

the Humming Bird



ECLAC SUPPORTS ARUBA

WITH ROADMAP TO DEVELOP
FINANCIAL TECH AND ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

ECONOMIC SURVEY

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO
FINANCE DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ON WOMEN



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



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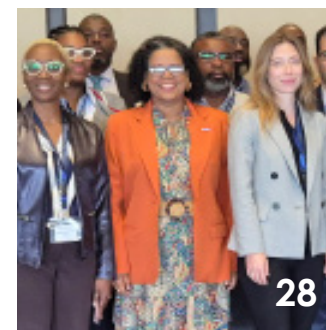
Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously 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.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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INTERNATIONAL DAYS

5 September

International Day of Charity

8 September

International Literacy Day

12 September

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

21 September

International Day of Peace

UPCOMING MEETINGS

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Virtual meeting of the open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters

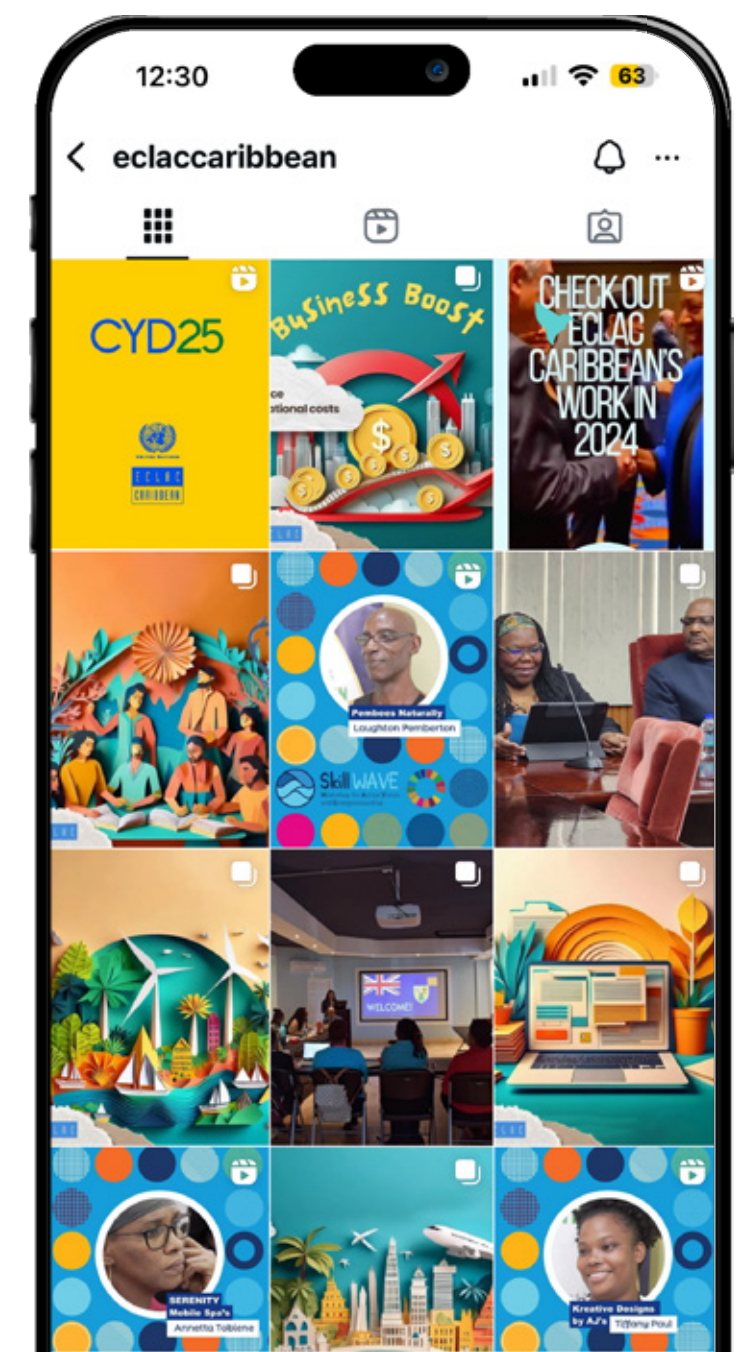
16 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

National training course in project proposal preparation and effective project implementation - St. Lucia

25 - 26 SEPTEMBER

Regional and National Dialogues on External Financing and Climate-Resilient Development

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ECLAC SUPPORTS ARUBA

WITH ROADMAP TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL TECH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



ECLAC Caribbean has completed and handed over to the government of Aruba, a strategic roadmap with actionable recommendations for the development of the fintech (financial technology), artificial intelligence (AI) sectors. The roadmap was part of a dossier of studies on Aruba's fintech sector to assess the opportunities, risks, and strategic positioning of Aruba's digital solutions for finance, business and efficiency. Both the government of Aruba and UN ECLAC believe that the study is important for Aruba's development and can facilitate technological progress, trigger innovation and improve the cost of services for the people of Aruba.

The study, commissioned by the Government of Aruba, reflects months of rigorous research, stakeholder consultations, and comparative analysis. ECLAC Caribbean's Dale Alexander says the study was timely and it offers a roadmap for Aruba. "A vision of Aruba as a resilient, inclusive, and innovation-driven digital economy. A vision where strategic leadership, regulatory modernization, and public-private collaboration



converge to unlock new opportunities for growth, empowerment, and the further diversification of the economy.

