



## CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM

MAINSTREAMING THE  
SDGS INTO NATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

## DISASTER TRAINING

ECLAC AND WHO/PAHO  
JOINT DISASTER TRAINING  
IN PERU

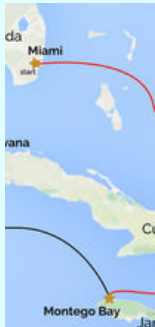
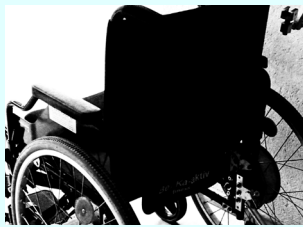
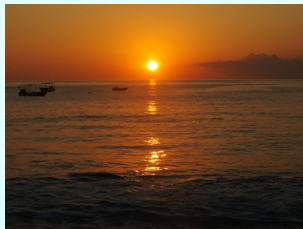
## ECONOMIC AUTONOMY

FOR WOMEN IN THE  
CARIBBEAN



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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Non-profit Organisation

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## March Events

7-10

Forty-Eighth Session of the UN Statistical Commission  
New York, United States

13-24

Sixty-First Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women  
New York, United States  
13 - 24 March 2017

27

Expert meeting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
27 March 2017

31

Expert meeting on monitoring trade agreements and the progress of regional integration for the sustainable development of Caribbean economies within the context of the Mauritius Strategy  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
31 March 2017

**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jan 23

#ECLACCaribbean promotes integrated national development planning to support the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean: <http://vrb.al/sdg-symposium>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Feb 9

#ECLACCaribbean together with WHO/PAHO conducted a series of training workshops on disaster assessment in Peru: <http://vrb.al/eclac-paho>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Feb 3

ECLAC and ACS come together to train country officials in the complexities of a disaster. <http://vrb.al/disaster-training>



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# DE-RISKING IN THE CARIBBEAN



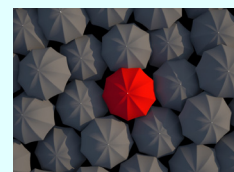
An analysis of the economic impact of de-risking on the banking sector in four Caribbean countries is being undertaken by ECLAC Caribbean, in order to identify workable short and medium term approaches to addressing this challenge.

**D**e-risking, or "de-banking," refers to the practice of financial institutions exiting relationships with and closing the accounts of clients perceived to be "high risk. As a result of this increased focus on de-risking, many banks across the Caribbean are at risk of having their correspondent banking relationships terminated. Correspondent banking refers to the relationship maintained between domestic (Caribbean) banks and "correspondent banks" in foreign territories to facilitate transactions in convertible currencies. These relationships allow access to foreign financial markets, and facilitate international transactions, remittance flows and foreign direct investment.

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis, the countries which will be the focus of the ECLAC study, will provide key documents from both public and private sources for the analysis.

The following are some of the expected outcomes of this analysis, for each of the four countries:

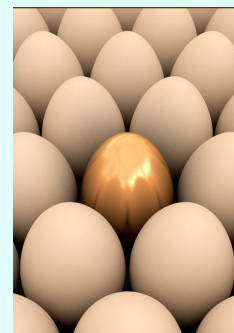
**1** Identification of the banks and the market share of the banking sector found to be at risk.



**2** Assessment of the regulatory performance of the affected banks.



**3** Assessment of the value of financial transactions likely to be lost if the correspondent banks cease their ties with the country, and the consequences particularly in terms of informal response.



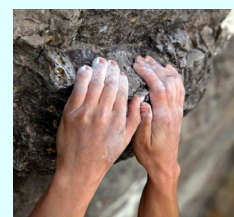
**4** Assessment of the knock-on effects to other key sectors of the economy; as well as of the impact on trade flows, financial aid and foreign direct investment.



**5** Evaluation of existing strategies for successful de-risking.



**6** Identification of the challenges to overcoming de-risking in participating countries, and feasible approaches to address this issue.



