



## GREEN INDUSTRIES

MAY UNLOCK GROWTH FOR  
CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

## SDG INDICATORS

EXPERTS SEEK TO IDENTIFY  
SDG INDICATORS FOR SIDS

## END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

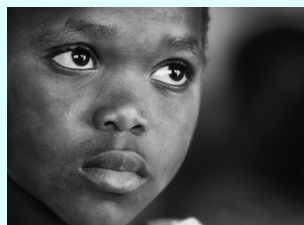
ECLAC HOSTS EVENT  
FOR RURAL WOMEN



ECLAC



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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



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## January Events

15-18

UN World Data Forum  
Cape Town, South Africa  
15 - 18 January 2017

17-20

47th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum  
Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

24-27

ECLAC-ACS Joint Disaster Training  
Port of Spain, Trinidad  
24 - 27 January 2017

27

International Day of the Commemoration in  
Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.  
27 January 2017

30-31

The Economic and Social Council Youth Forum  
New York, United States  
30 - 31 January 2017



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jan 16

The Year in Review 2016 presents the key moments during the past 12 months. <https://youtu.be/l2sck1yq5Wk>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Dec 14

ECLAC will Update Its Growth Projections for Latin American and Caribbean's Countries.  
More here: <http://vrb.al/balance-preliminar>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Dec 5

Diane Quarless, Director #ECLACCaribbean, and H.E. David Prendergast, High Commissioner for Jamaica, at the event 'An Evening of Jamaican Film', at the Digicel Imax theater.



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# Suriname receives support in building capacity towards implementing multidimensional child poverty measurement.



**T**echnical staff and research personnel from Government ministries and agencies with an interest in child poverty recently participated in a workshop on Multidimensional Child Poverty Measurement organized jointly by ECLAC and UNICEF in Paramaribo, Suriname.

The main goal of the workshop was to institutionalize child sensitive national development strategies through evidenced-based policy processes. To this end, participants were briefed on various approaches to poverty reduction taken from around the world and across the region, and on the processes for creating an index of child poverty.

The most commonly used method to measure poverty is based on per capita income or consumption levels. This means that persons are considered poor if their income or consumption fall below a minimum level deemed necessary to

meet their basic needs.

Such measures offer a broad understanding of populations living in poverty. However, they provide a limited picture of child poverty and disparities, which are better measured by focusing on the actual deprivations children face.

The deprivations that a child may face in one household or family might not be the same as those of another child belonging to a family with the same income and consumption level. In addition, a child may face deprivations while other household members (including other children) might not.

The measurement of multidimensional poverty, and especially of child poverty, is not only driven by a moral obligation, but also responds to economic motivations given that human capital development is dependent on the performance of children and





adolescents. Moreover, child poverty is not only a measure of what is happening to society's most vulnerable members, but also one of the most important indicators of a nation's future socio-economic well-being.

The workshop discussed these issues and concluded that support should be given to the Suriname Government towards defining a measurement of multidimensional child poverty in accordance with the global standards set out in the SDG indicators. Efforts are therefore now to be made to build the capacity of the Government to implement the measurement and analysis of multidimensional poverty, including support for the generation of data to monitor child poverty and disparities. ■



## Suriname's electricity service to be upgraded

**S**uriname's national electricity system is set to be upgraded and expanded, in order to provide an improved transmission, sub-transmission and distribution network to consumers.

The NV Energie Bedrijven Suriname (EBS) is aiming at delivering a more reliable, efficient and sustainable electricity supply. To this end, the electricity system upgrade and expansion project will result in the replacement of 36.6 kilometres of sub-transmission and distribution lines; the construction of five new substations, the expansion or upgrade of three existing substations; and the installation of three solar photovoltaic plants by 2021.

The project, which is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) also provides for the undertaking of a master grid study and a dynamic stability study, in anticipation of changes to the operating environment, as a result of provisions under the country's new Electricity Act (2016).

Daniel Best, Director of Projects at the CDB, noted: "We are committed to working with the Government of Suriname to strengthen and modernise its social and economic infrastructure. The energy sector is a key driver for sustained economic growth and improved long-term competitiveness for Suriname."

He added that the newly approved project builds on the policy-based loan approved for Suriname in May 2016, intended to assist the government of Suriname with its adjustment programme to address challenges in its energy sector's operational, policy and regulatory environment.