"Our major finding from this research is that notwithstanding some strategic gaps and constraints, Aruba is well poised to develop fintech services and leverage AI (artificial intelligence)... what the formal introduction of fintech services will do is bring competition, it will then allow for innovation and it will then improve efficiencies, and as such, there will be a reduction in the cost of services for the average Aruban citizen."

Delivered to Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, and Primary Sector, Geoffrey Wever, the reports outline a clear direction for the development of financial technology services and the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and distributed ledger technologies (DLT). The research includes:

- A trends analysis of fintech development across OECD and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) contexts

- An assessment of Aruba's regulatory and institutional environment

- A synthesis of stakeholder perspectives on opportunities and risks

Minister Wever expressed gratitude to ECLAC and acknowledged the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry (DEACI) for guiding the process, and stressed how important the work is. "Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain technology, and digital finance are not future trends, but are present realities that Aruba needs to capitalize on. These technologies are reshaping how the world invests, insures, and transacts... Let me be clear: the development of Aruba's fintech sector is not a luxury, it is a vital necessity. It is a pathway to economic diversification, increased competitiveness, financial inclusion, and global relevance and resilience.

Minister Wever also noted how important innovations in fintech and AI are for particular groups. "To our youth: you are not just the future, but you are the present as your digital fluency and bold ideas are vital. Aruba must create pathways for you to lead, to build, and to shape the Fintech ecosystem of today and tomorrow.

ECLAC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Aruba and other Associate Members in advancing their sustainable development goals through targeted technical cooperation and policy support.

A
Hummingbird
FEATURE

ECONOMIC SURVEY

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT

Early in August, ECLAC presented a new edition of its annual report [Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2025](#): resource mobilization to finance development, in which it warns that the region continues to endure a prolonged period of low growth. It is estimated that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow 2.2% on average in 2025 and 2.3% in 2026, in line with the rates recorded in 2023 and 2024 (see attached table).

The new projections for 2025 represent a slight upward revision from those published by the organization in April (2.0%), which is attributable to improved GDP performance in the first quarter of the year.

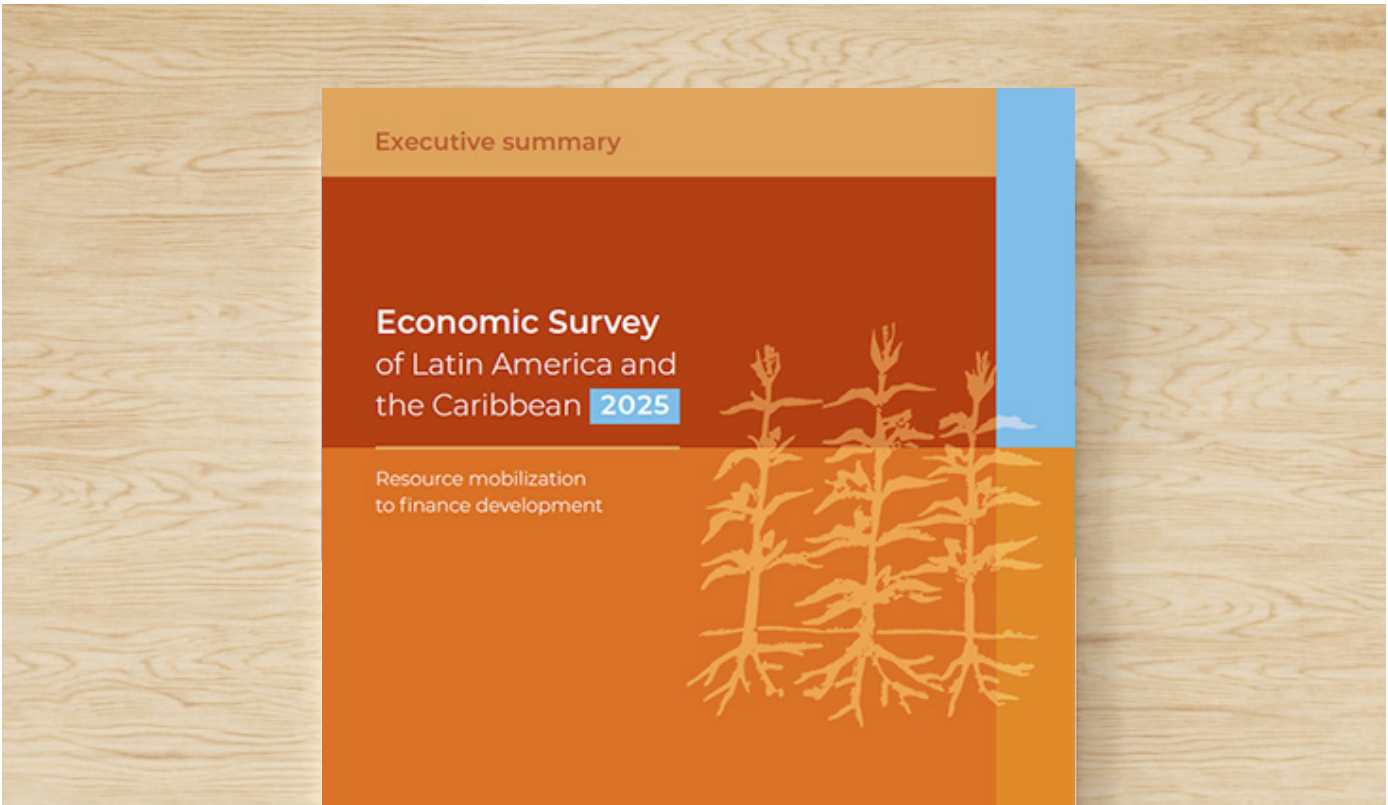


ECONOMIC SURVEY – RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT

The report – released at a press conference led by the United Nations regional commission’s Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs – emphasizes that the estimates point to different dynamics among subregions and countries. In South America, a 2.7% expansion is foreseen in 2025, above the regional average, based mainly on a recovery in Argentina and Ecuador, an upturn in growth in Colombia and Paraguay’s solid expansion. However, in the rest

