



REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA

SANTIAGO COMMITMENT
APPROVED BY CARIBBEAN AND
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

CARIBBEAN VOICES

THE CARIBBEAN MAKES ITS VOICES
HEARD AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN

STATISTICS AND LEGISLATION

ECLAC'S STUDY ON CARIBBEAN
NATIONAL STATISTICAL LEGISLATION



ECLAC

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ECLAC Caribbean Family

ECLAC POS family hails the achievement of Blaine Marciano, Ph.D.

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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February Events

3-6

Executive Board of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS,
First regular session
New York, 3 - 6 February 2020

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International Day of Women and Girls in Science

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Executive Board of UN-Women, First regular session
New York, 14 February 2020

20

World Day of Social Justice

21

International Mother Language Day



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 24

Non-Communicable Diseases are a real problem for Caribbean countries. #ECLACCaribbean #NCDS



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

70% OF ALL DEATHS IN THE CARIBBEAN ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 23

Caribbean countries are expending up to 50% of revenues on food imports.

Find out more from the FOCUS Magazine: <http://bit.ly/f19-3>



2 ZERO HUNGER

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ARE EXPENDING UP TO 50% OF REVENUES ON FOOD IMPORTS, COMPARED WITH THE WORLD AVERAGE OF 7%.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 17

The average poverty rate among persons in the Caribbean over 65 years of age is 17%

Find out more from the FOCUS Magazine: <http://bit.ly/f15-2>



1 NO POVERTY

THE NUMBER OF OLDER PERSONS WILL DOUBLE IN THE CARIBBEAN, FROM 14% OF THE POPULATION IN 2015, TO 23% IN 2040. THE AVERAGE POVERTY RATE AMONG PERSONS AGED OVER 65 IS 17%.



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GENDER DATA ASSESSMENT IN SAINT LUCIA

The year 2019 was a pivotal year for deepening the commitment to gender equality and the autonomy of all women and girls in the Caribbean. Reviews of two major gender platforms were undertaken; the regional review of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework, and the 25th review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The underlying frameworks of both platforms encourage Governments to adopt and implement policies, laws and strategies to promote gender equality and the rights of all women and girls, as well as to make available gender data and statistics to address gender inequalities.

It is in this context that the government of Saint Lucia is redoubling its efforts to achieve gender equality. In order to measure the different needs of women, girls, men and boys, the government has

prioritized improving its capacity to produce gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based decision-making.

To support these efforts, ECLAC Caribbean provided technical assistance to Saint Lucia in the form of a gender data assessment, which identified difficulties in producing gender statistics and which formed the basis for targeted recommendations.

The assessment identified the need for a gendered perspective in decision making. It was suggested that poor inter-agency coordinating mechanisms, as well as insufficient and inefficient use of human, physical, and financial resources were having a negative effect on the production of gender statistics. The assessment also examined Saint Lucia's capacity to collect, analyze, produce and manage gender-disaggregated data, in accordance with the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) model. ECLAC's assessment concluded that, despite



the challenges, Saint Lucia has made significant progress in producing gender statistics. ■



SAINT LUCIA CENSUS IN MAY

The Government of Saint Lucia is to conduct a population and housing census in May 2020 that should assist in determining the strategic policies and programmes for the next decade.

The Honourable Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said that the aim of the census is to have a comprehensive assessment of the country and “to allow for the accurate delivery of initiatives to remedy some of the ills in the society, such as poverty, inequality, substandard healthcare and the lack of adequate housing”.

The census will be held on May 12, when an estimated 550 enumerators will commence work islandwide. The Honourable PM Chastanet has urged all Saint Lucians to cooperate with the enumerators as they

carry out their duties.

He reported that the enumerators were undergoing a significant amount of training, in order to adequately prepare them to carry out the mammoth exercise, and to ensure the most accurate collection of data.

“The information which you will be providing is protected by law and you have the highest assurance that any information which you provide, will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Please provide information which is as accurate as possible,” said PM Chastanet, addressing the public.