# TOURISM growth for British Virgin Islands

**W**hile the potential impact of de-risking in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) remains to be assessed, the country's economy can rely on growing tourism revenue.

According to figures recently released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the BVI government, there were 406,027 overnight visitors documented at the end of 2016. This marks the first time in history that the BVI has topped the 400,000 overnight visitor mark. Also, over the five-year period from 2012 to 2016, overnight arrivals increased

by 15.5% for an annual growth rate of 3.1%.

During his annual budget address themed "Charting the Course: Positioning the Virgin Islands for the Future" on 16 January 2017, Premier and Minister for Tourism, Dr. Orlando Smith, commented on the visitor arrival growth, stating that a strong performance by the tourism sector is indicative that the economy is still robust. Dr. Smith also highlighted a number of government initiatives in the 2017 Budget aimed at growing the sector further.

Dr. Smith further underscored that he is pleased with the hard work of all the tourism industry partners, adding, "They work with a common purpose to create a great experience for our guests that leaves a lasting positive impression that we are indeed a top tier destination."

The premier also commended the BVI Tourist Board for ensuring the British Virgin Islands brand still resonates positively with travellers in major markets in North America, Europe and the Caribbean. ■



# FEATURE ARTICLE

Caribbean symposium  
facilitates the standardized  
reporting of SDG data in  
the subregion



**O**n 14-17 February 2017, ECLAC Caribbean convened a symposium to set the stage for a coordinated approach to planning, implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean. The event provided member States with an opportunity to share best practices in mainstreaming the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SIDS agenda in their national development plans.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





# Caribbean Symposium

facilitates the standardized reporting of SDG data

**H**osted in Kingston, Jamaica, the “Caribbean Symposium on Mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Planning” offered ECLAC an opportunity to identify specific needs for technical assistance by member States for the development of integrated national development plans.

Following the event, The Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one chat with the Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean’s Statistics and Sustainable Development Unit, Abdullahi Abdulkadri, to get some insight into the significance of the event.

**Left photo:** Professor Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean’s Statistics and Sustainable Development Unit

**Right photo:** Symposium attendees

**Q: What were the main objectives of this symposium?**

The main goal was to promote integrated national development planning to support the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean.

**Q: Who participated?**

In addition to member States and associate member Countries, participants included representatives from the UN system; senior government officials from the Caribbean in the areas of planning, sustainable development and foreign affairs; directors of national statistical offices; statisticians; academia; development banks; and regional and international organizations.

**Q: Why is integrated national development planning so important for the attainment of the SDGs?**

It is important to ensure that national, subnational and subregional indicators, as well as data collection and reporting arrangements are designed and implemented in a way that will enable globally comparable and standardized statistics to be compiled by the national statistical systems (NSS) of Caribbean countries.

**Q: What are some of the key factors that need to be addressed for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be in a position to produce these globally comparable statistics?**

For a start, the crucial role of national institutional infrastructure to drive the SDGs must be emphasized. In addition, the importance of quality, timely and disaggregated data must be recognized and the capacity needed to collect, analyse and report data and statistics must be put in place.

**Q: What are some of the constraints that member States face in pursuing sustainable development?**

Caribbean States, like other countries of the world, are in the early stages of implementing the 2030 Agenda. As SIDS, Caribbean states are simultaneously implementing SIDS-specific development





agendas, most notably the SAMOA Pathway, which is an intergovernmental agreement that serves as the blueprint for addressing the sustainable development challenges of SIDS. The capacity to implement these agendas is arguably the most binding constraint in the subregion. Resources are also limited to finance activities and development programmes that will ensure the realisation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway objectives.

