



Volume 4 - Issue 4 Apr 2017

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ECLAC/GIZ PROJECT

SUPPORTING THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

MIGRATION

HOW IT AFFECTS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN



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Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS



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April Events

3-6

The sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

Santaigo, Chile
3 - 6 April

3-17

50th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

New York, United States
3 - 17 April 2017

5

UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) 2017 Partnership Forum

New York, United States
5 April 2017

26-28

Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development - 2017

Mexico City, Mexico
26 - 28 April 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Mar 31

ECLAC lays out framework for building a competitive Caribbean economy. Find out more at: <http://vrb.al/economic-framework>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Mar 15

Today marks six years since the start of war in Syria. ECLAC Caribbean staff members observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the Syrian people. #NotATarget



#NOTATARGET

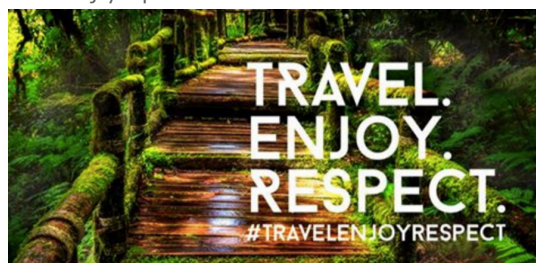
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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Mar 6

Tourism and agriculture account for 76% of GDP in the Caribbean, on average. Support sustainable tourism: #travelejoyrespect



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SUPPORTING THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A NEW ECLAC/GIZ COLLABORATION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the accompanying 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a shift in the development paradigm with the focus on achieving equality and dignity for all and fostering increased respect for the environment. Both the developed and developing countries have signed on to this universal commitment that promises to leave no one behind.

In advancing the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), is funding a new ECLAC programme entitled “Support for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

The Hummingbird recently sat down for a one on one with the Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit, Professor Abdullahi Abdulkadri, who is serving as the substantive focal point for the project in the Caribbean.

Q: What is the main objective of the project?

The broad objective of this project is to assist the region’s countries in incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their planning, management and monitoring processes, in accordance with their national and subregional priorities.

Q: From where does the need for this project arise?

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international platforms such as the SAMOA Pathway offer a great opportunity to shape the development path of the Caribbean. However, policies and programmes are often designed in the absence of the requisite data, and the lack of baseline measurements implies that monitoring and evaluation of progress on development agendas may not be evidence-based. With this in mind, this project is designed to facilitate evidence-based policy planning for sustainable development.

Q: What is the time duration of the project?

The project will be executed over a 22-month period, from September 2016 to June 2018.

Q: How is it anticipated that Caribbean countries will benefit from this initiative?

In the specific context of the Caribbean, the project will support the countries of the subregion in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through evidence-based policy planning.

Q: What types of activities does the project envisage in the Caribbean?

The programme entails a baseline study on evidence based policy planning, and an assessment of the institutional capacity needs of the National Statistical Systems of the Caribbean to produce data to support such planning. Symposia and workshops will be carried out to strengthen capacities in these areas in six Caribbean countries. This training will build on the findings of the Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the SDGs in national development planning, which took place in Kingston, Jamaica, in February 2017.

Q: What are the expected results of the project?

A: The project is expected to contribute to the formulation of data-informed policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development in the subregion. Furthermore, through the institutionalization of evidence-based policy planning, countries and civil society will be better positioned to assess progress in the attainment of the sustainable development goals and other internationally agreed development goals. ■

Capitalizing in on Heritage Tourism in Jamaica

Jamaica is seeking to capitalize on current opportunities to promote heritage tourism.

Thanks to funds allocated by the National Environment and Planning Agency under the National Protective Areas Project, the Seville Great House is getting a facelift.

Situated on a 301-acre property, the Seville Great House is regarded as one of Jamaica's most significant heritage sites. It includes the archaeological remains of the indigenous Amerindian (Taino) village of Maima, the 16th century Spanish settlement of Sevilla la Nueva, the post-1655 British sugar plantation known as New Seville, and the landscape and flora that existed during that time.

Operations Manager of the Seville Great House and Heritage Park, Claudette Anderson, said the aim of the renovation is to encourage more visitors to the site and to promote wider knowledge and appreciation of this significant historical site.

"This is like a gem of Jamaica, just to come here and know the rich history of the site and its importance to the Jamaican people, this in itself is a selling point," Anderson said.

She added that there are plans to have the Great House and Heritage Park inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

"We are about to embark on a project to get it listed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. So, in a matter of three years at most, we should have the process up and running to get it on the World Heritage Site," she said, noting that the site has received international recognition having been placed on UNESCO's Tentative List.

A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties being considered by Member States for nomination to the World Heritage List (WHL).

Between 80,000 and 90,000 persons visit the Great House every year to experience the Jamaican culture.

Apart from viewing the Georgian architecture, visitors can participate in a number of activities, including river tubing, jet lining through the wooded areas, and plantation tours to places of interest. General Manager James Robertson said tourists want to see "that extraordinary tangible history of the Georgian period" when they visit Jamaica. He also revealed plans to restore a sugar factory on the site.