The last decennial census carried out in 2010. ■



Santiago Commitment approved by Caribbean and Latin American countries to accelerate efforts to fulfill the

REGIONAL GENDER AGENDA

A new milestone was achieved recently in Santiago, Chile, with the adoption of an agreement which should accelerate the fulfillment of the regional gender agenda for Latin America and Caribbean countries.

Titled the 'Santiago Commitment', the document was accepted by the countries of the region during the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin American and the Caribbean, which was organized by ECLAC with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, during 27 to 31 January 2020.

[READ MORE](#)



Santiago Commitment approved by Caribbean and Latin American countries to accelerate efforts to fulfill the Regional Gender Agenda

The Santiago Commitment reaffirms the validity of the Regional Gender Agenda encompassing more than 40 years of commitments made by the governments of the region. This new agreement establishes a series of measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These measures include strengthening gender institutions and architectures through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women, in addition to gender mainstreaming at the different levels of the State.

In particular, the agreement envisages “increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources according to national realities, capacities and legislation, gender-responsive budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with a view to strengthening the implementation of equality policies in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Among the 48 points of the document, some that stand out include the commitments to eradicate gender violence; to provide universal access to comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive

health services; to foster women’s labour participation in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; to encourage gender-responsive budgeting, reduce the wage gap; and to increase women’s representation in decision-making processes.

Other highlights were the measures aimed at strengthening the production of gender statistics at national level and increasing the financial contribution and cooperation with specific attention to small island developing States and middle-income countries.

During the closing session of the XIV Conference, ECLAC’s Executive



Caribbean attendants of the XIV regional Conference on Women and the ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

“

We are very clear about what we want: we want equality, that nothing be done about us, without us...

Alicia Bárcena - Executive Secretary of ECLAC

”

Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, highlighted that “we are very clear about what we want: we want equality, that nothing be done about us, without us. We want a world without femicide, without violence, with equality in terms of wages and other economic matters. The time has come to change the gender scheme in our countries and put an end to patriarchy as a societal model. The time has come to pave the way for parity in all its forms and scenarios.”

The President of the Conference, the Minister of Women’s Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, Isabel Plá, underscored that “we have achieved significant progress with the Santiago Commitment, which represents a major step forward on the regional gender agenda with agreements that we hope will fuel change for the women of Latin America and the Caribbean, because without closing the social, economic and political gaps that still affect women, we will not be able to cross the threshold of sustainable development. Minister Plá also thanked the participation of Caribbean countries in the event, underlining that she looked forward to continuing to work with them.

Also delivering remarks was María-

Noel Vaeza, the Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean. Ms. Vaeza stated that during the XIV Conference “we have confirmed that progress towards gender equality has been made in Latin America and the Caribbean. Yet there is still much to be done. We women cannot wait any longer. The Santiago Commitment, which is the outcome of this Conference, must be the roadmap that enables the region to recognize and fulfill the commitments that countries made to women and girls 25 years ago in Beijing, so as to move forward together on consolidating the Gender Agenda.”

The gathering had a strong Caribbean participation, especially in the different panels and side-events of the Conference, with the active contribution of Ministers and representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The event was also attended by representatives of civil society organizations, including the Network of NGOs of Trinidad

and Tobago for the Advancement of Women; the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago; CariMan; Caribbean Women in Leadership; networks of rural women producers and grassroots organizations; members of academia, such as the University of the West Indies and agencies; funds and programmes of the UN system; and intergovernmental organizations, including the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

The Regional Conference’s Presiding Officers is now composed of Chile, in the Presidency, and of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay. The XV Regional Conference will take place in two years’ time in Argentina. ■

THE CARIBBEAN MAKES ITS VOICES HEARD AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN



The progress and unique challenges of Caribbean countries in their pursuit of sustainable development with equality were addressed throughout the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Moderating the Caribbean panel was ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, who noted that over the years, the subregion has made important strides in addressing women's physical autonomy, through the design of legal and institutional frameworks that tackle all forms of violence against women, including human trafficking. Nevertheless, as outlined by the ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory, the subregion is still lacking gender-disaggregated data that could give a better understanding of this scourge.

