



CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

ECLAC MEETING CALLS FOR
FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS TO
ENHANCE WOMEN'S AUTONOMY

GENDER POLICY

SAINT LUCIA TO DEVELOP NEW
GENDER POLICY

CARIBBEAN RESILIENCE

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ADDRESSES
PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE IN THE
CARIBBEAN



ECLAC

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Cover Photo: Hon. Frederick Stephenson (Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, the Family, Gender, Persons with Disabilities and Youth Affairs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) delivers opening address at the Caribbean preparatory meeting of the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and 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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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine

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July Events

11 World Population Day
11 July 2019

15 World Youth Skills Day
15 July 2019

18 Nelson Mandela International Day
18 July 2019

30 International Day of Friendship
30 July 2019

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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jun 17

End extreme poverty. Fight inequality and injustice. Fix climate change. Whoa! bit.ly/lazyguideUN



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Photo: Group photo of the participants in technical assistance on national gender policy development

SAINT LUCIA TO DEVELOP NATIONAL GENDER POLICY

ECLAC Caribbean is providing technical assistance to Saint Lucia to support the development of a national gender policy statement and strategy. The objective is to improve the human capacity of the country's Department of Gender Relations and assist the Government in mainstreaming gender in national planning, policies and data.

2020 will be a pivotal year for accelerating the promotion of gender equality and the autonomy of all women and girls in the Caribbean and throughout the world and this is because the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) will be observed in 2020. At the regional and subregional level, several initiatives will be undertaken prior to the Conference to enable in-depth progress to be made on the distinct dimensions of gender inequality.

Together with the Montevideo

Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework, the two frameworks encourage gender equality at the national level. They also underscore the benefit of gender data and statistics to identify progress made and challenges that still remain in addressing gender inequalities.

In this regard, Saint Lucia has focused on improving the capacity of its Department of Gender Relations, through the development of policies and tools to monitor and evaluate its progress towards gender equality.

In July 2019, in addition to conducting a review of the Montevideo Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, Saint Lucia will also present, for the first time, its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the

theme of "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

Saint Lucia has a history of demonstrating leadership, namely at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, where, along with other small island developing states, it spearheaded the effort to limit long-term global temperature increase to 1.5 C°. The country's efforts to support gender mainstreaming places Saint Lucia as a pioneer not only in climate action but also in gender affairs.

To date, only six Caribbean countries (Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica and Suriname) have adopted a national gender equality plan. These plans are guiding tools by the government for implementing measures for achieving gender equality. They provide a roadmap on the inclusion of a gender perspective in national and local development plans and programmes. ■



JAMAICA TO ESTABLISH COUNTRY'S LARGEST SINGLE PENSION PLAN

The Parliament of Jamaica recently passed the Tourism Workers Pension Bill, which seeks to establish a pension scheme for hospitality industry workers.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said the scheme will be the largest single pension plan in Jamaica and, arguably, the Caribbean, and a landmark development for the country's workforce.

"It will involve in excess of 300,000 workers which will represent one-fifth of the total workforce of Jamaica. That accumulation of affordable capital will present an opportunity for investment and for capital distribution for all sorts of development in the country," he said.

The Minister said the Government is "excited about the prospect of Jamaica offering to the world, a model of social security for the workers of the tourism industry".

He further noted that it represents government's commitment to the social market arrangement, which aims to ensure that the appropriate legislation and regulations are developed to protect the vulnerable.

Bartlett argued that the Bill and, by extension, the scheme is coming at time when the sector is experiencing unprecedented growth.

"Globally, the trends are there that 1.4 billion visitors are going across borders; last year, they spent US\$1.7 trillion in more than 200 countries. You recall that here, in Jamaica, we broke all records, and last year, we had US\$3.3 billion earned from just over 4.3 million visitors," he said. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC meeting calls for fostering partnerships to

ENHANCE

WOMEN'S AUTONOMY

by 2030 in the Caribbean

Government officials and experts from across the Caribbean recently called for fostering partnerships to enhance women's autonomy in order to achieve gender equality in the context of the Caribbean's changing economic scenarios. This call was made during the subregional preparatory meeting of the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Photo:

Participants at the Caribbean preparatory meeting of the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

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ECLAC meeting calls for fostering partnerships to enhance women's autonomy by 2030 in the Caribbean

The event was organized by ECLAC Caribbean in partnership with UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and with 18 ECLAC member countries, including Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and Uruguay, as well as members from civil society organizations and academia.