"We want to tell the story of sugar and rum. We want people to be able to walk through the building and see huge pictures, storyboards, art and understand how these things were made and how they were treated and processed," he said. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

International Women's Week in Trinidad and Tobago

Above: Portraits of women of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



For the first time in history, Trinidad and Tobago embraced a week-long series of awareness raising events in celebration of International Women's Week (IWW) from the 6th to the 11th of March 2017. Spear-headed by the local entity, 'Women. Everywhere', founded by two young women, Adeline Grégoire and Ardene Sirjoo, the week-long series of activities was supported by multiple organizations, which – in addition to ECLAC Caribbean - included The Alliance Française of Trinidad and Tobago, The Shelter for Battered Women and Children, Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO and the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD). In commemorating this important milestone, ECLAC Caribbean's Associate Gender Affairs Officer, Lydia Rosa Gény, was actively engaged in many of the initiatives that took place during the course of the week.



International Women's Week

Events organized included a social media campaign #IamBoldForChange, talks and panel discussions, which were held to recognize and celebrate dedicated efforts towards female empowerment and improvements in the lives of women and girls, and a networking event and launch for female professionals, along with aspiring and accomplished entrepreneurs. In addition, film screenings, fundraisers, special guest readings with female writers, poets and spoken word artistes, and a health and wellness workshop were also organized. The IWW culminated on 11 March, with the Women's Rights March and Rally.

On 8 March, Lydia participated as speaker on a lively panel discussion on the theme, 'Representation of Women in the Media: Image IS Everything'. She noted that over the last few months, media reports, especially from newspapers in the region have portrayed women mainly as a vulnerable group. Abuse and violence against women have also recently gained attention at the national and regional levels, encompassing different forms, practices, perceptions and assumptions from physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse, with the targeted group often being adolescent or young women. Lydia emphasized that the increase in awareness on the relevant societal issues affecting Trinidad and Tobago was positive, as it exposed the need to create the conditions to address these issues and identify solutions to prevent the risks

that they pose to women. She noted that women in general lack visibility and representation despite their numbers and their contribution to society.

In this context, Lydia put forth a number of recommendations to address these issues, some of which include the following:

“
...women in general lack visibility and representation despite their numbers and their contribution to society.
”

Lydia Rosa Gény - Associate Gender Affairs Officer, ECLAC Caribbean.

”

- Member States should adopt national laws and policies to combat violence against women who work in the media, considering the nature of these spheres and the potential risks of the job, which can cause women to be more vulnerable. This is necessary to ensure the protection of journalists and continued freedom of the press.
- Member States should also formulate policies aimed at eliminating sexist and discriminatory content in the media and train communications professionals correspondingly to promote gender sensitive reporting.
- Member States should assess the extent of sexual abuse and harassment, and address sexist and discriminatory content in the media, especially on the internet, and strengthen the modalities to detect and punish perpetrators.
- Member States should also be encouraged to collaborate with all stakeholders concerned, such as employers' associations, trade unions, human rights and women's organizations, universities, research institutions and the media, in order to disseminate the agreements and recommendations of regional and international mechanisms that they have agreed to comply with.

Lydia also noted that governments, international and regional mechanisms, the media, academic institutions and civil society organisations, as well as women and men in general, need to work together to help promote a change in attitudes, where women should no longer be looked upon as a vulnerable group of society but as rights-holders who actively and meaningfully contribute to it.

Lydia informed those gathered, who were mostly media practitioners, that ECLAC Caribbean is working on promoting women's empowerment and analyzing and raising awareness on gender equality among Caribbean stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector and the media.

This, she explained, is being done through the organization's support to countries of the Caribbean in implementing the regional gender agenda, which encompasses commitments made by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean on women's rights,





* Photo showing ECLAC Caribbean staff members and the founders of the Women Everywhere, Adeline Grégoire (top row, second from right) and Ardene Sirjoo (left of top row).

autonomy and gender equality, at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The latest of these agreements is the Montevideo Strategy adopted in October 2016.

The Montevideo Strategy sets out 74 measures across 10 pillars, including pillar 6 on communication, which is considered a pillar for implementing gender equality policies and consolidating women's autonomy.

ECLAC is also the responsible UN entity for monitoring the implementation of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals throughout the Caribbean. Women's empowerment is recognized as a pre-condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are at the core of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the SDGs include a transformative stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's rights (Goal 5), which addresses structural barriers to women's empowerment, along with important targets on gender equality in other Goals. On the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March, ECLAC held a workshop to advance the mainstreaming of gender

awareness in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile. All ECLAC offices across and Latin American and Caribbean region participated.

ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, pointed out that women were demanding an end to violence, discrimination, the excessive burden of unpaid work and gender bias in social protection, as well as progress toward an active role in decision making. "Equality of rights is a prerequisite for true democracy," she stressed.