In addition to the contribution from the CDB, the initiative will be co-financed to the tune of US \$33.325 million by the government of Suriname and the EBS. ■

## FEATURE ARTICLE



Development of green industries may unlock growth for Caribbean economies in 2017





**O**n Wednesday 14 December 2016, the coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Development Unit, Mr. Sheldon McLean, presented the performance of the sub-region's economies in 2016, and outlined projections for 2017. The presentation took place in the context of the launch of the flagship document, "Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean", which is issued by ECLAC on an annual basis.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



# GREEN INDUSTRIES

## MAY UNLOCK GROWTH FOR CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

Following his presentation, Mr. McLean shared some highlights with The Hummingbird.

### **Q: What was the average performance of Caribbean economies in 2016?**

This year's overview showed that the average gross domestic product (GDP) for 2016 fell by 1%, from 1.3% in 2015, to 0.3% in 2016 in the subregion. On average, the Caribbean recorded a fiscal deficit of about -1.4% in 2016. In Dominica the fiscal balance was flat, while others countries were in deficit, with Barbados, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago posting the largest deficits.

### **Q: What caused this negative performance in your view?**

Well, there have been deepening recessions in the goods producers in some countries. Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize contracted by 10.4%, 4.5% and 2.4% respectively. Despite 2.6% growth in Guyana, the goods producers contracted on average by 3.7%, while the service producers achieved a 2.1% growth, up slightly from 1.8% in 2015.

### **Q: What is the outlook for public debt following these initiatives?**

The average public debt grew from 68.7% in 2015 to 70.7% in 2016, in part because of a significant increase in the public debt ratio in Anguilla, as a consequence of increased domestic borrowing and the absorption of contingent liabilities by the Government of Anguilla. The second largest increase in the debt (public) to GDP ratio was seen in Trinidad and Tobago, as falling GDP amid low energy prices coupled with increased borrowing led to a 12.1 percentage point increase in the public debt ratio. Further, falling commodity prices contributed to a slight widening of the average current account balance in the Caribbean from -10.3% of GDP in 2015 to -11.0% of GDP in 2016.

### **Q: Is there any good news from a fiscal perspective?**

Yes, I would say that there is. The subregional goods producers cut their average deficit from -4.5% in 2015 to -3.4% in 2016, while the service producers narrowed, on average, from -2.1% to -0.5%. Much of this fiscal success was due to reform measures implemented by a number of Caribbean governments, including Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. In general, the results were mixed, as there was some measure of fiscal consolidation. Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent all achieved fiscal surpluses. The fiscal consolidation and debt reduction initiatives instituted across the Caribbean resulted in a shrinking of the public debt ratios for eight of the 15 Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

### **Q: Were there any countries in the subregion whose economies grew in 2016?**

Yes, there were some economies that grew, namely Antigua and Barbuda with 4.2% growth, and Saint Kitts and Nevis with 3.7% growth. These were the fastest growing Caribbean economies in 2016. Antigua and Barbuda's economic expansion was fueled by a combination of tourism sector activity, tourism-related private sector construction, as well as public sector construction activity, which collectively had positive spill overs in the wholesale and retail trade, as well as in the transportation, storage and communication sectors.

### **Q: There have been instances of decreased access to foreign exchange in some countries. How has this impacted in the subregion?**

Suriname has experienced some exchange rate shocks in both 2015 and 2016. A move to a freely floating exchange rate regime saw the value of





its currency depreciate from SRD \$3.35 to US \$1 in November 2015, to SRD \$7.39 to US \$1 at the end of November. The rise in the exchange rate saw Suriname's inflation rate rise from 4.2% in October 2015, to 77.1% by August 2016. The rest of the Caribbean actually averaged deflationary price changes from August 2015 to January 2016, and subdued inflation rates after that, mainly as a result of low commodity prices and/or sluggish economic activity.

**Q: How might the global economic uncertainty predicted for 2017 affect the Caribbean?**

Global economic uncertainty in 2017 will present distinct challenges and downside risks to the outlook for the Caribbean. The recent OPEC deal will serve to increase energy prices in 2017, but the response of the US energy industry and its official energy policy could dampen the increase. Given the change in government, other US policies in areas such as trade and immigration are also somewhat uncertain presently. Policy shifts in any of these areas could impact directly on the Caribbean. Across the Atlantic, the UK's "Brexit" vote could increase economic uncertainty and affect tourists' decisions to travel, tourist spending

and remittances to the subregion. Another major international factor which could continue to impact negatively on the Caribbean economies in 2017 is the issue of non-compliance with US financial regulations and continued fall-out from loss of correspondent banking relations within the subregion.

