Volume 6 - Issue 6
June 2019

The Hummingbird

LEARNING CONFERENCE

HOLISTIC APPROACH CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

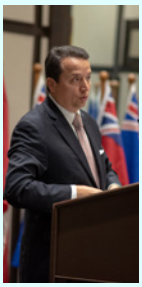
ECLAC HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TAKES STOCK OF THE CARIBBEAN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

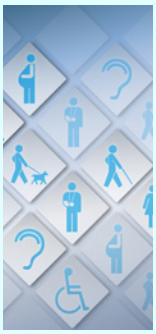
USF FOR PWD

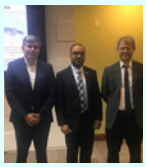
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS (USF) TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)

United Nations
ECLAC

Contents







Cover Photo courtesy Pixabay

4 **Article**
ECLAC high-level meeting takes stock of the Caribbean's sustainable development efforts

7 **Feature Article**
Holistic approach called for in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean

10 **Sneak Preview**
Gender Mainstreaming in National Development Planning

14 **Article**
Universal Service Funds to assist persons with disabilities

17 **Article**
CCRIF presents new models at Barbados workshop

19 **State of Affairs**
Recent activity by Caribbean governments

22 **Article**
ECLAC Caribbean reviews population and development issues

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.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Alexander Voccia
Writer : Denise Balgobin
Design: Blaine Marcano

Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine

Like us on Facebook

June Events

- **5** World Environment Day, 5 June 2019
- **8** World Oceans Day, 8 June 2019
- **14** World Blood Donor Day, 14 June 2019
- **16** International Day of Family Remittances, 16 June 2019
- **29** World Refugee Day, 20 June 2019

ECLAC Caribbean
Posted June 24

Teach your native language to migrants in a youth centre or elsewhere (SDG 4)

Like · Comment · Share

ECLAC Caribbean
Posted Jun 17

Be more active. Go for walks at lunchtime or cycle to work (SDG 3).

Like · Comment · Share

ECLAC Caribbean
Posted Jun 11

Housing, infrastructure and development planning experts from across the Caribbean have come together to promote a coherent approach to resilience building.

Like · Comment · Share

ECLAC **HIGH-LEVEL MEETING** TAKES STOCK OF THE CARIBBEAN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

ECLAC Caribbean hosted the 19th meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MonCom) of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 17 May 2019. Ministers and senior government officials from across the Caribbean attended and called for repositioning vulnerable, indebted Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the path to sustainable development.

ECLAC's Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis, Raúl García-Buchaca, addressed the meeting on behalf of Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena. García stated that ECLAC's focus continues to be on building the necessary skills and institutional capacity for implementing sustainable development in order to meet the challenges of integrated sectoral planning and policy coherence, which are essential factors to the successful implementation of Agenda 2030.

Welcoming the Member Countries and Associate Members of ECLAC, the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Dennis Moses, noted that "Trinidad and Tobago has been the beneficiary of a range of technical cooperation activities over the current biennium. Indeed, we have found a reliable and trusted partner in the UN ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. We have also come to rely on ECLAC as a subregional think-tank, which facilitates increased contact and cooperation among us, the membership".

The current Chair of the CDCC, Minister with Responsibility for External Affairs of Saint Lucia, Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, echoed these words, and further underscored that important take-aways from the MonComm include the importance of institutional, operational and policy coherence for more effective integrated sustainable development planning.

Highlighting the efforts undertaken by ECLAC Caribbean during the past year, Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Diane Quarless, underscored that "the Port of Spain team remains enthusiastic and committed to providing targeted and substantive support to meet the specific needs of our constituents in the Caribbean. We have completed another year of initiatives in research, policy analysis, provision of technical assistance and building institutional capacity to advance the sustainable development process in the sub-region".

In addition, Quarless reflected on ECLAC Caribbean's contribution to the subregion through strengthening the capacity of governments with targeted training and support activities, including in the areas of debt sustainability, disaster assessments and policy making.

Discussions also centred on the outcomes of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which was held from 22-26 April 2019 in Santiago, Chile, during which authorities focused attention on the difficulties affecting the subregion and acknowledged the shared limitations on development that still persist among Caribbean States.

The meeting also presented preparations for the High-Level Political Forum and SIDS Summit, which will take place during the 74th UN General Assembly later this year, during which the Caribbean will be raising the

importance of empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and promoting equality in building strategies to improve countries' resilience.