She noted that progress with the rights of women will also help achieve the other SDGs. For that reason, the organization is working alongside the region's countries to incorporate the gender perspective into national plans and budgets, into the capacity to generate statistics and the results thereof and into the discussion about the implementation and funding of the 2030 Agenda. ■

Note: For more information please see <http://women-everywhere.com>

* <http://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/13/en/documents/montevideo-strategy-implementation-regional-gender-agenda-within-sustainable-development>

The
Female Presence
at ECLAC Caribbean

To celebrate International Women's Day, whose theme this year is 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work', The Hummingbird is privileged to share with its readers an insider's view into the dedicated and inspired contribution of the women who work at ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

Women make-up just about half of ECLAC Caribbean's current workforce, and are represented at the senior management level by the Director, Diane Quarless, as well as by the Coordinator of the Administration Unit, Jeanette Song'e. Women are actively engaged in various capacities at ECLAC Caribbean. From management, administration, human resources, development planning, journalism, library, conference and document production specialist, general services, assessment of socioeconomic impacts of disasters, data collection and analysis, training, to economic and social studies, female staff are everywhere and responsible for addressing a variety of issues that covers 29 countries in the region. The importance of recognizing and giving credit to the outstanding work carried out by female staff members is well summarized by Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, according to whom women are very hard working, strategic in their thinking and are committed to completing whatever they are doing to the best of their ability. At ECLAC Caribbean, women have contributed with their multidisciplinary professional profiles, expertise and leadership to foster teamwork and good relationships in our work environment.

We all can attest to these words, and believe that women should be celebrated since





they make a huge contribution to the work of the office, and especially to the completion of ECLAC's work programme which guides the day-to-day activities of every staff member.

Like the vast majority of women in the workforce anywhere in the world, staff members at ECLAC often find themselves having to manage multiple roles and diverse responsibilities in the professional and personal spheres, which may include unpaid and informal domestic care, and, which may range from acting as a supervisor to being a mother, or from drafting a policy recommendation to checking their children's homework. These are very different and highly demanding tasks, necessary for the fulfilment of work life balance.

Being a mother is a major accomplishment in itself for some women and there are so many challenges that they face, especially when they work outside of the home and wish to fulfil a steady work/ life balance. Fortunately, these needs are well recognized at ECLAC Caribbean. As recalled by mother, yoga instructor and Human Resources Assistant, Joanne D'Abadie – who, with some 38 years of experience, is currently the longest serving member of staff, with about 38 years of experience – "I had my ups and downs but I had strong family support which was vital since my husband worked overseas for many months during the year. So it was like I was a single mother most of the time."

These comments underscore the importance of being cognisant at all times of the added roles and responsibilities of women that have to be combined with their professional career. "We must pay attention to the challenges that women in particular face because you certainly can't do good work if you have uncertainties at home", Dillon noted.

"I never felt women were treated differently to men, and I have worked directly with all the past Directors, all except one of whom was male," Joanne added.

She recalls her experience with former female Director Len Ishmael who, she says, revolutionised the path for women in the office through her sheer intelligence and commitment to a solid work/life balance. Both she and Len used to commit their lunch hours to getting out of the office to avidly exercise, several times a week.

ECLAC has adopted the Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender 2013-2017, which is the common denominator for mainstreaming gender into activities in all UN headquarters and national offices. From Staff trainings on gender to programme and project formulation, design, budgeting and implementation, our work has incorporated a gender perspective in a variety of ways ranging from gender disaggregated information in studies and data collection, to gender balanced representation in meetings and in technical and substantive support provided to Member States. In addition, flexible working arrangements, salary adjustments for dependents, among other measures, have been implemented to help staff balance work and family responsibilities. While there is of course always room for improvement, female staff from different professional categories at ECLAC told The Hummingbird that they are grateful that the office has taken steps in the right direction towards improving gender sensitivity in our work environment, gender equality and women's empowerment.

As summarised by one of ECLAC's newest female staff members, "I am thankful to be in an environment where one is not confined or restricted to a particular role." ■



ECLAC disaster training benefits

11 Caribbean countries



As part of its ongoing efforts to sensitize and support Caribbean and Latin American countries on disaster assessment, ECLAC Caribbean recently took its expertise in this area to Barbados, with the support of the CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

In Barbados, representatives of national disaster agencies from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, participated in a seminar entitled 'Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Building'. This workshop brings the number of Caribbean countries that have received ECLAC training to 11 over the period November 2015 to March 2017, the other countries being Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

These trainings have highlighted that the level of disaster preparedness varies from country to country. Associate Environment Officer, Leda Peralta, noted that, as a region, Latin America and the Caribbean has traditionally had a reactive approach to disasters, and has therefore not focused on preparedness and risk identification.

In this regard, the training sessions have proved invaluable in sensitising public officials on the importance of gathering sectoral data in a consistent fashion, as this is one of the first steps towards identifying risks and vulnerabilities, and addressing such challenges in an effort to reduce the risk of disaster.

"We have noticed a trend that countries are adopting a more proactive approach, with risk reduction and financial protection receiving more attention and focused efforts for improvement," Peralta stated. She noted that by widening the approach to disasters, the region is moving towards a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk management that incorporates all stages of the process, strengthens synergies among disaster/emergency offices and incorporates activities in all sectors.

In keeping with this, the Barbados seminar facilitated discussions on a number of timely issues, including the role of planning in disaster risk management, its impact on the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the role of risk transfer in enhancing fiscal sustainability in the Caribbean.



