Cepei Value Proposition, Vision, and Strategy 2023 2030

Cepei

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Value Proposition, Vision, and Strategy
2023-2030

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Suggested citation

Cepei. (2023). Value Proposition, Vision, and Strategy 2023-2030. Cepei.

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PART 1

Our value proposition

Digitization and the internet, the increasing complexity of intertwined financial markets, dense urban systems, and transboundary environmental challenges (from climate change to global pandemics) are just the tip of a mammoth iceberg that is forcing governments and other stakeholders to rethink the way we govern these global, transboundary problems. Unfortunately, there is no playbook on how to do this. No one country, region, or community can definitively say they have achieved sustainable development, nor that they have the recipe for how to do it.

Strong political leadership is undoubtedly key. Indeed, political science has highlighted that effective governance in the 20th and 21st centuries is dependent on a politics of leadership that emphasizes the power of the executive, the necessity to engage with powerful bureaucracies, and the importance of direct public engagement. Likewise, other policy studies and literature emphasize that strong leadership is essential to force critical junctures or moments of disruption in what is otherwise a path-dependent political system. But political science also points to the central role of policy intermediaries, people who understand complex political systems and can act as a broker between external stakeholders, experts, advocacy groups, and those in positions of power to help shape new decisions. In an influential paper on advocacy coalitions, Paul Sabatier called these people **policy brokers.**

The Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei) is an independent think tank headquartered in Bogota, Colombia. For 20 years, Cepei has worked to develop a detailed understanding of global, regional, and national policy processes with the intention of being an expert policy broker.

How we work

Drawing on more than twenty years of experience and the latest policy science literature, Cepei has three main competencies and related ways of working:

Cartagena, Colombia. April, 2015.

1 **Facilitating convenings that give our stakeholders a clear path to meeting the 2030 Agenda goals.** Cepei brings together experts, local practitioners, and political actors to infuse new ideas into key political moments.

2 **Using data and evidence to identify the best opportunities.** Cepei subscribes to the belief that better evidence, communicated simply and clearly, and put in policymakers' hands, can help deliver better policy results.

3 **Brokering multistakeholder participation.** Opening up the decision-making process to include citizen, expert, and practitioner opinions should be a cornerstone of all 21st-century policy development.

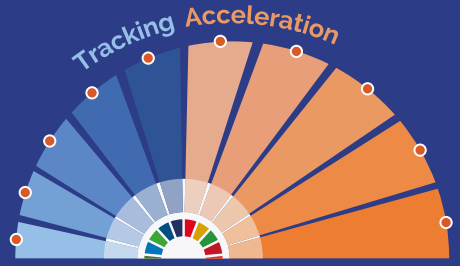
Our blueprint

To achieve our mission, whilst capitalizing upon our core competencies, we subscribe to identified three concepts that guide all our work:

Tracking the Quality of the SDG Reporting

To understand how the development community is contributing to the SDGs, Cepei follows, analyzes, and actively engages in global sustainable development governance processes. To help improve these processes, Cepei offers insight and demystifies them for non-expert audiences. Tracking the quality of the SDG reporting also involves curating timely data and information on the state of sustainable development policy and outcomes across the regions.

Cepei strongly believes that diverse, high-quality evidence translated into relevant products and analysis can help decision-makers to make more effective and informed decisions. We focus on developing short policy products, which draw upon our own programmatic experiences or those of our partners, as well as the latest academic evidence. We also work to curate and draw insights from and visualize a wide range of public and private data sets. This may take many forms; from large-scale quantitative datasets to smaller qualitative insights or analytical papers. The key point is that it is accessible and policy-relevant, delivering timely insights on the SDG reporting progress.



Accelerating SDG implementation

We take advantage of opportunities to improve the quality of the reporting process by making our methodologies, data, and analysis accessible and relevant for Latin American stakeholders so they can identify entry points for more effective engagement. Making these processes and dialogues open to a wider audience promotes transparency and accountability, and–as recognized by Agenda 2030–can help to strengthen the quality of policy outcomes.

