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**Abstract**

**Sergio Vázquez**

**Title:** The Contribution of National Evaluation Systems to Sustainable Development: The Comparative Cases of Lower Middle Income Countries in Latin America: Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay

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The vast majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries are within this middle-income category according to the per capita income criterion. Of the 33 countries in the region, 28 are considered middle-income categories, four high-income and one low-income.

In the Latin American region there are five countries that are lower middle income and, therefore, they are the ones that should receive the greatest number of Official Development Assistance resources, as well as other types of cooperation such as South-South Cooperation and Triangular, this with the objective of “Leaving no one behind” in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this sense, it is important that national monitoring and evaluation systems are aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other development priorities in countries with complex realities such as Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay. Therefore, it is worth asking what efforts are being made by these countries and with the help of international cooperation to strengthen the individual, institutional and systemic capacities of these countries to contribute not only to the construction of national M&E systems, but also not also, to sustainable development, through the construction of solid institutions, robust diagnoses and studies, as well as transparency and accountability of authorities with the participation of different groups and social actors.

In this framework, the present research aims to comparatively analyze how national M&E systems are being formed in low-middle-income countries, and what are the accents and differences that we should take into account in efforts to strengthen them. of capacities in these contexts, compared to the actions carried out in other upper middle income countries, for example.

This will be done through the comparison of the cases of lower middle income countries in Latin America, to identify their similarities and divergences, following the Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) methodology, and presenting the results with public policy recommendations to strengthen these mechanisms in countries that are priorities for the different international agendas, but above all, for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The methodology that will be followed in this research is qualitative, based on QCA, where the case studies will first be constructed in depth, through a review of the literature in each country, and using indices and indicators on M&E capabilities. , to subsequently define analytical variables that allow the comparative study to be carried out, identify the similarities and divergences, and finally, generate conclusions and recommendations.