Workshop for Tobago film-makers

Having just wrapped up its first International Women's Week, Trinidad and Tobago is now getting ready for its next big cultural event, organized by the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff). The ttff is inviting all Tobago-based film-makers to sign up for its first-ever one-day, intensive film development workshop to be held on 22 April, as part of the inaugural Tobago Jazz Film Festival. The Tobago Jazz Film Festival will be held from 21 to 25 April.

During the workshop, 15 participants will get the opportunity to strengthen their film-making skills under the guidance of experienced film professionals including Tobagonian film-maker, Jared Prima, former UWI film school lecturer and founder of the ttff, Dr Bruce Paddington, and screenwriter, actor and director, Tony Hall. Training will include the basics of film production, scriptwriting, camera and sound.

According to co-ordinator of the festival, Melvina Hazard, the training "is for anyone working in a film-related field, whether in a video production house, TV or as an independent film-maker. Tobago has a growing pool of talented visual artists and film-makers, and we are pleased to be providing this opportunity to help further increase industry skills." While there is no fee for participation, film-makers must submit their CV to submit@ttffilmfestival.com no later than April 10. Selected participants will be notified within three days of the close of submissions.

The trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) celebrates films from and about the Caribbean and its diaspora, as well as from world cinema, through an annual festival and year-round screenings. In addition, the ttff seeks to facilitate the growth of Caribbean cinema by offering a wide-ranging industry programme and networking opportunities. ■

The seminar also included a two-day training component, which enhanced the capacities of disaster management personnel in the Caribbean to assess the effects and impacts of disasters, and guide resilient reconstruction processes.

The ECLAC team shared the experience of various regional governments in the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in public investment and other disaster risk management initiatives and best practices. Additionally, country experiences were used during the presentations to clarify the application and utility of the methodology.

Peralta noted that "the region has important instruments such as CDEMA, CCRIF SPC and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), to support disaster response and disaster risk management. We have observed that national and regional disaster agencies have standards and protocols of response. The challenge is in the reconstruction and reduction of risk." ■

CARIBBEAN Tech Event in Barbados

While building up its disaster assessment capacity, Barbados is also intent on catching the flow of the latest telecommunications development. Moreover, the 13th regional meeting of the Caribbean Network Operators Group, or CaribNOG, will take place in Barbados from April 18 to 19, 2017. CaribNOG is the region's first volunteer-based community of network engineers, computer security experts and tech aficionados.

"At CaribNOG 13, we're expecting a large turnout of network operators, telecommunications regulators, academics, Internet service providers, engineering and computer science

students, special interest groups and government representatives, drawn from across the region and around the world," revealed Bevil Wooding, founder of CaribNOG and Internet Strategist with Packet Clearing House.

Since its establishment in 2010, the community's unique spirit has made it one of the most highly anticipated events on the regional calendar. For Caribbean uber-geeks, CaribNOG's twice-yearly meetings make it easily distinguishable from other regional tech conferences.

Major global Internet organizations also look forward to the gatherings because they provide a rare opportunity to meet

and socialize with the community of professionals responsible for the Caribbean's computer networks.

CaribNOG13 follows on the heels of a very successful CaribNOG12, held in Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, as part of Internet Week Sint Maarten. At CaribNOG 12, some 50 industry professionals from Curacao, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and USA came together from October 24 to 26 to exchange information, trade perspectives and share experiences. Registration details and event information are available on the official CaribNOG website caribnog.org. ■

How migration affects the economic empowerment of women in the Caribbean

Women worldwide are as much on the move as are men. In 2015, almost half (48%) of 244 million international migrants were women. The implications of female migration, whether independent or with their families, are diverse and complex, whether at the individual, household and community level.

Cognizant of this reality, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and ECLAC Caribbean have embarked on a study of the mutual relations between migration and women's empowerment with the aim to facilitate the debate among stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners and civil society in the Caribbean region on the role of migration as a means of empowerment for women.

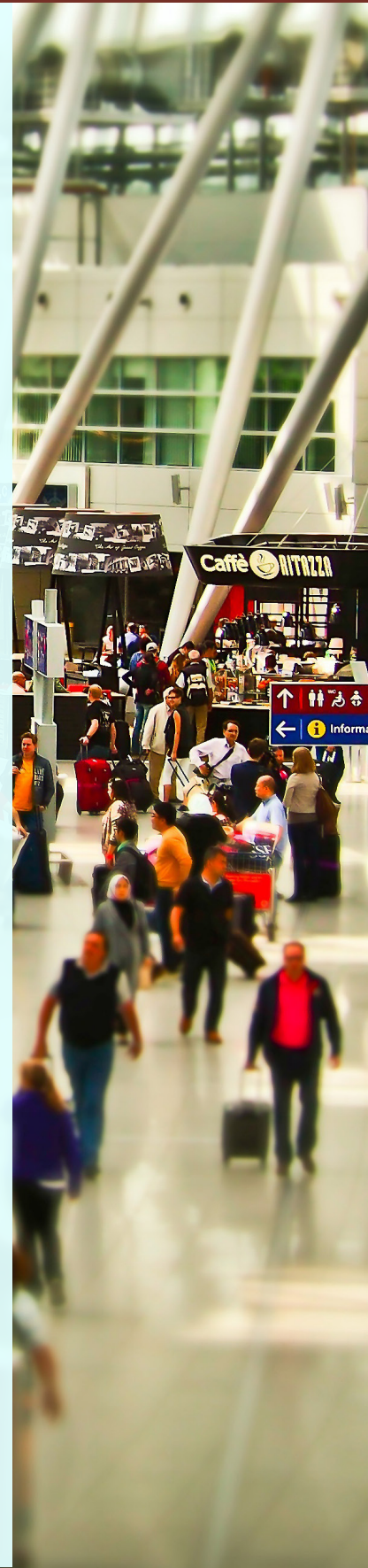
The study, which will be available later this year, aims to improve our understanding of the links and interrelations between migration, women's empowerment and development, including the role of gender inequalities in defining the nature and the results of individual migration pathways, and the impact that migration may have on the empowerment of women and girls that are either moving themselves or staying in the country of origin and coping with migration of their family members.