**Q: So what were some of the ways in which the SDG symposium addressed these constraints?**

The Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the SDGs in development planning served as a platform to address sustainable development planning, implementation, and monitoring and reporting in the subregion, especially relating to the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, the meeting provided an avenue to identify the status of implementation of the SDGs in member States and the technical assistance that may be required in the implementation of the goals. This will enable ECLAC to better target its programme of support to countries in the area of capacity building vis-à-

vis the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

**Q: What other initiatives has ECLAC Caribbean undertaken to support countries in this context?**

In 2015, we organized a Symposium on SDGs for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda, where member States reflected on the challenges faced and the constraints to effective reporting on the progress of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Then in December 2016, we convened a Caribbean

subregional consultation on the development of a set of core indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in Caribbean SIDS.

**Q: What do you see as the way forward?**

Although Caribbean countries have benefitted from these and other SDG initiatives, many countries are still in the very early stages of conceptualizing a strategy for SDG implementation. Therefore, the importance of national mainstreaming of the SDGs cannot be over emphasized as it is critical to have national ownership of the 2030 Agenda. As Governments undertake to mainstream the SDGs in their national development plans, conscious efforts must also be made to incorporate the SAMOA Pathway and build on the inherent synergy in implementing both agendas. ■

“

*The capacity to implement these agendas is arguably the most binding constraint in the subregion.*

Abdullahi Abdulkadri - Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Statistics and Sustainable Development Unit

”



## Montego Bay's Pineapple Cup Race

Jamaica was recently the venue for one of the oldest offshore races in the Caribbean.

The annual Pineapple Cup boat race, which finishes in Montego Bay, was started in 1961, and for its challenge as being an 811 nautical mile race, is highly anticipated in the region. Immediately after the start in Florida, United States, racers usually cross the Gulf Stream for the Northwest Providence Channel. The middle of the race stretches down the eastern side of the Bahamas island chain toward the tip of Cuba, while the final stretch is typically a sailor's dream – a 240-mile downwind ride from Cuba's eastern tip, known as the Windward Passage, to the finish at Montego Bay.

From 1961-1990, the Pineapple Cup ran from Miami to Montego Bay. From 1991-2015, the race start was moved to Ft. Lauderdale. The 2017 race returns to the original start location in Miami. This year a total of eleven teams registered for the competition. The boat, Prospector – steered by co-owner Paul McDowell, whose crew included Larry Landry and Dave Siwicki – took the coveted title by completing the journey in under three days.

# ECLAC study focuses on persons with disabilities in the Caribbean

**T**he situation of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean is the focus of a new study by ECLAC Caribbean, which will also provide an evaluation of the current status of Government legislation, policies and programmes on disability. The study is expected to be completed within the first half of this year. Information is being sourced from Caribbean countries, using national census statistics, as well as policies and programmes from national focal points.

There are an estimated 340,000 people living with disabilities in the Caribbean, which amounts to 5.6% of the population. With populations ageing and an increasing number of people suffering from non-communicable diseases, this number will inevitably increase in coming years.

Among this group, there are people of different ages, with different types of disability, living in very different circumstances.

The effect of disability on people's lives varies according to the type and severity of disability, socio-economic status, the communities in which they live, and many other factors. Previously disability was seen as primarily a medical problem and persons with disability were seen as being in need of treatment, charity and care. However, the recognition that persons with disabilities are full and equal members of society, with the same human rights as everyone else, has much wider implications. Societies themselves must also change to remove the barriers that prevent full and equal participation thereby enabling the effective exercise of rights.

Many people with disabilities face barriers which prevent their equal participation in society. Across the Caribbean, most schools, workplaces, public spaces, buildings, transport systems and cultural services are not designed to be accessible to persons with physical disabilities. In addition to having dire implications

for their social and economic wellbeing, these barriers to equal participation are now widely recognised as an infringement on basic human rights.

