who disagree and think differently from them.

Without a doubt, given the economic, political and social disappointment with the results of the Latin American elections, it seems that voters have given a favorable message to the political extremes that offer simplistic solutions that have recently been controlling the public agenda by not lean mostly towards the options that are identified with a center-right.

We observe that the large traditional political

parties begin to lose their political strength, due to the fact that the population begins to have a negative opinion of them, because they don't currently represent the interests of society, changing the panorama towards radical and populist options. Let's look at some recent examples.

In the general elections in Bolivia on October 18, 2020, LUIS ALBERTO ARCE, the anointed of former President Evo Morales and the former Minister of Economy and Public Finance in the Morales government, prevailed in the first electoral round. Arce was supported by the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), who obtained 55.11% of the presidential votes and also obtained a majority for the Chamber of Senators and the same for Deputies. The second place was occupied by the former president and well-



known Bolivian journalist and historian CARLOS DIEGO MESA, a politician considered to be from the center and moderate, obtaining 28.83% of the votes, supported by the political alliance Comunidad Ciudadana. The third position was obtained by LUIS FERNANDO CAMACHO VACA, businessman, lawyer, who is placed on the extreme right, supported by the CREEMOS alliance of usual extreme right tendency, obtaining 14.00% of the votes..

In the general elections of Honduras, held on Sunday, November 28, 2021, Mrs. XIOMARA CASTRO won the presidency of the republic, who served as first lady in the period between 2006 and 2009, when her husband, former president JOSE MANUEL ZELAYA ROSALES was overthrown on June 28, 2009 and was expelled from the country by the armed forces. XIOMARA CASTRO was backed by the Partido Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE), founded by Zelaya at the end of 2007, when he was president. In the exercise of power, he approached the socialist governments of Nicaragua of Daniel Ortega, the Venezuelan Hugo Chávez Frías, and the Cuban Fidel Castro Ruz. Zelaya's government integrated Honduras into ALBA, which brought together leftist governments with a Chavista tendency, an action considered nefarious by political and business sectors in his country. XIOMARA CASTRO achieved the first magistracy of the nation with 51.12% of the votes. In second place was NASRY ASFURA, backed by the National Party, founded in 1902, with 36.93% of the votes, this being one of the two most influential and traditional parties in the country and which has given the country 13 presidents, including the most recently, Juan Orlando Hernández. The National Party of Honduras bases its political ideology on conservatism, nationalism and is right-wing. The third and last position in said elections was achieved by the candidate of the Liberal Party, YANI ROSENTHAL, who obtained 10.00% of the votes. The Liberal Party has been characterized by being guided by social liberalism and has generally had a much more moderate right-wing position than the National Party and in general the



majority of its membership is located in the center right.

In the general elections held on Sunday, June 6, 2021, the Peruvian population leaned towards the political extremes, where the largest number of popular votes favored the candidate of Peru Libre, PEDRO CASTILLO TERRONES, both in the first round (with the 18.92%) as in the second electoral round (with 50.12%). CASTILLO TERRONES was for a long time related to the trade unionism of education workers in Peru. Some have linked him to the Shining Path terrorist group, which he has categorically denied. He is socialist and populist. Some consider him to be ultra-left for assuming the principles of Marxism-Leninism declared by the Free Peru Party. In second place, both in the first electoral round (with 13.41%) and in the second electoral round (with 49.88%) was KEIKO FUJIMORI, who has aspired for the third time to the presidency of Peru, for the Popular Party, political group that represents the so-called Fujimorismo. It is a right-wing Peruvian political party with a national scope. These two political extremes, Pedro Castillo Terrones' Free Peru and Keiko Fujimori's Popular Party, obtained the first two positions respectively, above the remaining eight presidential candidates, who mostly represented a moderate, liberal, center-right and left-wing force. moderate. The moderate forces in total achieved 59.6% of the total votes cast in the first round, against 32.33% of the votes obtained by the extremes.

In the recent elections in the Republic of Chile, on November 21, 2021, out of a total of seven presidential candidates, it was the two who represented the extremes who achieved the first two positions. In the first electoral round held, JOSE ANTONIO KAST triumphed with 27.91% of the total votes, against GABRIEL BORIC of Apurebo Dignidad, with 25.83% of the votes. JOSE ANTONIO KAST of the P.L.R., is considered a far-right and defender of the military dictatorship (1973-1990) of Augusto Pinochet. In the second electoral round, GABRIEL BORIC triumphed with 55.87% of the votes and therefore obtained the presidency of the republic over his far-right adversary JOSE ANTONIO KAST, who achieved 44.13% of the



votes. These two unique presidential candidates who participated in the second electoral round have been the most antagonistic and diametrically opposed rivals that Chile has ever had. In the first electoral round of these elections, the two candidates who represented the extremes represented 53.74% of the votes cast, against 46.25% of the votes cast for the rest of the presidential candidates in total.

The electoral participation in the first electoral round was only 47.33% of the voters validated to cast the vote. In other words, more than half of the voters did not go to the polls to exercise their right to vote.

Facing the next electoral processes announced for Latin America, one of them, Colombia, for the Congress on May 13 and for the presidential election on May 29, and in Brazil for October 2, 2022, a great dilemma arises: Will the voters lean to the extremes and once again the forces of the center will be forgotten? In Colombia, I believe that regardless of the fact that large-scale political figures and names have emerged, the outlook is totally uncertain. The democratic right-wing forces, located in the center, need to be refreshed through genuine leaders who intend to unite and polarize the different democratic forces, and also interpret, feel and welcome the true thinking of the population. This leadership will have to bring together, unite and reconcile taking into account what the people want and believe and aspire to achieve the recovery of citizens' trust in democratic institutions. Unfortunately there is a deep mistrust and a lot of work to be done. Colombia soon needs to find a true leader who can reconcile and inspire confidence to seek a government of integration that prevents the population from falling into the networks of extremes that promote a world of fantasy, ephemeral, that sooner rather than later will fail to solve the country problems. We hope that Colombians go out and vote



in the most appropriate way to make things change for the better; abstentionism does not collaborate with democracy and this was verified in Colombian elections of 2018, when the electoral participation in first round was only 54.22% and in second round it was only 54%.

General elections are announced for October 2, 2022 in Brazil, to elect the president, vice president, the national congress, governors, state legislative assemblies and the legislative chamber. Until now there are 10 pre-candidates, including the two that until now enjoy the highest preference in the polls. The

current President of Brazil, JAIR BOLSONARO, from the extreme right, and former president LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA, from the Workers' Party, cataloged from the left. In the 2018 elections, the current President BOLSONARO won the presidency of the republic in the second electoral round with 55.13%, against the Workers' Party candidate, Fernando Haddad, who obtained 44.87% of the votes in the second electoral round. LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA was elected president for the first time in the 2002 elections; in the second electoral round he obtained 61.27% of the votes, against JOSÉ SERRA of the PSDB, who obtained 38.72% of the votes in the second round. LULA DA SILVA was a presidential candidate for the second time in the 2006 elections and obtained 60.83% of the votes in the second round, against



GERALDO ALCKMIN, of the PSOB, who obtained 39.17% in the second electoral round. LULA DA SILVA was previously a presidential candidate in 1989, 1994 and 1998 elections.

Currently LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA is first in the polls and unless something unforeseeable happens, in our opinion he is destined, at 77 years of

age, to win the next general elections in Brazil.

We hope that this fever for favoring political extremes will disappear in the future and center-right and center-left candidates will emerge who champion a better option to govern the destinies of our peoples. Obviously the job will not be easy. Radical and extreme political governments do not recognize opinions different from theirs, therefore there is no atmosphere of peaceful political coexistence. Let's not forget that confusion lives at the extremes, they are harmful and corrosive. Identifying yourself in the center causes understanding and harmony to arise. Without a doubt, this is the most convenient position for our governments and so that we can build a better and fairer world. And, as is obvious, it will depend on the majority of the population to make that change. *L&E*



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# Panamanian ECONOMY

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI): DECEMBER 2021

Source: GCRP

The National Urban CPI for December 2021-20 presented an interannual variation of 2.6%.

The CPI in the districts of Panama and San Miguelito, and in the Urban Rest for December 2021-20 also registered a year-on-year variation of 2.6%.

The accumulated National Urban CPI for January-December 2021-20 reflected a variation of 1.6%.

The National Urban CPI for December is estimated at 105.7.

### • Monthly variation of the National Urban CPI (December 2021 compared to November 2021):

The groups that presented decreases were: Transportation in 2.2%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco at 0.7%; Miscellaneous goods and services 0.3%; Housing, water, electricity and gas, and Recreation and culture both at 0.2%; and Health 0.1%.

The decrease observed in the Transportation group was due to the reduction in one of its seven classes, "Fuels and lubricants for personal transportation equipment" by 6.5%, due to the decrease in the price of fuel for automobiles.

Group Alcoholic beverages and tobacco recorded a drop in two of its four classes, "Distilled beverages" at 1.8%, and "Beer" 1.0%. Reduction reflected in Miscellaneous goods and services group was due to decrease in four of its ten classes.

The greatest variation was in the class "Insurance related to health" at 1.7%, as a result of the decrease in the price of the health insurance service.

The group Housing, water, electricity and gas presented a decrease in one of its eight classes, "Gas" by 2.7%, due to the drop in the price of the 100-pound gas tank.

The decrease in the Recreation and Culture group

was due to the reduction in six of its sixteen classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Equipment for the reception, recording and reproduction of sounds and images" at 1.1%, due to the decrease in the price of television and DVD player.

The Health group reflected low in three of its seven classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Pharmaceutical products" at 0.3%, due to the decrease in the price of medicines.

The group Furniture, articles for the home and for ordinary maintenance of the home, Communications, and Education showed a slight variation.

The groups that registered increases were: Restaurants and hotels at 0.3%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Clothing and footwear, both at 0.1%.

The increase observed in the Restaurants and hotels group is the product of the rise in one of its two classes, "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments" by 0.3%, due to the increase in the price of prepared meals to go.

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group recorded growth in seven of its eleven classes. The greatest variations were in the classes "Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices" at 0.8%, due to the increase in the price of juices, hydrating drinks, energy drinks and sodas, and "Fruits" at 0.5%.

The increase presented in Clothing and footwear group was result of rise in two of its four classes, "Clothing" and "Cleaning, repair and rental of clothing" both at 0.1%.

The growth in "Clothes" was due to the increase in the price of t-shirts, socks and underpants, and in "Cleaning, repair and rental of clothing" due to the increase in the price of the lavatory and laundry services.