Addressing the high-level meeting, the current President of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, invited the audience to reflect on the contributions of Caribbean countries towards the full implementation of the Montevideo Strategy.

Welcoming government officials and experts from across the Caribbean, Gaiety Pargass, Senior Legal Adviser in the Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, said that "over the past five years, Trinidad and Tobago has strengthened its legal, policy and programmatic frameworks in its efforts to achieve gender equality, more specifically its initiatives towards the dismantling of structural barriers that impede gender equality".

To strengthen the autonomy of women in decision making processes across the Caribbean, senior government, UN and regional organization representatives, non-governmental organization officials and civil society leaders discussed the importance of implementing effective measures to eliminate gender-based violence and to increase women's access to political institutions, in addition

to creating new employment opportunities for women, reducing poverty and addressing the vulnerabilities of women to climate change and natural disasters.

The meeting also provided a venue to celebrate the Caribbean Girls Hack 2019 Hackathon initiative, and to celebrate its winners. The initiative aimed at engaging young girls in interactive, fun and problem-solving experiences using technology, whilst empowering them to pursue studies and careers in ICT.

Other highlight of the meeting were the presentations delivered by country representatives from the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Turks and Caicos Islands, who illustrated the progress made and challenges faced at the national level in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years after its adoption, and the Regional Gender Agenda, known as the 'Montevideo Strategy'.

The Strategy is a political and technical instrument that supports the implementation and strengthening of multidimensional and comprehensive public policies that ensure the fulfilment of human rights and women's autonomy and the achievement of gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Discussions also centred on a number of challenges, including slow economic growth, rising poverty, a demographic changes and shifts in family structure and composition, and the demise of the prevailing development pattern, which has brought rising inequality and environmental crisis.

The meeting was an opportunity to identify the new priorities for the subregion if gender equality is to be achieved by 2030, and focused on concrete solutions to such challenges as financing gender equality programmes and plans through partnerships, fostering male

“

“by actively pursuing gender mainstreaming our nations can clearly identify issues negatively impacting all sectors of our everyday lives...”

Hon. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister

”

engagement and youth participation for a greater impact on future generations.

The analysis was enriched by the outcomes of the Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in National Sustainable Development Planning, which was held on the eve of the subregional preparatory meeting, and which focused on the tools, methodologies and strategic approaches for mainstreaming gender in national development planning. Participants also benefited from an interactive learning session with the presentations of the country representatives of Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago on their progress made in mainstreaming gender in national development planning.

Addressing the Workshop, the Hon. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, noted that “by actively pursuing gender mainstreaming our nations can clearly identify issues negatively impacting all sectors of our everyday

lives and position citizens to become active contributors and promoters of national development strategies”.

The preparatory meeting also discussed preparations for the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held later this year at ECLAC headquarters, in Santiago, Chile, during which the Caribbean will be presenting recommendations regarding public policies to advance gender equality and women’s autonomy. ■

Photo: Group photo of participants at the Caribbean preparatory meeting of the XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean





ANTIGUA-BARBUDA IMPLEMENTS ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR DIVING AND SNORKELLING

The Reef-World Foundation – the international coordinators of Green Fins – recently named Antigua and Barbuda as the first English speaking country in the western hemisphere to implement the Green Fins initiative. The country is the 10th government worldwide to officially adopt Green Fins and the second in the Caribbean.

Green Fins is a UN environment initiative, internationally coordinated by The Reef-World Foundation, which aims to protect and conserve coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines to promote a sustainable diving and

snorkelling tourism industry.

Antigua and Barbuda, which has a population of just 100,000, received 285,000 overnight visitors and 1,000,000 cruise ship tourists in 2018. It is estimated there are over 30 businesses which provide either snorkelling or diving activities to these tourists. Reef-World hopes the initiative will significantly reduce the environmental impact on coral reefs by reaching 10,000 tourists in the next year. The country now has a national team of two senior Green Fins network leaders, three Green Fins assessors and three dive schools joining the global network of more than 560

trained and assessed Green Fins member dive and snorkel operators.