ECLAC's subregional headquarters for the Caribbean serves as the secretariat of the CDCC. Regular sessions are held every two years, with a meeting of the Monitoring Committee convened during the intervening year. ■

"the Port of Spain team remains enthusiastic and committed to providing targeted and substantive support..."

- Diane Quarless

US AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

An appeal has been made from Linda Taglialatela, the Barbados-based US Ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and the OECS to work together to prepare for the potentially destructive storms that the coming hurricane season can unleash.

Taglialatela sees the devastation brought by Hurricanes Maria and Irma as constant reminders that these storms are the biggest threats to the region.

Reiterating a stark reality that Caribbean populations have learned the hard way, the American diplomat pointed out that one category four or five hurricane can severely damage an island's economy, security and social stability.

She underscored that the United States is effectively part of the Caribbean, and share common values, mutual security interests and similar weather. Taglialatela recalled that the 2017 hurricane season also adversely impacted Texas and Puerto Rico.
She noted that the US has been working jointly with regional entities, governments and non-governmental organizations particularly over the past two years, to support the Caribbean's state of preparation for natural disasters.

In this regard, she reported that Deputy Secretary of State, John Sullivan, had met over the last six months with Caribbean leaders to "strengthen our partnership on hurricane preparedness and other natural disasters that affect the region."

These exercises were to be carried out in June in advance of the hurricane season. The Ambassador indicated that the exercises are designed to help the United States and Caribbean countries better prepare for natural disasters, as well as land and maritime threats.

She concluded that while the Caribbean and the Americas were fortunate to experience a mild hurricane season in 2018, the lessons of 2017 are that "we cannot take anything for granted." ■

FEATURE ARTICLE

Strategic integration called for in the implementation of the

2030 AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN

On the eve of the CDCC MonCom, ECLAC Caribbean co-organized a Learning Conference on Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean Region, together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Held in Trinidad and Tobago on 15-16 May 2019, the two-day event provided a platform for discussion on the "best fit" mechanisms and practices to promote a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach to the planning and budgeting for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Read More

Strategic integration called for in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean

Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Statistics and Social Development Unit, Dr Abdullahi Abdulkadri, explained that the objective of the Learning Conference was to provide a space for practical learning and the exchange of knowledge and experiences among government representatives involved in the process of integrating the SDGs in their countries' national development plans and budgets.

As regards the need to better integrate SDGs in national budgets, ECLAC Caribbean Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, shared ECLAC's experiences in strengthening the technical capacity of public finance managers through Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs). PERS are core instruments of expenditure prioritization, as they help to implement the main priorities of the countries, in keeping with a development plan.

"PERs can expand the fiscal space for new priority spending, provide efficiency reviews based on savings through improved efficiency, and provide strategic reviews based on savings from reduced services or tax expenditures or transfers", Alleyne said.

With regard to integrating SDGs into national development plans, Dr. Adriana Alberti, Chief of the Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit at UN DESA, underscored the critical role of public institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a collective aspiration of all member states and their people to promote more prosperous, inclusive and environmentally conscious present and future societies. It is built on the values of dignity, respect for all, inter-generational accountability, equality, peace, dialogue and partnerships, among others. Realizing the SDGs requires a new understanding of what progress is and how it is measured", she stated.

Dr. Alberti warned that focusing on GDP alone as a measure of progress has not allowed countries to promote development that is sustainable. She said that "countries are focusing on new ways to measure development, going beyond indicators of economic progress, encompassing other dimensions that focus on the concept of individual well-being, social welfare and sustainability. The countries that in 2019 topped the World Happiness Report ranking are those with the most inclusive institutions, trusting government and a strong sense of community".

Sharing her country's experience was Social Development Planner in the Ministry of Planning of Dominica, Dr. Kyra Paul, who presented efforts to align the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 and development sector plans. To achieve policy coherence, the country engaged stakeholders as well as potential donors and external organizations to promote a shared understanding of climate resilience related concepts and ensure a consistent policy direction in the adoption of international frameworks such as Agenda 2030 and the SAMOA pathway.

Through the process, the country recognized the importance of stronger NGO and private sector participation, more explicit connections between national development objectives and specific SDGs, and improved strategic alignment of several sectoral paths.

Dr. Paul explained that due to the recent impact of hurricanes on her country, there were changes in policy directions and national priorities. "We have now focused on domestic financing and mobilization of resources for a broad range of issues."