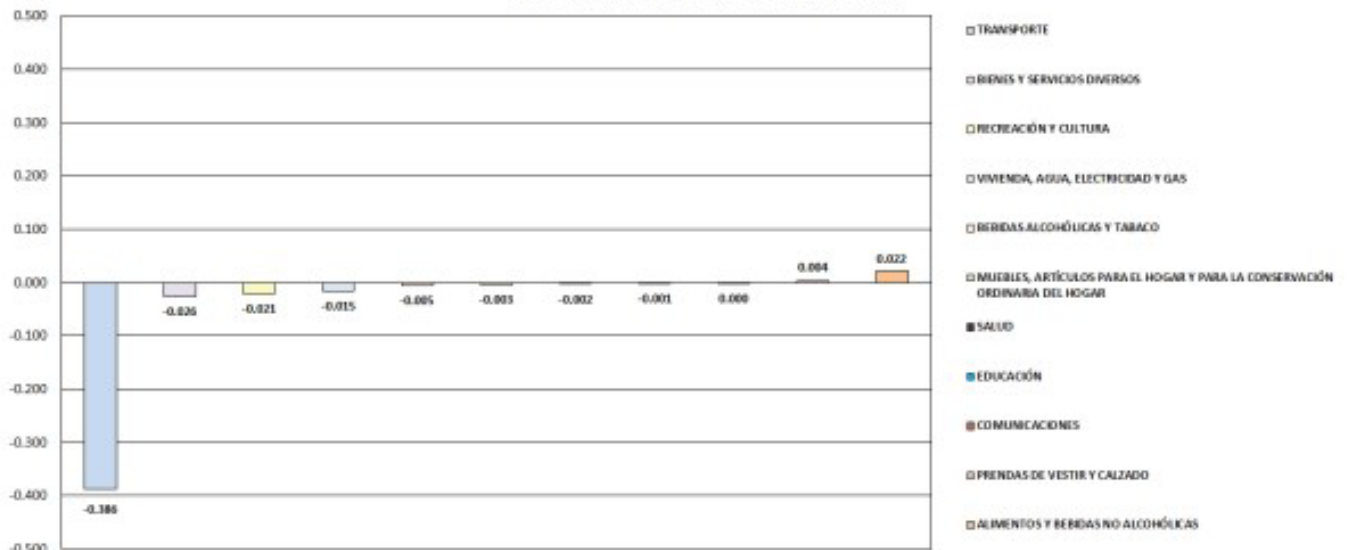
**• Year-on-year variation of the National Urban CPI (December 2021 compared to December 2020):**

The National Urban CPI presented an interannual variation of 2.6%. The groups that presented increases were: Transportation in 10.5%; Education in 3.1%; Housing, water, electricity and gas at 2.3%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages at 2.2%; Restaurants and hotels at 2.0%; Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary conservation of the home in 0.7%; Health, and Miscellaneous goods and services both at 0.6%.

The groups that showed decreases were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco at 0.8%; Clothing and footwear at 0.6%; Recreation and culture at 0.5%, and Communications at 0.2%.

**Below, the graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI for December 2021:**

Gráfica 1. INCIDENCIA MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO: DICIEMBRE DE 2021



**Incidenia:** Corresponde a la contribución de cada grupo respecto a la variación total del Índice Nacional Urbano, por ello, la suma de las incidencias da como resultado la variación del índice.

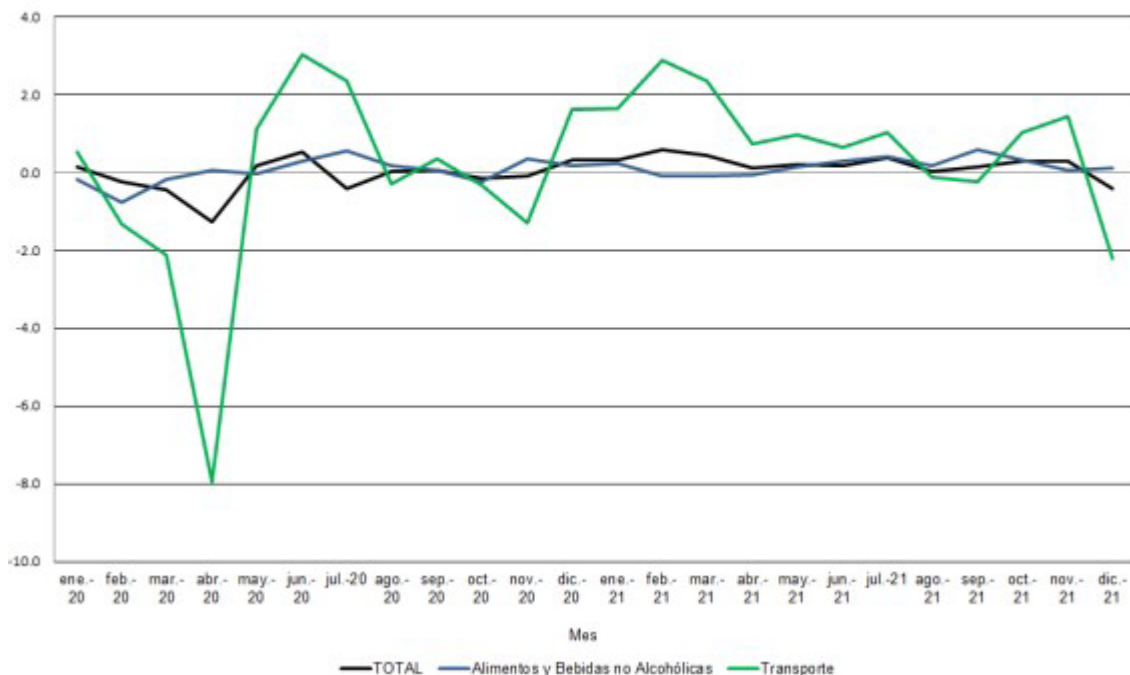


**CUADRO 1. INCIDENCIA Y VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: DICIEMBRE DE 2021  
BASE 2013=100**

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	0.022	0.1
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	-0.005	-0.7
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	0.004	0.1
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	-0.015	-0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	-0.003	0.0
Salud	3.4	-0.002	-0.1
Transporte	16.8	-0.386	-2.2
Comunicaciones	4.3	0.000	0.0
Recreación y cultura	9.7	-0.021	-0.2
Educación	2.4	-0.001	0.0
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	0.028	0.3
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	-0.026	-0.3

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

**Gráfica 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO TOTAL, ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS NO ALCOHÓLICAS Y TRANSPORTE: ENERO DE 2020-DICIEMBRE DE 2021**





CUADRO 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS:  
ENERO-DICIEMBRE DE 2021

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Variación porcentual mensual											
	2021											
	Enero	Febrero	Marzo	Abril	Mayo	Junio	Julio	Agosto	Septiembre	Octubre	Noviembre	Diciembre
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.5	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	0.3	0.0	-0.6	0.5	-0.4	-0.1	-0.7
Prendas de vestir y calzado	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.1
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	-0.2
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0
Salud	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1
Transporte	1.6	2.9	2.3	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.0	-0.1	-0.3	1.0	1.4	-2.2
Comunicaciones	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Recreación y cultura	-	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Educación	-1.4	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Restaurantes y hoteles	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3
Bienes y servicios diversos	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	-0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.2	-0.3

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

*L&E*

# INEC PRESENTS RESULTS OF QUARTERLY ECONOMIC SURVEY (EET) 2020-21

Source: GCRP

**W**ith a sample of 1,720 non-financial private companies in economic activities: Manufacturing Industries, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, and Some Services, National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of Comptroller General of The Republic (CGR) publishes the results of the Quarterly Economic Survey (EET), corresponding to the period from January to September 2020-21.

To carry out this work, a total of 358 Manufacturing Industries, 251 Wholesale Businesses, 422 Retail Businesses, 137 Hotels and Restaurants, and 552 Some Services were investigated, collecting data on the personnel employed, salaries paid, total income and products manufactured at Nacional level.

During the period from January to September 2021 compared to 2020, at the national level, the average of the Employed Personnel of the Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade presented a positive variation of 8.1% and 5.3%, respectively; however, the rest of the economic activities decreased: Manufacturing Industries 2.1%, Some Services 4.5%, and Hotels and Restaurants 15.6%.

Regarding the economic activities that registered

positive variations are: Retail Trade at 13.2%, Wholesale Trade at 10.6%, and Manufacturing Industries at 2.3%; reflecting a decrease in the variant of Some Services in 1.3%, and Hotels and Restaurants 12.5%. While the Total Income of the economic activities increased in Wholesale Trade by 41.5%, Retail Trade by 32.4%, Hotels and Restaurants by 29.4%, in Some Services by 20.3% and in Manufacturing Industries by 19.8%.

Within the non-financial private companies that declared in the VI National Economic Censuses 2012, with reference to 2011, having five or more people employed, contacted at the national level in the Quarterly Economic Survey (EET), from January to September 2021 with respect to same period of 2020, they reflected decreases in the study variables: Employed personnel, remunerations paid and total income, in the economic activities evaluated, as a result of the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It should be noted that the statistical data was collected from registered companies throughout the national territory, under the application of the new data collection methodology, managing 3,816 emails, 3,173 phone calls, 1,238 text messages through WhatsApp and 859 face-to-face visits. *L&E*

## RISK FITCH RATINGS, REAFFIRMED PANAMA'S SOVEREIGN RATING

Source: MEF

The risk rating agency Fitch Ratings reaffirmed Panama's sovereign rating at BBB-, maintaining the country's investment grade and changed the country's outlook from negative to stable.

Fitch highlights that the revision of Panama's outlook from negative to stable reflects the continued improvement in the fiscal position and a better-than-expected economic recovery after the initial shock of the pandemic.

In addition to this, the rating agency highlights that its fiscal expectations for the country have improved amid a stronger economic recovery in 2021, and greater confidence in the authorities' ability to successfully reduce the fiscal deficit through measures based on revenue improvement and cost containment. Fitch expects the government to meet the Fiscal Responsibility Law deficit target in 2022.

As for the end of 2021, Fitch estimates a growth of 15% in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), an increase from its initial projection of 12%, and for

2022 they estimate a growth of 7%. The rating agency now expects Panama to reach its pre-pandemic GDP level in 2022, a year earlier than anticipated.

Globally, the pandemic remains a key risk to economies. However, Fitch highlights that vaccination in Panama has been an important factor in reducing the risk of saturation of the health system, with 81.4% of the population over 12 years of age fully vaccinated and 90.5% with at least one vaccine..

On the other hand, Fitch anticipates that the debt to GDP ratio will gradually decrease in the coming years due to the path of fiscal consolidation. For 2021, Fitch estimates that the central government debt at the end of 2021 stood at 64.2% of GDP compared to 68.5% in 2020. The general government debt will reach 57.7% of GDP, below the median of the 'BBB' category of 60.3%. Fitch indicates that Panama's rating is supported by its high per capita income, the result of a strong record of macroeconomic performance, together with its high average growth and relatively low inflation, exploiting its location and strategic asset (the Panama Canal). *L&E*

# World ECONOMY

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WILL SLOW GROWTH TO 2.1% IN 2022 AMID SIGNIFICANT ASYMMETRIES BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND EMERGING COUNTRIES

Source: ECLAC

In its annual Preliminary Balance of Economies 2021 report, ECLAC highlights that 2022 will be a year of great challenges for growth, job creation and facing the social costs of the pandemic.

The Latin American and Caribbean region will slow down its growth rate in 2022 to 2.1%, after growing 6.2% on average last year, according to new projections released today by ECLAC. This slowdown occurs in a context of significant asymmetries between developed, emerging, and developing countries regarding the ability to implement fiscal, social, monetary, health, and vaccination policies for a sustainable recovery from the crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is what the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) points out in its annual report Preliminary Balance of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021, delivered today from Mexico City in a virtual press conference headed by the executive secretary of the United Nations agency, Alicia Bárcena.