Following a week of training by Reef-World, a national team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and the fisheries division, are now certified to recruit, train and conduct assessments of new Green Fins members in the country.

This involves providing training about the ecology and threats to coral reefs, plus everyday solutions to these threats and Green Fins' environmental standards to dive and snorkel operators. ■



CELEBRATION OF THE CARIBBEAN GIRLS HACK 2019

The Caribbean.Girls.Hack 2019 competition allowed hundreds of girls from across the subregion to showcase their original technological solutions to pressing issues, including gender-based violence and climate change adaptation.

The initiative offered an opportunity for governments, the academic community and other stakeholders to ensure that, through education and their acquisition of technical and vocational skills, girls are able to achieve their full potential whilst pursuing science-based careers, including those in the fields of ICT and engineering.

At the recent Caribbean preparatory meeting for the XIV Regional Conference of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the winners of the Hackathon from Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago presented their solutions to gender-based violence and climate change resilience. These solutions included a mobile app and a video game for monitoring energy consumption.

Congratulating the winners, ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, noted that "accelerating the access to and participation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and employment must increasingly become part of the solution that the Caribbean pursues, if our subregion is to achieve sustainable development with equality by 2030".

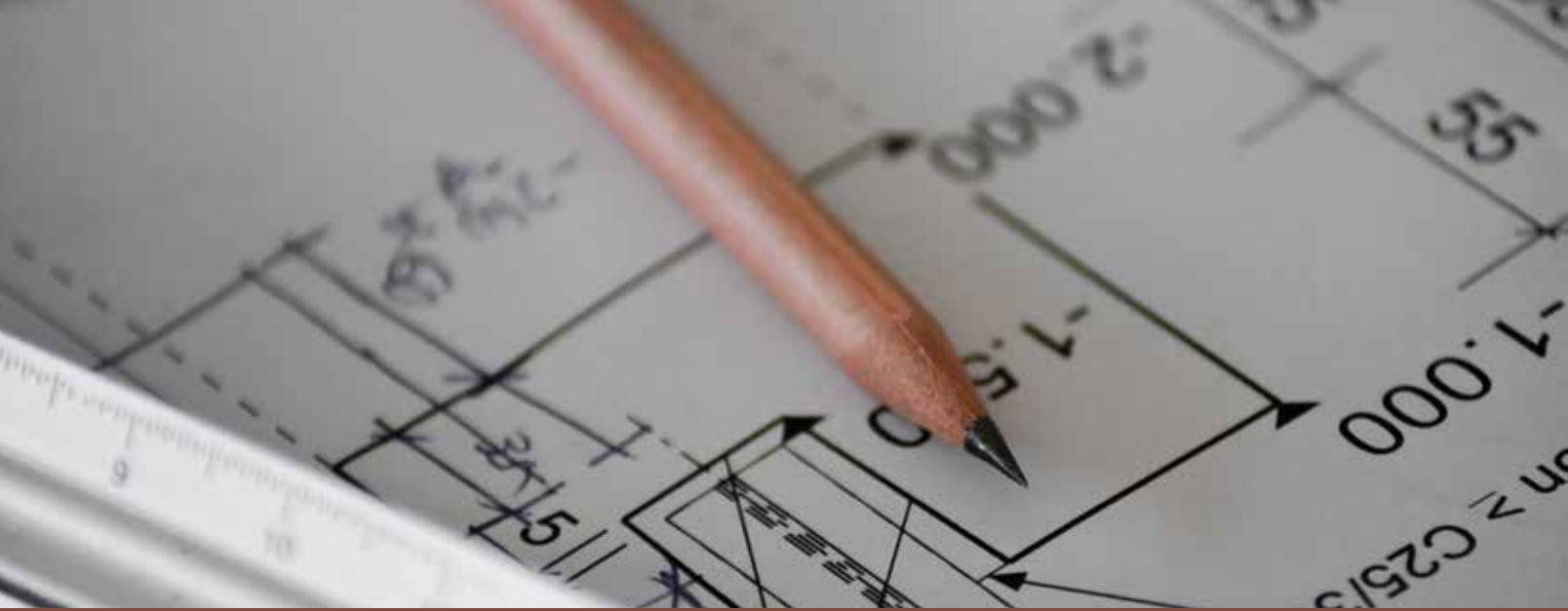
A few weeks before this, girls from across Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) showcased their own original technological solutions to gender-based violence and climate change at the T&T segment of the Caribbean.Girls.Hack competition. The young girls competed for the opportunity to present their tech-based innovative ideas to policy makers during the subregional preparatory meeting.