Cross-cutting Cepei Organizational Effectiveness

Underlying all of our work is Cepei's commitment to investing in and improving upon its organizational assets and capacities. Cepei is an ISO-9001 certified institution (a quality management system) continuously seeking to improve its relations with partners, the quality of its products, and its internal management processes by fostering a strong organizational data culture. We strive to employ high-quality, responsive, and flexible working processes, to respond to the dynamic environments within which we live and work.

Our Partners

Cepei places a strong emphasis on partnership, engagement and outreach. In addition to local partnerships, we have key institutional collaborations and partnerships at the highest levels of public policy. The nature and scope of our partnerships vary, focusing on research, technical support, advocacy, and communications. Some examples of our key partners include:

1 Multilateral organizations

We work at the most senior levels of the UN system, including with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and Regional Economic and Social Commissions such as ECLAC, to strengthen the institutions supporting global sustainable development, particularly regional and national data, and statistical systems.

2 Governments

Our main interlocuters are governments at national and local levels, with whom we work to promote the SDGs, strengthen their data and evidence inputs, and support policy processes. For example, we have worked with a number of countries across the global South to strengthen their national data strategies and statistical improvements. We have Memoranda of Understanding with ten governments in Latin America.

3 Non-Governmental entities

We have a broad range of NGO partners from universities, think tanks, and international charities to private companies, with a particular emphasis on those specializing in data for stakeholder engagement and contributing to sustainable development.

In addition to these bilateral partnerships, we are an active member and participant in global initiatives, including PARIS21, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (specifically their TReNDS program), C4UN, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and Together 2030.

PART 2

Our vision & strategy for 2023-2030

Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen political processes at the highest governance levels, enabling governments and their partners to better deliver on their sustainable development objectives.

Our Vision

Our vision is to become the preeminent think-tank situated in the Latin American region, working to strengthen local to global policy processes for sustainable development, with active research partnerships in all regions.

Cepei's Strategic Objectives 2023-2030

Following our blueprint, we have two strategic objectives. The first is focused on decoding policy processes and the second is focused on evidence, including the data required to monitor sustainable development.

Strategic Objective 1

Strengthening Policy Processes

Our first strategic objective focuses on understanding and decoding policy processes. We aim to help decipher complex local, national and international policy processes relating to sustainable development, identify opportunities for external evidence inputs, and encourage multi-stakeholder engagement. Making these processes and dialogues open to a broader audience promotes transparency and accountability and, as recognized by Agenda 2030, can help to strengthen the quality of policy outcomes.

There are three key activities in this strategic objective, each with corresponding projects:

1.1. ***Support robust follow-up and review of sustainable development with critical analysis at regional levels.***

1.2. ***Monitor and make accessible complex political decision-making processes to support multi-stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation.***

1.3. ***Multilateralism fit for purpose.***

Strategic Objective 2

Improving the Evidence-base for Decision-making

Cepei's second strategic objective is about improving the evidence base for decision-making. We strongly believe that diverse, high-quality evidence translated into policy-relevant products and analysis can help decision-makers to make more effective and informed decisions. We focus on developing short policy products drawing on our own programmatic experiences or those of our partners, as well as the latest academic evidence. We also work to curate and draw insights from a wide range of public and private data sets. There are two key activities of this program:

2.1. ***Open Data: Connecting data and information to sustainable development outcomes.***

2.2. ***Improving the quality of SDG data through stronger policies and procedures which inspire public confidence in official statistics.***

Cepei´s Organizational Development

To support our programmatic objectives, growing resources, and staff numbers, we will work to strengthen our organizational processes and protocols. Specifically, we will:

Foster a **strong data culture** across Cepei.

Maintain **modern and transparent program management procedures**.