One of the key sessions of the Learning Conference focused on "Effective monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress", learning from the gaps, issues and challenges identified in the Caribbean for monitoring progress on the SDGs. The meeting received presentations from an expert

> ***"ECLAC is optimistic that the pace of SDG implementation in the Caribbean is steady..."***
>
> *Raúl García-Buchaca - Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean*

panel comprised of representatives from Anguilla, Aruba, The British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Suriname and Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as a contribution from a SIDS participant from the Pacific region.

The representative of Fiji, a small island developing state sharing geographic and economic constraints similar to those experienced in the Caribbean, presented its National Development Plan (NDP), which integrated both the SDGs and Paris Agreement priorities. As a result of the country's SDG Self-Assessment, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) template was established for keeping track of outputs across all Government agencies. The country reported the need to build more awareness and buy-in from all stakeholders, including local and provincial agencies and non-State actors.

Caribbean countries also discussed the need to strengthen statistical capacities and to improve National Statistical Systems through capacity building for data collection and management. To respond to these challenges, representatives discussed ongoing efforts to promote synergies across different data ecosystems, developing evaluation feedback loops, and working towards harmonization, standardization and comparability within and across countries.

In closing the conference, ECLAC's Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Raúl García-Buchaca, said that "ECLAC is optimistic that the pace of SDG implementation in the Caribbean is steady, and firmly believes that capacity building interventions, such as this Learning Conference, are essential enabling factors for Caribbean SIDS to plan for and implement the SDGs in an integrated and cohesive manner". ■

SNEAK PREVIEW

Look out for more in upcoming issues!

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The inclusion of a gender perspective in national development plans is an essential prerequisite for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean. To support countries in this regard, ECLAC Caribbean is currently preparing a study on Gender Mainstreaming in National Sustainable Development Planning.

This initiative responds to the request made by Caribbean countries at the Fifty-Seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, held in July 2018, and will contribute to the follow-up on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and the preparatory process for the upcoming XIV session of the Regional Conference on Women in the subregion.

The study is integrated as part of ECLAC project on Planning, Statistics and Financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), which is expected to strengthen the institutional capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of planning, and statistics and financing.

With Caribbean countries still at the early stages of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, long-term planning is being repositioned as a critical tool for the sustainable development of countries in the subregion.

So far, only eight Caribbean countries have adopted a national gender equality plan, namely Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. As regards the other countries of the subregion, some are formulating medium- to long-term national development plans that include a gender perspective in certain sectors, or are considering the adoption of specific tools such as gender-responsive budgeting. However, the majority have yet to mainstream gender, or to adopt a rights-based approach in the drafting or monitoring of national development plans.*

Moreover, while national machineries for the advancement of women exist in most Caribbean countries, these mechanisms have not attained high political profiles and operate with limited resources. Furthermore, in some cases, these machineries have no clear mandate,** which complicates their efforts to coordinate and promote gender mainstreaming in development policies and plans.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC's study will identify specific needs for technical assistance in the development of integrated national development plans that incorporate a gender perspective. The upcoming study will include a regional analysis with data that will provide evidence to support gender mainstreaming in national development planning.

In addition, the study will also provide peer learning opportunities

for member countries through the sharing of best practices and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in national development plans, while identifying synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Regional Gender Agenda and other international, regional and subregional development and human rights frameworks.

Through this effort, ECLAC will strengthen the capacities of Caribbean countries to integrate gender mainstreaming in sustainable development planning in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ■

* For more information, please see links to the Gender Equality Plans at the Gender Equality Observatory: https://oig.cepal.org/en/equality-plans; and National Development Plans at Regional Observatory on Planning for Development: https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en

** UN-WOMEN/CARICOM Report on Institutional Strengthening of National Women Machineries, 2014.

JAMAICA'S SANGSTER AIRPORT IS THE FASTEST GROWING IN CARIBBEAN

Jamaican Minister of Transport and Mining Robert Montague says the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay is now the fastest growing facility of its kind in the region.

"We saw a six per cent growth over 2017 and are projecting a three per cent growth in 2019," the Minister told the House of Representatives on Tuesday. Citing improvement works, he noted that the airport's Ticketing Hall has been renovated and is now open, a new shopping area and food court are to be developed, and plans are far advanced to increase the size of the Immigration and Customs Hall.

Minister of Transport and Mining Robert Montague said, "The installation of 30 ticketing kiosks in the Ticketing Hall, the most in any airport in the Caribbean, is enhancing the departure experience. We intend to place kiosks in select hotels."
In addition, he noted that installation of more than 50 immigration kiosks by the Passport Immigration Citizenship Agency (PICA) has helped to reduce waiting times.
"An expanded security checkpoint area, extended runways and installing of a Runway End Safety Area (RESA) at both ends of the runway, will increase safety," the Transport Minister said.