Empowerment can only happen when both women and men have the

ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth and sustainable development processes in ways that not only recognize, but value their contributions.

Persistent gender inequalities both at origin and destination are reflected in the patterns of the migration process, and are often exacerbated when female vulnerability increases along the journey due to, for example, unscrupulous recruitment, multiple discrimination in the workplace and new community, and pressures of coping with transnational family arrangements.

The study will address the importance of mainstreaming gender and migration into legal and policy framework, by ensuring that regional and national laws and regulations are in full compliance with States' obligations as parties of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Convention). It will also consider the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW), relevant ILO conventions and other core international and regional human rights instruments and standards, including the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. ■



STUDY ON TRADE AGREEMENTS

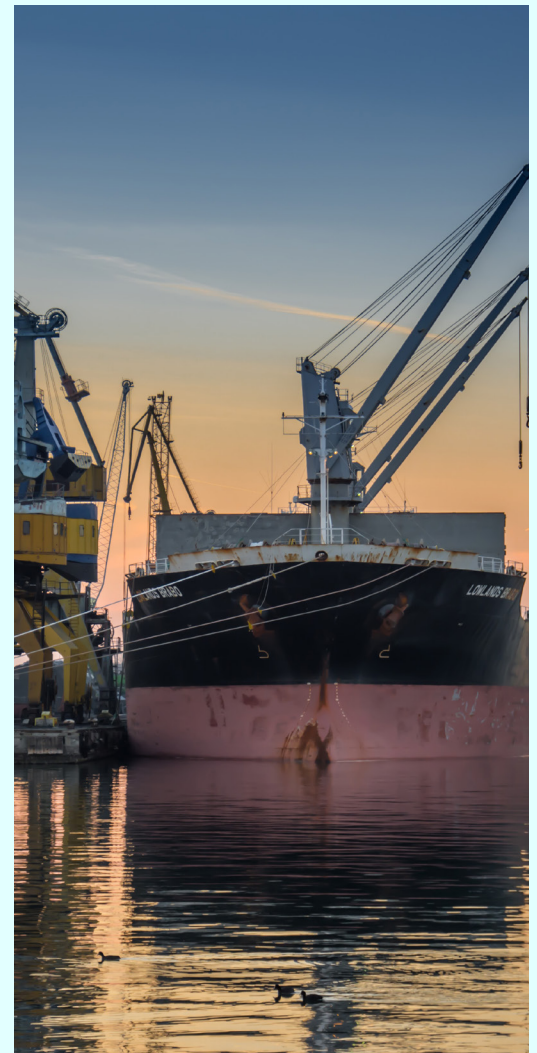
An upcoming ECLAC Caribbean study will explore the basis for arguments advocating free trade, while reconciling the issue of longstanding preferences and their role played in the economic development of Caribbean economies. The paper will also examine the extent to which the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) has delivered the trade-related development gains on which it was originally premised, as well as the region's poor trade performance with a view to unmasking the crucial elements of a policy framework for making trade an engine of growth and sustainable development of Caribbean economies. Entitled 'Monitoring trade agreements and the progress of regional integration for the sustainable development of Caribbean economies: Towards making Trade a Vehicle of Growth and Sustainable Development', the study will explore the view, from a subregional perspective, that free trade within a regional bloc may negatively impact countries; where the main benefits of freer trade may accrue to a larger, more efficient country, which dominates trade in the region.

In particular, the research will examine the extent to which import surges in the smaller, less efficient countries may cause harm to the domestic industries of the importing country.

The study will also highlight how today's global trading environment has evolved into a complex, 'spaghetti bowled' rules-based trading system, characterized by

an array of regulations regarding quality, safety and other standards; rules of origin; competition policy; government procurement; trade facilitation; dispute settlement; the environment; investment; and transfer of technology, among other areas.

It is expected that the study will produce recommendations for inducing necessary production and export diversification, as well as for allowing the subregion to tap into regional and global value-chains, which are much needed in order to place the subregion on a faster growth trajectory. ■



STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Antigua and Barbuda

MAJOR PROGRESS MADE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

- Mar 11th -

Eleven solar installations were made on the small private island of Jumby Bay, in the north of Antigua, by the renewable energy provider PV Energy Limited. The roof-mounted systems were installed on different buildings, such as offices, workshops and a desalination plant in the center of the island. The implementation of ground- and roof-mounted solar systems with a total capacity of 404 kWp represents a crucial step towards a sustainable and economic energy supply for the island.