For the T&T segment, ECLAC Caribbean partnered with the Government of T&T and the non-governmental organisations, SheLeadsIT and Restore a Sense of I Can (RSC) Tech Clubs, for the day-long event, which was held at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium in San Fernando.

Through a number of participatory online training sessions and activities, the initiative engaged young girls in interactive, fun and problem-solving experiences using technology, whilst encouraging them to pursue studies and careers in ICT.

It was also an opportunity for them to learn about the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as the Regional Gender Agenda and the importance of these frameworks for promoting girls' access to ICT related fields. ■

Photo: Group photo of the participants at the Caribbean Girls Hack 2019 Event in Trinidad.



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ADDRESSES PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Housing, infrastructure and development planning experts from across the Caribbean recently gathered in Trinidad and Tobago for discussions on how to promote a coherent approach to building resilience of informal settlements in the subregion. Informal settlements are residential areas where inhabitants may have no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit, or where the neighbourhoods and housing may lack basic infrastructure such as access to water and sanitation. These neighbourhoods are often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas.

With over 70% of its population living in cities, the Caribbean is today increasingly urban. This recent urbanization process has been associated with poverty, expansion of informal settlements and inadequate housing, collaborating to widen the urban divide. Moreover, in many Caribbean countries, urban growth has frequently been characterized by the informal nature of human settlements, negatively impacting on urban equity, inclusion, safety and livelihood opportunities, in

addition to posing greater threats to public health conditions.

The policy dialogue workshop focused on the implementation of SDG 11 in the Caribbean, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, and was hosted by ECLAC Caribbean in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). 17 Caribbean countries were represented, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos. The policy dialogue workshop also benefited from the participation of leading experts from Research and international financial institutions, civil society organizations, and many individual experts from the Caribbean.

The workshop addressed issues such as informal settlements, climate change and environmental degradation through a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approach, which

aimed at facilitating collaborative solutions and partnerships.

During the discussions, Government officials, researchers and practitioners exchanged experiences with respect to the challenges and opportunities for sustainable and resilient development in the Caribbean. A major obstacle is agreeing on what constitutes ‘urban’ and the ‘city’ as units of analysis; an agreement without which comparability of indicators that have a spatial component will be seriously compromised.

The policy dialogue also allowed the countries to discuss the priorities and major issues facing local and central governments in the Caribbean relating to resilience and the upgrading of informal settlements within the context of SDG 11.

The pledge of Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable provides an opportunity for the attainment of collective and inclusive progress, and for the achievement of sustainable development in the Caribbean. ■



FIVE CARICOM COUNTRIES ARE 'PROTOTYPICAL' FOR DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION

Five CARICOM States make-up a select list from the World Food Programme (WFP) to serve as a model for the Caribbean in disaster response coordination includes Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Jamaica.

The announcement was made by Regis Chapman, Head of the WFP's Barbados-based Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme Office for the Caribbean, addressing shock-responsive social protection at the regional symposium held recently in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Chapman said that the WFP, along with international development consulting firm Oxford Policy Management "is developing five case studies in the Caribbean region... as part of our efforts to build evidence of shock-responsive social protection in the Caribbean."

Chapman explained that the countries were selected "based on their level of linking social protection with disaster management," adding that Jamaica "is

one of the more unique cases because of the history of linking social protection with humanitarian assistance. We actually chose Jamaica to serve as a model, particularly in the areas around coordination."

Fieldwork for the case studies has already been conducted. This included interviews with government representatives and other stakeholders in the areas of social protection and disaster management, visits to communities, and meetings with beneficiaries of key social protection programmes.

"We are working with the ministry that oversees social protection and the ministry that oversees disaster management," Chapman said.