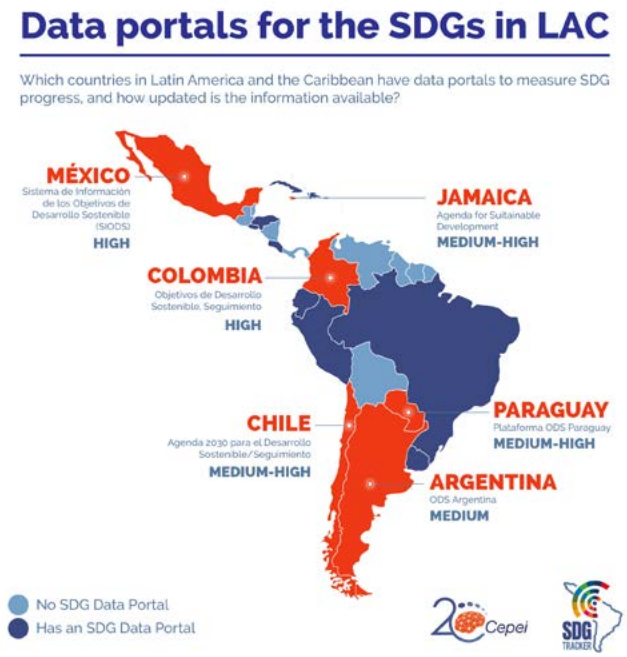
Further the impact of our work through **first-class communications**.

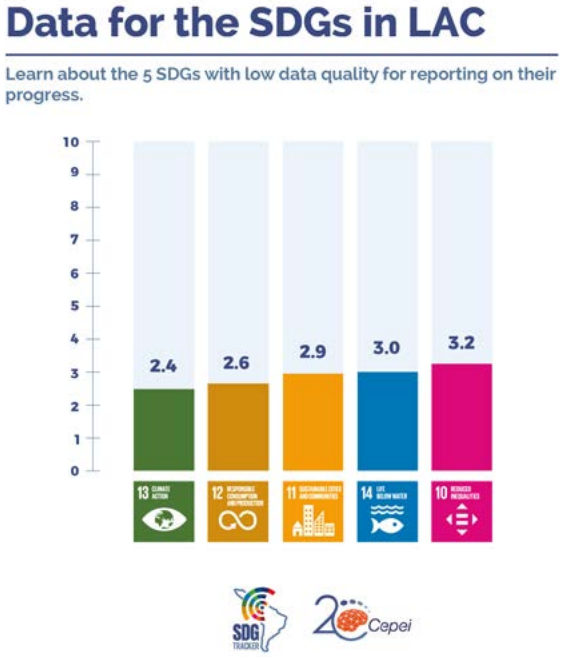
Promote sustainable business practices by **lowering the carbon emissions** of team operations and adopting more dynamic working procedures.