of the subregion’s countries, a slowdown versus 2024 levels is expected. In 2026, South America’s growth is seen easing again to settle at 2.4%. In Central America and Mexico, projected growth for 2025 is 1.0%, nearly half the 1.8% expansion recorded in 2024, due to the weakening of external demand, especially from the United States. Countries such as Guatemala, Panama and the Dominican

Republic will exhibit a more dynamic performance, however, with rates topping 3.5% thanks to the impetus of the services sector, private consumption and remittances. On the whole, a modest recovery to 1.7% growth is expected in 2026, although the subregion will continue to be highly vulnerable to external shocks due to its structural dependence on the U.S. economy in commercial, financial and migration-related matters.



In the Caribbean (excluding Guyana), growth is forecast at 1.8% in 2025 and 1.7% in 2026, marking a deceleration versus 2024, which is attributable to lower GDP growth in the United States, and the ensuing reduction in the demand for tourism services, in addition to lower global demand for services. The subregion continues to face high costs for energy imports and transportation, as well as notable exposure to natural disasters – factors that impact its external position and debt levels. In contrast, Guyana is seen maintaining high growth rates, thanks to continued investment in the hydrocarbons sector.

The macroeconomic scenario for 2025-2026 will be marked by less dynamism in domestic aggregate demand. The regional macroeconomic environment will be characterized by weak domestic demand, particularly due to slower private consumption. In addition,

international prospects remain unfavorable, limiting the external impetus for regional growth.

In 2025 and 2026, global economic growth is seen easing as a result of multiple conditioning factors, including geoeconomic tensions and fragmentation, even more restrictive financial conditions, a weakening of international trade, and armed conflicts. This is compounded by intensified external vulnerability, reflected in the forecast for a larger current account deficit and in greater dependence on external capital. The report indicates that in the 2025-2026 period, the region’s balance of payments will continue to be subject to various risks, such as the worsening of geopolitical conflicts, the volatility of commodities prices and the synchronized deceleration of the world’s main economies.

Employment growth is also expected to slow. In line with economic activity dynamics, ECLAC anticipates that job growth will remain low in the region’s economies in 2025 and 2026. The increase in the number of employed people is expected to be lower than in previous years. In this scenario, the unemployment rate is seen stabilizing around 5.6%. And while a slight reduction in informality and in the labor gaps between men and women is expected, these indicators will remain at high levels. The 2025 and 2026 projections point to stable regional inflation, although the risks of upward inflationary pressure are expected to persist.

In sum, the report warns that the global and regional outlook for 2025 and 2026 is subject to great uncertainty. The growth dynamics of the region’s economies could deteriorate as a result of increased global risks.

Mobilizing resources to finance development

Given this complex outlook, ECLAC stresses the region’s urgent need to “mobilize greater resources to overcome the traps of low growth, high inequality, limited social mobility and ongoing structural development gaps. In the medium term, Latin America and the Caribbean will face the challenge of preserving its macroeconomic stability and advancing its productive transformation in an increasingly volatile international environment. Facing this challenge requires articulating a long-term strategic vision to underpin sustainable and inclusive development, with short-term macroeconomic policies that

would allow for mitigating risks and reducing exposure to external shocks,” the organization’s Executive Secretary indicated in his presentation.

The **Economic Survey 2025** addresses three key dimensions for boosting development-financing capacity in the region, based on three strategic pillars.

The first pillar is centered on domestic resource mobilization. The report identifies the fiscal and structural challenges that limit resource mobilization in the region. It proposes improving the quality of spending, increasing public investment, strengthening tax collection by reducing evasion and streamlining tax expenditures,

while also moving towards greater progressivity in the tax system.