According to the report, the region faces a very complex 2022: persistence and uncertainty about the

evolution of the pandemic, sharp slowdown in growth, low investment, productivity and slow recovery of employment, persistence of the social effects caused by the crisis, less fiscal space, increases in inflationary pressures and financial imbalances.

According to ECLAC, the expected average growth of 2.1% reflects a high degree of heterogeneity between countries and subregions: the Caribbean will grow 6.1% (excluding Guyana), Central America will grow 4.5%, while South America will grow 6.1%. will do in 1.4%. Meanwhile, in 2021 the region showed higher-than-expected growth, averaging 6.2%, thanks to the low base of comparison that constituted the year 2020, the greater mobility and the favorable external context.

According to the Preliminary Balance 2021, estimates show that the advanced economies would grow 4.2% in 2022 and would be the only ones that would return this year to the growth path forecast before the pandemic. The emerging economies, for their part, would have a growth of 5.1% in 2022 but they would only resume the growth trajectory forecast before the pandemic in 2025. In 2021, 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean managed to

recover the levels of GDP prior to the crisis. In 2022 another three would be added, which would reach a total of 14 countries of the 33 that make up the region.

It is essential that the combination of monetary and fiscal policies prioritize growth stimuli together with the containment of inflation, adds ECLAC. This requires using coordinated macroeconomic policies and the use of all available instruments to properly prioritize the challenges of growth with monetary-financial stability.

In terms of employment, last year it recovered at a slower rate than economic activity: 30% of the jobs lost in 2020 had not yet been recovered in 2021. Likewise, inequality between men and women was accentuated, which it reflects the burden of care on women and the lower dynamism of sectors that concentrate female employment, such as services. For 2022, ECLAC projects an unemployment rate of 11.5% for women -slightly lower than the 11.8% recorded in 2021, but still much higher than the 9.5% existing before the pandemic in 2019-, while for men, unemployment would be 8.0% this year, almost the same as in 2021 (8.1%), but still well above the 6.8% recorded in 2019.

The report also addresses one of the most worrying economic issues today at the regional and global level: the rise in prices of products and services. In 2021, inflationary pressures were registered in most of the countries of the region, led by increases in food and energy (inflation reached an average of 7.1% as of November, excluding Argentina, Haiti, Suriname and Venezuela), and these are expected to persist in 2022. Central banks anticipate that inflation levels will remain above the established target range, although they will tend to converge towards them towards the end of 2022, or the beginning of 2023. Once again, the price of energy and food in international markets, as well as the evolution of the exchange rate, will be essential to explain the future dynamics of prices.

ECLAC emphasizes that inflation is a multi-causal phenomenon, so the monetary authorities must continue to use the wide range of instruments

(monetary, exchange rate and macro prudential) available to them, beyond the interest rate, to face the pressures without undermining the drive to recover growth and employment and achieve sustainable, inclusive and equalizing growth, says the document.

Similarly, the United Nations organization emphasizes that it is crucial to increase collection levels and improve the tax structure to provide fiscal sustainability to a growing trajectory of spending demands. The challenges that 2022 presents, including lower economic growth, the risks of higher interest rates, currency depreciations and possible deterioration in sovereign credit ratings, complicate the management of fiscal policy. For this reason, a strategic view of public spending is required that links short-term demands with long-term investments and contributes to closing social gaps. In addition, fiscal space must be expanded by eliminating tax evasion (which reaches US\$ 325,000 million, 6.1% of regional GDP), consolidating the income tax for individuals and corporations, extending the scope of taxes on wealth and property, establish taxes on the digital economy, environmental and related to public health problems, and progressively review and update royalties for the exploitation of non-renewable resources.

In another area, financing for development is also key to supporting policy spaces and investment. It is necessary to expand and redistribute liquidity from developed countries to developing countries; strengthen development banks; reform the international debt architecture; provide countries with a set of innovative instruments aimed at increasing debt repayment capacity and avoiding excessive indebtedness; and integrate liquidity and debt reduction measures into a resilience strategy. *L&E*



## AS GLOBAL GROWTH SLOWS, DEVELOPING ECONOMIES FACE THE RISK OF A “HARD LANDING”

Source: World Bank

**A**gainst this challenging backdrop, emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) are facing a variety of economic challenges, including ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19, high inflation, record debt levels, and rising income inequality.

According to the latest edition of the World Economic Prospects report, growth is expected to slow from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023 as pent-up demand dissipates and fiscal and monetary support initiatives around the world. The rapid spread of the omicron variant also indicates that the pandemic is likely to continue to disrupt economic activity in the short term. Growth is projected to fall from 6.3% in 2021 to 4.6% in 2022 and 4.4% in 2023 among EMED.

The landscape poses particular dangers for MEEDs. First, the notable slowdown in the main economies –including the United States and China– will reduce external demand for goods and services in many EMDEs. Furthermore, the slowdown comes just as governments in many of these economies are running out of policy space to respond, if necessary, to emerging

challenges: new COVID-19 outbreaks, persistent supply chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures, and greater financial vulnerabilities in large areas of the world. The combination of these threats could increase the risk of a hard landing in these economies.

“Advanced economies and emerging markets and developing economies are on two different growth trajectories,” said Ayhan Kose, director of the World Bank’s Outlook Group. “While slowing, advanced economies continue to grow and their combined output is expected to return to pre-pandemic trend by 2023. However, emerging and developing economies are growing less, and they don’t have much left.” gasoline” in terms of policy space if they face headwinds. That’s why we’re concerned about a hard landing”.

### Income inequality is on the rise

The COVID-19 pandemic increased income inequality around the world, reversing in parts decades of progress in reducing inequality and disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups and EMDCs, where income

inequality is much higher than in economies advanced.

Significant increases in inequality across countries are the result of the two-way pandemic recovery, while a moderate increase in inequality within countries in EMDEs reflects the severe income losses and employment disruptions experienced by vulnerable groups: low-income households, informal and low-skilled workers, and women. Inequality within countries remains particularly high in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Sub-Saharan Africa, where around two-thirds of the world's extremely poor people live.

But inequality goes beyond income, particularly in EMDCs and low-income countries. Vaccine coverage remains highly inequitable around the world. Due to procurement barriers, only 8% of the population in low-income countries have received at least one dose, a rate that will result in only about one-third of the population receiving a dose of vaccines. end of 2023, if the current vaccination rate is maintained. Less than 55% of the total population in EMDCs have been vaccinated, compared to more than 75% in advanced economies.

The measures to contain the pandemic have seriously altered children's learning, intensifying educational inequality. Telecommuting and digital opportunities, such as distance learning, have not been equally accessible to low-income households. Gender inequality has also increased and informal workers have suffered significant losses in terms of employment and income.

In the long run, inequality within countries could continue to rise, as countries face higher inflation—especially food price inflation—and pandemic-related disruptions in education.

### **Commodity Price Cycles: An Opportunity for MEEDs**

Nearly two-thirds of EMDEs depend on commodity exports for their growth and development, and more than half of the world's extremely poor live in commodity-exporting EMDEs. These countries are increasingly affected by commodity boom-bust cycles, the causes of which are often beyond their control.

Commodity prices soared, with prices for several commodities hitting all-time highs last year. That followed a sharp and broad drop in activity in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Both the 2020 crash and subsequent rally were stronger than after any previous commodity cycle during the global recessions of the past half-century. These types of commodity cycles could present an opportunity for EMEDs, as documented in the latest World Economic Outlook: Over the Past 50 Years, Commodity Price Booms Often Outweighed the Busts. On average, prices increased by 4% per month, compared to an average decrease of 1% during the busts. The average cycle of boom and bust lasted about six years.

This means that EMDE governments can use booms to gain a stronger foundation to help them weather economic downturns. For example, oil exporters could seize the opportunity presented by today's higher oil revenues to rebuild fiscal space and direct spending toward solving long-term challenges.

Countries can also take steps to reduce dependence on commodities by diversifying exports and domestic asset portfolios. These assets include both physical capital and human capital: for example, countries can use those revenues to increase investments in health, education and digital infrastructure.

### **Diverging Paths for Advanced and Developing Economies**

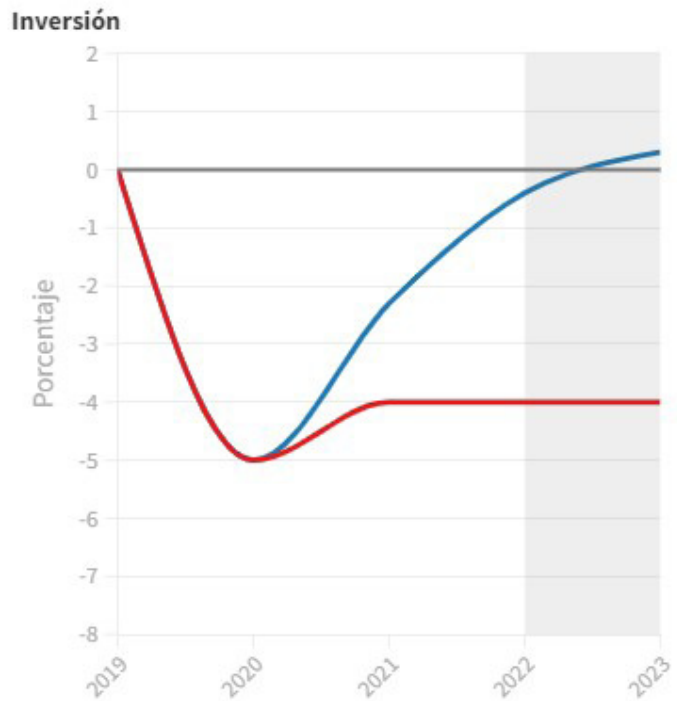
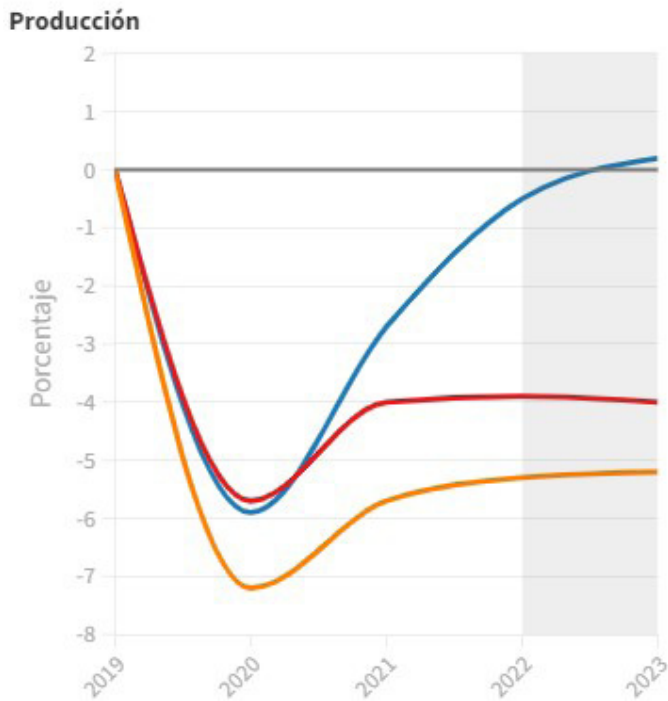
Advanced economies will have achieved a full

recovery in output by 2023. Emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) will continue to lag.