Our Products

SDG Tracker

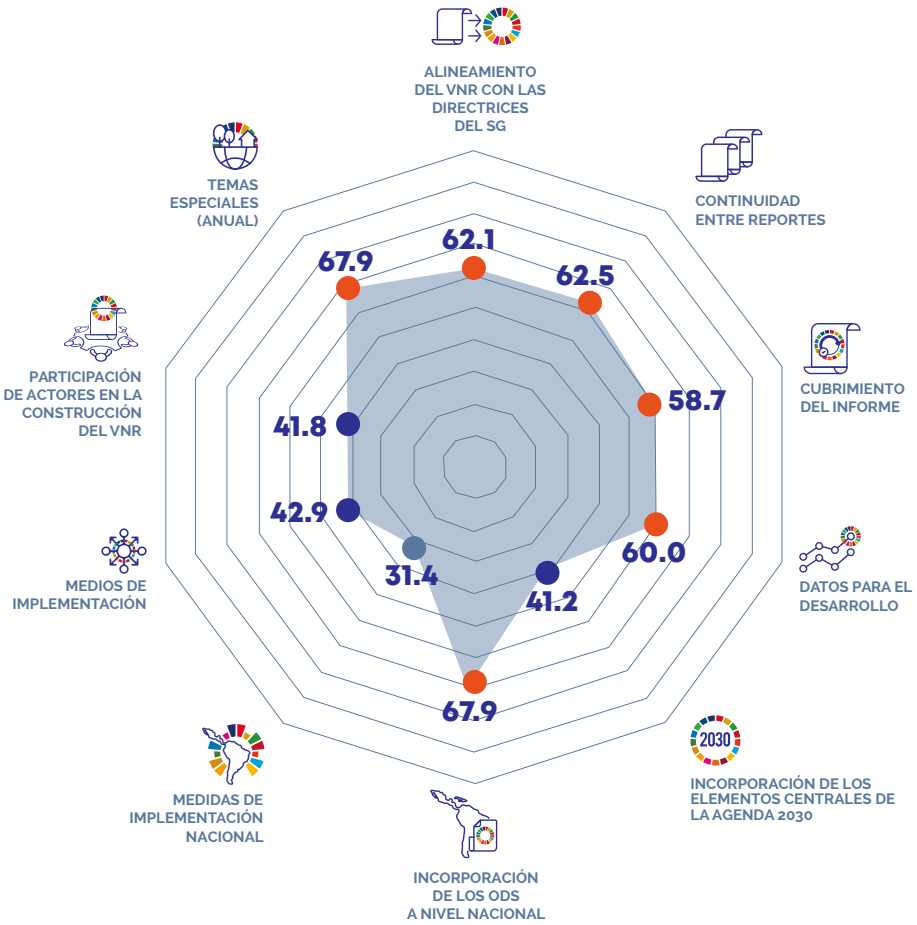
We have integrated Cepei´s multiple information tools and analytical outcomes in a simple-to-use and customizable platform, the SDG Tracker, which will be available on Cepei's website. The SDG Tracker includes two components: Regional Profiles and Country Profiles to provide our stakeholders with information to enable informed decisions on SDG implementation issues. The SDG Tracker offers documents, data, and Cepei analytical products for each country, as well as regional SDG implementation plans. The Tracker will also offer insights on countries' SDG governance, data availability, and reporting profiles, including identifying data gaps and the availability of non-official SDG-related data sources.





Voluntary National Reviews Quality Index

Cepei has observed that the VNR process is not drawing the expected results and the report quality is subpar across the board. The Index measures their degree of alignment with the reporting commitments established by each country in the 2030 Agenda and related instruments.



- **Bajo** 0 - 33.3
- **Medio bajo** 33.4 - 55.5
- **Medio alto** 55.67 - 77.8
- **Alto** 77.9 - 100

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Flagship Report

This collates the latest policy information and data for all the countries in which we work on the quality of the SDG reporting process. It will integrate non-governmental perspectives and information, thereby complementing national accounts and providing a shadow report on regional progress. It will be published for various international and regional events such as the Regional Sustainable Development Forum Annual meetings, HLPF, World Data Forum, and UNGA. It will be made available as a PDF / printed output and as a series of digital pages (as a creative online product).

17 Rooms Latin America

Accelerates progress by convening regional leaders to commit to multisector actions that can be implemented in 12 to 18 months, advance all SDGs, and create momentum by taking the next step, even if it is not the perfect step. This commitment is a mantra for the Brookings Institution which founded this initiative. In 2023 we will host a series of meetings and events in support of this initiative and actively connect this innovative methodology to SDG reporting processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Data Action Plan 2030

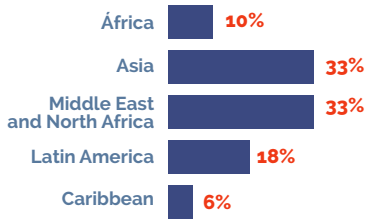
Aims to accelerate progress toward robust SDG data systems, by raising awareness and setting benchmarks for data issues. We hope this program will build on lessons learned from working on data partnerships to accelerate implementation and will purposefully encourage an active regional, multistakeholder dialogue in advance of the World Data Forum, 2024.