**Q: Against this backdrop, what are some of the projections for the short-term future in the subregion?**

Economic growth in the Caribbean is expected to rebound in 2017, as the goods producing economies recover. An increase in the gas supply as well as an increase in energy prices following the recent OPEC deal should see Trinidad and Tobago's economic situation improve. Suriname should also return to positive growth as the inflation shock wears off and the economy begins to feel the impact of the Newmont gold mine. A rebound in the agriculture sector and growth in the tourism industry are expected to produce economic growth of 3.7% in Belize in 2017.

**Q: This sounds promising. Which countries might benefit the most?**

The service producers are projected to grow in 2017, mainly on account of increased tourism activity, both in terms of arrivals and construction of new tourism-related projects, particularly in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

**Q: What are ECLAC's recommendations for the subregion?**

Countries need to continue on their path of fiscal consolidation. It is vital for the goods producers to control increases to their public debt, particularly debt in foreign currency. The Caribbean economies need to focus on diversifying their production, exports and export markets, in order to reduce the risk of dependence on commodity exports and tourism. Tourism producing economies should improve the quality of their tourism product and diversify to attract new visitors. Development of green industries, with a view to exporting green goods, technology and services could generate jobs, and attract grants as well as development financing and generate foreign exchange. To withstand the threat of the loss of correspondent banking relationships, a regional approach could go a long way toward finding a solution to this problem. ■





## Caribbean celebrities for Barbados' 2017 Naniki Music Festival

**S**eeking to improve its economic growth by further strengthening its tourism industry, Barbados prepares itself to host the 2017 Naniki Music Festival, which will take place from 11-15 January at two venues, namely, the Ilaro Court East and the Frank Collymore Hall.

This year's line-up features artistes such as Chrisette Michele, reggae band Third World, David Rudder, Grynner, Alison Hinds, Edwin Yearwood, Gabby, RPB, 2 Mile Hill, Phillip 7, Asher Otto, Nikita, Joaquin, and Ch'An, among others.

Canadian jazz pianist Oliver Jones will bid farewell to the

stage after 70 years, paying tribute to his Barbadian parents.

The festival, which was successfully rebranded two years ago to include a more diverse musical line-up, will feature five shows spanning the genres of R&B, jazz, reggae and calypso. Three of the shows will take place at the beautiful Ilaro Court East, a first-time venue for Naniki.

Executive producer of the show, Tom Hinds, said the festival remains committed to offering high-quality musical experiences to their growing audiences showcasing Barbadian, regional and international talent. "The line-up for 2017 is spectacular,"

he stated.

The Naniki Music Festival took its inaugural musical ride in January 2013, launching in the beautiful, historic island of Barbados over five music-filled days. Since its inception, the concert series has continued in the breathtaking islands of Antigua, Grenada, St. Vincent, and Suriname, featuring an impressive lineup of international musicians, with the signature annual launch in Barbados each January.

The shows treat jazz fans to both international and Caribbean performers of the highest caliber in exotic settings, with legendary as well as emerging talent. ■