"Another area of considerable progress is the political participation and representation of women in leadership positions in the private and public spheres. Nevertheless, despite the existing initiatives to bolster women's participation in decision making processes in our subregion, much more could be done to increase their level of participation in public positions at all levels and to reach gender parity in democratic institutions in our subregion," Quarless said.

Quarless highlighted that 2020 is the start of a new and pivotal decade for accelerating the realization of gender equality and the autonomy of all women and girls in the Caribbean. "Over the last 25 years, Caribbean countries have made remarkable efforts to respect, protect and promote the rights of women and girls and strengthen their autonomy, but persistent gender inequalities are still evident in households with the unequal distribution of unpaid work, in the labour market with lower participation and quality of jobs, and in the wider Caribbean society with cultural patterns that reproduce discriminatory practices against women."

The panel offered a space for peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences among Caribbean countries and the wider region to overcome persistent and new obstacles to effectively achieve gender equality by 2030. Moreover, it highlighted the situation of gender equality in the context of women's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. It also discussed such economic challenges as the lack of economies of scale in production and proneness to external shocks, reduced scope for output diversification and high levels of migration of skilled individuals.

The panel also benefitted from

the interventions made by ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena; the Honorable Samantha Marshall, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, with responsibility for Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda's Affairs; the Honorable Delma Thomas, Minister of Social Development, Housing and Community Empowerment of Grenada; Ms. Nerissa Gittens-McMillan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Ms. Sharon Warner, Executive Officer with the Department of Gender Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis; and Ms. Terry Ince, Founder and Convener of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago.

From their different perspectives, the high-level panelists assessed the progress made in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy in synergy with Beijing+25 and other international and regional frameworks aimed at promoting women's rights, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Paris Agreement.

Minister Marshall highlighted that "we stand on the front-line of this climate crisis and must focus on closing the



structural gaps that continue to widen inequalities. We need fiscal and policy space, access to financing, technical support, new technologies, the creation of new industries, and a new national development pathway to achieve sustainable development.”

Along similar lines, Minister Thomas stressed that “substantive equality requires that all leaders accept the challenge to take action to improve the lives of women and girls”, while Ms. Gittens-McMillan mentioned that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is now a member of the UN Security Council and on this platform a prime issue for her country is gender-based violence.

The importance of fostering partnerships between civil society organizations and governments to achieve gender equality addressed by Ms. Ince who stated that “we can all do a better job with collaboration and humility.”

At the end of the Panel, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, congratulated all participants from the Caribbean who came a very long way to share their experiences and ideas on achieving gender equality in the region and highlighted that “ECLAC adopted a Caribbean First approach and we really mean it. Latin America countries must have solidarity with the Caribbean on many fronts, including in the area of

climate change”.

Caribbean representatives also participated in other panels and activities. For example, during the ‘Special Session on Generation Equality: outlook and challenges for Beijing+25 in Latin America and the Caribbean’, Sharon Coburn-Robinson, Senior Director of Gender Affairs of Jamaica, underscored that “issues of gender inequality are seated in all spheres of life.”

In the panel entitled ‘The care economy: trends and impacts of demographic change’, Ms. Judith Karijodrono, Head of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname stressed the fact that “unpaid care responsibilities combined with formal work responsibilities result in a double work burden for women.”

The Panel on ‘Climate Change- trends, opportunities and challenges for gender equality’ offered another key opportunity to address Caribbean vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by the climate crisis. Dr. Jacinta Higgs, Director of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs of the Bahamas gave an inspirational yet heartbreaking account of the situation in her country following the passage of Hurricane Dorian. She spoke of the resilience demonstrated by

all women and girls to rebuild their lives after this life-altering experience.

The final ‘Round table on challenges of comprehensive policies for gender equality’ included the participation of Hazel Brown, Coordinator of the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, who successfully reproduced the atmosphere of Beijing by sharing her experience in the event in 1995. She invited the Conference participants to join her in singing Bob Marley’s song “Get up, Stand up for your Right”, as the women of the Caribbean did in Beijing 25 years ago.