Meanwhile, Montague told the House that divestment of Norman Manley International Airport is "fully on track" for the operators to assume control in October of this year. ■

ONLINE ED CARD REDUCE WAIT TIME FOR TRAVELLERS TO ARUBA

In 2015, Aruba introduced an online Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card. This online ED card replaces the physical card that has traditionally been handed out on flights to all passengers travelling to Aruba.

The Border Control Management System, RADEX BCMS, features a module that ultimately links the information between the online ED Card and RADEX BCMS.

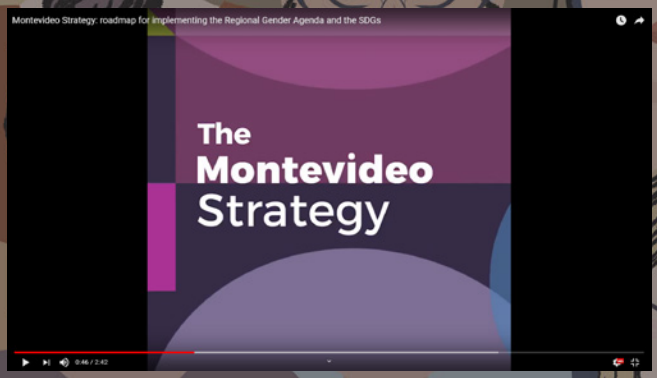
Immigration officers will no longer have to scan the traditional ED card. The information that the traveler fills in online is automatically retrieved at immigration, resulting in shorter processing time per traveller and thus shorter waiting times for the tourists. An additional advantage is that the travellers can fill out their information up front at any convenient time before their trip and with all required papers at hand.

The electronic arrival card will enhance operational efficiency at the airport and is a significant step towards paperless immigration clearance.

Besides the benefits for the travellers, the online ED card also eliminates the task of inputting the data from handwritten cards by the Tourism Authority, thereby avoiding input errors and freeing up more time to spend on marketing the island to future

Montevideo Strategy

Watch this video to find out about the Montevideo Strategy.



YouTube

Watch on YouTube!

1

Pillar 3:
Popular and citizen participation: democratization of policy and society

Pillar 3 includes 8 measures aimed at supporting women's participation in all spheres that impact their lives.

!

Did you know that measure 3.h. encourages the creation of a regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements and organizations?

Check here for more information: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/mdm.57_agreements_0.pdf

2

Pillar 4:
State Capacity-building and strengthening: Public Administration based on Equality and Non-discrimination

Pillar 4 is related to the capacities of institutions and human resources involved in designing and executing policies at all levels of the State.

!

Did you know that ECLAC Offers a series of training on gender related issues.

Check the list of upcoming courses at: https://www.cepal.org/en/courses/work-area/gender-affairs-8187

1 Normative framework
Equality and the rule of law

2 Institutional architecture
Multidimensional and Comprehensive gender equality policies

3 Popular & Citizen Participation
Democratization of policy and society

4 State Capacity-Building & Strengthning
Public Administration based on equality and non-discrimination

5 Financing
Mobilizing sufficient and sustainable resources for gender equality

6 Communication
Access to Information and Culture Change

7 Technology
Towards e-government and innovative and inclusive economies

8 Cooperation
Towards democratic multilateral governance

9 Information Systems
Transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions

10 Monitoring, Evaluation & Accountability
Guaranteeing rights and transparency

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Approximately 15% of the world's population or over one billion persons, experience some form of disability. In the Caribbean, some 1.3 million persons suffer a disability of some kind; around 250,000 persons have a significant disability. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the subregion face a range of physical, social, attitudinal and institutional barriers that prevent their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. As a result, they experience poorer outcomes in health, education, employment, housing and other areas of life.

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) can reduce the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating actively in society and enjoying their rights. Rapid technological progress has made ICTs central to peoples' lives and profoundly transformed the way we communicate with each other. However, developments in technology can exacerbate existing inequalities where countries do not take appropriate measures to ensure that all persons have access to them. Research indicates that access to the internet and other ICTs is not evenly enjoyed, and that many groups experience a digital divide, including persons with disabilities.

Closing the digital divide for persons with disabilities relies on countries making these technologies available through appropriate financing mechanisms and programmes. One such mechanism already used widely in the Caribbean is Universal Service Funds (USFS). USFs aim to increase access to ICTs through contributions made by telecommunication providers.

