

the Humming Bird



SG GUTERRES CALLS ON WORLD

TO RALLY ROUND
THE WEST INDIES

DIRECTOR QUARLESS

ECLAC CAN ASSIST
ACHIEVING SDGs

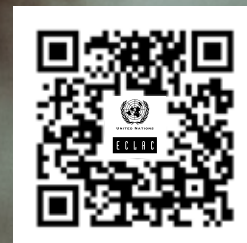
AUGUST 11 IS

WORLD
STEELPAN DAY!



EXHAUSTED OF TRAFFIC?

TAKE THE SURVEY



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ABOUT US

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers 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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INTERNATIONAL DAYS

30 July

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

12 August

International Youth Day

19 August

World Humanitarian Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2 AUGUST 2023

Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

6 AUGUST 2023

Advancing the realization of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the Amazon basin

10 AUGUST 2023

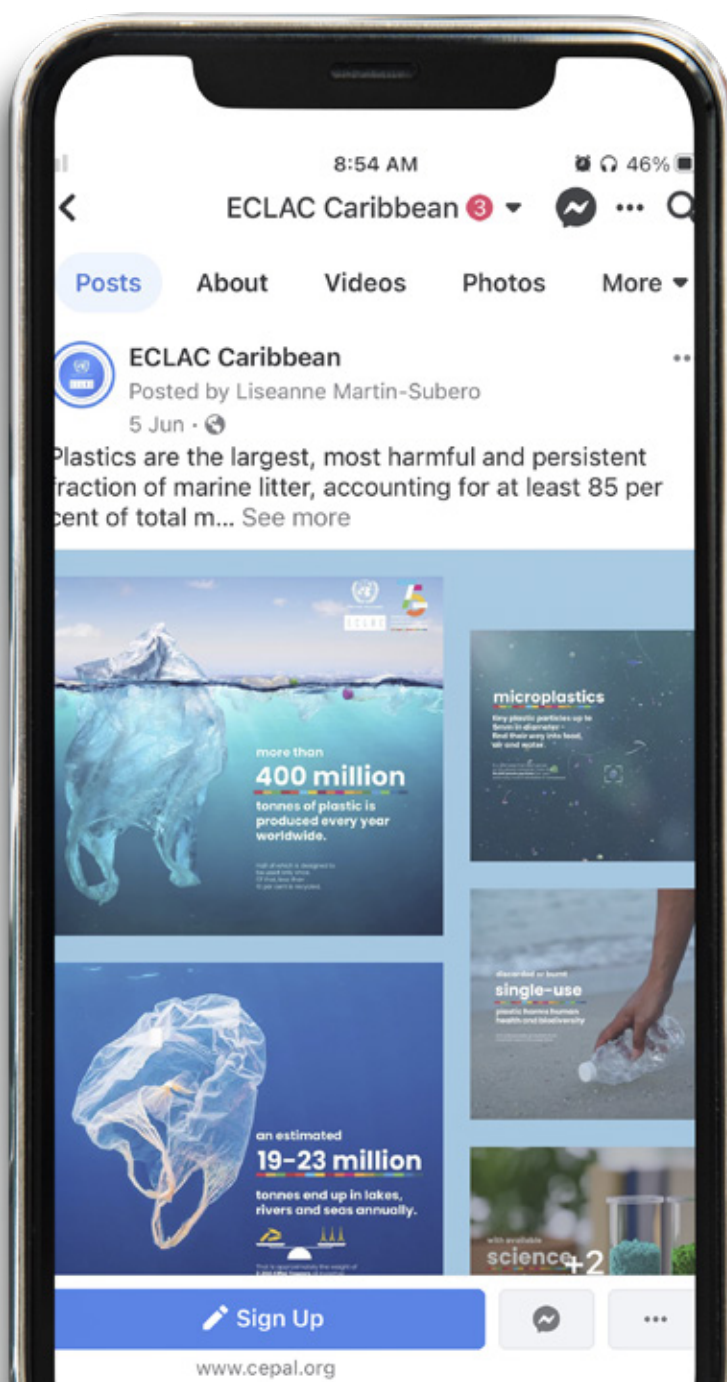
First meeting of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance of the Escazú Agreement