For those who missed such an impactful event, the Regional Conference was livestreamed at ECLAC YouTube Channel and key presentations and documents are available on the official website of the Conference at <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/en> ■



PARLIAMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ADDRESS SDGS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

Parliamentarians from eight Caribbean countries recently affirmed the critical role that needs to be played by Parliaments in championing sustainable development and holding governments accountable for national strategies and policies aimed at combating climate change and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This, during the Second Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Caribbean, which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 5 and 6 December 2019, under the title, 'Strengthening parliamentary action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

ECLAC Caribbean Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, had the opportunity to report on the progress that Caribbean countries are making with their SDG institutional mechanisms.

The Hummingbird recently sat down for a one-on-one with Dr. Alleyne, to chat about his presentation at the seminar.

Q: How does the parliamentary process affect SDG

implementation?

The establishment of institutional mechanisms, in most cases, may require an act of parliament. This could include legislation that assigns new roles to an existing institution or the creation of a new institution with the legal mandate for oversight of SDG-related matters. In countries where no SDG institutional mechanism currently exists, the parliament has a role to play in facilitating such an institution and in countries where the legal framework is weak, the parliament also has a role to play in strengthening this legal authority to promote national ownership and efficiency of SDGs implementation.

Q: What institutional arrangements have governments put in place for mainstream SDG implementation?

"So far, Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, and Jamaica have included SDG institutional mechanism into government infrastructure. Meanwhile, Aruba, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia have created new SDG institutional mechanisms. Other countries, such as Antigua

and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, presently have an interim structure in place to coordinate SDG activities nationally.

Q: Has there been any level of success following these developments?

There has been a good level of success, given that several of these countries have either presented their first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), or will be presenting it in July 2020, thus proving additional evidence that processes toward national ownership accelerate national implementation of the SDGs.

Following the seminar, the Port of Spain Declaration was issued by members of the Parliaments of Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The seminar was also attended by representatives of Government Ministries and civil society from Trinidad and Tobago. ■



NEW POLICY BRIEF ENCOURAGES USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Of the 1.3 million persons in the Caribbean with a disability of some kind, about 250,000 have a significant disability. These figures are on the rise and are expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades as the population of the subregion ages, and global chronic health conditions worsen.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) face a range of physical, social, attitudinal and institutional barriers that prevent their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis. A direct result of this is that they experience less favorable outcomes in health, education, employment, housing and overall wellbeing.

A new policy brief from ECLAC Caribbean explores the role that Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) can play in breaking down many of these barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating actively in society and enjoying their rights.

Today, it is not possible to participate fully in society without access to ICTs. Moreover, ongoing advances in ICTs make digital literacy a prerequisite for acquiring employment and

educational opportunities.

However, access to and use of the internet and other ICTs is not evenly enjoyed, and many groups including persons with disabilities experience the digital divide. For example, while smartphones now have built-in accessibility features, such as voice recognition software, many websites and other online platforms are still inaccessible to PWDs.

While the Caribbean has made advances in terms of ICT infrastructure, there remains a gap between availability and use of this technology due to lack of affordability, equipment, skills or relevant local content. As a result, only 51% of the Caribbean population is using the internet.

The policy brief identifies Universal Service Funds (USFs) as a mechanism which can be used to finance measures to ensure ICT access to PWDs. USFs are now being used to increase access to telecommunication services through projects funded by legally-mandated contributions from telecommunication providers.

Traditionally, governments have used USFs to expand telephone

and broadband networks into geographical areas that private telecommunication companies would otherwise view as unattractive for investment.

USFs can also be used in conjunction with other mechanisms to provide universal service coverage and funding, including license conditions, subsidies, and private-public partnerships. For example, most Caribbean USFs use public-private partnerships with telecommunications providers to implement universal service projects.

The brief concludes by noting that while establishing a USF is the preferred option, countries are encouraged to first review their legislation to ensure it reflects modern approaches to disability while adapting to new and changing uses of technology. ■



STUDY ON CARIBBEAN NATIONAL STATISTICAL LEGISLATION

Data plays a critical role in assessing the achievement of sustainable development – from planning and implementation to monitoring and reporting. In particular, given the demands of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, effective monitoring of and reporting on the SDGs will require high quality, timely and disaggregated data and statistics at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

However, several countries in the subregion have had challenges in producing statistics for the SDG indicators.