**Debt Challenges: Don't Repeat the Same Mistakes**

Global debt levels skyrocketed as a result of the pandemic: Total global debt, at 263% of GDP, has reached its highest level in 50 years.

■ Economías avanzadas ■ MEED ■ MEED, excluida China



Fuente: Perspectivas económicas mundiales, Enero de 2022/Banco Mundial

The increase covered both public debt and private debt. It manifested itself both at the external and domestic debt levels, and in advanced economies and EMDEs alike. This increase in debt, coupled with the global economic downturn caused by COVID-19, has increased debt vulnerabilities in EMDEs, especially in low-income economies. More than half of the poorest countries are already in critical debt distress or are at serious risk of becoming so.

The G-20 Common Framework process is an agreement between the Group of Twenty (G-20) countries and the Paris Club to work together on debt treatments for many low-income economies. According to the World Economic Prospects report, the structure of the framework, which continues to evolve, could be improved to provide more timely relief. Experience from past coordinated debt relief initiatives indicates that debt stock reductions can lessen output losses associated with over-indebtedness more than debt service relief.

Debt relief and restructuring initiatives will require greater transparency, as the current lack of clarity on debt commitments may alter debt sustainability analysis and delay relief until the full amount owed by the debtor is known. country.

**Decisive regulatory action can make a difference**

In order to strengthen the global recovery and

promote a green, resilient and inclusive recovery, comprehensive policies are needed, along with strong global cooperation on vaccination, debt and climate.

Policymakers can prioritize spending on projects that boost long-term growth prospects, for example, those that make it easier to reduce large investment gaps. Increased domestic revenue mobilization can help replenish depleted fiscal buffer mechanisms due to the pandemic-related revenue collapse. An increase in public spending can also be supported.

Furthermore, a comprehensive approach is needed to reverse rise in global inequality caused by COVID-19. The report states that a first step should be to speed up administration and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in MEEDs. However, productivity-enhancing reforms are needed to increase per capita income. In order to prevent consolidation of the increase in inequality caused by the pandemic, fiscal support measures must focus on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Implementing many of these policy recommendations will require considerable fiscal resources, which is not easy in an age of unprecedented indebtedness. Therefore, greater global cooperation will be needed to increase the fiscal resources available to low-income developing economies. It also means supporting the rules-based global trading system and facilitating an investment climate that fosters faster productivity growth. *L&E*



## A DISTURBED WORLDWIDE RECOVERY

Growth cools as economies grapple with supply disruptions, rising inflation, historic levels of debt and lingering uncertainty.

International Monetary  
Fund

By: Gita Gopinath

**T**he global recovery continues, but faces multiple challenges at the start of the third year of the pandemic. The rapid spread of the omicron variant has led many countries to re-impose mobility restrictions and exacerbated labor shortages. Supply disruptions still weigh on activity and are pushing inflation higher, adding to pressures from buoyant demand and high food and energy prices. Furthermore, as a result of historical debt levels and rising inflation, many countries are struggling to cope with renewed shocks.

However, some challenges may prove more transitory. The new variant appears to cause less severe disease than delta variant, and record surge in infections is expected to run out of steam relatively quickly. Therefore, latest edition of IMF's World Economic Outlook forecasts that while omicron variant will weigh on activity in the first quarter of 2022, that effect will begin to fade from the second quarter.

Projections point to other issues and policy shifts that will further influence the outlook. For this year, we project global growth of 4.4%–0.5 percentage points less than in the previous forecast—mainly due to downgrades in the performance of the United States

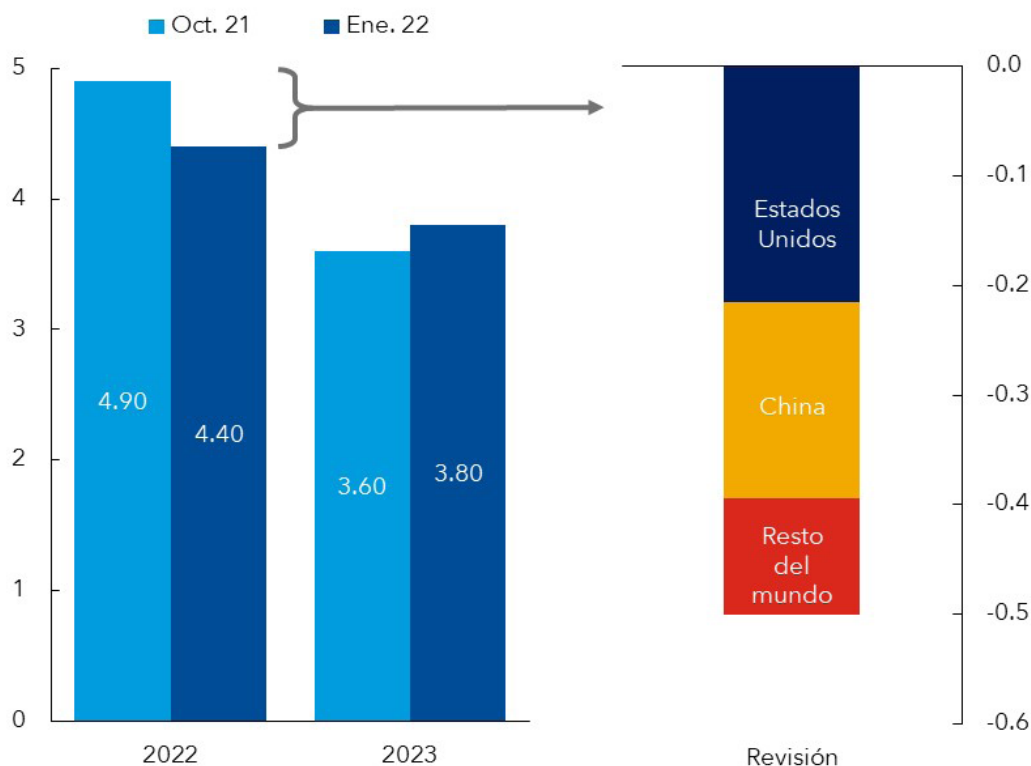
and China. In the case of the United States, this is due to a lower probability of approval of the fiscal program known as Build Back Better, the anticipated unwinding of the extraordinarily accommodative monetary policy, and persistent supply shocks. In the case of China, the reason lies in the continued contraction of the real estate sector and the fact that the recovery in private consumption has disappointed expectations. Supply disruptions have led to cut projections for other countries, such as Germany. Global growth is forecast to slow to 3.8% in 2023. That figure is 0.2 percentage point higher than last October's forecast and mostly reflects a rebound after current drags on growth wear off.

We have revised upwards our forecast for inflation in 2022 in both advanced and emerging market and developing economies, and we understand that elevated price pressures will persist. It is assumed—based on the industry's expectations of improvement in supply—that the imbalances between supply and demand will be corrected throughout 2022, as demand gradually moves away from goods and reorients itself towards services, and that extraordinary supportive policies be withdrawn. In addition, energy and food prices are expected to rise at a less intense pace



## Una recuperación mundial trastocada

Se ha revisado a la baja el crecimiento del PIB real mundial en 2022.  
(puntos porcentuales)



Fuentes: FMI, *Perspectivas de la economía mundial*, y cálculos del personal técnico del FMI.  
Nota: La revisión muestra la diferencia entre las proyecciones del crecimiento del PIB mundial de 2022 presentadas en la actualización de enero de 2022 del informe WEO y la edición de octubre de 2021. Una cifra negativa representa una revisión a la baja del crecimiento.



in 2022, according to futures markets. Assuming that inflation expectations remain anchored, a moderation in inflation could be expected in 2023.

Even if the reactivations continue, a worrying divergence in the perspectives of the different countries persists. While advanced economies are projected to return to pre-pandemic trends this year, several emerging market and developing economies are set to suffer significant output losses over the medium term. According to estimates, there were about 70 million more homeless people in 2021 than pre-pandemic trends measured, which means that the fight against poverty went back several years.

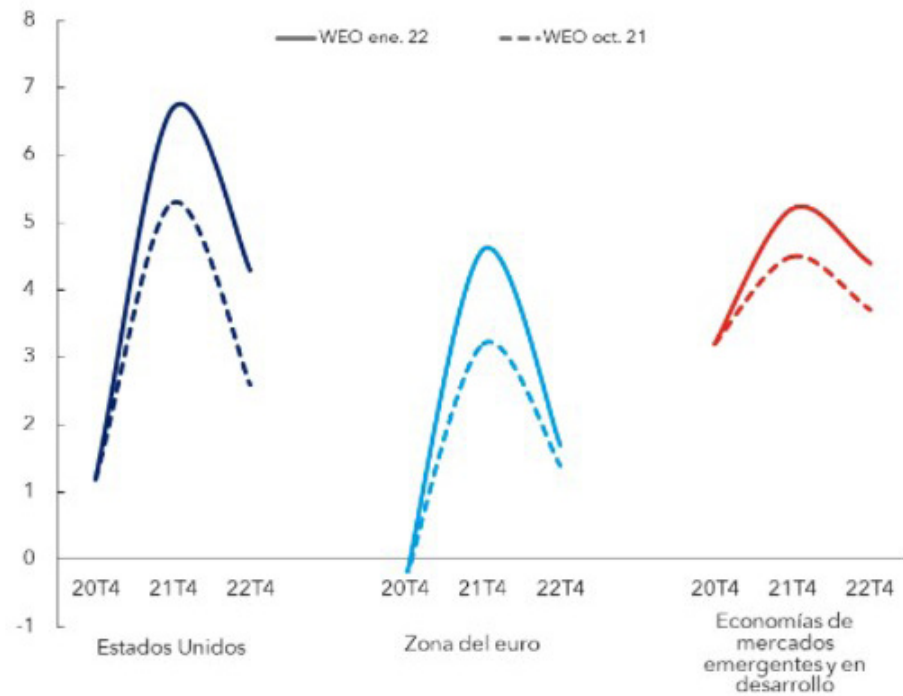
Forecasts are subject to pronounced uncertainty and risks are generally tilted to the downside. The appearance of more lethal variants could prolong the crisis. China's zero-COVID-cases strategy could exacerbate global supply disruptions, and if the financial stress affecting the country's real estate sector spills over into the broader economy, the ramifications would be wide-ranging. A surprise rise in US inflation could be answered by a sharp tightening of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy and a drastic tightening of global financial conditions. Heightening geopolitical tensions and social unrest also pose risks to the outlook.

Global efforts.

## Inflación revisada al alza

Se prevé que las presiones de los precios persistirán.

