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*The Latin America Competitiveness Review 2006* is a special project within the framework of the Global Competitiveness Network of the World Economic Forum.

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The terms *country* and *nation* as used in this report do not in all cases refer to a territorial entity that is a state as understood by international law and practice. The term covers well-defined, geographically self-contained economic areas that may not be states but for which statistical data are maintained on a separate and independent basis.

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