US\$45.9 MILLION LOAN TO UPGRADE ROADS

- Mar 18th -

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved a loan of US\$45.9 million to assist the government of Antigua and Barbuda with the development and management of a reliable and sustainable road sector. The loan will be used to rehabilitate 27.76 km of existing roads: Anchorage Road, Sir Sydney Walling Highway, Old Parham Road and Valley Road (north). The four roads to be upgraded under the project are currently used by 37 percent of the population of Antigua and Barbuda on a daily basis. These roads were chosen based on current and projected usage and potential to contribute to economic development.



Cuba

PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS TO CARICOM

- Mar 14th -

Cuba's Foreign Trade and Investment Minister, Mr. Rodrigo Malmierca, gave the assistant to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Mr. Collin Granderson, an agreement that extends the number of products with preferential tariffs. The Director of Commercial Policy for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Cuban Ministry of Trade and Foreign Investment (MINCEX), Mr. José Chaple, said Cuba included 340 new products to those approved in 2000, while CARICOM granted the same to 80 Cuban products.

FIRST 7,000 TABLETS AND LAPTOPS

- Mar 25th -

The Industrial Company for Informatics, Communications and Electronics (Spanish: GEDEME) has assembled the first 3,500 laptops and 3,583 tablets for Cuban government agencies and organizations. The initiative is part of an effort by the Cuban government to continue expanding, within the limit of financial constraints, the secure computerization of local society.



Trinidad and Tobago

CDB ANNOUNCES US\$40 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

- Mar 21st -

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has announced US\$40 million in funding for poverty reduction in eight countries in the Caribbean region, through the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF). The resources will support improved access to quality education; water and sanitation; basic community access and drainage; livelihoods enhancement and human resource development services in low-income and vulnerable communities under the ninth phase of BNTF (BNTF 9). Countries that will benefit are: Belize; Dominica; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica; Saint Lucia; St Vincent and the Grenadines; and Suriname.

MEXICO COMMITS US\$5 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT HOSPITAL

- Mar 25th -

The Government of Mexico has informed the Government of Dominica that it is committing US\$5 million (EC\$13.5 million) for the construction of the Marigot Hospital. Dominica's Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit and Mexico's Ambassador to Dominica, Mr. Luis Manuel Moreno, met at the Prime Minister's Office in Roseau on 24 March 2017.

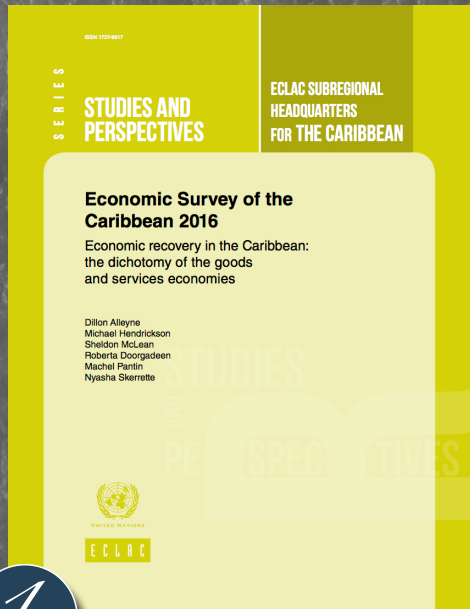


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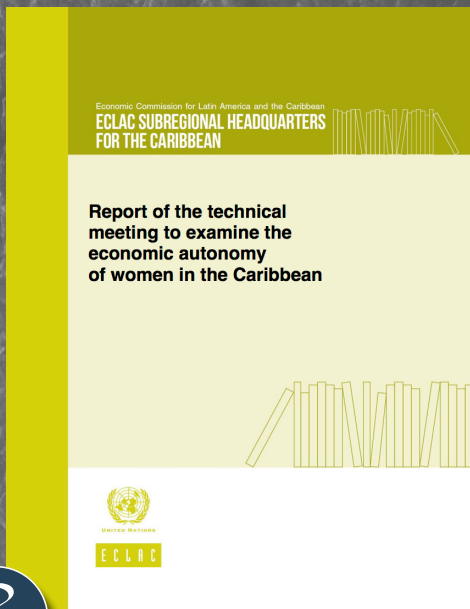
Recent Publications



1.

Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2016

Economic recovery in the Caribbean: the dichotomy of the goods and services economies



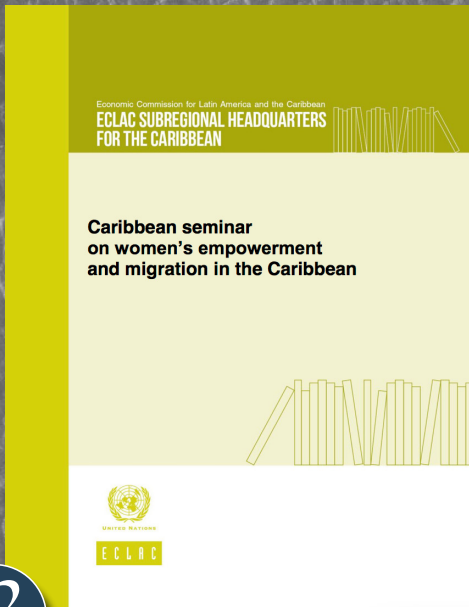
3.