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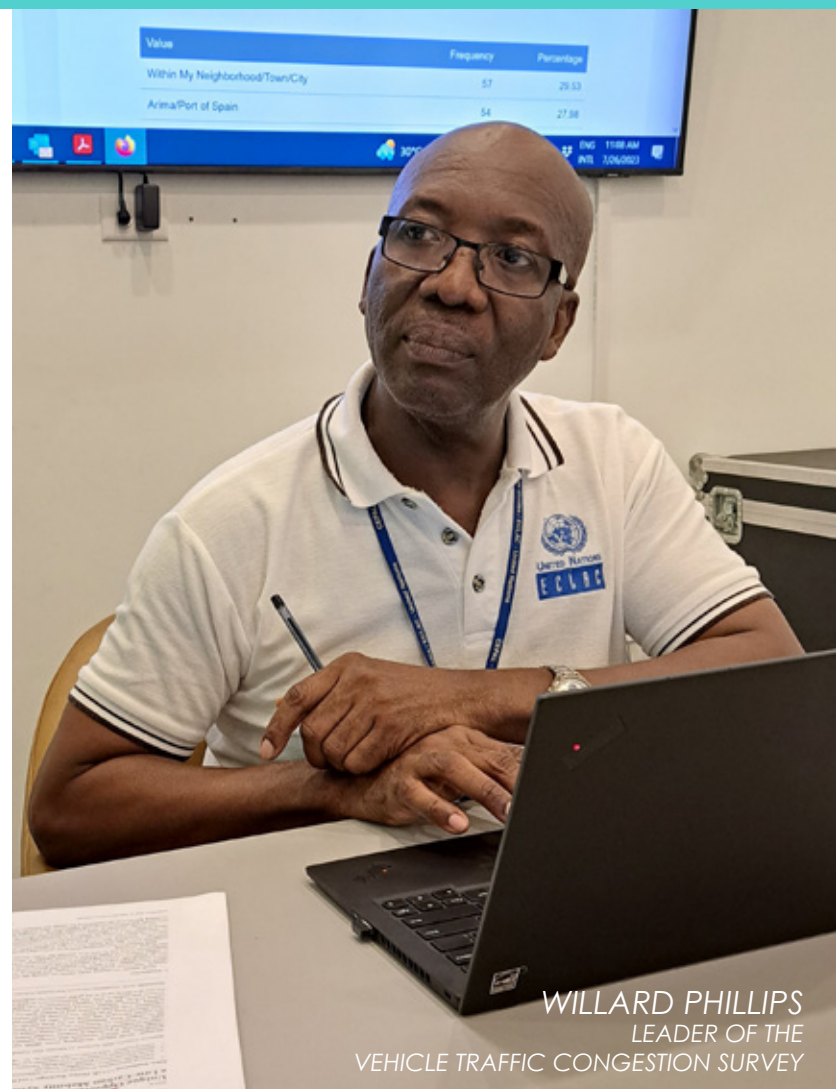
VEHICLE TRAFFIC

CONGESTION STUDY

In-keeping with ECLAC Caribbean's mission to assess the development challenges in the region and to contribute to solutions through research, analysis, and technical advice; ECLAC is undertaking a ground-breaking study of the economic impact of vehicular traffic congestion in Trinidad and Tobago.

The problem of vehicle traffic has been studied worldwide, and it has significant economic, social, and environmental effects. In the European Union, traffic-related loss amounts to some 1.4% (200 billion Euros) of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). In the USA, traffic triggers annual loss of 0.7% of GDP or some US \$151 million.

No studies have estimated the economic impact of vehicular traffic in the Caribbean. In researching issues that impact its membership, ECLAC is putting numbers on the problem of Trinidad and Tobago. The study will also provide information on the progress of four Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-



WILLARD PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE
VEHICLE TRAFFIC CONGESTION SURVEY



*MEMBERS OF THE SDDU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER UNIT
ELIZABETH THORNE, ESTHER CHONG LING AND WILLARD PHILLIPS
DISCUSSING STRATEGY FOR THE VEHICLE TRAFFIC CONGESTION SURVEY.*

Being); SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production); and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Vehicular traffic generates impacts that are cross-cutting and relative to these SDGs.