(porcentaje; interanual)



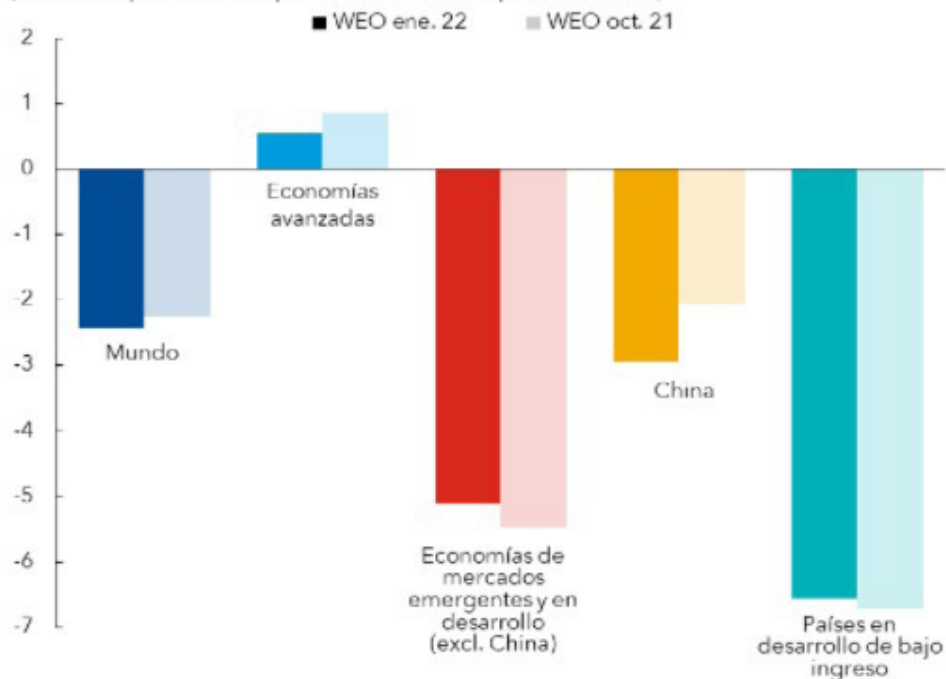
Fuentes: FMI, *Perspectivas de la economía mundial*, y cálculos del personal técnico del FMI.



## Persiste la divergencia entre las recuperaciones

Las pérdidas del producto a mediano plazo de las economías de mercados emergentes y en desarrollo probablemente sean elevadas.

(desviación porcentual respecto de la tendencia previa a la crisis)



Fuentes: FMI, *Perspectivas de la economía mundial*, y cálculos del personal técnico del FMI.

Nota: Las barras muestran la diferencia del producto real a los cuatro años de la crisis y el producto previsto en el mismo período antes de la crisis en el grupo regional indicado.



To deal with many of the difficulties facing the world economy, it is vital to break the grip of the pandemic. That will require a global campaign to spread immunization, screening and access to therapies, including brand-new antiviral drugs. At this time, only 4% of the population in low-income countries is fully vaccinated, compared to 70% in high-income countries. In addition to ensuring a predictable supply of vaccines for low-income developing countries, assistance should be provided to boost absorption capacity and improve health infrastructure. Closing the \$23.4 billion gap in Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) funding and promoting technology transfers is urgent to accelerate the diversification of global production of critical medical tools especially in Africa.

At the national level, policies should continue to be tailored to country circumstances, including the extent of the recovery and underlying inflationary pressures, and policy space. Fiscal and monetary policy should be coordinated to achieve economic goals. Given the level of uncertainty, policies should also remain nimble and adapt to incoming economic data.

With policy leeway in many economies and vigorous recovery underway in others, projections point to a narrowing of fiscal deficits in most countries this year. The fiscal priority should continue to be the health sector and, where necessary, transfers should be effectively targeted to the most affected sectors of the population. All initiatives will have to be framed within medium-term fiscal frameworks that chart a credible path to ensure that public debt remains sustainable.

Monetary policy is at a critical juncture in most countries. Where inflation has run rampant alongside

a vigorous recovery, as in the United States, or where high inflation is in danger of becoming entrenched, as in some emerging market and developing economies and some advanced economies, it would be appropriate to withdraw the extraordinary supportive monetary policy. Several central banks have already started raising interest rates to get ahead of price pressures. It is critical to communicate the policy transition to a more restrictive stance well in order to avoid disorderly reactions in the markets. In economies where inflationary pressures remain attenuated and the recovery has not come to an end, monetary policy can remain accommodative.

As monetary policy tightens more broadly this year, economies will have to adjust to a global environment characterized by higher interest rates. Emerging market and developing economies with high foreign currency indebtedness and external financing needs should prepare for the possibility of financial market turmoil by extending debt maturities to the extent possible and containing currency mismatches. Exchange flexibility can help with the necessary macroeconomic adjustment. In some cases, foreign exchange market intervention and temporary capital flow management measures may become necessary so that monetary policy can focus on domestic conditions.

Given the increase in interest rates, low-income countries, 60% of which are already in a critical situation due to over-indebtedness or are at great risk of falling into it, will have increasing difficulties in servicing their debts. The G-20 Common Framework should be amended to speed up debt restructurings, and G-20 and private creditors should suspend debt service while restructurings are negotiated.

At the start of the third year of the pandemic, 5.5 million lives have been lost globally, and economic losses would approach \$13.8 trillion through the end of 2024, relative to pre-pandemic forecasts. These figures would have been much worse without the extraordinary work carried out by scientists and the medical community, and the rapid and forceful response policies launched at the international level.

However, much remains to be done to contain losses and reduce wide disparities in recovery prospects across countries. Initiatives are needed to reverse the profound learning losses that children have suffered, especially in developing countries. On average, students in low- and middle-income countries experienced 93 more days of school closures nationally than those in high-income countries. Regarding the climate, it is necessary to redouble efforts to reach zero net carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with carbon pricing mechanisms, investment in green infrastructure, research grants and financing initiatives that allow all countries invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The last two years reaffirm that this crisis and the ongoing recovery are like no other. Policymakers must closely monitor a wide range of new economic data, prepare for contingencies, and be ready to communicate policy changes and implement them at short notice. In turn, decisive and effective international cooperation should ensure that this is the year the world escapes the clutches of the pandemic. *L&E*

## Últimas proyecciones de crecimiento de Perspectivas de la economía mundial

ESTIMACIONES PROYECCIONES

(PIB real, variación porcentual anual)	2021	2022	2023
<b>Producto mundial</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>4,4</b>	<b>3,8</b>
<b>Economías avanzadas</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>2,6</b>
Estados Unidos	5,6	4,0	2,6
Zona del euro	5,2	3,9	2,5
Alemania	2,7	3,8	2,5
Francia	6,7	3,5	1,8
Italia	6,2	3,8	2,2
España	4,9	5,8	3,8
Japón	1,6	3,3	1,8
Reino Unido	7,2	4,7	2,3
Canadá	4,7	4,1	2,8
Otras economías avanzadas	4,7	3,6	2,9
<b>Economías emergentes y en desarrollo</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>4,7</b>
<b>Economías emergentes y en desarrollo de Asia</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>5,8</b>
China	8,1	4,8	5,2
India	9,0	9,0	7,1
ASEAN-5	3,1	5,6	6,0
<b>Economías emergentes y en desarrollo de Europa</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>2,9</b>
Rusia	4,5	2,8	2,1
<b>América Latina y el Caribe</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>2,4</b>	<b>2,6</b>
Brasil	4,7	0,3	1,6
México	5,3	2,8	2,7
<b>Oriente Medio y Asia Central</b>	<b>4,2</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>3,6</b>
Arabia Saudita	2,9	4,8	2,8
<b>África subsahariana</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>4,0</b>
Nigeria	3,0	2,7	2,7
Sudáfrica	4,6	1,9	1,4
<i>Partidas informativas</i>			
<b>Economías emergentes y de mediano ingreso</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>4,6</b>
<b>Países en desarrollo de bajo ingreso</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>5,5</b>

Fuente: FMI, Actualización de *Perspectivas de la economía mundial*, enero de 2022.

Nota: En el caso de India, los datos y pronósticos están basados en el ejercicio fiscal; el ejercicio 2021/2022 comienza en abril de 2021. Para la actualización del informe WEO de enero de 2022, las proyecciones de crecimiento de India son 8,7% en 2022 y 6,6% en 2023 con base en el año civil. La columna correspondiente a 2021 del cuadro incluye el impacto de la variante ómicron.



Banco Mundial

## GLOBAL GROWTH WILL SLOW UNTIL 2023, CONTRIBUTING TO THE RISK OF A “HARD LANDING” IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

Source: World Bank

**F**ollowing the strong rebound in 2021, the global economy is entering a sharp slowdown amid new threats from variants of COVID 19 and rising inflation, debt and income inequality, which could put The recovery of emerging and developing economies is in jeopardy, according to the latest edition of the World Economic Prospects report, published by the World Bank. Global growth is expected to slow markedly, from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, as pent-up demand dissipates and the level of fiscal and money around the world.

The rapid spread of the omicron variant indicates that the pandemic is likely to continue to affect economic activity in the near term. Also, the sharp slowdown in major economies (such as the United States and China) will weigh on external demand in emerging and developing economies. At a time when governments in

many developing countries lack the macroeconomic space to support activity if needed, new outbreaks of COVID 19, persistent inflationary pressures and bottlenecks in supply chains, as well as such as heightened financial vulnerability in many parts of the world, could increase the risk of a hard landing. “The global economy is simultaneously facing COVID 19, inflation and policy uncertainty, with government spending and monetary policies moving into uncharted territory. Rising inequality and security concerns are particularly damaging to developing countries,” said David Malpass, president of the World Bank Group. “Getting more countries on the path to favorable growth requires concerted international action and a comprehensive set of policy responses at national level”.

The slowdown will coincide with the widening of the divergence between the growth rates of advanced



economies and those of emerging and developing ones. Growth in advanced economies is expected to slow from 5% in 2021 to 3.8% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023, a pace that, while slower, will be enough to restore pre-2020 trends. the pandemic on production and investment. In emerging and developing economies, by contrast, growth is expected to fall from 6.3% in 2021 to 4.6% in 2022 and 4.4% in 2023. By that year, advanced economies will have managed to recover completely its production; however, in emerging and developing, it will remain 4% below the pre-pandemic trend. For many vulnerable economies, the setback will be even greater: output in fragile and conflict-affected economies will be 7.5% below pre-pandemic trend, and that of small island states will be 8.5%. % more low.

Meanwhile, rising inflation, which particularly affects low-income workers, limits monetary policy. Globally and in advanced economies, inflation has reached the highest rates since 2008. In emerging and developing markets, it has reached the highest rate since 2011. Consequently, to contain inflationary pressures, many emerging economies and developing countries have started to withdraw support measures long before the recovery is complete.

The latest version of the World Economic Prospects report contains analytical sections that provide new insights into three obstacles that may impede lasting recovery in developing economies. The first section, dealing with debt, compares the recently implemented international initiative to address unsustainable debt in developing economies (the Group of Twenty [G20] Common Framework) with previous coordinated initiatives aimed at facilitate debt relief. Noting that COVID 19 pushed total global debt to the highest level in half a century, even

against a backdrop of increasing complexity in the creditor landscape, the report concludes that future coordinated debt relief initiatives will have more difficulties in achieving success. Applying the lessons learned from past restructurings to the G20 Common Framework can improve its effectiveness and avoid the shortcomings presented by previous initiatives..

"The decisions that policymakers make in next few years will decide the course of the next decade," said Mari Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships at the World Bank. "The immediate priority must be to ensure that vaccines are distributed more widely and equitably, so that the pandemic can be brought under control. But addressing setbacks in development, such as rising inequality, will require sustained support. At a time when debt levels are high, global cooperation will be essential to help expand the financial resources of developing economies so that they can achieve green, resilient and inclusive development".