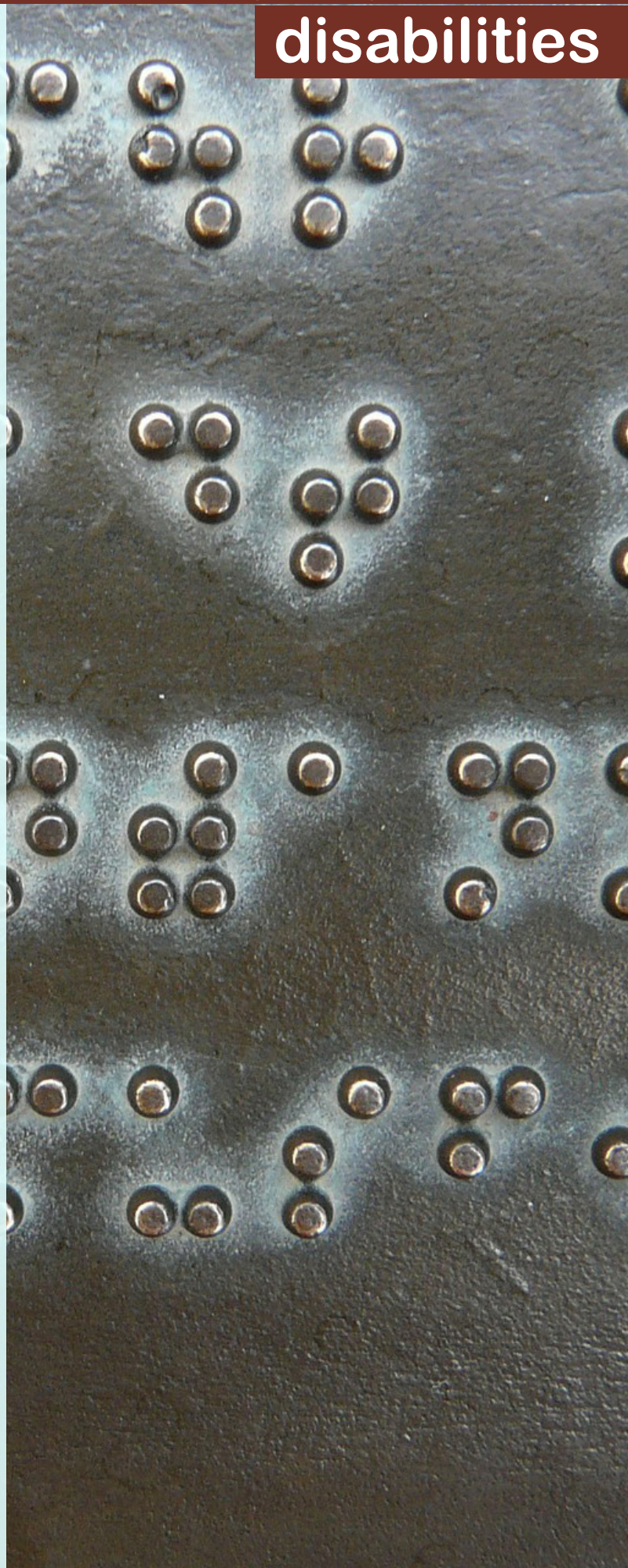
# Delegations meet in Costa Rica to discuss ICT use for people with disabilities

In November 2016, ECLAC Caribbean's Associate Information Management Officer, Robert Crane Williams, made a presentation at the Regional Conference on Information Technologies for Persons with Disabilities in Central America on "Information and communication technologies for the inclusion and empowerment of people with disability in Latin America and the Caribbean". Organized by UNESCO, the government of Costa Rica, and private entities, the meeting was a follow-up to the International Conference on Information Technologies for People with Disabilities held in 2014.

Delegations from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama discussed the content of the future action plan on improving the status of persons with disabilities which will include areas such as capacity building for libraries; the promotion of the use of open source software; strengthening the capacity of universities to deliver distance learning education for persons living with disabilities; and improving the collection of data on persons with disabilities, with a view to establishing a regional support network for the development of initiatives to implement the plan. This action plan will be offered to Central American countries in the hope that during the next five years it may help generate job opportunities for people with disabilities in the region.

The work developed during the conference is key to the fulfilment of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in addition to UNESCO's work on promoting a knowledge society and ensuring the correct implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The topic of information and communications technologies for persons with disabilities is an area of ongoing study by ECLAC, and some of ECLAC's findings, as presented in the Costa Rica meeting, were also published in the Q3 2016 issue of ECLAC Caribbean's FOCUS magazine. ■





# DATA EXPERTS SEEK TO IDENTIFY SDG INDICATORS FOR SIDS

**O**n 6-9 December 2016, the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA) in collaboration with ECLAC and the CARICOM Secretariat brought together users and producers of data to identify a set of core indicators that the Caribbean would regard as essential for monitoring the subregion's progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the UN General Assembly just over a year ago. The Goals, among others, are aimed at ending poverty, promoting decent work and economic growth, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all as part of a sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years and over 200 global indicators have been identified for use in monitoring progress in the implementation of the goals and the attainment of the targets.

Following the adoption of the SDGs, the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians called for the identification of a subset of SDG indicators to allow for sustainable monitoring of the goals in the subregion. It was suggested that the subset focus on regional and national priorities, as well as on the objectives of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway Outcome document.