Economic Affairs Officer at ECLAC Caribbean, Willard Phillips, who is leading the study, says almost everyone in Trinidad and Tobago experiences vehicular traffic

congestion on the roadways, and not only in urban areas. He expects that the study will quantify the impact of the problem. "It is anticipated that the Vehicle Traffic Congestion Study will offer some insights into the economic burden of persistent traffic (congestion) particularly to Caribbean small economies. Hopefully, this can provide some guidance to policy makers as to the level of public sector investment that might be

necessary to at least alleviate the problem. While Trinidad and Tobago is the first case study, it is expected that similar future efforts would be undertaken in other Caribbean economies where the problem persists."

The study will be completed and published early next year.



CARICOM
HIS EXCELLENCY AM
UNITED NATIONS SEC



A **Hummingbird**
FEATURE

SECRETARY GENERAL GUTERRES:

RALLY 'ROUND
THE WEST INDIES

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
SECRETARY GENERAL



45th REGULAR
THE HEAD
TRIN

In an action-packed mission to the Caribbean, Secretary General António Guterres underscored what he described as “the twin power” and vulnerability of the Caribbean region. Touching down in Trinidad and Tobago to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, establishing CARICOM (Caribbean Community), SG Guterres met with heads of Governments, got a taste of the islands and met with UN staff.



SG GUTERRES: RALLY 'ROUND THE WEST INDIES



Addressing the Prime Ministers and officials at the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting, SG Guterres quoted the anthem of the West Indies cricket team. He used calypsonian David Rudder's poignant words to call the leaders to action, and also calling on the international community to "rally round the West Indies". Pondering net-zero deadlines, climate justice, adaptation finance and safeguarding biodiversity, SG Guterres said, "soon we must take a side or be lost in the rubble, in a divided world that don't need islands no more."



As he championed the desperate calls for urgent global climate action, SG Guterres called on developed countries to consider his Climate Solidarity Pact - "in which all big emitters make extra efforts to cut emissions; and wealthier countries support emerging economies to do so." He supported CARICOM's call for a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, which will allow Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to access greater funding to address vulnerabilities such as climate change.




"Developed countries must also finally make good on their financial commitments to developing countries – including by meeting the \$100 billion goal, doubling

adaptation finance, replenishing the Green Climate Fund, and operationalizing the loss and damage fund this year.

He noted that Caribbean leaders have been at the forefront in development solutions, "including Prime Minister Mia Mottley through the Bridgetown Initiative and Prime Minister Andrew Holness through the Finance for Development Initiative (FDI). As part of our preparation for the Summit of the Future, I put forward a detailed blueprint for a redesigned global financial architecture, including the Bretton Woods system." (It is notable that ECLAC provided technical support to Jamaica on the FDI.)

"I thank Caribbean leaders for your powerful calls for climate justice, advancing global action on loss and damage, investing in renewables, and safeguarding biodiversity, including through the efforts of Indigenous communities."

The Secretary General first visited Haiti, then Trinidad and Tobago. He lamented the fragile security situation in Haiti, where human and political needs continue to be more desperate. Despite the efforts of the Security Council in Haiti, the SG says there is need to dig deep and summon the spirit of the founding of CARICOM. "The



challenges we see in Haiti require greater engagement and greater solidarity."

In Trinidad and Tobago, after meeting with the Prime Minister, he reminded UN workers to focus on achievement and the added value of the UN by saying, "We trust you, but be fully aware that the UN in each in every moment needs to prove that we are useful... This is a country where many of the objectives of the SDGs are achievable."

There are 16 United Nations agencies, funds and programs in Trinidad and Tobago, with an approximate staff of 200, servicing the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



IN SAINT KITTS' OLDEST TOWN

A NEW CARIBBEAN RUM



Rum was made here for more than two centuries, when Old Road was new.

The town of Old Road on Saint Kitts' western coast is where the island, then called Liamuiga, first became part of the New World — the point of the first English land grant in the West Indies.

Today, the former rum distillery at Wingfield Estate in Saint Kitts is a newly-unearthed remnant of a lost age - one that, some believe, is the oldest distillery in the Caribbean, dating back to 1681.

It's a walkable museum now, thanks to impressive reconstruction and

conservation efforts.

But at its heart, there is something new here, something dynamic: Old Road Rum.

Jack Widdowson is the founder of Old Road Rum, the first-ever aged rum made in Saint Kitts, a brand that is bottling the layered history of this place, redefining the island's spirits culture and putting this seaside town back on the Caribbean map.