Data Actions by Countries

394
DATA ACTIONS MAPPED

94
COUNTRIES MAPPED

Data Actions by Region



Data Action List by Country

Colombia
Data Action: Data reporting
Definition: Collecting and formatting raw data and translating it into a digestible format
Business name: GSMA
Sector: Telecommunication Services
N/A

Colombia
Data Action: Data sharing
Definition: Collection of practices, technologies, cultural elements, and legal frameworks that are relevant to transactions in any kind of information digitally, between different kinds of organizations.
Business name: Logyca
Sector: Other
N/A

Mexico
Data Action: Data reporting
Definition: Collecting and formatting raw data and translating it into a digestible format
Business name: Glencore
Sector: Other

Multilateralism Fit for Purpose

We remain committed to providing relevant findings and possible solutions to significant structural obstacles that remain within the current UN development system reform. We will provide the SDG Summit with inputs on how the UN could jointly implement transformative actions as part of a regional rollout process with a clear and concise vision, a compelling narrative, and a set of practical mechanisms.

Overall Regional Structures

137	$974.7M	$633.6M	7.863	2.820
OFFICES	CORE BUDGET	ADDITIONAL FUNDS	STAFF	CONTRACTORS

Regions and Cities

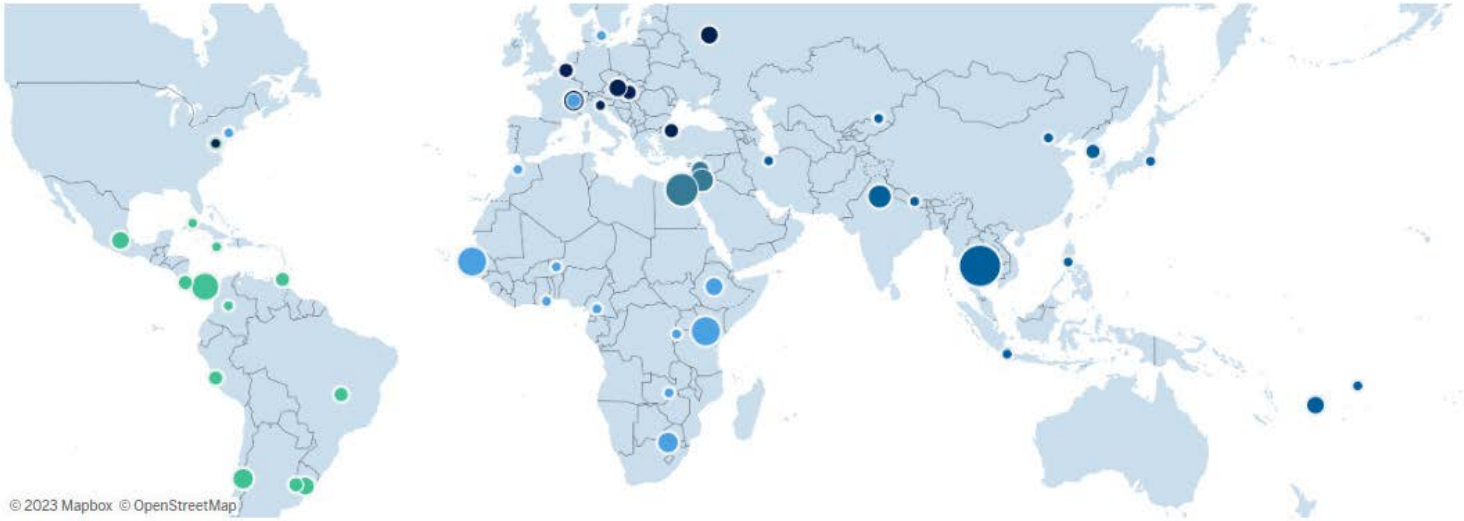
West Asia
Budget: $460 911 755
Headcount: 1 848

Latin America and the Caribean
Budget: $371 093 570
Headcount: 1 892

Asia and the Pacific
Budget: $309 270 689
Headcount: 3 267

Africa
Budget: $295 776 903
Headcount: 2 602

Europe
Budget: $171 240 343
Headcount: 1 074



Cepei will continue to produce impactful, policy-relevant papers, blogs, and insights to help guide specific policy processes.

- **Blogs and commentaries** on SDG data in Latin America, under our 'Data Roadmap to 2030' initiative.

- **Programmatic Insights and Working Papers:** Insights from our programs on UN institutional reform and private sector SDG data.

- **Policy Briefings and Blogs** on ongoing political processes under the UNGA and various regional forums.

Please get in touch with us at
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