Report of the technical meeting to examine the economic autonomy of women in the Caribbean

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Caribbean seminar
on women's empowerment and
migration in the Caribbean

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts
on the occasion of international
observances:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

8/3



International Women's Day

"Significant gender inequality and discrimination persist in the job market and in corporate practices. These are mostly reflected in persistent gender pay gaps, sexual division of labour, and unequal distribution of time vis-à-vis domestic and unpaid work – all of which undermine women's opportunities for personal and career development."

#DirectorsTake

<http://vrb.al/directors-take>



5 Events to check out in Nevis in 2017



Nevis has recently released a list of activities for visitors to enjoy on the island throughout 2017. The calendar offers something for travelers seeking active vacations and relaxing getaways alike.

1. First among the festivities is the 16th Bente Weber Memorial Swim on March 26. Swimmers of all skill levels can join in a 2.4-mile, cross channel swim across the “narrows” to finish at Cockleshell Beach in Saint Kitts. This year, the event is partnering with the Special Olympics organization of Saint Kitts and Nevis to raise awareness and funds for the organization.
2. Next up, in April, the island will welcome internationally known blues artists to Oualie Beach for a two-night music festival on 7 and 8 April. The Nevis Music Festival line-up will feature soul blues funk artist AJ Ghent, multi-instrumentalist Deanna Bogart and boogie-woogie pianist Ben Waters. They will be joined by several other performers, including Nevis’ own blues to gospel diva, Denise Gordon; Britain’s award-decorated bluesman, Ian Siegal; and uber blues rock guitarist, Simon McBride.
3. In July, the island will pay tribute to tropical fruit with the Nevis Mango & Food Festival. The festival promises to bring together well known chefs from around the world, who in conjunction with local chefs craft unique mango-inspired dishes.
At the end of July, the island will host its event known as Culturama – an annual celebration which marks the emancipation of enslaved people in the 1830s in Nevis.
4. Families and individuals looking for a challenge will find one in September in the Nevis Marathon and Running Festival. Held on 9 September, the competitions are ideal for beginners and seasoned runners alike, with distances of 5K, 10K, half-marathon and full marathon.
5. Finally, in November, the island will host the Nevis Triathlon, which draws competitors from all over the world. The scenic course includes a swim in the crystal Caribbean waters, a cycle circumventing the entire island, and a run on a course that includes road, trail and beach. This year the race takes place on 11 November.

Welcome Ms Adanna Cudjoe

Trinidadian Adanna Cudjoe has joined us as a short-term Research Assistant attached to the Statistics and Social Development Unit (SSDU). She holds a BSc in Sociology with a minor in Psychology as well as a Diploma in Event Management. In addition to this, she is presently studying for her Bachelor of Law degree.



Adanna has worked in both the private and public sectors with a banking organisation and an educational institution. In her private time, she enjoys singing and dancing, but prefers not to do this too much in public.

When she was offered the opportunity to serve within a UN organisation, it was the realisation of a lifelong desire. "In my opinion, the UN manifests and is aligned with my core values and will aid in my personal growth and development. I believe my experience with ECLAC Caribbean will increase my knowledge and enhance my skill set," she stated. In terms of facing difficulties in life, Adanna said, "I see challenges as lessons that serve as an impetus in developing into a better version of oneself. I have always felt that one of my purposes in life is to help others in some way and I truly hope to connect this purpose to the work that I'm currently undertaking in the Statistical and Social Development Unit. " ■

Welcome Ms Colleen Skeete

Colleen Skeete joined the ECLAC Caribbean family in March 2017 as Team Assistant in the Statistics and Social Development Unit. A national of Trinidad and Tobago, she has served in both the private and public sectors in the areas of administrative support, customer service, marketing and sales.



In addition to her high school diploma she is the holder of a B.Sc in Management Studies and International Relations from the UWI St Augustine Campus as well as certificates in Spanish proficiency from the UWI's Centre for Language Learning; Supervisory Management, Event Management and Human Resources Management from UWI's Open Campus.

She is presently completing her MSc in Strategic Leadership and Management, following which she plans to pursue courses in project management and strategic planning. On a less formal note, Colleen is also learning to swim and sometimes volunteers as a trainee tutor at ALTA, (Adult Literacy Teachers Association).