When you walk into the visitor center at Wingfield Estate, the first thing on display is a replica of the land grant that brought the first English settlers to this site —

a group that included the great-great grandfather of Thomas Jefferson.

The new rum is a 12-year-old expression, aged in ex-bourbon casks, for now Bajan juice that is finding a home here.

The plan is to build a full-fledged distillery here; for now, the company has launched a "founders program" that is giving enthusiasts the chance to own one of the first 500 bottles made here and "become a life-long member" of the Old Road Rum Company.

Old Road is also part of the new Kittitian Rum Master program, a



PHOTO CREDIT: www.oldroadrum.com

certification course that teaches rum theory, rum history and rum tasting here at Wingfield Estate. The second part of the course takes place on Cockleshell Bay, led by Roger Brisbane, the founder of the island's Hibiscus Spirits, which produces infused rums.



Beautiful clear turquoise water near rocks and cliffs in Negril Jamaica.

DISCOVERING ANOTHER SIDE

OF NEGRIL, JAMAICA

Between the cluster of all-inclusive resorts on Seven Mile Beach and the high-end boutique hotels on the West End, cliffs of Negril is one of the last outposts of budget tourism left in the Caribbean. It's still possible here to get a room at a beachfront hotel for under US \$100 and a fresh-cooked local meal for less than US \$20 — including a Red Stripe beer on the side.

First developed for tourism in the 1950s, Negril became a counterculture magnet in the 1960s and didn't get its first big resort until 1977, when the Negril Beach Village opened (it's now the Hedonism II resort).

Today, the north end of Seven Mile Beach is home to big resorts with brand names like Riu, Royalton, Couples, and Sandals, but the southern half of the legendary beach — closer to the town of Negril — is still populated by the smaller, older hotels that predated the all-inclusive era.

These modest hotels aren't likely to be found in slick social media campaigns, but properties like the Bourbon Beach Club, the Coco La Palm Beach Resort, Rondel Village, and Merrill's Beach Resort continue to attract budget travelers. It's particularly a favorite for European tourists who are generally more comfortable with spending less per night for basic accommodations, to extend their vacations for weeks or even months at a time.

Drinking and dining around this part of Negril is enjoyable. You can find Coletta's Restaurant, a typical local Jamaican eatery, with picnic tables out front, and menu prices more in line with the area's '70s vibe.

Other walkable dining options along the stretch of Norman Manley Boulevard — the main road to Negril — range from vegetarian food at Rasta Ade, to typical beach bar fare at Woodstock and jerk chicken right off the grills set up by vendors alongside the highway.

This part of Negril isn't entirely unknown to tourists staying at Negril's higher-end resorts: Negril's outpost of the Margaritaville restaurant is located in the neighborhood, and the nightlife at Woodstock, and Best in the West has a reputation for good jerk food that gets some visitors off their all-inclusive plans for a meal.

Overall, a stay in this budget-friendly part of Negril is more unpredictable, perhaps, than vacationing at a big brand-name resort — but also more quirky, unique, and authentically local. You can stay cheap, eat cheap, and drink cheap and still enjoy a great Jamaican beach vacation — whether your hotel is directly on the beach or just across the street.



Lighthouse in Caribbean sea, in Jamaica island, Negril, Jamaica

GET PEOPLE & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS INVOLVED

TO ACHIEVE SDGs – DIRECTOR QUARLESS

As Caribbean countries assess their progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ECLAC Director Diane Quarless says that The Bahamas must harness the potential of its people; and develop robust partnerships with the international community, to generate new sources of financial and technical development assistance.

Delivering the opening remarks for The Bahamas First SDG Conference in Nassau, Bahamas, Director Quarless noted that many factors need to converge for successful achievement of the SDGs. The Bahamas celebrated its 50th anniversary as an independent nation in July. Director Quarless said it was a perfect moment to analyze progress made on the SDGs, while checking the alignment of national development priorities.

“A best practice in SDG implementation is the mainstreaming of the SDGs in national development plans. Aligning the global Goals with national development priorities promotes efficiency in the implementation of sustainable



HOW THE BAHAMAS IS PROGRESSING TOWARDS THE SDG GOALS



development activities, and ensures that the SDGs are factored in strategies employed to advance national development and vice versa.”