"The idea is to share this evidence and look to see how we can link some of the experiences across the Caribbean, so that we can learn from each other and so that Caribbean countries can provide Caribbean solutions to Caribbean problems," he noted. ■



FESTIVAL OF GOAT COMES TO T&T

When people think of eating goat meat in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the first and probably the only thing that comes to mind is curried goat. This humble animal is far more versatile than we give it credit for. And someone who is promoting the many ways we can enjoy goat is journalist and foodie, Franka Philip.

Philip is leading GoatoberTT, an initiative that's going to put goat higher on the local culinary agenda. GoatoberTT is the Trinidadian version of Goatober, which currently takes place in eight other countries around the world. GoatoberTT was launched on 26 June 2019 and will culminate on 19 October, with what Philip describes as "a Festival of Goat".

She said her fascination with the versatility of goat came when she lived in the United Kingdom, more than seven years ago.

Phillip said, "Of course, I love a good curry goat but I got really curious when I came across recipes for different cuts of goat in ways I never imagined. I started to experiment with cuts like leg of goat and goat chops, but when I got back to Trinidad in 2012, I realised it wasn't as easy to readily find those cuts."

The Caribbean Beat food writer said she'd been thinking about doing something special with goat for a while, but made up her mind after she was introduced to UK chef, James Whetlor, the man who introduced Goatober to the UK and Europe. Then she decided to introduce the event to Trinidad and Tobago. ■

Montevideo Strategy

Watch this video to find out about the Montevideo Strategy.



Watch on
YouTube!

5

Pillar 5:

Financing: Mobilizing sufficient and sustainable resources for gender equality

Pillar 5 addressed the key issue of financing the Regional Gender Agenda through 10 measures.



The Caribbean region finds itself facing difficult challenges arising from high debt and low economic growth. That is why, measure 5.j focuses on the specific needs of the Small Islands Developing States in the Caribbean.

Have a look at this key pillar:
<https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/41013>

6

Pillar 6:

Communication: Access to Information and Culture Change

Pillar 6 on communication encourages Governments to raise awareness on existing information related to women's rights and gender equality.



Everyone can be part of this cultural change needed to achieve gender equality in the Caribbean.

Click here to have more information about this Pillar and how you can be part of this change
<https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/41013>

1

Normative framework
Equality and the rule of law

2

Institutional architecture
Multidimensional and Comprehensive
gender equality policies

3

Popular & Citizen Participation
Democratization of policy and society

4

State Capacity-Building
& Strengthening
Public Administration based on equality
and non-discrimination

5

Financing
Mobilizing sufficient and sustainable
resources for gender equality

6

Communication
Access to Information and Culture
Change

7

Technology
Towards e-government and innovative
and inclusive economies

8

Cooperation
Towards democratic multilateral
governance

9

Information Systems
Transforming data into information,
information into knowledge and
knowledge into political decisions

10

Monitoring, Evaluation
& Accountability
Guaranteeing rights and transparency



Developing ICT and knowledge management capacity to promote sustainable development in Caribbean multi-island SIDS

Peographical isolation or separation is one of the key reasons that not all people benefit equally from development efforts. This is a pressing concern in the Caribbean for multi-island Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where the population of a single country is divided across several separated land masses, some of which are small and spread over a large distance. These include Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Multi-island SIDS tend to have high public service costs as well as small domestic markets vulnerable to external shocks and natural disasters, and difficulties creating economies of scale due to high transportation and production costs. In addition, populations in small or outlying islands can experience poorer quality and availability of public services. Geographic separation necessitates inter-island travel and transportation links, which range in their affordability and are usually reliant on fossil fuels. This separation also has the potential to produce island communities with distinct identities and agendas and challenge the social cohesion and integrity of the country.

An upcoming study from ECLAC Caribbean, entitled 'The role of ICTs and Knowledge Management in promoting Sustainable Development in multi-island countries', investigates the role that information and communication technologies (ICT) and knowledge management (KM) are playing in supporting sustainable

development across islands in these countries. The study will focus on the areas of health, education and governance, using Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands as case studies to explore inter-island differences in ICT and KM capacity and the scope for strengthening this capacity.