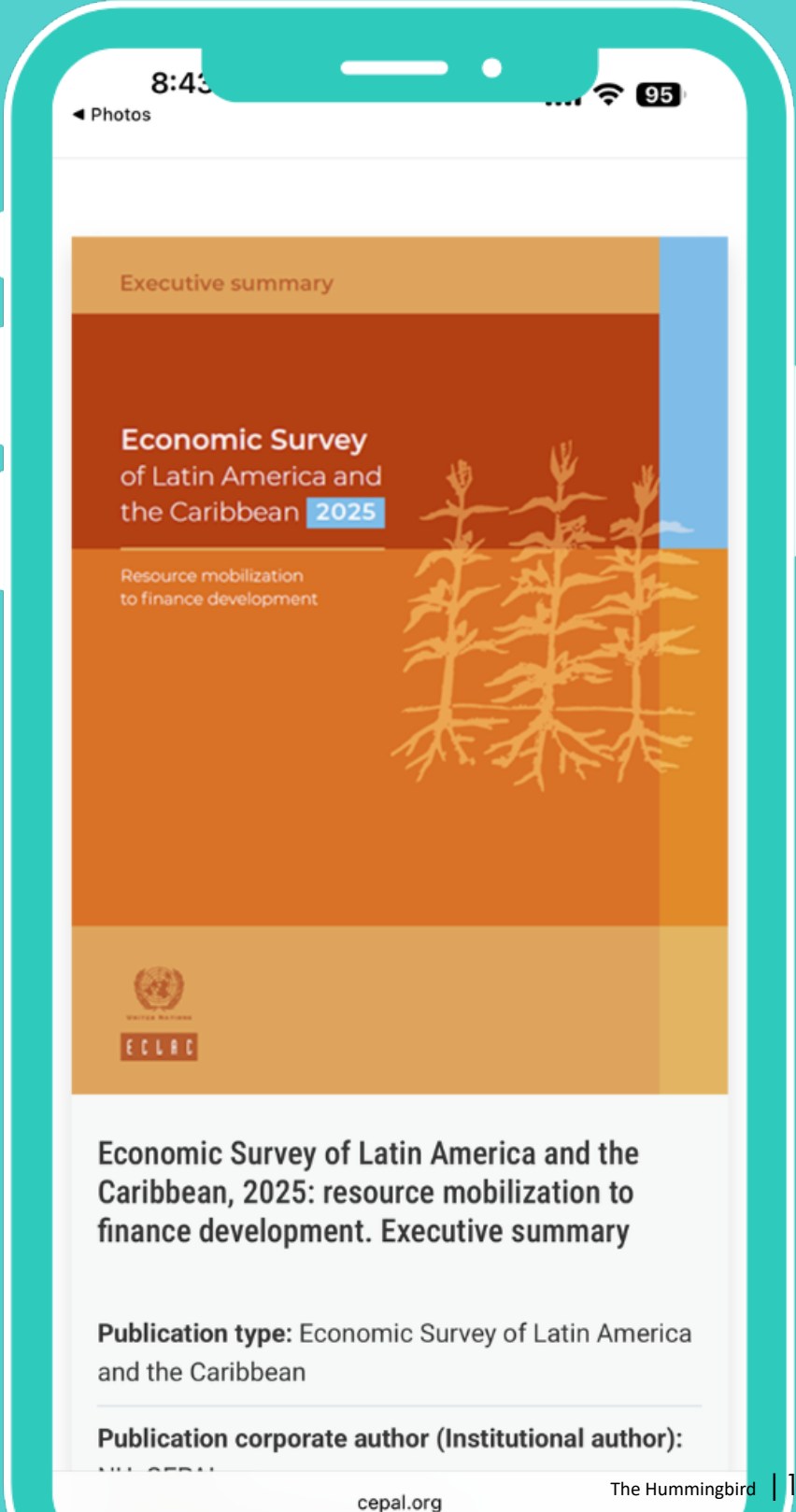
The second pillar addresses the mobilization of external and private resources. In this regard, the document poses the need to reform the international financial architecture in line with the Sevilla Commitment, to redefine the eligibility criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA), and strengthen sovereign debt resolution mechanisms. In addition, it proposes scaling up private investment by developing capital markets at a national level, promoting the use of instruments such as thematic bonds, debt swaps and mixed financing.

The third pillar stresses the importance of enhancing the role of development banks in resource mobilization. The report underscores that development banks play a strategic role in channeling sources of financing to key sectors. To speed the pace of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, development financing institutions need to propel large-scale projects using innovative mechanisms that would articulate public and private investment. The importance of collaboration between institutions that provide financing for development is emphasized, with a view to expanding their lending capacity and their reach.

The Sevilla Commitment

The recent [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development](#), held in Sevilla (Spain), reaffirmed the global commitment to sustainable development and to increased financing. In its new document, ECLAC urges the region’s countries to take advantage of this impetus to accelerate the mobilization of financial resources, strengthen economic stability and move towards more productive, inclusive, sustainable and resilient development.

Scan the QR code below to access the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025



FOCUS ON THE CARIBBEAN

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Real GDP Growth
Projections for Caribbean

COUNTRY	2025 2026
Guyana	10.3% 23.0%
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	4.0% 3.0%
Grenada	3.5% 3.0%
Antigua & Barbuda	3.5% 3.0%
Suriname	3.2% 3.5%

Economic trends in the Caribbean are heavily influenced by the performance of the **tourism sector**, which remains a key driver of growth.

The Caribbean
(excluding Guyana)
is projected to grow by
1.8% in 2025
and **1.7% in 2026**
reflecting challenges in
tourism, high logistics costs,
and climate vulnerability.

Guyana stands out with a
projected growth of
10.3% in 2025
and **23.0% in 2026**
driven by its oil sector.

Public revenue
in the Caribbean is
expected to decline to
27.2% of
GDP in 2025
partly due to reduced
foreign donations for
rebuilding after
Hurricane Beryl.

The overall **fiscal**
deficit is projected to
widen, with a primary
surplus shrinking to
0.2% of GDP

The Caribbean's public
debt **remains high**, at
68.4% of GDP
at the end of 2024, though it
has been declining across the
subregion.



recognized: the right to study, to health, to have a life free of violence.

Also speaking at the event's inauguration were Clara Brugada Molina, Mayor of Mexico City; José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Sima Bahous, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); and Citlalli Hernández Mora, Minister for Women of Mexico.

The Mayor of Mexico City, Clara Brugada, pointed up this historic time in Mexico, with a woman holding the Presidency for the first time and showing an **"unwavering commitment to fight inequalities."**

"Today, gathered here, welcoming you to this Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, we want this to be a watershed. We need the greatest possible unity in Latin America and the Caribbean, a unity led by our President, and shared by all women and men, to say forcefully: 'For the good of all our peoples and nations, poor women come first, excluded women come first, and women come first.'"