To understand how USFs can be better utilized to close the digital divide for persons with disabilities, and to promote the consideration of important recommendations, ECLAC Caribbean has embarked on a new study entitled `Using Universal Service Funds to increase access to technology for Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean'.

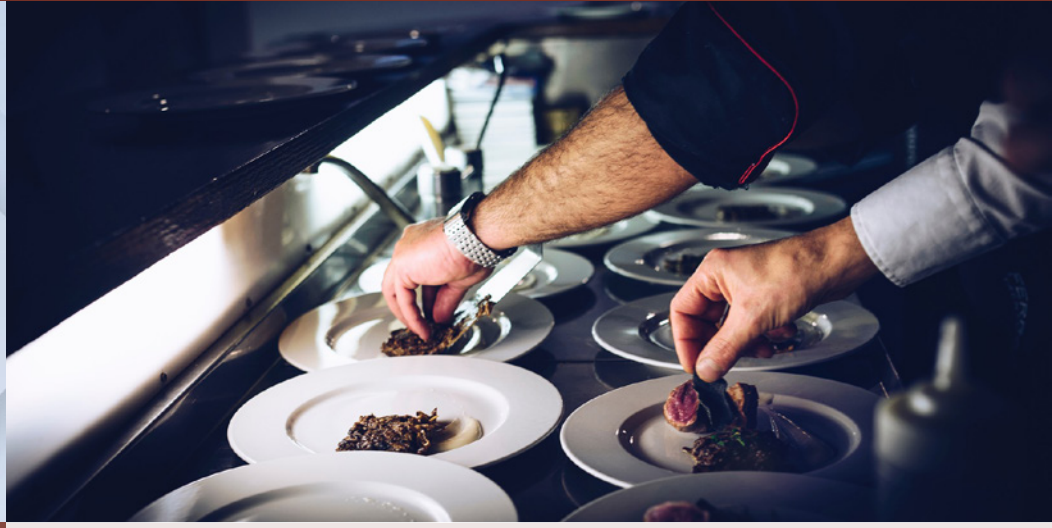
The project aligns with ECLAC's role of assisting Caribbean countries to meet their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD - which has been ratified by 14 out of 16 Member States served by ECLAC Caribbean* - requires countries to take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to ICTs, including assistive technologies. States that have ratified the CRPD agree to take measures to the maximum of their available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of the rights contained in the Convention. USFs are one mechanism that States can use to finance measures to ensure access to ICTs for persons with disabilities.

Traditionally, USFs have been used to expand telephone and broadband networks into geographical areas that private telecommunication companies would otherwise view as unattractive for investment. However, advocates for PWDs have encouraged the redirection of these funds towards ensuring both universal service and access. Universal access recognizes that not only do remote, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations require an available connection to telecommunications, they must also be made accessible to persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups through the provision of the necessary skills, equipment and support.

While this reshaping holds promise, USFs continue to encounter a variety of challenges across the world, including high levels of undisbursed funds, low transparency levels, and poor project design. This has led experts to encourage a cautious approach to their adoption for improving access to ICT for persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Building on these lessons, ECLAC Caribbean's study will explore common challenges encountered by USFs in the Caribbean and will identify best practices and recommendations to support Caribbean governments to effectively use USFs for the benefit of persons with disabilities. ■

* Antigua and Barbuda (2016), The Bahamas (2015), Barbados (2013), Belize (2011), Cuba (2007), Dominica (2012), Dominican Republic (2009), Grenada (2014), Guyana (2014), Haiti (2009), Jamaica (2007), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2010), Suriname (2017), and Trinidad and Tobago (2015).



MIAMI'S BIG CARIBBEAN FOOD FESTIVAL IS BACK

Miami's biggest Caribbean food festival will be back again this year when Caribbean305 returns for its third edition on 22 June.

This year, the culinary and cultural celebration will take place at Mana Wynwood in the heart of Miami's hippest neighborhood, with flavors from more than a dozen Caribbean destinations.

Caribbean305 will feature chefs and mixologists from across the region, including The Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos.

The food fete will be accompanied by live music from the region, from reggae to zouk to salsa, carnival dancers in full regalia and Caribbean tourism representatives on hand to give their top travel tips.

"We look forward to our third edition of Caribbean305, which serves as a wonderful event to celebrate the region's culture with some of the finest culinary talent available anywhere," said Frank Comito, Director General and CEO of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, which produces the annual event.