On the one hand, ICT and KM can build resilience and advance the sustainable development of multi-island countries by extending the reach and access of information and public services to geographically-isolated people. However, on the other hand, lack of access to technology, such as broadband and wireless technology, exacerbates barriers of distance for populations in small or outlying islands.

Governments in the region have already started to embrace e-governance and implement regional and national initiatives to improve connectivity and access to technology. However, more than half of the households in the Caribbean still lack access to the internet and the effectiveness of efforts to use e-governance and KM to reach populations has been inconsistent.

Against this backdrop, the upcoming ECLAC study will seek to advance recommendations on the application of ICT and KM to support delivery of public services, both generally and in the areas of governance, education and health. Among other things, the study will also discuss projects to support multi-island countries in developing their ICT, e-governance and KM capacity, with emphasis on supporting service delivery in small or outlying islands. ■



IN THE BVI, IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Beaches, parties, yachts, turquoise waters, cocktails and spectacular music. If a British Virgin Islands vacation feels like Christmas in July, well, it actually is. This year is the latest annual edition of the BVI's Christmas in July event, a popular weekend party held on Virgin Gorda's Pond Bay Beach.

The party is famous for gathering hundreds of boats from Puerto Rico that sail into the BVI for a full-fledged fete. This year's event, which will take place on 27 July, was organized by Wally Castro Marine.

"In Puerto Rico, it's already a tradition to use the last days of July to take a small summer vacation and spend time with family and children before they go back to school," Castro said.

"Having that in mind, we created a family event in Virgin Gorda to gather the nautical community, which usually arrives as a "fleet" to the BVI in those days, and regular tourists who use other means to arrive to the BVI to celebrate Christmas in July with us,"

This year's party will include Virgin Gorda band, The Final Faze, along with Puerto Rican band, Orquesta La Oferta, a tribute band to the legendary salsa group El Gran Combo. ■



DOMINICA STRIVES TO ALIGN DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH SDGS AT ECLAC MEETING

Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials in Dominica were involved in establishing a plan of action to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the small island developing States (SIDS) agenda into their national development and sector strategic plans. This, during a workshop conducted by ECLAC Caribbean, from 27-31 May 2019.

The workshop, which was integrated into a Strategic Planning week of activities organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development of Dominica, presented strategies to address the development challenges that define the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS, and which weaken efforts to advance sustainable development in the subregion.

In addition, the workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss the work undertaken by ECLAC Caribbean in support of the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean. In Dominica, these efforts have included national assessments to review the alignment between sector-specific strategic plans on the one hand, and the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) and the SDGs on the other.

The workshop was organized in the framework of ECLAC Caribbean's project entitled 'Strengthening institutional frameworks in the Caribbean for an integrative approach to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sustainable Development Agenda', in which Dominica is one of the beneficiary countries.

The project is designed to improve the capacity of Caribbean countries to integrate the SDGs and the SIDS agenda into long-term national development plan. Additionally, the project is expected to improve national capacities to review and follow-up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS agenda.

To date, ECLAC has organized three major subregional capacity building meetings, conducted many in-country missions, and successfully completed several technical assistance activities to support member States in implementing the SDGs. ■



THE HYATT REGENCY TRINIDAD HAS A NEW HYDROPONIC GARDEN

A leading hotel in Trinidad and Tobago has debuted a major new green initiative: a hydroponic garden. The Hyatt Regency Trinidad is using its newest eco-friendly program to grow high-quality, fresh ingredients including kale, arugula, peppermint, lemongrass, cherry tomatoes, peppers and a variety of lettuce.

The hotel's chefs will use the ingredients in their culinary expressions, while the hotel's on-site Spa Esencia will also be using herb and spice-infused treatments with them.

"The launch of our hydroponic garden is a proud moment and a positive step for Hyatt Regency Trinidad to create a more sustainable environment for the hotel and our immediate community," noted Richard Westell, general manager of Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

"Our long-term objective is to consistently exceed the expectations of our guests and provide the best experiences. By integrating our very own hydroponic garden, we can elevate our culinary offerings with quality ingredients and remain competitive in the ever-changing hospitality industry."

The move is part of a wider corporate push by Hyatt, Vision 2020, which looks to make its hotels greener. ■



HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE WORKSHOP HELD IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), recently organized a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago to train local and national government representatives on humanitarian response actions.