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

At the [XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) early in August, President of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, stressed the need to recognize the contribution and the rights of all women and to avert rollbacks at a national, regional and global level. "I know that this is not only the time for women in Mexico, but throughout the world," said the country's leader, who reviewed the constitutional and

legal reforms, policies and measures that her Government has carried out in various areas to ensure gender equality, women's autonomy and the building of a comprehensive care system.

"Recognizing each other as women, no matter what space we are in, is critical. And recognizing those who historically have been denigrated and abandoned is a job for all people.

That is why we have dedicated this year, the first year of our government, to indigenous women, and each year will be a year for a heroine from our homeland," she stated.

President Claudia Sheinbaum affirmed that "once rights are won, the people no longer allow for there to be rollbacks." She explained that saying this is the time for women means that women's rights be fully



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, ECLAC’s Executive Secretary, also celebrated the fact that for the first time, in 50 years, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has been received by a woman President.

The senior United Nations official emphasized that “this intergovernmental gathering conjoins memory with an ambitious proposal for the future, recognizing the achievements made in the last half century, but also making an urgent call to collective action to close the inequality gaps that still exist. Because despite the indisputable progress made, substantive equality is still an aspiration in all countries.”

“The Regional Conference on Women that we have organized with UN Women and the Government of Mexico is part of Latin America and the Caribbean’s cultural heritage today and it is also a global pacesetter since, for example, it was the first intergovernmental forum to name the right to care – a right that was unanimously recognized a few days ago, for the first time, in an international court: the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” ECLAC’s Executive Secretary said. “We are living in a deeply tumultuous world, marked by wars, geopolitical tensions and structural gaps that conspire against development. That is why this Conference is a powerful political signal that not only reaffirms the commitment to equality, development and peace, but also to multilateralism and coordinated and solidarity-based action between countries. In a world increasingly defined by competition, cooperation is an act of defiance,” José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs asserted.

Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, stated: “Thanks to this region’s leadership, the care agenda has become global. You have shown the world that care is not a luxury, it is an imperative. Investment in care is a public good, a driver of equality, recovery and sustainable development. Last week, your effort has resulted in the region having a new human right recognized by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights: the right to provide care, to receive care and to self-care.”

Meanwhile, the Minister for Women, Citlalli Hernández Mora, indicated that Mexico is hosting the Conference at a time of profound transformation. “This is the best time for our country to be receiving this Conference, where the road leading to a Care Society will be discussed.” She added: “The building of a welfare system must pay special attention to girls and women.” In that regard, she applauded the fact that the Conference’s theme is on building a care agenda in the region.

Also present at the Conference’s opening ceremony were Carolina Cosse, Vice President of the Republic of Uruguay and President of the General Assembly and Chamber of Senators; the former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet; Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Claudia Curiel de Icaza, Minister of Culture; Rosaura Ruiz Gutiérrez, Minister of Science, Humanities, Technology and Innovation; Josefina Rodríguez Zamora, Minister of Tourism; Ariadna Montiel Reyes, Minister of Welfare; Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, Minister of the Interior; Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez, Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Minister; Luz Elena González Escobar, Minister of Energy; María Elena Hermelinda Lezama Espinosa, Governor of Quintana Roo; Emilia Esther Calleja Alor, Director-General of the Federal Electricity Commission; and María Alejandra Velázquez Velázquez, a young indigenous woman from the Ayapaneco people, Councilor from the State of Tabasco.

Through Friday, August 15, 2025, the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is convening senior authorities from Mexico, elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean and from ECLAC’s Member States, along with representatives of multilateral organizations, academia, parliaments and civil society – particularly women’s and feminist organizations and movements.

Organized since 1977 by ECLAC, which serves as the Secretariat, and since 2020 in coordination with UN Women, the Conference will address “political, economic, social, cultural and environmental transformations as a means of advancing the care society and gender equality.”

During this event, to be held at the Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco in Mexico City, ECLAC will present the position paper The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality, which will guide the participants’ debates.