Caribbean countries face challenges in jumpstarting the implementation of the SDGs. Research has shown that there is limited capacity for development planning and implementation of integrated national development plans. Additionally, there is inadequate institutional framework for national ownership of the 2030 development Agenda. Another factor which hampers SDG implementation is the dearth of data (in some areas) to guide and inform development planning. Director Quarless reminded all in attendance of the unique support that the Commission provides, and the country’s diligence to tracking SDG implementation progress.

“We at ECLAC have therefore made addressing these key obstacles to sustainable development a core priority in our technical assistance to the countries of the Caribbean. The Bahamas was the first to benefit from such support. You were also

among the first Caribbean countries to present a Voluntary National Report following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.”

Director Quarless believes some of the key areas to tackle SDG implementation are investment in poverty reduction, reducing inequality, growing the economy, with a focus on green energy, climate action and the blue economy. This can be done with meaningful international partnership and buy-in from the people.

“Partnership with and the empowerment of the citizens of this beautiful country will be crucial for unlocking their creative and innovative potential, so that ALL may participate in the search for solutions to the challenges that all Bahamians face. This must be complemented with robust and dynamic partnership for development by the international community, with a view to generating new sources of financing and technical assistance, to help The Bahamas build a knowledge-driven, climate smart, people-centered economy and society.”



WORLD STEELPAN DAY DECLARED!

Among the dozens of international days of recognition of special groups of people, phenomena, environment, human achievement and culture as declared by the United Nations, the steelpan now has a special place!

The Caribbean can now feel proud with the announcement that 11 August will be celebrated as World Steelpan Day, annually. The steelpan has, for decades, been one of the most identifiable and popular auidial and visual representations of Caribbean culture.

In July, a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago journeyed to the UN General Assembly in New York, where T&T's Minister of Culture Randall Mitchell introduced the resolution for World Steelpan Day to the Assembly. The delegation included world-renowned steelpan musician and arranger Dr. Ray Holman, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of T&T to the United Nations, Dennis Francis.

Speaking at the General Assembly, Minister Mitchell said, "The rhythmic tones and dance-enticing energy of steelpan music, saw it adopted and replicated throughout the Caribbean, making it a common offering at tourist resorts and even the most remote getaways in the Caribbean. The steelpan emerged in response to the suppression of the use of other musical instruments."

Steelpan is a family of tuned percussion instruments ranging from soprano to bass. Pans frequently accompany and associate with Calypso music and its related genres, and the steelband (all the steelpan instruments in orchestra) is one of the main soundtracks of Caribbean carnivals. The instrument was created in the underprivileged areas east of Port-of-Spain with a history of innovation, resistance and a need for musical innovation, in the early twentieth century, from used oil drums. It is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago and is often seen as a



CHECK OUT THESE POPULAR AND OR CHART-TOPPING SONGS THAT FEATURE THE PAN!



SIDE BY SIDE

Earth, Wind and Fire (1983)



JUST THE TWO OF US

Bill Withers & Grover Washington Jr. (1980)



KOKOMO

The Beach Boys (1988)



P.I.M.P.