An upcoming study by ECLAC Caribbean will present an assessment of national statistical legal frameworks across the subregion. The study aims to ascertain the level of compliance of the statistical laws of Member and Associate Member Countries of the Caribbean

Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

Caribbean statistical frameworks are over 30 years old, including some which pre-date countries' independence, and, as a result, do not reflect modern statistical practices or contain provisions enabling the development of modern tools. Government agencies and private sector organizations alike are hesitant to share data in the absence of a modern framework, which results in large amounts of data going unused.

In addition, reporting on the SDG indicators requires countries to develop new tools and frameworks to harness the power of technology, produce disaggregated data, exchange and share large amounts of data, coordinate data producers, and meet users' needs. An enabling legal framework is essential for the development of such tools and frameworks as it provides national statistical offices with

their mandates and defines the boundaries on data use that are transparent.

The upcoming study will assess the compliance of national statistical legal frameworks of 24 Caribbean countries with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNFPOS). The existence of a legal framework that complies with the UNFPOS is a critical enabling factor for national statistical systems to produce official statistics that are of high quality and contribute to a country's adherence to international standards.

ECLAC's assessment will provide recommendations to the respective countries on actions needed to ensure full compliance of their statistics legislation thereby laying a solid foundation for the effective functioning of their national statistical systems. The study will be published later in 2020. ■



CAYMAN ISLANDS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE COCONUT

A recent event at Pedro St. James, Cayman Islands, celebrated all things coconut. From CocoJitos to coconut fried chicken, coconut-themed decor and healthcare products, the family-friendly event provided attendees with a chance to explore and sample the many flavours and potential uses of the tropical drupe.

"When people come in, they get to see what can be done with the coconut," said Deborah Bodden, the operations manager of Pedro St James.

"Each year, the event continues to grow. Last year, we had 27 vendors; this year we have 35. In fact, we sold out all booths within 12 days of them going on sale, and we ended up having a waiting list."

Now in its fifth year, the annual gathering offers vendors like Zena Rochester a chance to showcase their coconut-infused products.

"My grandson is allergic to everything except pork," said Rochester. "When he was very young, he had eczema, but he

couldn't use the medication. Then I found out coconut was good for it, and from there I got interested in the possibilities."

Rochester's stall, Health Alternatives Cayman, was one of several booths that offered fairgoers a chance to purchase coconut lotions, creams, shampoos, face masks, essential oils and scrubs.

Local artist Michelle Bryan's watercolours typically feature children and animals. For the Festival, she included coconut trees in her portraits.

"I don't normally paint coconut trees," she said. "But the coconut tree is a very important part of who we are as a people. It's a part of our culture, and it has many benefits."

The half-day festival also featured hours of local Cayman music, quadrille dancing and a baking competition, as well as arts and crafts and games for children. ■

Please see : https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA3eAlbzyyKE7Vk_4SSi74Q



GO GREEN DOMINICA: A SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PLASTIC BAGS

The government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has announced that it will provide all households on the island with jute and cotton bags as part of the 'Go Green Dominica' sustainable alternative to plastic bags. Visitors to the island are likewise encouraged to adopt the Dominican way of life, the Nature Island of the Caribbean deeply rooted in caring for the natural environment, developing resilient infrastructure and building back better towards a climate resilience country.

The 'Go Green Dominica' initiative follows a comprehensive ban on all single-use plastic and Styrofoam containers, initiated in January 2019, and the application of zero percent import duty on authenticated biodegradable products and reusable shopping bags in December 2018.

In 2017, category-five hurricane Maria struck Dominica with damages worth more than twice its GDP and left nearly 90% of the structures on the island damaged, while recovering from tropical Storm Erika in 2015.

Within days of hurricane Maria landfall and devastation, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York said: "72,000 Dominicans lie on the frontline of a war they did not choose with extensive casualties from a war that they did not start. While the big countries talk, the small island nations suffer. We need action and we need it now."

Hence, PM Skerrit pledged to build the world's first climate-resilient nation, developing resilient infrastructure to building back better.

The island's ecotourism sector is recovering with a new eco-conscious supported by its citizenship by investment (CBI) programme that has helped achieve the following:

- Repair 15 sections of damaged roads;
- Build Dominica's first international airport;
- Restore 19 bridges and river walls;
- Repair one of Dominica's regional airports sustainably;
- Dredge 19 rivers in 11 locations to prevent flooding;



GLADYS KNIGHT, BERES HAMMOND JOIN ST KITTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

- Invest in water and sanitation; and
- Rehabilitate 15 schools.

"We are entering our 27 years as a CBI program and therefore it is important that persons can see what's happening with CBI monies here in Dominica, as we continue to do what we have to do, engaging, marketing and selling the programme," said head of the CBI unit, Ambassador Emmanuel Nanthan.

The government of Dominica has directed millions towards economic transition and recovery efforts in infrastructural rehabilitation and reinforcement. The housing revolution comprises building 5,000 plus modern homes, in safer areas; and in the near future will provide green energy from the geothermal plant currently being developed to the entire country with options for export. ■

The Caribbean's hottest music festival has added more big names to its 2020 agenda. The Saint Kitts Music Festival, now in its 24th year, has added Gladys Knight, Beres Hammond and Anthony B to the slate of performers for the 25 to 27 June event.

"We are excited to have secured such an outstanding group of artists to perform in this year's Saint Kitts Music Festival," said the country's Tourism Minister, Lindsay Grant.

"Our strategy is to grow the festival every year in a way that will appeal to both local and international audiences, therefore creating the right mix of performers is critical to our success. This particular selection of veteran and emerging talent is certain to draw music lovers from all of our key source markets as well as from our Federation, thereby providing direct benefit to our citizens and economy."

The group includes performers like Chronixx, Jimmy Cliff and the new reggae star Koffee, who took home this year's Best Reggae Album Grammy.

"With such a wide range of talent and musical styles represented on stage again this year, we want to be a model for other music festivals throughout the region," said Damion Hobson, Chairman of the Festival.

"Our festival is one of the longest-established music festivals in the Caribbean and we aim to keep it as a premier choice for music-loving travelers and locals alike." ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Grenada

INDEPENDENCE DAY

- Feb -

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) extended congratulations to the Government and People of Grenada on the country's 46th Anniversary of Independence, on February 7, 2020. The Secretary-General, Irwin LaRocque, noted that CARICOM has greatly benefitted from the long-standing commitment of the Grenada Government and people to the integration process of the region.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

- Feb -

The governments of the Ukraine and Grenada have signed a joint communique on establishing diplomatic relations between the two nations. The communique, which was signed by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom - Natalia Galibarenko, will allow for free visa free travel of citizens between the two countries.



Saint Lucia

COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

- Feb -

The Ministry of Agriculture of Saint Lucia initiated collaboration with the College of Agriculture in Guadeloupe to share expertise in agriculture. The collaboration took the form of a visit to Saint Lucia by a group of thirteen students from Guadeloupe. The visiting students were exposed to the farming systems and various agricultural techniques used by Saint Lucians.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources and Cooperatives, Ezekiel Joseph, expressed hope for the continued exchanges between the two states.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- Feb -

The Department of Health and Wellness of Saint Lucia has made efforts to restrict the likelihood of the introduction of COVID-19, popularly known as the novel coronavirus, into the Saint Lucian population. As such the Saint Lucian authorities have placed restrictions on non-nationals who have a travel history from Mainland China within the last 14 days.



Trinidad and Tobago

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- Mar -

Minister of Health, Terrence Deyalsingh has announced that five more countries have been added to the 14-day travel ban that the government has implemented for China. The countries added are South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran and Singapore. The ban states that no one travelling from these countries will be allowed in Trinidad and Tobago within 14 days of their departure.

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRY

- Feb -

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has passed the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019. The new law provides for, among other things, the establishment of a sex offenders registry. Local law enforcement will now be empowered to better monitor and track offenders who must frequently report to the nearest police station and provide every essential detail about themselves, including their fingerprints and DNA.