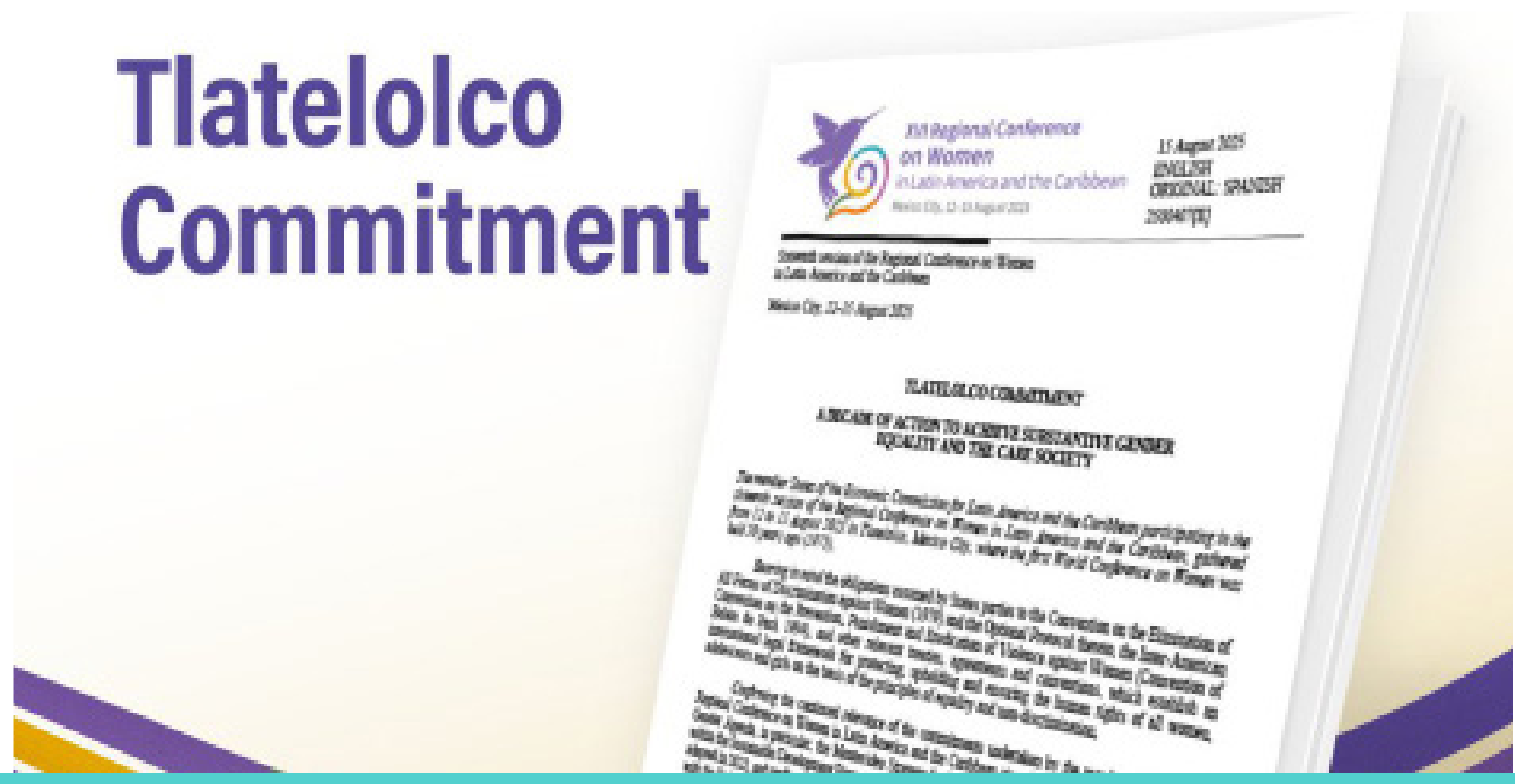


LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

APPROVE TLATELOLCO
COMMITMENT

... DECADE OF ACTION FOR
GENDER EQUALITY

Tlatelolco Commitment



Emerging from the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City, Member States approved the Tlatelolco Commitment, which establishes a decade of action (2025-2035) in Latin America and the Caribbean to accelerate the achievement of substantive gender equality and the care society through political, economic, social, cultural and environmental transformations.

In the agreement, the countries recognize that the care society proposal that Latin America and the Caribbean is contributing to the world is a new paradigm for sustainable development, equality

and peace that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the care of people and the planet. And they commit themselves to promoting measures to overcome the sexual division of labor and move towards a fair social organization of care. In addition, they recognize in the resolution "the human right to care, which comprises the right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care, based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and which therefore constitutes an obligation of the State and a responsibility that must be shared by persons of all sectors of society, men and women, families, communities and

the private sector."

The main intergovernmental forum within the United Nations focused on women's rights and gender equality in the region was inaugurated on Tuesday by the President of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum, and brought together delegates from 31 Member States and associate members of ECLAC, along with representatives of 23 United Nations agencies and 25 intergovernmental organizations. They were joined by women parliamentarians from 14 of the region's countries and around 600 members of civil society, mainly representatives of women's and feminist organizations and

movements. Nearly 1,200 people participated in total.

Speaking at the closing session were Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (virtually); Citlalli Hernández Mora, Minister for Women of Mexico; Enrique Ochoa, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; and María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

"This week you leave inspired by each other and ready to take that energy to the real world," stated Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, stressing that the time for promises is over and action is needed. "The care society matters. Latin America and the Caribbean has given the world something extraordinary: the vision of a care society that is a complete paradigm shift," she indicated. She added that "investing in care is not a cost, it is a catalyst for equality, democratic transformation and sustainable development."

Citlalli Hernández Mora, Minister

for Women of Mexico, said that "today we set a historic milestone: the Spanish name of the Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe is now the Conferencia Regional sobre las Mujeres (in the plural)," and she emphasized that "the Tlatelolco Commitment is a road map for the coming years, and it is also a declaration of principles, of the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean does not renounce its right to exist as a diverse, sovereign, solidarity-focused and deeply feminist region. And that we do not accept rollbacks, we do not tolerate impunity, and we will build, through our activism and our alliances, a care society as the

basis for peace, justice, equity and the future.”

“Moving towards a care society is not only possible, it is essential. The 21st century will undoubtedly be the century in which we manage to universalize the right to care. The next decade will be key to achieving the momentous push for this to occur. Acting today sows the seeds of hope. Reaching this goal requires intergenerational collective action, care policies and a care approach in all public policies, strategic investments and regional cooperation. This is an urgent and unequivocal call. You can count on me, and on ECLAC, on the perseverance of our regional efforts, to travel this path along with you and to achieve this vital transformation,” affirmed José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, ECLAC’s Executive Secretary.

Deputy Minister Enrique Ochoa, meanwhile, said that “the conclusion of this sixteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is in reality the start of multiple processes in our countries and our communities to build the care societies that we have set out for ourselves with the Tlatelolco Commitment,” and he highlighted “Latin America and the Caribbean’s commitment to multilateralism and to a more just and peaceful world.”