The second analytical section examines the consequences of boom and bust cycles in commodity prices in emerging and developing economies, most of which are highly dependent on commodity exports. The report notes that these cycles were particularly intense in the last two years, when prices collapsed with the arrival of COVID 19 and then rose sharply, in some cases reaching all-time highs over the past year. Developments in the global macro economy and the factors that determine commodity supply are likely to continue to drive these boom-and-bust cycles. For many commodities, such cycles may be amplified by the forces of climate change and the energy transition away from fossil fuels. The analysis also shows that, since the 1970s, commodity price booms have

generally been more pronounced than busts, which can lead to significant opportunities for stronger and more sustainable growth in exporting countries of these products, provided that they apply disciplined policies during boom periods to take advantage of windfall gains.

The third analytical section of the report examines the impact of COVID 19 on global inequality. The pandemic is noted to have increased income inequality globally, partially reversing the decline that had been achieved in the previous two decades. It has also intensified inequality in many other spheres of human activity: in the availability of vaccines, in economic growth, in access to education and health care, and in the scale of job and income loss. , which has been higher among women and low-skilled and informal workers. This trend can leave lasting scars: for example, human capital losses caused by interruptions in education can be passed down from one generation to another.

Ayhan Kose, Director of the World Bank's Outlook Group, said: "In light of the projected slowdown in output and investment growth, limited policy space, and considerable risks clouding the outlook, emerging and developing economies They must carefully calibrate their fiscal and monetary policies. They also need to undertake reforms to erase the scars of the pandemic. These reforms must be designed in such a way as to increase investment and promote human capital, reverse income and gender inequality, and meet the challenges of climate change".*L&E*



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## THE ILO LOWERED THE LABOR MARKET RECOVERY FORECASTS FOR 2022

Source: ILO

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has lowered its forecasts for the recovery of the labor market in 2022, and projects a deficit in hours worked worldwide equivalent to 52 million full-time jobs compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. The previous full-year estimate made in May 2021 projected a shortfall of 26 million full-time jobs. According to ILO World Employment and Social Outlook 2022 (Trends 2022), although this latest projection is an improvement over 2021 situation, it is still almost 2 per cent lower than the number of hours worked before the global pandemic. Forecasts indicate that global unemployment will remain above pre-coronavirus levels until at least 2023. It is estimated that in 2022 there will be 207 million unemployed people, compared to 186 million in 2019. The ILO report also warns that the general effect on employment is significantly greater than that represented in these figures, since many people have dropped out of the workforce. In 2022, the global labor force participation rate is projected to remain 1.2 percentage point below that of 2019. To some extent, lower forecast for 2022 reflects the effect that recent variants of the COVID-19 virus, such as Delta and Omicron, are having on the world of work, as well as significant uncertainty

regarding future course of the pandemic. pandemic. The report warns of the marked differences in the effects of the crisis between groups of workers and between countries. These differences are exacerbating inequalities within and among countries, and weakening the economic, financial and social fabric of almost all nations, regardless of their level of development. This damage is likely to take years to repair, and there could be long-term consequences for labor force participation, household income and social cohesion, and possibly political cohesion.

The effects are felt in labor markets in all regions of the world, but the patterns of recovery between them are very divergent. Europe and North America show the most encouraging signs of recovery, with the most negative outlook for South-East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. At the national level, the strongest labor market recovery is seen in high-income countries, while lower-middle-income economies fare the worst.

According to the report, the disproportionate effect of the crisis on female employment will continue in the coming years. For its part, in the long term, the closure of education and training institutions will have "a domino effect" for young people, in particular

for those who do not have access to the Internet.

“After two years of crisis, outlook remains fragile and path to recovery is slow and uncertain,” said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. “We are already seeing potentially lasting damage to labor market, along with a worrying rise in poverty and inequality. In many cases, workers are being forced to switch to a different type of work, for example in response to the prolonged slump in international travel and tourism.”

“There can be no true recovery from this pandemic without a broad recovery in labor market. And, to be sustainable, this recovery must be based on principles of decent work, including health and safety, equality, social protection and social dialogue.”

Trends 2022 includes comprehensive labor market projections for 2022 and 2023. It provides assessments of how labor market recovery has unfolded around the world, reflects different national strategies to recover from the pandemic, and analyzes the effects on different population groups, workers and sectors of the economy.

The ILO report indicates that, as in previous crises, in some cases, temporary employment served to cushion impact of pandemic. While many temporary jobs were liquidated or not renewed, alternative ones were created, even for workers who had lost a permanent job. On average, incidence of temporary work didn't change.

Trends 2022 also provides a summary of key policy recommendations aimed at creating a fully inclusive, people-centred recovery from the crisis, both nationally and internationally. They are based on the Global Call to Action for a people-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient adopted by the 187 ILO Member States in June 2021. *L&E*



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## COUNTRIES WITH THE BEST NATIONAL PARKS

Narciso Cubas - Forestal Engineer  
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**A** National Park is a natural space of high natural and cultural value, little altered by human activity which, due to its exceptional natural values, its representative character, the singularity of its flora, its fauna or its geomorphological formations, its conservation deserves preferential attention and it is declared of general interest to the Nation as it is representative of the Spanish natural heritage.

For a territory to be declared a National Park, it must be representative of its natural system, have a large and sufficient area to allow natural evolution and ecological processes, natural conditions largely predominate, present little intervention on its natural values, territorial continuity, generically not having inhabited nuclei within it, and being surrounded by a territory that can be declared a peripheral zone of protection. Each year, the Travelers' Choice highlights the

best destinations of the year based on reviews and ratings from Trip Advisor users. On this occasion, among the award-winning categories, natural parks stand out. There is no doubt that, in the year of the pandemic, travelers looked for new destinations among those more natural experiences that allowed them to enjoy wide spaces and little crowded. In this sense, the natural parks became the places where the word paradise takes on its fullest meaning. This is the top ten of the natural parks that users of the famous review platform have highlighted.

### AT #10: FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK, NEW ZEALAND

This is the home of the eighth wonder, or so it seemed to Rudyard Kipling, Milford Sound, Piopiotahi in Maori. The British writer was impressed by one of the most spectacular places in New Zealand. The photogenic



Milford Sound is the star of Fiordland National Park, but the park is a collection of 14 fjords, through which you can see hanging waterfalls, gorges and trails where you can breathe 100% wild nature. The Maori explain that all this wonder was created by the giant Tute Rakiwhanoa, who carved the valleys and mountains with his mighty axe. His laborious work was recognized in 1990 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### **AT #9: TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK, CHILE**

Located 154 kilometers northwest of Puerto Natales and 399 kilometers from Punta Arenas, a natural paradise that concentrates some of the most mythical landscapes of the Patagonian steppe. Wilderness is breathed on all sides. The route known as W is a classic reference that leads to the base of the very Towers, an iconic eroded granite mass at whose feet there is a lake that raises the turquoise color to its maximum expression. In total, more than two hundred thousand hectares to meet some of the most amazing geographies on the planet. Currently declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, it is a territory with an abundant history dating back more than 3,500 years. For those more versed in this walking, the itinerary of the O, with about 100 kilometers of distance, becomes a legendary experience.

#### **AT #8: ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH**

That there is much more than the Grand Canyon, is demonstrated by this other national park in Utah, the oldest in the state. A mystical landscape full of rugged rock formations and other geological wonders, such as rugged canyons of amazing colors ranging from cream to deep red. Among these wonders, the star of the park: the Zion canyon (south and east entrances), a gigantic crevice about 800 meters deep that covers a surface of 24 kilometers in length, around which you can do a multitude of activities, from canyoning and climbing walks.

#### **AT #7: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

The Colorado River as it passes through southern Utah becomes a brilliant natural sculptor that has carved a gigantic groove that takes your breath away. Theodore Roosevelt called it "the one great sight every American should see." He fell short, because this view should be seen by everyone at least once in their life. Although, somehow, the appearance of it in many films make it one of those places that everyone knows despite not having set foot in it. A protected enclave since 1908, the Colorado River Canyon was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979. The Grand Canyon National Park protects the 446 kilometers in length and 1,600 meters of the most famous land crevasse on the planet.

#### **AT #6: ARENAL VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK, COSTARICA**

A set of waterfalls, hot springs, exuberant vegetation and a perfect conical volcano make up the Arenal Volcano National Park in Costa Rica. If Steven Spielberg had known him, he would not have hesitated to take him as inspiration for Jurassic Park. Pure adventure that combines perfectly with spa tourism, since the Tabacón River feeds pools with thermal waters. La Fortuna is the base to enter this Costa Rican natural wonder.

#### **AT #5: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA**

One of the most legendary natural spaces on the African continent, the Kruger National Park is synonymous with "safari". It is the largest wildlife reserve in South Africa and home to a rich biodiversity that ranges from the savannah of the north to the tropical humidity of the south. A whole spectacle of fauna in which the 'big five' stand out: the elephant, black rhinoceros, cape buffalo, lion and leopard) that can be seen on excursions in jeeps, while hyenas and hundreds of birds put sound to the most exciting natural soundtrack on the planet.

#### **AT #4: GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING**

Situated near the famous Jackson Hole, Grand

Teton National Park's crown jewels include jagged peaks, crystal-clear alpine lakes, and forests of vivid, evergreen greens. The state of Yellowstone is a feat of nature and it highlights the Grand Teton National Park, which is home to one of the highest mountains in the range, the Grand Teton. At 14,000 feet, views of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Yellowstone National Park in the distance are guaranteed.

### AT #3: MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE, KENYA

The Masai Mara National Reserve is undoubtedly the site of one of the most impressive natural spectacles on the planet: every year, herds of wildebeest and other herbivores cross the park to the neighboring Serengeti in search of pasture. If anyone has ever been moved by that sentence by the Danish Karen Blixen, "I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills", they should do their best to travel to this place, where the bucolic image of the great plains of golden grasses, dotted with acacias, elephants, giraffes and hundreds of herbivores that appear in Out of Africa. In addition, at present, there are various responsible and supportive tourism initiatives to visit the national reserve.

### AT #2: JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, INDIA

The Bengal tiger is the official animal of India and Bangladesh. That does not mean that this powerful species lives in a comfortable environmental situation. On the contrary, it is in danger of extinction and needs special reserves to survive, such as the Jim Corbett Park where the Tigre Project is working, for the conservation of this species of tiger. The very name of the park gives a clear clue as to what has happened to this animal: it was hunted almost to the point of disappearance. Today barely two hundred specimens survive in this park, which can be seen between April and June, when the vegetation is less thick. The rest of the year is almost mission impossible. However, lovers of natural beauty can also be entertained by the number of Indian crocodiles, gharials, wild boars, jackals and hundreds of migratory birds.

### AT #1: SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA

The Maasai gave this place the name of "endless plains". The view is lost in the horizon, giving the visitor a sublime sensation of space difficult to equal anywhere else in the world. The South African Laurens van der Post wrote that "the only living things that seem to belong in the Serengeti are the wild animals". Humans here should be exactly that: simple guests who thank nature for the spectacle provided by millions of wildebeest, zebra and gazelles, among many other species, in the nearly 15,000 square kilometers of the Serengeti National Park.