Most Caribbean countries have now ratified the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) but have not yet begun to report on their implementation of the treaty. This Caribbean-wide assessment of the situation of persons with disabilities is therefore an important and timely endeavour and should serve as a precursor to the national reporting exercises which will take place over the coming years. The CRPD sets out an ambitious agenda for a truly inclusive society in which no-one is left behind. It makes clear the scope of the change that is required across all sectors of society and the special responsibility of Governments in this regard. If the human rights of persons with disabilities are to be fully realised, it is clear that much remains to be done. ■

# ECONOMIC AUTONOMY OF WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN

**S**enior policy makers, representatives of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia, with responsibility for programmes supporting women's advancement and the promotion of gender equality in countries of the wider Caribbean, were brought together in 2016 by ECLAC Caribbean for a half-day Technical Meeting to examine the economic autonomy of women in the Caribbean.

The recently published report from that meeting – which was attended by officials from The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago – includes the following recommendations:

- 1** The Decent Work Agenda of the ILO, which fosters an integrated and gender-mainstreamed approach, should be entrenched in labour policies. Development-oriented policies that support productive activities and decent job creation for all women and men should be seen as integral to the Decent Work Agenda.
- 2** Given that access to capital remains one of the crucial barriers to the growth and development of women-owned businesses in the Caribbean, new sources of financing should be identified and access to these sources be facilitated for female entrepreneurs.
- 3** Urgent attention needs to be paid to the provision of social protection and social safety nets if we are to assure women's economic autonomy.
- 4** Enhancing partnerships between banking institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will help to support women entrepreneurs.
- 5** Education reform is critical for women's economic autonomy. While women in the Caribbean achieve higher levels of educational qualifications than their male counterparts, they still account for higher unemployment levels.
- 6** Government ministers with responsibility for the economy should accompany ministers with direct responsibility for women's affairs to high level meetings on gender. This will help to promote gender mainstreaming of government policies and decisions.
- 7** There is a lack of research on women's entrepreneurship, and more work in this area is required to help identify the gaps where they exist, and inform the appropriate interventions in response.

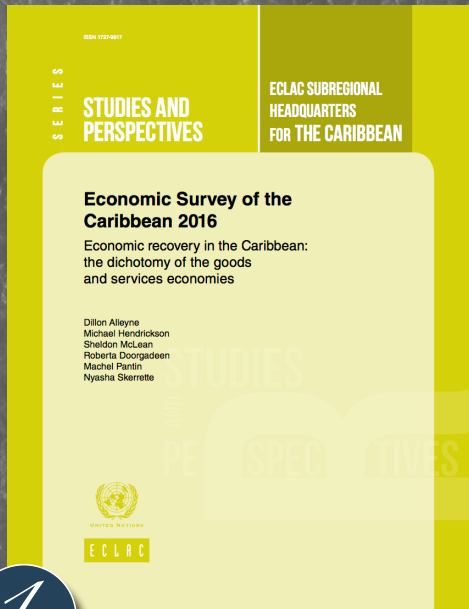


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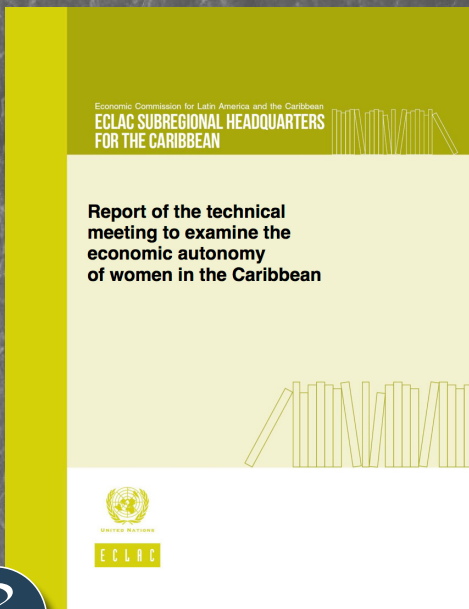
# Recent Publications



1.

## Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2016

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



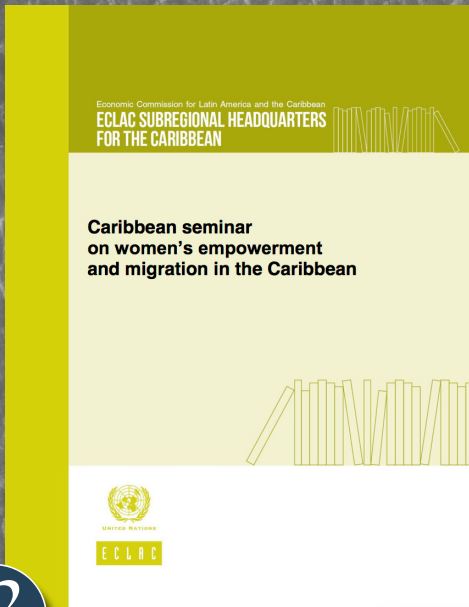
3.

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

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

2.

## DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts  
on the occasion of the Caribbean  
symposium on mainstreaming the  
SDGs in national development  
planning:



**DIANE QUARLESS**  
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

14/2



### The Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the SDGs in national development planning

"SDG implementation is a country-lead process. Governments therefore have the latitude to set their national targets, guided by the global ambition, but with due consideration to national circumstances. Success in SDG implementation will not be achieved without dedicated leadership invested in a defined institutional framework at the national level."

#DirectorsTake

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



# STATE *of* AFFAIRS



*Guyana*

## **OPEN SKIES AGREEMENTS**

- Dec 27th -

Guyana signed various open skies agreements with the Dominican Republic, India and South Korea at the ninth annual International Civil Aviation (ICAN) conference in Nassau, Bahamas. ICAN provides states with a central meeting place to conduct multiple bilateral air services negotiations or consultations. Guyana and Brazil were the only two countries from LAC of the 67 countries that participated in the event. The next ICAN conference will take place in Sri Lanka in 2017.

## **INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF CARICOM**

- Feb 18th -

The Twenty-Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held in Georgetown, Guyana, on 16-17 February 2017. The President of Guyana, Brigadier (Ret'd) David Granger, chaired the proceedings. Member countries represented included: The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Suriname. There was also a representative present from an associate member, the Turks and Caicos.



*Jamaica*

## **JAMAICA LOOKING TO STRENGTHEN TRADE RELATIONS WITH EU**

- Feb 18th -

Following the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union (EU), the Jamaican government has begun to examine ways to strengthen its trade relations with the 27-member bloc. One viable means of doing this will be through effective use of the CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The EPA took effect in 2009, when it replaced the trade provisions of the Cotonou Agreement signed in 2000, and is intended to provide improved long-term market access for CARIFORUM countries into the EU on a reciprocal basis.

## **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT MADE WITH CHINA**

- Feb 20th -

The governments of Jamaica and the People's Republic of China have signed an agreement to collaborate on various production capacity and investment projects in the areas of infrastructure construction, cement manufacturing, resource processing, equipment manufacturing and light industry. Other areas for support under the agreement include the tourism and agricultural industries.



*Trinidad and Tobago*

## **'CHILD MARRIAGE' BILL**

- Jan 23rd -

The Miscellaneous Provisions Marriage Bill, which seeks to outlaw child marriages in the Trinidad and Tobago, was recently passed by the country's Senate. All that remains, as the bill proceeds to the House of Representatives, is the support of a simple majority to make it into law. Various religious groups remain opposed to the bill, arguing that it will infringe upon their rights. One example is the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS), the country's most high-profile Hindu organization, which has threatened legal action, should the amendments to the Marriage Act be passed.

## **PRIME MINISTER AND US PRESIDENT PLEDGE TO DEEPEN TIES**

- Feb 21st -

Prime Minister, Dr Keith Rowley, and US President, Donald Trump, spoke via telephone about a number of issues of mutual interest to Trinidad and Tobago and the United States. Though no specific details have been shared, an official press release stated that, "the leaders agreed that both administrations would continue working together on matters including security and trade. It was acknowledged that both countries have had a close working relationship which will continue to be strengthened."