Representatives from UN agencies in the country also participated in the four-day event on the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC). The HPC is a coordinated series of actions undertaken to help prepare, manage and deliver humanitarian response.

ECLAC Caribbean was represented by Associate Environmental Officer, Luciana Meira, who described the workshop as very informative. "The country-based UN team can now gather its resources and technical capacities together

to assist the government in responding to emergencies," she noted.

Participants were also alerted to Trinidad and Tobago's in-country capabilities and resources to respond to emergencies, courtesy of a presentation from the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM).

A simulation exercise allowed participants to review and put into practice the different actions expected in each phase of the HPC cycle, aligning the channels of communication and the coordination mechanisms between government and UN entities. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Belize

MARINE PROTECTION GOALS ACHIEVED

- Jul -

Five Caribbean countries and territories were recognized for their early achievement of the marine protection targets they committed to when joining the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI). The CCI 20-by-20 Conservation Goal challenged members to conserve and manage at least 20 percent of their marine and coastal environment by 2020. The Dominican Republic led the list of early achievers with approximately 75 percent of its marine area under protection, followed by St Kitts and Nevis (50 percent), the US Virgin Islands (44 percent), Puerto Rico (27 percent), and Haiti (23 percent).

30 YEARS OF TIES

- Jul -

Taiwan and Belize have deepened their partnership ahead of the two countries' 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties in October 2019. President, Tsai Ing-wen, and visiting Belizean Governor-General, Colville Young, witnessed the signing of the deal in a ceremony at the Presidential Office in Taipei. At the ceremony, President Tsai expressed her belief that Taiwan and Belize will continue to forge new areas of cooperation in the future. Thus far the two countries have closely collaborated on medical care, vocational training, trade and investment.



Saint Lucia

CARICOM HEADS

- Jul -

The 40th regular meeting of the conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Saint Lucia from July 3-5, 2019. Special attendants included the Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres and United States Congresswoman, Stacey Plaskett. All speakers referred to the need to address the challenges facing small states. The UN Secretary-General, in recognising the severity of those challenges, committed his organisation to take steps to improve access for small states to development financing as a priority.

e-LITIGATION PORTAL

- Jul -

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court's (ECSC) has created and implemented an e-Litigation portal to provide an efficient, cost-effective, transparent and reliable platform for submitting and processing court documents electronically. The e-Litigation portal is designed to be as easy-to-use as possible. Any citizen or resident of Saint Lucia, the Territory of the Virgin Islands or Anguilla who wishes to file a matter can now visit the court office and consult the Service Bureau for assistance with the creation of cases and the management of the filings.



Jamaica

DISASTER RESPONSE

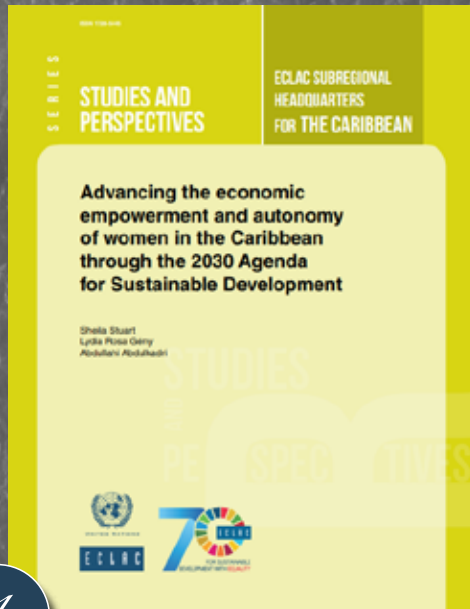
- Jul -

Five CARICOM States make-up a select list from the World Food Programme (WFP) to serve as a model for the Caribbean in disaster response coordination. The states on the list are Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Jamaica. The announcement was made by Regis Chapman, Head of the WFP's Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme Office for the Caribbean, while addressing shock-responsive social protection at a regional symposium in Providenciales, on June 27. The shock-responsive social protection in the Caribbean regional symposium provides a platform for countries across the region to share their experiences and learn from each other.