María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women, stated that “it is excellent news to close this Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean with the Tlatelolco Commitment. This is the result of the efforts of ministers, high-level authorities, presidents of

gender entities, and heads of delegation from the countries to reach an ambitious and innovative agreement to drive transformations in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental spheres to promote the care society and gender equality. In this convulsed world, in such a challenging context where the only constant is change, I welcome the vision and commitment with which all of us in feminist, women’s and civil society organizations, governments, and the entire United Nations system, at ECLAC and UN Women, have embraced the strategic vision of the care society with determination.”

In the Tlatelolco Commitment, countries vowed to “adopt regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programs and systems with an



intersectional and intercultural perspective that are sustainable over time, that respect, protect and fulfill the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence in formal and informal work, ensure women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in public and political life and the economy and free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment and education, and enjoy their autonomy to the fullest.”

In that regard, the representatives welcomed Advisory Opinion 31 of 2025 issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that recognizes the existence of a stand-alone human right to care in its three dimensions: receiving care, providing care and exercising self-care, and encouraged the region’s governments to respect and ensure this right, and to adopt legal and other measures to ensure its complete fulfillment.

In the agreement, the countries recognize that the current social organization of care in Latin America and the Caribbean is unjust and unequal, and historically has affected, in particular, indigenous and Afrodescendent women, adolescents and girls. They further express concern about the current threats to multilateral bodies and the reduction of funds allocated to them, along with the worsening economic, social and environmental situation resulting from multiple and interrelated

international crises.

They also commended the relaunch of the [Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and welcomed the position paper presented by ECLAC at the meeting, [The Care Society: Governance, Political Economy and Social Dialogue for a Transformation with Gender Equality](#), which offers recommendations for advancing the care society paradigm and addressing the care crisis. They further commended the preparation of the document [Guidelines for care policies from a gender, territorial and intersectional perspective](#), by ECLAC, UN Women, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

The resolution includes numerous specific commitments related to issues such as: the normative framework, the institutional architecture, participation and strengthening of State capacities; financing and cooperation; and information systems, communication, technology, monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

They also reiterated their commitment to gender parity in the most senior positions of the United Nations system, including that of Secretary-General, with a view to its being held, for the first time in history, by a woman, underscoring the representation

of women from Latin America and the Caribbean and the region’s decisive role in promoting gender equality in the multilateral system. The countries decided that the name of the Conference in Spanish will be changed to Conferencia Regional sobre las Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe, which will be submitted for consideration at the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC’s Committee of the Whole, due to take place in New York in October 2025.

They also requested that ECLAC establish a multi-stakeholder international cooperation program that convenes Member States, cooperation entities and other partners to support the decade of action, 2025–2035, to achieve substantive gender equality and the care society.

Finally, the delegates thanked the people and Government of Mexico for hosting the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and welcomed the offer by the Government of Colombia to serve as host of the next Conference, which will be held in 2028.

The Regional Conference on Women’s Presiding Officers for the next three years is made up of Mexico as Chair and Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs.



SOME OF THE MAIN
COMMITMENTS OF
THE TLATELOLCO

TLATELOLCO COMMITMENT

2025-2035
– DECADE
OF ACTION
FOR GENDER
EQUALITY



Advance the Care Society Paradigm
Recognize the human right to care



Adopt and Strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks
Develop comprehensive care policies, programs and systems



Ensure gender parity and leadership
Reaffirm commitment to gender parity in decision-making



Mobilizes financing, cooperation and institutional capacity
Strengthen state capacities and establish sustainable financing mechanisms



Strengthen knowledge, monitoring and accountability systems
Relaunch and support the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean



JNSC

THE 2025 JOINT NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CHARTS A COURSE FOR ACTION

Port-of-Spain, 4 September, 2025: Climate change, prevention of violence, stronger safety and security, sustainable food production and the transition to renewable energy are among the sustainable development issues that will remain priorities for the next phase of cooperation between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations (UN).

In addition, support for youth development, continued focus on women's rights, children's welfare and prevention of non-communicable diseases were also raised as key areas for ongoing collaboration.

These priorities emerged during the 2025 Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) Meeting convened by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago - through the Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, and the United Nations in Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting, which took place at the Hyatt Regency, brought together ten Ministers and several Permanent Secretaries to outline their strategic vision for Trinidad and Tobago's sustainable development over the next five years. Heads of UN Agencies also reviewed development outcomes achieved through UN – Government cooperation over the last year, identifying opportunities to further advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"We gather at a time when Trinidad and Tobago stands at a development crossroads—facing both unique challenges and remarkable opportunities," said Planning, Economic Affairs and Development Minister, Kennedy Swaratsingh. "The work of this Committee is crucial as we chart the course for the future, ensuring that our strategies and policies

are not only inclusive but also sustainable and forward-looking. Today, we have the opportunity to capitalise on our diverse expertise reflecting that together, more can be accomplished."

UN Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten, Joanna Kazana, noted that as the UN commemorates its 80th anniversary, joint initiatives with the government reflect a deepening strategic partnership to deliver on the promise of peace and prosperity for every Trinbagonian.

"Our vision is a robust, dynamic, and results-oriented partnership, achieved through strong cross-sectoral collaboration. The UN brings to the table a global repository of expertise and knowledge and a neutral convening power. This Committee is where we think about long term results that you want to achieve and we can support. Your national leadership and our global platform come together to accelerate SDG progress and unlock the full potential of this nation."