The SAMOA Pathway outlines the key challenges faced by SIDS and the means to address them, through focussed attention on sustainable development, and on their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

Held in Trinidad and Tobago, the forum organized by DESA, ECLAC and CARICOM was convened to support Caribbean SIDS in identifying sub-region specific SDG indicators.

Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Statistics and Social Development Unit, Professor Abdullahi Abdulkadri, stated that the forum complemented other ECLAC activities to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He recalled that in advance of the adoption of the SDGs by the UN General Assembly, in June 2015 ECLAC Caribbean had organized a symposium on SDGs for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda, which provided a medium for Member States, international development partners, academia and civil society to discuss the development priorities of the Caribbean.





“A major obstacle to development efforts identified at the symposium was the scarcity of data in the Caribbean for sustainable development planning, monitoring and evaluation. At that time, participants emphasized the need for quality, timely and accessible data for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs,” he recalled.

Abdulkadri also noted that recently, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago participated in a seminar held at ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on SDG planning. A similar seminar focusing specifically on the Caribbean is being planned for early 2017 to discuss, among others, the national institutional framework for SDG implementation, and to identify areas of support for Member States in situating the SDGs in national development plans. ■



**T**hirty two Grade 5 students of the International School of Port of Spain (ISPS) recently learned about energy efficiency and renewable energy, during the course of an interactive session facilitated by ECLAC Caribbean.

Research Assistant in the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Elizabeth Thorne, and Public Information Assistant in the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit, Denise Balgobin, visited the school in November 2016, where Ms. Thorne delivered a presentation on sustainable energy.

A few weeks before the visit, the 32 ISPS students had concluded in-depth research on renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. Their teacher, Ms. Allison Johnson, indicated that the ECLAC presentation on sustainable energy would reinforce their knowledge.

The first part of the presentation gave the children a general understanding of the work of the United Nations. The second part was focused on sustainable energy. During the presentation, the students were asked several questions, which they addressed with well-informed and highly engaged responses.

Ms. Thorne's presentation traced the definition of energy; explained the differences between renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy; outlined the effects of burning fossil fuels and the high cost of this fuel and its role in the climate change developments; and highlighted the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy and energy saving activities for the kids. The presentation offered energy efficiency as a first step toward sustainable energy, a step which would assist in reducing the cost incurred by governments worldwide and contribute to overall energy savings.

At the end of the presentation, the ECLAC team presented Ms. Johnson with three sets of two of ECLAC's energy posters. The energy posters were produced by ECLAC Caribbean through the project entitled "Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: reducing the carbon footprint in the Caribbean through the promotion of the energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies". These posters are part of ECLAC Caribbean's drive to extend its work in the areas of disasters and energy to the primary school fraternity through an awareness building programme. The ECLAC team also shared a list of fun energy links for the kids to explore, further fueling their energy awareness and interest. ■





# ECLAC educates students about energy efficiency and renewable energy







## Rural women participate in ECLAC Caribbean of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, celebrated each year on 25 November, ECLAC Caribbean jointly organized a sensitization seminar in Guayaguayare, Trinidad and Tobago, for rural women, in collaboration with Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood in Trinidad and Tobago (GROOTS T&T) and the TOCO Foundation.

The seminar entitled “**Breaking the silence on violence against rural women and girls**” provided the opportunity for ECLAC Caribbean and other members of the United Nations system in Trinidad and Tobago to listen to the concerns of rural women and girls on the challenges they face in fully exercising and enjoying the full spectrum of



their human rights.

Eight important issues discussed during the seminar included:

1. Violence against women and girls is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men/partners and to the prevention of their full advancement and enjoyment of all human rights throughout their lives.
2. 35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, including from intimate partners.





3. In the Caribbean, research suggests that over one third of the region's women report incidents of intimate or sexual violence, and that one in three women in the region will experience domestic violence during their lifetime.

4. The most recent data provided by the Gender Equality Observatory of ECLAC shows that of the eight countries for which figures are available (Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago), the highest rate was recorded in Suriname (2.6% per 100,000 women), which is the only country with data on both intimate and non-intimate femicide. Despite efforts made, Caribbean countries have to improve their administrative records of violence against women and provide disaggregated data on this phenomenon

and its characteristics in the short term.