TRADE WITH UK

- Jan -

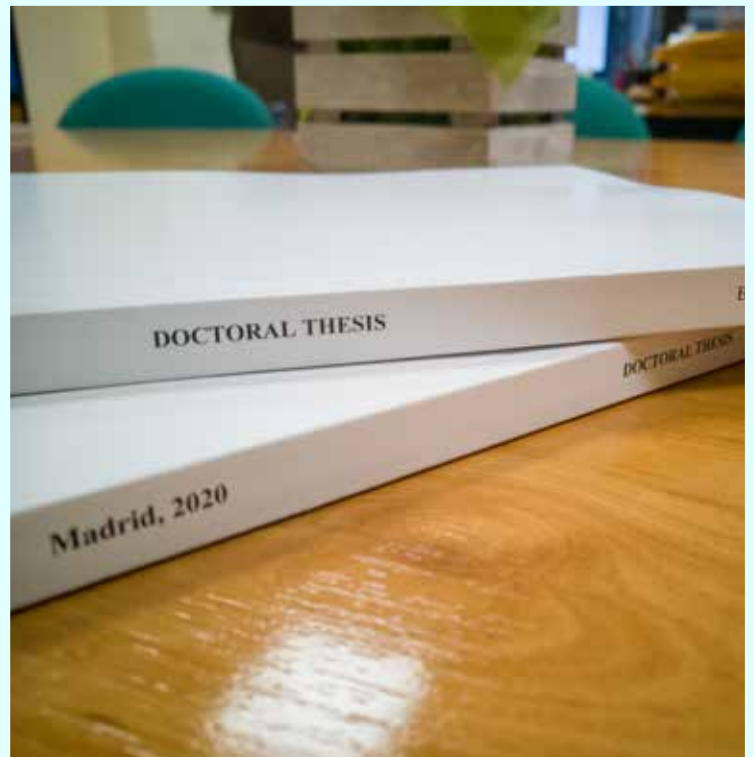
The government of Trinidad and Tobago is currently working on the necessary legislation to ensure that the trading relationship with the government of the United Kingdom can continue in light of its recent exit from the European Union. In the meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to have access to the United Kingdom's market under the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) until December 31, 2020.

ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

ECLAC POS FAMILY HAILS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BLAINE MARCANO, PH.D.

The ECLAC Caribbean Port of Spain family is proud of the recent accomplishment of one of its own, Blaine Marciano, who was recently conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Presently a Public Information Assistant in the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit, Blaine, successfully defended – in Spanish! - his doctoral thesis in Organizational Psychology at the University of Madrid (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) in Spain.

Blaine further distinguished himself by receiving the highest marks of his cohort. The focus of his research on leadership, competency and team justice will no doubt be an asset to his current achievements at ECLAC Caribbean, as he continues to play a meaningful role in enriching the work life of the ECLAC Caribbean family. ■



Members of the doctoral tribunal pose with Dr. Blaine Marciano (middle) and his thesis supervisor Dr. Gloria Castaño (third from left).

Sticky Toffee Pudding Poppers

What you will need:

3 cups chopped dates
2 cups water
2 teaspoons baking soda
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon sea salt
8 ounces butter
2 cups granulated sugar
4 eggs
2 tablespoons vanilla essence

For brandy butter sauce:

1 cup light brown sugar
1 cup heavy cream
1 cup unsalted butter
2 teaspoons brandy

Method:

1. For the sauce, add brown sugar and heavy cream to a heavy bottomed saucepan.
2. Allow to come to a boil and let the sugar dissolve completely. Remove from the stove when a light caramel colour is achieved.
3. Stir in butter and then brandy until smooth.
4. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease cake pop pans and set aside.
5. Place chopped dates in a saucepan and add the water and baking soda. Place on a low heat and allow to cook until the water is absorbed and the dates are softened. Remove from the stove and allow to cool.
6. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
7. Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add the eggs until absorbed into the butter and sugar. Be careful to not overmix. Add vanilla essence.
8. To the creamed mixture, alternately add the date mixture and sifted dry ingredients until a creamy cake batter is formed.
9. Fill the cake pop pans with the batter about of the way and bake for 15 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when tested for doneness.
10. Soak cake pop balls in the sauce and serve warm.

Serve the fish with the salsa verde.



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