50 Cent ft. Snoop Dogg (2003)



ME & THE RHYTHM

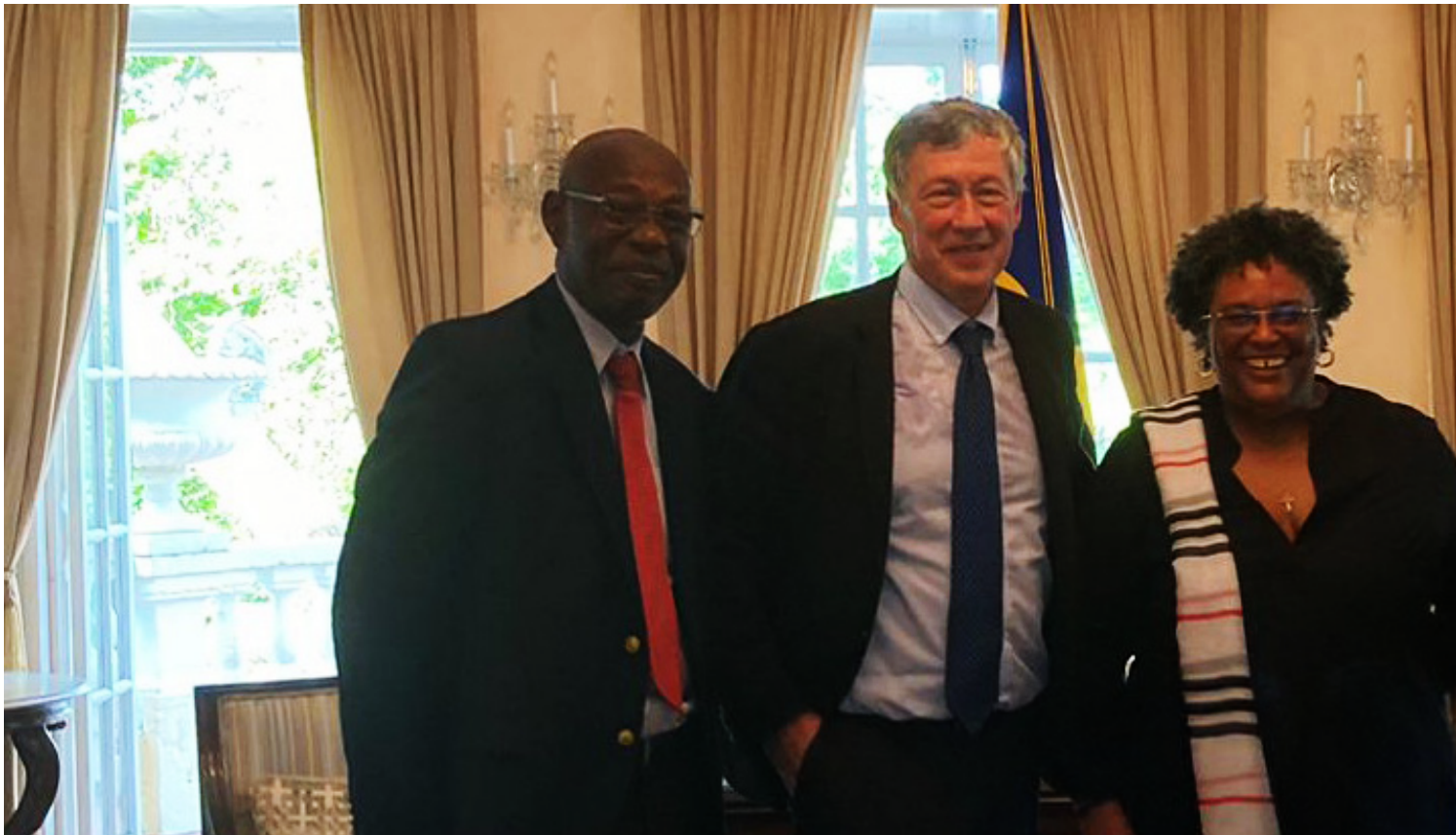
Selena Gomez (2020)

symbol of sustainability and resourcefulness. The steelpan is the only acoustic orchestral instrument created in the 20th century.

Minister Mitchell noted that activities around the steelpan incorporate science, technology, engineering, tourism, culture, trade and education. At the General Assembly he pointed out that pan is taught in metropolitan universities in North America and Europe. He said it is also used as a tool of cultural integration in multicultural cities such as Ontario, Canada. In 2017, a study by Trinidad and Tobago's Economic Development Advisory Board revealed, that the pan-manufacturing industry in T&T generated TT \$23.5 million (US \$344,275).

“ I wish to express the deepest appreciation of the government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the enthusiasm shown and the invaluable support rendered by member states. ”

The United Nations says international days are proposed to the UN General Assembly by Member States. The General Assembly then uses consensus to decide on the adoption of the resolution. International days are always connected to maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of sustainable development, protection of human rights and the guarantee of international law and humanitarian action.



ECLAC PROMOTES

THE CARIBBEAN RESILIENCE FUND AT BARBADOS MEETING

A team from ECLAC recently completed a successful mission to Barbados to promote the Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF), as a regional initiative which may be used to leverage long term affordable development finance.

Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Dillon Alleyne, likened the purpose of the CRF to the Bridgetown Initiative, which was introduced by Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, in 2022. This Initiative is the development of a special purpose

vehicle to leverage long term affordable finance for climate resilience building.

In Bridgetown, ECLAC's team (comprising Daniel Titelman, Rene Castro and Dillon Alleyne) met with stakeholder representatives from several sectors, including the environment, finance, transport and water, the Bridgetown Initiative Unit, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), through the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC) and the European Union (EU).