"This is the perfect event for foodies, Caribbean travelers as well as the Caribbean Diaspora," Comito said. ■

THE CHANGING FACE OF **CAYMAN'S WORKFORCE**: 130 NATIONALITIES NOW IN COUNTRY

When Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil first touched down in the Cayman Islands, the thing that struck him was the total absence of traffic and noise. "There was no honking, no pollution, it was so peaceful," said 'Dr. Binoy', who arrived from the southern Indian city of Bangalore, which has a population of just over 8 million.

Dr. Binoy, Health City's chief cardiac surgeon, is one of a growing number of Indian nationals in Cayman's workforce.

The increase in Indian health professionals, many from the hospital's sister facility in Bangalore, has been a large contributor to one of the more dramatic changes in the demographics of Cayman's expatriate workforce. Indian nationals now make up the fourth-largest group of foreign workers in the Cayman Islands, after Jamaicans, Filipinos and Brits.

The number of Indians on work permits jumped from 925 in 2016 to 1,301 at the end of 2018, a rise of 40%. Cayman's closest neighbour, Jamaica, is still the largest contributor to the workforce. There were 11,590 Jamaicans working on permits in Cayman at the end of 2018, up from just under 10,000 in 2016. The Philippines has the second-largest number of work permit holders at 3,951, with the UK next at 1,809.

In total, there are approximately 130 nationalities now represented in Cayman's workforce. Some nationalities were listed multiple times under differing names – such as Slovakia versus the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic versus the now dissolved Czechoslovakia – in government's statistics.

Workers in Cayman span the globe, including countries as far afield as Rwanda, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Vietnam. ■

CCRIF PRESENTS NEW MODELS AT **BARBADOS WORKSHOP**

ECLAC Caribbean's work and data on damage and loss assessment (DaLA) was featured at a recent technical stakeholder workshop organized by the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC).

CCRIF SPC organized this workshop in Barbados in March 2019 to present new models for its tropical cyclone, earthquake and excess rainfall parametric insurance policies. There were presentations by Isaac Anthony, CEO of the CCRIF, and by the lead technical CCRIF SPC technical advisors Dr. Paolo Bazzurro and Dr. Gabriele Coccia. They presented the update of the models for each of these hazards and received feedback and information from the technical stakeholders. As it is known, for parametric insurance like the one that CCRIF SPC sells to the countries, the model is a critical piece of information to calculate the payments after a disaster.

ECLAC Caribbean's Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar D. Bello presented results of the DaLA efforts, carried out by ECLAC in the aftermath of the aforementioned disasters. He also briefed the workshop on several disaster assessments which were led by ECLAC in the wake of the 2017 hurricane season.

Several international, regional, academic institutions participated in the event. These included ECLAC, the World Bank, Association of Caribbean States, CARICOM Secretariat, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, CDEMA, Barbados Met Service, Trinidad and Tobago Met Service, Trinidad and Tobago ODPM, Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI Cave Hill), Climate Studies Group (UWI Mona), Seismic Research Centre (UWI St. Augustine) among others.

CCRIF SPC currently has insurance products related to four natural hazards: earthquake, storms, rains and flooding. In addition, CCRIF SPC presented the plans for new products such as an agriculture insurance and fisheries insurance. ■

ECLAC DISCUSSES **URBAN POLICIES** FOR THE CARIBBEAN

ECLAC Caribbean recently organized a virtual meeting with representatives from the urban planning, infrastructure and environment departments of Caribbean countries and experts in the field of urban development and housing. The online session discussed key issues related to the particular situation of Caribbean SIDS and the importance of addressing the specificity of Caribbean territories in terms of resilience building.

Representatives in the meeting underscored the importance of stakeholder analysis, and the need for greater efforts in identifying the key actors involved in urban form production and how to engage them in the sustainable urban development processes.

Participants included researchers from the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), representatives of local and national governments, representatives of CSOs and partner development organizations, such as UN-Habitat, Habitat for Humanity, Techo, the European Commission, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Presentations from Mr. Ricardo Jordan, Chief of the Human Settlements Unit, from ECLAC Headquarters, Dr. Catarina Camarinhas, from ECLAC Caribbean, and Mr. Emrah Engindeniz, from the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP, UN-Habitat), steered the discussions around the policy frameworks for implementation of SDG11 and the specific challenges in managing rapid urbanization and promoting sustainable urban development in the Caribbean.

UTech Associate Professor, Dr. Carol Archer, from the Faculty of the Built Environment, raised the issue of political commitment, indicating the importance of ensuring effective budgetary commitment of governments, while IDB's Lead Housing and Urban Development Specialist, Mr. