## **Preface**

The October 2015 Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere was prepared by a team led by Hamid Faruqee and Marcello Estevão under the overall direction and guidance of Alejandro Werner and Krishna Srinivasan. The team included Ali Alichi, Steve Brito, Carlos Caceres, Yan Carrière-Swallow, Bertrand Gruss, Dyna Heng, Kotaro Ishi, Anna Ivanova, Geoffrey Keim, Genevieve Lindow, Bogdan Lissovolik, Nicolas E. Magud, Rodrigo Mariscal, Koffie Nassar, Natalija Novta, Rania Papageorgiou, Uma Ramakrishnan, Fabiano Rodrigues Bastos, Udi Rosenhand, and Joyce Wong. In addition, Andrea Pescatori and Juan Solé contributed to Chapter 1, Ahmed El Ashram, Sebastian Acevedo, Ravi Balakrishnan, Arnold McIntyre, Alla Myrvoda, Anayochukwu Osueke, Julien Reynaud, and Marika Santoro contributed to Chapter 2, and Ishak Demir, André Meier, and Jaume Puig Forne contributed to Chapter 3. Production assistance was provided by Maria Salome Gutierrez and Irina Sirbu with support from Jermaine Ogaja. Joanne Creary Johnson of the Communications Department coordinated editing and production. This report reflects developments and staff projections through early September 2015.