Colleen believes that working in both the private and public sector has allowed her to achieve a somewhat holistic development. She likes going to the beach, shopping, listening to music, reading, and watching television – her favourite series right now is 'Scorpion'. ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN

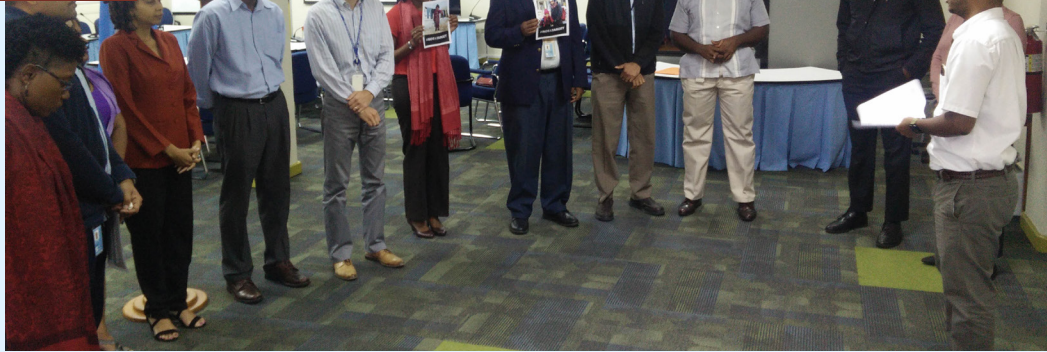
Family

Moment of silence for Syria conflict victims

As a show of support for the victims of the conflict affecting Syria for the past six years, members of staff joined UN colleagues around the globe in observing a moment of silence on 15 March 2017 for those lost in this ongoing human tragedy.

The goal at all UN duty stations was to have a collective approach in order to give voice to those silenced by the conflict and to send a message to Member States and world leaders that urgent resolution is needed.

Here is what we did.





Photos of the Syrian Children who's stories were featured in the #NotATarget campaign.



Alcapurria

Alcapurrias are savoury fried Puerto Rican meat fritters. Ingredients for fillings and dough used for alcapurrias can vary, but this food is most commonly made with green bananas and yam for the dough and ground beef or pork for the filling.

Ingredients:

- 4 green bananas or 3 green plantains**
- 4 pounds yam or eddoes**
- 1 tbsp salt**
- 1 package of annatto seasoning, also called achiote**

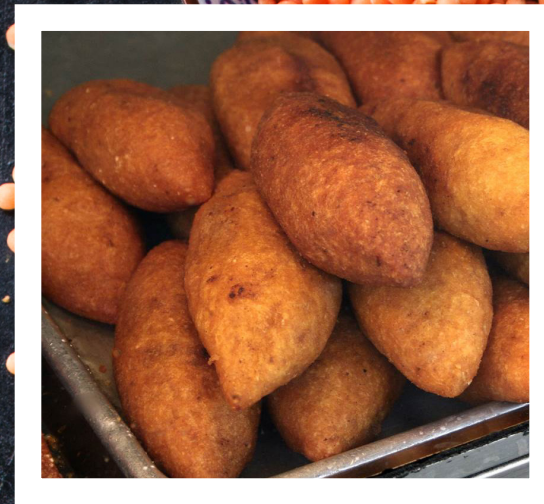
Filling Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef**
- 2 tbsp sofrito**
- Chopped vegetables (optional)**

Note: You can use other meats in place of part or all of the ground beef. For example, you could use ground pork, salt pork, ham or fish. You can also use any sofrito recipe that you prefer.

Preparation:

1. Start by preparing your filling. First, cook your ground beef and sofrito together in a skillet. Once the ground beef is finished cooking, take the skillet off the heat and allow it to cool. If you are adding any chopped vegetables to your filling, cook those in the skillet before adding the ground beef.
2. It's now time to make the dough. If you are using whole plantains or green bananas and yam, peel both and grate them by hand or with a food processor. You can also use pre-frozen grated yam to save time. Next, grind these ingredients with a food processor to create a fine dough. Finally, add your achiote seasoning and mix until combined. Chill the dough in the refrigerator.
3. Set a large piece of parchment paper or foil on the countertop and grease it lightly with oil. Use your hand or a ladle to scoop out about one-quarter of a cup of the dough onto the surface. With your hand or a spoon, make a basin in the middle of the pile of dough where the filling will go. Put about a tablespoon of the filling into the basin and fold the dough over from the sides to enclose the filling. If necessary, add some more dough over the top. Repeat this process to make more alcapurrias until you have used up the remainder of the dough and filling.
4. You are now ready to cook the alcapurrias. While deep frying is often preferred, you can also pan-fry alcapurrias. Pre-heat the oil and carefully put the alcapurrias into the oil. Fry for about seven minutes on each side, watching for the fritters to turn a rich golden brown color. Finally, remove the alcapurrias from the oil and drain them on a paper towel until they are cool enough to eat.





International Aruba Piano Festival

An enchanting, richly rewarding and quite unforgettable classical experience featuring some of world's most acclaimed musicians is what is in store for persons attending the International Aruba Symphony Festival (APF), on 20-29 July 2017 in Oranjestad, Aruba.

The festival was established to enhance the cultural environment of Aruba by presenting internationally acclaimed classical musicians to audiences from Aruba and overseas. The natural beauty of Aruba along with its friendly people, wonderful climate and tropical ambiance provides a unique backdrop for the festival's concerts and events.

Entering its 10th year in 2017, the festival has developed an international reputation for its distinguished artists and innovative programming across a range of chamber music styles. Besides the core chamber concert series, the festival also features other segments

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