# ECLAC and WHO/PAHO joint disaster training in Peru

**A** team from ECLAC Caribbean led by Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Mr. Omar Bello, visited Peru in February 2017 to carry out two disaster assessment training workshops in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO).

The workshops on the “Evaluation of the Socio-economic Impact of Disasters in the Health, Water and Sanitation Sectors” took place on 6-7 February in Lima, and 9-10 in Piura, with participation from about 90 professionals from line ministries, national organizations and universities with experience in the areas of planning, economics and disaster risk management. The objective was to build the capacity of the participants to assess the impact of emergencies and disasters using the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology developed by ECLAC.

During the training, presentations focused on the health, housing, and water and sanitation sectors. In particular, special attention was given to water quality, excreta disposal (sanitation) and waste management. Given its strategic importance, the water and sanitation sectors, together with health, are among the first that

should be rehabilitated following a disaster.

The workshops are part of the joint efforts between ECLAC and PAHO/WHO aimed at supporting the assessment of the effects and impacts of disasters and the implementation of rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. In particular, this occasion supported PAHO/WHO’s efforts towards finalizing a step-by-step field guide on assessing disasters, which draws from ECLAC’s Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology and past collaborative efforts in the field of disaster assessment.

The field guide is designed for health, water and sanitation practitioners and focuses on the evaluation of the effects and impacts of emergencies and disasters. The guide will be utilized first in Peru and then will likely be disseminated to the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean. ■



# Trinidad Sweetbread

## Ingredients

**1/2 pound butter, softened**  
**4 1/2 cups white sugar**  
**4 eggs, beaten**  
**1 cup evaporated milk**  
**2 teaspoons almond extract**  
**9 cups all-purpose flour**  
**9 tablespoons baking powder**  
**1 teaspoon ground cinnamon**  
**6 cups shredded coconut**  
**1 cup chopped dried mixed fruit**  
**1 cup raisins**

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease two 5x9 inch loaf pans and set aside.
2. Blend together the butter, sugar, eggs, evaporated milk and almond extract.
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Add to wet ingredients and stir.
4. Add coconut, coarsely mixed dry chopped fruit and raisins. Mix well and pour into prepared loaf tins.
5. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. Remove from pans and cool on wire rack.



## New International Airport in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

One of the Caribbean's most anticipated airport projects is finally complete. The new Argyle International Airport on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received its first-ever flight on Valentine's day (14 February), a charter service operated by Caribbean Airlines from New York.

This represents the end of a journey that started in 2008. With the opening of Argyle, the country can now, for the first time, receive large international aircraft on its new 9,000-foot runway.

The debut marks the close of operations at Saint Vincent's ET Joshua airport, which had served the island for decades but which had only been able to receive regional flights from neighbouring islands in the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves described the opening of the US \$259 million facility as "a symbol, it is a metaphor of what is possible in us. Do not ever allow any people, any nation to impose on us limitations to our imagination." In addition to the 9,000 foot long and 150 feet wide runway, the terminal building has been designed to process 1.5 million passengers annually and 800 people an hour at peak. ■



## MY FIRST TRINI CARNIVAL

**In October 2016, Ms. Lydia Rosa-Geny joined ECLAC Caribbean as Associate Social Affairs Officer. Six months later, she participated in her first Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago. In the wake of the bacchanal, The Hummingbird caught up with Lydia to catch a glimpse of her experience. This article offers a first-hand account of her involvement in the Carnival 2017.**

When about 6 months ago I joined ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, one of the first questions I was asked was “are you going to play mas?” Yes, I did play mas and realized that Carnival in Port of Spain is an extreme moment full of contradictions that contribute to this event being unique in the region, and perhaps in the world.