The stakeholders expressed concern for the limited fiscal space, due to high debt and other fiscal stresses, and the need to have more resources to address climate change. ECLAC Caribbean's response to this was that the CRF would be a nimble institution, with the included capacity to link and collaborate with a range of agencies including regional and international funding agencies.

From ECLAC's point of view, the countries of the Caribbean are in the front line of the climate crisis, but their ability to respond with effective adaptation and mitigation programs is constrained by limited access to affordable finance. As a result, many countries are unable to build fiscal buffers and even where these exist, they are inadequate.



The fiscal space has also been compressed by the rising debt and debt service costs which absorb limited financial resources. To illustrate the extent of the debt problem, the following must be understood. The average government gross debt to gross domestic product (GDP) by region, demonstrates that the debt is regional and systemic and not a single country problem.

The Caribbean average debt ratio was 63% between 2000-2009, 68% between 2010-2019 and 85% between 2020-2021. In fact, several countries have debt to GDP ratios in excess of 100%. This challenge, together with the constant hurricane effect, which on average costs the region US \$3 billion annually, makes for a perfect storm of extreme vulnerability.

It is in this context of high vulnerability and limited access to affordable development finance, that a Caribbean Resilience Fund is being proposed by ECLAC, to leverage all forms of finance including concessional and non-concessional sources.

Alleyne explained that in terms of resilience building, some areas of emphasis will be to support renewable energy, sustainable water management, resilient infrastructure,

agriculture, food security, pooled and scaled up insurance and sustainable tourism. This list of priority activities will be augmented by the specific needs of member states.

He advised that the CRF will be capitalized through sources including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Special Drawing Rights.

Given the urgency of the climate crisis, Alleyne emphasized, it is important that the CRF project be delivered quickly so that collaboration with other agencies can commence.

WHY MICHAEL BUBLÉ

IS COMING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Superstar singer, Michael Bublé, is coming to the Caribbean for a high-profile concert in the Dominican Republic later this year.

Bublé will be hosting his first-ever performance in the Dominican Republic as part of his Higher Tour 2023, which will include a concert at the Casa de Campo Resort and Villas in La Romana.

The concert will be held on 30 September. Bublé will be performing in the 5,000-seat outdoor amphitheater at the Altos de Chavon village, a replica of a 16th-century Mediterranean village.

Altos de Chavon has welcomed more than 200 shows and 500 artists over the last four decades, from Frank Sinatra, who performed the first show at the amphitheater to Sting and Andrea Bocelli, among others.



ECLAC FAMILY

WELCOMES
JABARI FRASER

The ECLAC Caribbean family is pleased to welcome Jabari Fraser, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, to the position of Public Information Officer in the Strategic Planning and Outreach Unit.



Fraser brings to ECLAC Caribbean over 15 years of professional experience in print, broadcast, digital news media and development communications. He has also worked as a freelance interpreter and translator.

The Hummingbird wishes him all success in his new post!



JABARI FRASER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
SPOU



THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



BARBADOS COUCOU

It is a tradition in Barbados to eat Flying Fish and Cou Cou; however, you can eat Cou Cou with other fish and meat dishes.

What you will need:

- A large mixing bowl
- 2 large saucepans
- 1 large mixing jug
- 1lb cornmeal
- 16oz of cold water
- 10 Okras or Lady's fingers
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 large onion
- 1 bulb of garlic
- Fresh herbs
- 2oz butter

How to Make it:

Step 1: Place the 16oz of cornmeal in a large mixing bowl and add 16oz of cold water and allow to stand for 5 minutes.

Step 2: Chop okra or lady's fingers into slices and place in a saucepan, add 1 teaspoon of salt, then chop 1 bulb of garlic into fine slices and add to the okras, then chop one large onion into fine pieces and add to the saucepan, then chop fresh herbs and add to the pot.

Step 3: Now add 16oz of water and bring to a boil. When the saucepan is boiling, reduce the heat and allow to simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Step 4: Now strain the liquid from your saucepan into a mixing jug.

Step 5: In another saucepan, place your soaked cornmeal and half of the liquid from your jug. Stir continuously, adding the remaining liquid from the jug. Continue stirring until cornmeal is cooked all the way through.

Step 6: Now add the contents of the other saucepan with 2oz of butter.

Step 7: Mix it all and serve.





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