For these territories to be considered within the best national parks, they must have some of these characteristics, it should be clarified that they may vary according to the laws or decrees of certain countries:

- **Representation: represent the natural system to which it belongs.**

- **Extension: have an adequate surface to allow their natural evolution, so that they maintain their characteristics and ensure the functioning of ecological processes in the present.**

- **State of conservation: conditions of naturalness and ecological functionality predominate widely. Human intervention on their values should be scarce.**

- **Territorial continuity: except for duly justified exceptions, the territory must be continuous, without enclaves, and there must be no elements of fragmentation that break the harmony of the ecosystems.**

- **Human settlements: don't include inhabited urban nuclei within it, except in duly justified exceptional cases.**

- **Legal protection: It must be protected by a legal and legal framework of the country where it is**

located.

- **Technical capacity: Have personnel and budget to meet the protection and conservation objective, and allow only research, educational activities, or admire its beauty.**

- **External protection: being surrounded by a territory that can be declared a peripheral zone of protection.**

Panama has a robust National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), which covers approximately 32% of land area and 12% of the marine areas of the national territory.

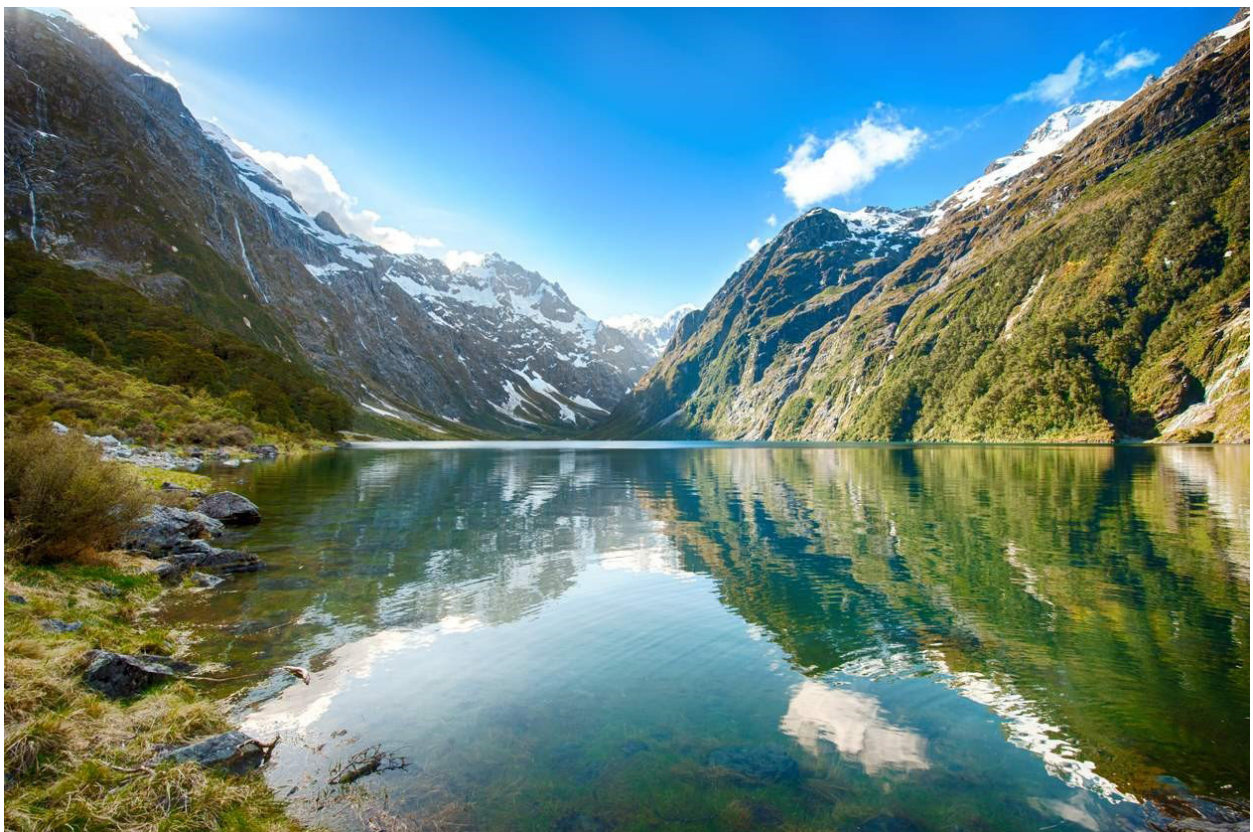
In our republic, we have 90 protected areas, of which 16 are national parks. Altos de Campana National Park, Camino de Cruces National Park, Cerro Hoya National Park, Chagres National Park, Coiba National Park, Darién National Park, General de Visión Omar Torrijos Herrera National Park, Gulf of Chiriquí National Marine

Park, Isla Bastimentos National Park, La Amistad International Park, Metropolitan Natural Park, Portobelo National Park, Santa Fe National Park, Sarigua Desert, Soberanía National Park, Volcán Barú National Park are the national parks in the Republic of Panama.

Its management is in charge of the National Directorate of Protected Areas and Biodiversity of the Ministry of the Environment and today it constitutes a natural and tourist attraction due to the biological wealth that it contains and the recreational activities that it offers.

Each one of them has a singularity and attractiveness, but the most important thing is that most of them are accessible to all public for their enjoyment.

That is why we invite all readers, to make internal tourism, admire the diversity in flora and fauna that Panama has.



Pictures: iStock.





Picture: iStock.

At #9: Torres del Paine National Park, Chile.



Picture: iStock.

At #8: Zion National Park, Utah.





Picture: iStock.

At #7: Grand Canyon National Park.



Picture: iStock.

At #6: Arenal volcano National Park, Costa Rica.





Picture: iStock.

At #5: Kruger National Park, South Africa.



Picture: iStock.

At #4: Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.





Picture: iStock.

At #3: Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya.



Picture: iStock.

At #2: Jim Corbett National Park, India.





Picture: Gtres

At #1: Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.*L&E*



# Sports Capsule

## MATCH MEXICO AGAINST PANAMA AT THE AZTECA STADIUM FOR THE 11TH DATE OF THE QATAR 2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

**O**n a crucial date, today at 9:00 p.m. local time in Mexico, 10:00 p.m., Panama time, the "Tri", as the Mexican team is also known, faces the "Roja", as it is also known. meets the Panamanian national team, a match to be held at the Azteca Stadium.

Several factors will have to be taken into consideration for this sporting match. After 10 dates played in this final octagonal phase of Concacaf, Mexico arrives with 18 points, while Panama adds 17 units, so they are very even in the standings. The team that rises with a victory in today's game, would establish itself in third place in the classification and therefore opt for a direct quota for the World Cup event to be held in Qatar.

Reviewing the statistics of the matches between both teams, there is a clear balance in favor of the Aztec team with 15 wins, for only 2 of Panama and 6 draws, for a total of 23 matches.

Javier Said Acuña - Partner  
said.acuna@rbc.com.pa

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the statistics are there to be broken, including what could be an eventual historic victory by the Panama team, which has never won at the Azteca Stadium, where factors such as height and a great crowd that always supports their national team, usually weigh against their visitors, although on this occasion, there will be a very limited capacity of 2,000 people, due to the sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to try to eradicate the discriminatory cry that a small sector of the public usually do in matches.

There are some factors that Panama could try to work in its favor; the last match between both teams was tied at one goal, with Rolando Blackburn scoring for Panama, a player who is available for today. In this same order of ideas, the results of the last 4 games of these qualifiers, have a better balance for Panama that comes from accumulating 9 points after beating



Honduras and El Salvador, losing against Costa Rica and beating Jamaica, while Mexico has obtained 4 points since they lost against the United States and Canada, beat Jamaica and drew against Costa Rica.

The pressure that both teams handle are different and you have to know how to channel them, so Thomas Christiansen's coach pointed out that "We have nothing to lose and we do have to win, everything we get from Mexico will be welcome", while in statements by the coach of Mexico Gerardo "Tata" Martino, after the draw against Costa Rica, indicated that "The Panama match is still a final, it was before the FIFA date and now that they won at home in Jamaica, we have a decisive match again and that is worth one of the seats to the World Cup".

Both teams are coming off two recent games, in which they have been physically taxed. In the case of the Panamanian team, there are some significant casualties in their defense, but it will be time to rebuild the team and go out and face the "Tri", maintaining tactical order, good start and good handling of the ball, which are some of the characteristic stamps that DT Christiansen has given to the "Roja".

We estimate that, if the Panama team stays focused, playing as a block, managing their physical resources against Mexico, avoiding mistakes, we are in a position to achieve a positive result on Mexican soil.*L&E*

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# Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia

Many children may struggle in school with some subjects or skills from time to time. When children struggle and still struggle with a specific set of skills, this could be a sign of a learning disorder. Having a learning disorder means that a child has a difficulty in one or more areas of learning, even if their motivation or general intelligence are not affected.

By: Claudia Cubas

# Specific Learning Disorders

A **learning disorder** is defined as a difficulty in an academic area (reading, math, or written expression). The child's ability to succeed in the specific academic area is below what is expected for the child's age, educational level, and intelligence level.

## **With reading difficulties:**

Characterized by problems with word decoding, reading speed, and/or comprehension.

## **With difficulties in mathematics:**

Characterized by specific deficiency in arithmetic.

# Dyslexia



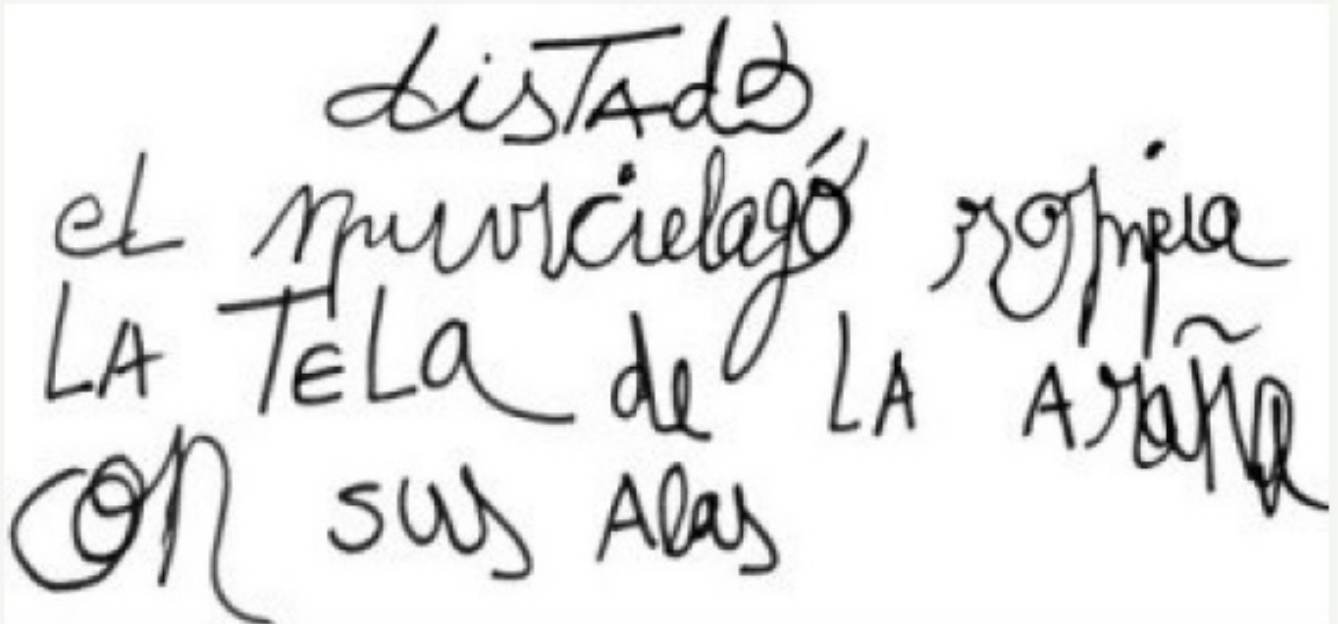
## Signs you can spot

- Reading trouble.
- Difficulty spelling words.
- Difficulty memorizing familiar sight words.
- Avoid reading aloud.
- Spelling and grammar.
- Not understanding what has been read.
- Confuse the order of letters.
- Problems following a sequence of instructions.
- Difficulty organizing thoughts.