*Organisation vs Bacchanal:* Contrary to the perception that could be associated with Carnival, such as chaos, craziness and disorganisation, in Trinidad and Tobago, many months of careful preparation are required for one to be able to participate in and play mas. This includes the choice of the costume, the band to join, the Monday wear, the J’ouvert, and even the matching

colourful accessories - Carnival definitely requires long-term planning. The country gets ready for these two days well in advance. The National Carnival Commission (NCC) of Trinidad and Tobago is the government body responsible for organising Carnival, which also represents an economic opportunity for the country. Port of Spain is transformed for the occasion. Traffic is diverted away from the parade routes and the Queen’s Park Savannah become the hub of activity as the main judging stage is located here, while buildings around the city - including ECLAC’s office - are covered by protection grades. For weeks in advance the gyms are full of people who want to get in shape to be able to walk and dance for 12 hours straight, for two days in a row, around the streets of Port of Spain. Once the big day arrives, the Carnival effervescence goes crescendo, with soca music being played loudly everywhere - in groceries, pharmacies, and even public transport vehicles – as its rhythm gets absorbed by children, adults and older persons alike. Bandleaders pay attention to every detail during the two days of Carnival with maps, calendars, apps, catering, transportation and security services provided to all



masqueraders. It is a safe and protected environment in a context recently marked by high insecurity and gender-based violence.

*History vs Vulgarity:* In contradiction to the first impression that “wining” is a vulgar and sexist dance (that could be compared to other dances, like the Axé or Funk in my home country Brazil) that reinforces gender stereotypes -- often exacerbated by some soca lyrics -- Carnival is not only about “wining” and wearing a costume with colourful feathers. Carnival is part of the history and culture of the country and the region that represents an annual festive ritual. According to the NCC, from 1783 – when the French developed their Carnival and brought these festivities to the country – to the present day, Carnival is the result of mixed influences in constant evolution, influences from the rest of the Caribbean with traditional mas characters and new queens/kings of Carnival; old and new soca and calypso artistes singing together, illustrated by Calypso Rose and Machel Montano with their “Leave me Alone” song. It is an event that gives space to creativity and imagination for local and foreign craftsmen, musicians, composers and designers. It is an occasion to meet Trini people and a variety of other nationalities on the road, where all can participate and feel equal regardless of age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, marital status, religion, or health conditions. It is a moment of unity in diversity. Not being a part of part or interested in the Trini Carnival may be like missing one of the main cultural events of the country and, to a large extent, of the Caribbean.

*Feminism vs Sexism:* Although participation in Carnival could be seen as contradictory to feminist values, taking part in Carnival can be combined with feminism. Moreover, participation reflects a freedom of choice, which is a right that in many countries women are

deprived of. Carnival could be a place for starting new campaigns to fight current concerns of domestic violence against women in the country, such as “Leave She Alone” based on the lyrics of Calypso Rose; to protest with signs against patriarchal attitudes, such as “women are not property” fixed in several costumes, or simply in a conservative society, these two days are an occasion where women can be free to be what they want to be, by using a costume that they decide to use without being harassed on the streets. It is an occasion that could be further explored by the Government and other stakeholders to promote changes towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, to guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women; to intensify efforts to ensure education on sexual and reproductive health and rights to all; and to fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against them and other groups. The media, carnival bands and all industries involved could have a role in educating the general public and raising awareness on existing gender-based stereotypes that still persist at all levels of society, with a view to eliminating them.

Overall, the Trini Carnival is a historical and cultural organised “bacchanal”, which can be an occasion to address persistent societal challenges with reenergised ideas in favour of women’s human rights. The Trini Carnival should therefore be understood in a very comprehensive way beyond the clichés. I will probably play mas again to continue this learning process, and encourage others to do the same. ■

# ECLAC CARIBBEAN

## Birthday celebration

### *Family*

The Hummingbird is pleased to share with its readers photos from the ECLAC Caribbean family's most recent quarterly birthday celebration. Here are our "carnival babies". ■





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## SOCIAL MEDIA



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