5. Discussing and tackling domestic violence and child marriage remain largely taboo subjects. The persistence of such harmful practices is mainly due to deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and the absence of laws and comprehensive strategies to eliminate all forms of discriminatory stereotypes and attitudes against women and girls. When frameworks exist to address these discriminatory practices, they are not always compliant with international and regional standards and/or may not be effectively and comprehensively implemented.

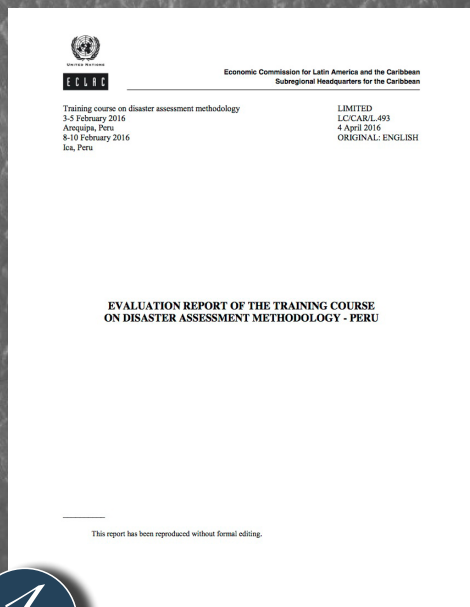
6. Some groups of women, such as women and girls living in rural and remote areas, those belonging to minority groups, widows, older women, those with disabilities, who often suffer intersecting forms of discrimination, may be more vulnerable to violence by a range of perpetrators including their intimate partners and family members.

7. Rural women and girls are too often excluded from the design and implementation of policies and programmes and are not adequately represented in data collection. In fact, there is currently a lack of research and up-to-date disaggregated data by age, sex, nature of violence against women and girls, region, addressing the situation of women and girls living in rural and remote areas. Also, there is difficulty in detecting cases of violence, due to the fear of reprisals, lack of trust in public institutions, awareness, knowledge and understanding of the rights of women and girls by families, societies and governments.

8. Female victims of domestic violence are often economically dependent on their partners as housewives, therefore much more must be done to empower them economically, through the development of self-employment and entrepreneurship policies and programmes, the facilitation of access to credit and the provision of financial services to assist them in the development of micro and small businesses. ■

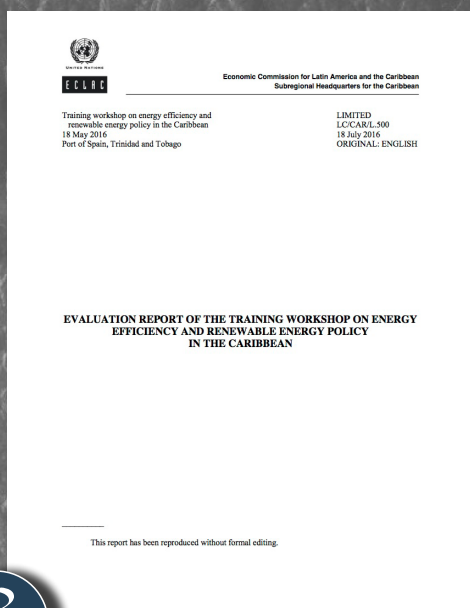


# ECLAC CARIBBEAN'S *Recent Publications*



1.

Evaluation report of the training course on disaster assessment methodology (Arequipa and Ica, Peru).



3.

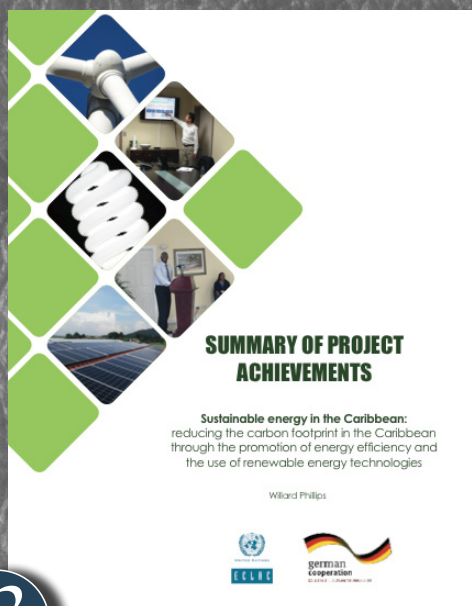
Evaluation report of the training workshop on energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Caribbean



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renewable energy technologies

2.