# Dysgraphia



## Signs you can spot

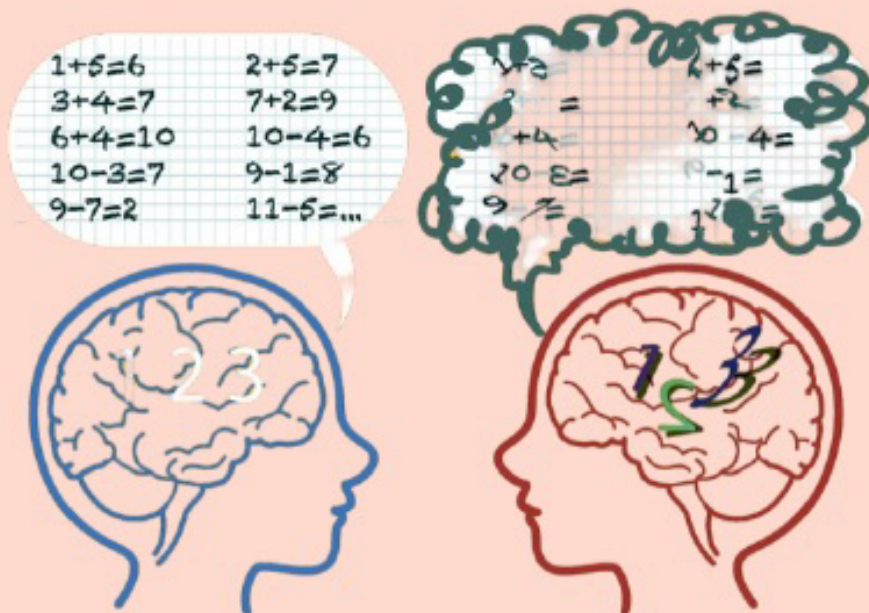
- Illegible handwriting.
- Slow, elaborate writing.
- Mixes block and cursive letters.
- Uneven spacing between letters and words.
- Poor spelling and grammar.
- Difficulty holding a pencil
- Wrong punctuation.
- Poorly constructed sentences and missing paragraphs.
- Difficulty organizing information when writing.



# Dysgraphia

## Signs you can spot

- Have difficulty recognizing numbers.
- Take longer to learn to count.
- Have difficulty connecting number symbols (5) with their corresponding words (five).
- Have difficulty recognizing patterns and putting things in order.
- Lose the thread while counting.
- Need visual supports, such as fingers, to help count.
- Learn basic math functions like addition, subtraction, multiplication tables and more.
- Understand the concepts behind logic problems and other non-numeric mathematical calculations.





**If you consider your child presents some of the signs mentioned above.**



**Go to the nearest psychological center.**



# Agenda Cultural

Por: Mariela de Sanjur  
mariela.sanjur@rbc.com.pa



## THEATER

- Guild Theater of Ancón: tickets [mientos.com](http://mientos.com)
  - o Speech and Debate from February 3 to 12.
- ABA Theater:
  - o Magical Stories from January 7th.
  - o Cruella from January 9 to March 20
  - o A Friday out of control.
  - o Tickets whatsapp 6090-8950.
- Pacific Theater: tickets in <https://teatropacific.net>
  - o The little prince, from February 4 on Saturdays and Sundays.
  - o Los Locos Adams "El Musical" from February 3, tickets at [panatickets.com](http://panatickets.com).
  - o The applause goes inside until February 20.
- La Estación Theater: tickets on instagram @teatrolaestacion.
  - o What if they leave? Since February 11.
  - o Aqua friends to the rescue.
- National Theater: tickets [panatickets.com](http://panatickets.com)
  - o Strings, only performance on February 6.
  - o Lovely from February 2 to 4.
- El Ángel Theater:
  - o Harpies until February 20, tickets at [Panatickets.com](http://Panatickets.com)

Theater Digital Billboard: Tickets [www.verteatro.com](http://www.verteatro.com)

- "The Writer of Epitaphs"
- "Life's begins after a good cup of coffee"
- "God creates them and the Devil puts them together."
- "First Dates"
- "The diva"

- "Beware of the Tie"
- "The Witch SINDY NERO"
- "Dora and Prudence"
- "To bed with the thief"
- "Fourteen"

Teatro Pacific Digital Billboard: Tickets at <https://teatropacific.net>

- o "House in order"
- o "# My Domestic Life"
- o "No Forgiveness for Sins"
- o "Halloween with Polibanda and Puppets"
- o "Christmas Storytelling"
- o Livestream: "Artists by Artists 2021"

Virtual billboard of La Estación Theater:  
o Toxic Idyll, reservations: <https://forms.gle/5xdZP5BP5jcCoH7M8>

## CONCERTS, PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- XXII Kite and Tambourine Festival (Aprochipa) 2022:

February 20 from 3:00 p.m. by Zoom. Sign up for free at [www.tustiquetes.com](http://www.tustiquetes.com).

- Marc Anthony Pa´ Alla Voy Tour on February 23 at the Rommel Fernandez Stadium, tickets at [panatickets.com](http://panatickets.com).
- Entre Amigos, Vallenato and Typical Panamanian Grand Presentation on February 4 at Plaza Figali, tickets at [Panatickets.com](http://Panatickets.com)
- Portfolio Workshop #thinkoutsidetheline from February 7 to 12 at the City of Knowledge.
- Musical traditions of the carnival of Panama, registration discussion [www.stonecenter.tulane.edu](http://www.stonecenter.tulane.edu) on february 9.

## MUSEUMS

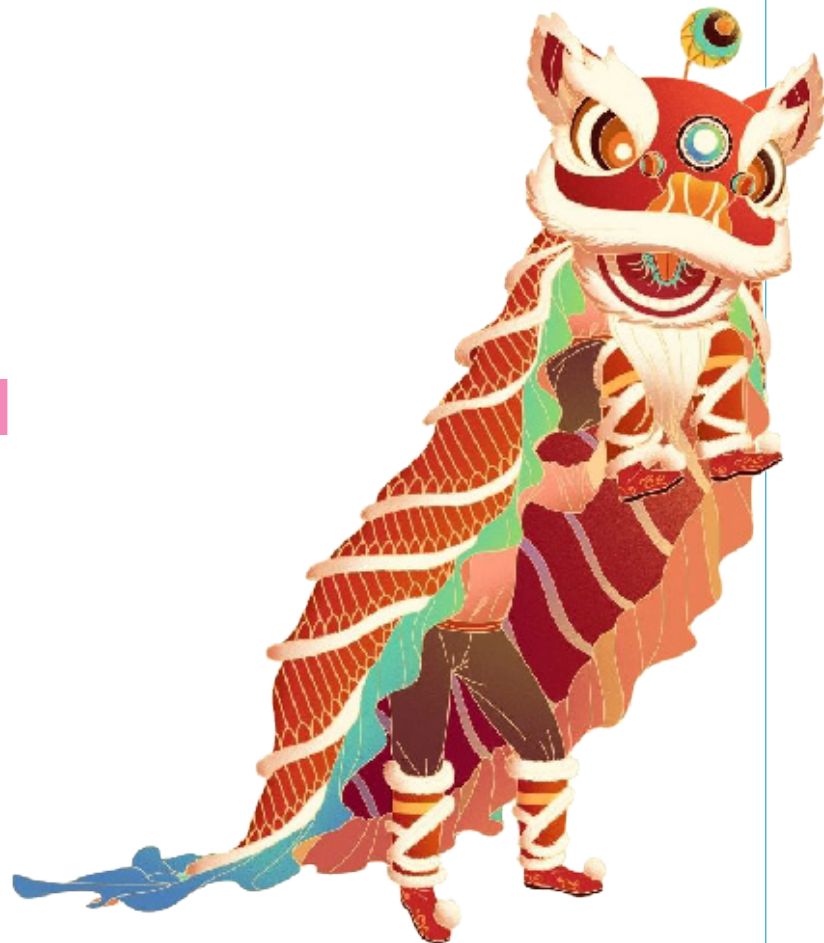
- MAC:
  - o Exhibition "Storing seeds in the hair"
  - o Exhibition "The footprint of the rhea or how we transform silences".

## VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

- February 1: Chinese New Year.
- February 2: Candlemas Day.
- Feb 2: World Wetlands Day.
- Feb 4: World Cancer Day.
- Feb 6: Photographer and Cameraman Day.
- Feb 9: Day of the Dentist.
- Feb 10: Medical Technologist Day.
- Feb 11: Our Lady of Lourdes.
- Feb 11: World Day of the Sick.
- Feb 13: Birthday of General Omar Torrijos (1929).
- Feb 13: World Radio Day.
- Feb 14: Valentine's Day, day of love and friendship.
- Feb15: Day of the fight against childhood cancer.
- Feb 20: World Day of Social Justice.
- Feb 25: Dule Revolution Day (1925) (Law No. 29 of May 12, 1998).

## IMPORTANT FAIRS

- La Chorrera International Fair: from January 26 to February 6 in the District of La Chorrera.
- La Candelaria-Bugaba Fair from January 28 to February 6.
- Veraguas Fair: from February 10 to 19 in Soná, Province of Veraguas. *L&E*



## *Alianzas alrededor del Mundo*

**Mitrani, Caballero, Rosso Alba, Francia, Ojam & Ruiz Moreno- ARGENTINA**

**Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA**

**Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- BRASIL**

**DSN Consultants Inc- CANADÁ**

**Lewin & Wills Abogados- COLOMBIA**

**Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas- PANAMÁ**

**Espinosa & Asociados- CHILE**

**Lawnetworker S.A. Asesores Legales- ECUADOR**

**Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS**

**Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS**

**Ortiz, Sosa, Ysusi y Cía., S.C.- MÉXICO**

**Estudio Rubio Leguía Normand & Asociados- PERU**

**Adsuar Muñoz Goyco Seda & Pérez-Ochoa, P.S.C.- PUERTO RICO**

**Pellerano & Herrera- REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA**

**Alvarado & Asociados- NICARAGUA**

**Torres, Plaz & Araujo- VENEZUELA**

**Facio & Cañas- COSTA RICA**