IMF VISIT

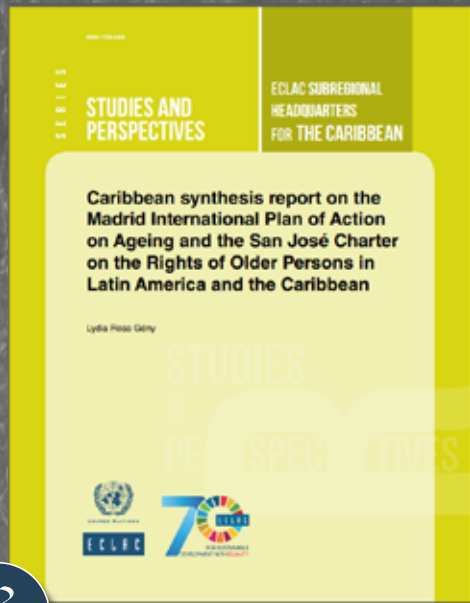
- Jul -

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team led by Uma Ramakrishnan visited Kingston Jamaica from June 10 to 14, 2019. This visit came ahead of the sixth and final review under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) planned for September 2019. The team took stock of progress on Jamaica's economic reform program supported by the IMF's and made a report on their findings.



1.

Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



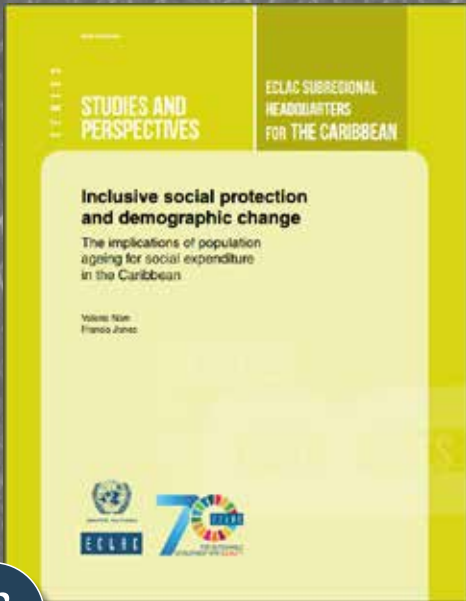
3.

Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Inclusive social protection and demographic change: The implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts on:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

21/6



Women's access to technology

“Accelerating the access to and participation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and employment must increasingly become part of the solution that the Caribbean pursues, if our subregion is to achieve sustainable development with equality by 2030.”

#DirectorsTake

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



ADIEU TO LYDIA

ECLAC Caribbean recently bid Adieu to Associate Gender Affairs Officer, Lydia Rose Geny, who spent two and a half years with us at the Port of Spain office. Geny will be missed by everyone. We wish her all the best at her new assignment at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, where she will be working in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, Alicia Bárcena, as a Political Affairs Officer.

Lydia will continue to advance the needs of the subregion by helping to shape and promote the Caribbean First Strategy, which was introduced by Bárcena last year. ■





Date Walnut Cake with Apple Compôte

Yields: 8 servings

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

What you will need:

Ingredients:

¾ cup or 6 ounces unsalted butter
1 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons orange essence
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon ground cardamom
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ cup chopped walnuts
8 ounces dates, chopped
1 ½ cups boiling water
1 ½ teaspoons baking soda

For apple compote

1 pound granny smith apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
¼ cup unsweetened orange juice
2 tablespoons water
4 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon

What you need to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9-inch by 13-inch pan or 9-inch round pan; set aside.
2. In a small bowl, add chopped dates, boiling water and baking soda. Let soak for 15 minutes or until mixture cools completely.
3. In a large bowl, add all dry ingredients. Mix and set aside.
4. Next, using a hand or stand mixer, cream butter and sugar until fluffy and pale yellow.
5. Then, add eggs and orange essence. Mix until combined.
6. Slowly add dates together with the liquid mixture.
7. Add dry ingredients in three parts, mixing and scraping the sides of the bowl after each addition.
8. After everything is fully combined, fold in walnuts.
9. Spread batter evenly in pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes.
10. For the apple compôte, add all ingredients to a medium pot. Let simmer until apples become soft.
11. Let compôte cool and top your cake with a generous amount.



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