## DIANE'S CORNER

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



**DIANE QUARLESS**  
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

10/12



### Human Rights Day

"From the right to free speech to access to justice; from the right to live free from fear, violence and discrimination to the opportunity for self-actualization; let us resume to be the agents for change to ensure all citizens are granted these civil liberties."

**#DirectorsTake**

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



# STATE *of* AFFAIRS



**Barbados**

## **VISA WAIVER AGREEMENT WITH CHINA - Dec 22nd -**

With celebrations marking 40 years of diplomatic relations between Barbados and China on the horizon, the Barbados Cabinet approved a reciprocal visa waiver agreement between the two countries to include holders of ordinary passports. On sharing news of the waiver agreement the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean, also mentioned that the two countries have made advancements in the area of social-cultural cooperation, including The Fish and Dragon Festival and the establishment of a Confucius Institute.

## **MILITARY AID PROTOCOL WITH CHINA - Dec 23rd -**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean, and Ambassador of China to Barbados, Ms. Wang Ke, signed a protocol between the Barbados Defense Force and the People's Liberation Army of China. The formalization of this protocol follows the signing of an agreement between the Barbados Defense Force and China on 15 March 2016, which allows China to provide Barbados with military aid gratis, valued at almost six million Barbados dollars (US\$3 million).



**Haiti**

## **\$3.5 MILLION FOR EDUCATION SERVICES - Dec 29th -**

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the United Nations approved \$3.5 million for restoring safe education services for schools and other relief activities in southwest Haiti, which continues its recovery from the massive destruction, brought by Hurricane Matthew nearly three months ago. The funding will provide assistance and support to an estimated 30,000 people.

## **MOISE CONFIRMED AS 58TH PRESIDENT - Jan 5th -**

The Office of the National Electoral Litigation (BCEN) has confirmed the winning candidate, Mr. Jovenel Moïse, as Haiti's 58th President. The United Nations' Security Council joined the international community in congratulating Mr. Moïse, whose election completes a process that took over a year. Before the election, an interim president had led the nation since February 2016, when the Haitian National Assembly elected Jocelerme Privert one week after former President Michel Martelly demitted office without a successor.



**Turks and Caicos**

## **FORMER TCI PREMIER RESIGNS AS PARTY LEADER - Dec 17th -**

After accepting full responsibility for his party's election loss in the island's general election, the former premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), Dr. Rufus Ewing, resigned as leader of the Progressive National Party (PNP). The PNP suffered a defeat at the polls to the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), winning four out of the 15 elected seats in the TCI's House of Assembly. Mr. Washington Misick was named the interim leader of the PNP.

## **NEW CABINET SWORN-IN - Dec 22nd -**

Ms. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, and her selected members of Cabinet were appointed by the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), Dr John Freeman, following general elections held on 15 December 2016. On the same day, the island's Governor also signed the appointment instrument for the new leader of the opposition, Mr. Washington Misick. The newly appointed government will be made up of members of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) who won ten out of 15 electoral seats.



# Adieu Ms. Sheila Stuart



**A**fter 11 years of exemplary service at ECLAC Caribbean, Social Affairs Officer, Sheila Stuart, bade us adieu as she proceeded on retirement. According to Sheila, her time with us was an interesting tour of duty filled with many wonderful experiences.

she had made in support of their work, particularly in the area of gender and development.

"This appreciation expressed is perhaps the most positive aspect of my professional experience. I will take this with me, along with the relationships that I have built over the years and that will remain with me for the rest of my life," she reminisced.

On her final day, Sheila took the opportunity to thank all her colleagues "who listened to my rants and sermons over the years, because by doing so you allowed me to view things

through different lens. Many of you allowed me to laugh out loud and laughter is a great healer. I can tell you that our conversations and laughter proved extremely therapeutic and I have grown stronger as a result," she said.

Sheila told The Hummingbird that she was looking forward to living in her native Barbados once again, but leaving Trinidad and Tobago will be bittersweet because she has grown to love many things about the country. Best wishes and blessings to Sheila from all of us at ECLAC Caribbean. ■

## Welcome Ms Lydia Rosa Gény

**T**he family atmosphere at ECLAC Caribbean proved welcoming for new Associate Social Affairs Officer (Gender) Ms Lydia Rosa Gény, who took up duties effective 1 October 2016. Lydia literally hit the ground running as she almost immediately was assigned to participate in the 13th Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, Uruguay that same month.

