

# Preface

The April 2016 *Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere* was prepared by a team led by Hamid Faruqee and S. Pelin Berkmen under the overall direction and guidance of Alejandro Werner and Krishna Srinivasan. The team included Steve Brito, Carlos Caceres, Yan Carrière-Swallow, Marcos Chamon, Roberto Garcia-Saltos, Carlos Góes, Bertrand Gruss, Kotaro Ishi, Izabela Karpowicz, Genevieve Lindow, Nicolas E. Magud, Troy Matheson, Natalija Novta, Rania Papageorgiou, Andrea Pescatori, Fabiano Rodrigues Bastos, Daniel Rodríguez-Delgado, Udi Rosenhand, Issouf Samake, Fabian Valencia, Kristine Vitola, and Svetlana Vtyurina. Chapters 3 and 4 were prepared under the guidance of Marcos Chamon and Dora M. Iakova, respectively. Chapter 5 was led by Valerie Cerra and Alfredo Cuevas. In addition, Akito Matsumoto, Rodrigo Mariscal, Vanessa Diaz Montelongo, and Rachel Fan contributed to Chapter 1; Sebastian Acevedo, Allan Dizioli, Keiko Honjo, Ben Hunt, Iulia Teodoru, and Ehab Tawfik contributed to Chapter 2; Jorge Antonio Chan-Lau, Christina Daniel, Cheng Hoon Lim, Bennett Sutton, and Melesse Tashu contributed to Chapter 3; and Ana Ahijado, Flavia Barbosa, Diego Cerdeiro, Metodij Hadzi-Vaskov, and Fang Yang contributed to Chapter 5. Production assistance was provided by Maria Salome Gutierrez and Irina Sirbu. Joanne Creary Johnson of the Communications Department coordinated editing and production. Virginia Masoller and Lourdes Reviriego of the Corporate Services and Facilities Department led the production of the Spanish edition. This report reflects developments and staff projections through early March 2016.