The JNSC meets annually to review progress on the implementation of the UN's development cooperation with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago under the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026, which Minister Swaratsingh signed on July 9. High-level representatives from Government ministries and public sector entities comprise the JNSC, alongside the UN Resident Coordinator and Representatives of UN entities working in Trinidad and Tobago.

Delivering presentations during the meeting were the Ministers of Education; Trade, Investment and

Tourism; Health; Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; Labour, Small and Micro Enterprises; Energy and Energy Industries; People, Social Development and Family Services and Justice.

The UN in Trinidad and Tobago comprises UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, ECLAC, UNIC, ILO, PAHO/WHO, FAO, OHCHR, UNODC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDRR, UNAIDS, ITU, UNLIREC, OCHA, UNCTAD and UNCDF.

In 2026, consultations with national stakeholders will commence to develop the next iteration of the UNMSDCF for the period 2027 to 2031.

Learn more about the UN's work in Trinidad and Tobago in the [2024 Annual Results Report](#).



A SIT DOWN WITH ECLAC CARIBBEAN'S

NEW DIRECTOR

YOUTH LOCALIZING THE SDGS

YOUTH
ACTION
FOR BIG
IMPACT

*Happy
International*
YOUTH DAY



Since her arrival at ECLAC Caribbean, Director Miosotis Rivas Peña has been busy acclimatizing, working with the hectic schedule and immersing herself in the new job. But who is she? What has she been up to since joining ECLAC? She sat down and spoke about some of her early missions since taking up the appointment.

Here's a quick sit-down with Miosotis Rivas Peña Director of UN ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.



The theme of International Youth Day (IYD) 2025, Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond, highlights the unique role of youth in translating global ambitions into community-driven realities. As development partners work to translate and implement the global goals within specific local contexts, aligning them with community needs while maintaining consistency with national and international commitments, young people are critical partners. They bring creativity, insight, and deep community ties that help bridge the gap between policy and practice. With over 65 per cent of SDG targets linked to local governance, youth engagement is not a luxury—it is a necessity.

Did You Know?

- Half of the people on our planet are 30 or younger, and this is expected to reach 57% by the end of 2030.
- Survey shows that 67% of people believe in a better future, with 15 to 17 year-olds being the most optimistic about this.
- By 2050, the people who are under 25 today will compose more than 90% of the prime-age workforce.
- 13% of the young labour force is unemployed. This number from 2023 marks the lowest rate in 15 years.

For International Youth Day 2025, ECLAC Caribbean featured some prominent young leaders in the region. All of them are doing notable work in sustainable development, international cooperation and region-wide advocacy. Importantly, they are also busy and involved in their local communities with concrete actions and awareness to localize the sustainable development agenda.

Here are some of their messages:





DIGITAL SANDBOXES WORKSHOP

**“Technology
runs, regulation
walks”.**

ECLAC, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and the German Agency for International Cooperation are collaborating again! This time, it's a workshop on regulatory sandboxes for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence in the Caribbean. How can we make better decisions, encourage more innovation and create effective regulatory frameworks for technological advancement in the Caribbean.

Technical specialists and policy makers are discussing these issues and more at ECLAC's Digital Transformation Lab's workshop: Regulatory sandboxes for emerging technologies in the Caribbean: frameworks, tools, and global policy lessons.

THE Hummingbird KITCHEN

CARIBBEAN OCHRO RICE

Serves 4

Caribbean Ochro Rice (also known as okra rice) is a flavorful, comforting dish popular across the Caribbean, especially in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and other islands. It's typically made with okra (ochro), rice, coconut milk, herbs, and sometimes salted meats or seafood, though it can easily be made vegan too.

What you will need:

- 1 cup long grain rice (rinsed)
- 8–10 ochroes (okra), sliced thin
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil or coconut oil
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup sweet pepper (bell pepper), diced
- 1 sprig thyme (or 1/2 tsp dried thyme)
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp turmeric (optional, for color)
- 1/2 tsp salt (adjust to taste)
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 cup water or vegetable/chicken broth
- 2 stalks scallion, chopped
- 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper (optional, for flavor, not heat)
- (Optional) Pimento seeds (allspice) – 3-4 crushed
- (Optional) Protein: salted codfish, shrimp, or smoked turkey (pre-cooked or sautéed)

Instructions:

Prep ochroes: Wash and slice ochroes thinly. Set aside.

Sauté aromatics: In a medium pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, sweet pepper, and thyme. Sauté until soft and fragrant (about 2-3 mins).

Add ochroes: Stir in sliced ochroes and sauté for another 3–5 minutes until they start to soften. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.

Add rice & spices: Add the rinsed rice, black pepper, turmeric (if using), salt, and any other spices. Stir to coat everything evenly.

Add liquids: Pour in coconut milk and water/broth. Stir well. If using, place the whole scotch bonnet pepper on top—don't burst it unless you want heat.

Simmer: Bring to a gentle boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for about 20–25 minutes, or until the rice is cooked and the liquid is absorbed.

Finish: Once cooked, remove scotch bonnet pepper. Fluff rice gently with a fork. Add chopped scallion and any cooked protein (if using).
Rest: Let sit covered for 5 minutes before serving.

Optional Caribbean Touches:

- Pigeon peas or red beans
- Callaloo or spinach for a more earthy taste
- Crab or shrimp for a seafood twist
- Sautéed mushrooms for a meaty vegan variation



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