Lydia is a national of Brazil and holds a Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris "Sciences Po" in Paris, France, as well as an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom.

She served with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, prior to joining ECLAC.

Her career spans assignments in her native Brazil (2014, 2010), with UN Women in New York (2012), in the United Kingdom (2008-2009) and in Mexico (2005/2006). She is fluent in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. ■





# Haitian Black Mushroom Rice

**T**his Black Mushroom Rice recipe uses Black mushrooms which are native to the northern part of Haiti. Considered a delicacy, they are not used in everyday cooking. When boiled, they release a gray-black colouring, giving this dish and many others a distinctive aroma, flavour and colour. This rice is usually served with a meat or fish dish.

## Ingredients:

**2 cups of dried black mushrooms**  
**3 garlic cloves minced**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**1 small onion chopped**  
**2 cups long-grain rice**  
**2 teaspoons salt**  
**1 tsp ground cloves**  
**1 (12-ounce) can lima beans (or green peas)**  
**1 to 2 thyme sprigs**  
**1 green hot pepper**

## Method:

- Step 1.** In small pot, soak mushrooms in 4 cups water for 10 minutes.
- Step 2.** Boil mushrooms on low heat for 10 minutes.
- Step 3.** Strain the mushroom water into another container for later use. The mushrooms in the strainer will no longer be needed.
- Step 4.** In a large pot, sauté the garlic and onions on medium heat for 2 minutes.
- Step 5.** Add the rice and stir for 3-5 min.
- Step 6.** Next, add the mushroom water, salt, cloves and lima beans.
- Step 7.** Bring the water to a boil and reduce the heat when most of the water evaporates (approximately 10-15 min).
- Step 8.** Stir the rice, setting the heat to low.
- Step 9.** Add hot pepper and thyme.
- Step 10.** Cover the pot and steam the rice for 15 min.

Servings : 4  
Prep Time : 15m  
Cook Time : 20m  
Ready In : 45m







# Jamaica's Accompong Maroon Festival

**T**he Accompong Maroon Festival of Jamaica is a cultural event that celebrates the signing of the peace treaty between the native Maroons and the British, which took place over 200 years ago. The festival is celebrated by the Maroons of Western Jamaica, the descendants of runaway slaves, who gather every year on 6 January in Accompong to mark their victory over the British with a day of festivities.

There is traditional dancing, singing, blowing of the abeng – a cow horn – and the playing of Maroon drums. The men typically take charge of the cooking and no salt is used. Non-Maroons are welcome and the celebrations have been known to go on for as long as three or four days.

This year's festival seeks to shine the spotlight on the life of the heroic Maroons through singing, dancing, storytelling,

cooking and more.

Accompong is an historical Maroon village in the hills of the parish of St. Elizabeth. It was deliberately sited in Cockpit Country because of its extremely hilly terrain which enabled Maroons and indigenous Taíno to establish a fortified stronghold in the 17th century. They were thus able to defend it to secure and maintain their independence from the Spanish and then later against British forces, after the colony changed hands.

The people named their community Accompong after an early Maroon leader. Their autonomy with certain rights for limited self government was established by a peace treaty with the British in 1739. Since independence in 1962, the government of Jamaica has continued to recognize Maroon indigenous rights in this area. ■



# ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*



## Christmas lunch at ECLAC Caribbean

**E**CLAC Caribbean's Social Events Committee co-ordinated a Christmas lunch for staff members on 9 December 2016. Staff feasted on traditional ham, pastelles and turkey, and drank sorrel and ponche-de-creme, along with other delicious food.

Here are photographic memories of that day. ■





# Charity drive for Haiti's relief efforts following Hurricane Matthew

**E**CLAC Caribbean's Social Events Committee launched its Annual Christmas charity initiative in October, and received admirable response from staff and other UN agencies in Trinidad and Tobago.

This year, the focus was a "Donation Drive for Haiti" in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew, which almost demolished several parts of the country.

Items collected included clothing and linens, water, non-perishable foodstuff, personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soaps, lotion), household use items (detergent, toilet paper), and even some baby care items (powder, baby oil).

ECLAC engaged the assistance of local non-governmental organization, Is There Not A Cause? (ITNAC), who kindly agreed to receive the items and ship to Haiti.

ECLAC Caribbean graciously thanks all the agencies and persons who contributed and assisted with sorting and packaging. Delivery to ITNAC's base in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago was made without difficulty. ■



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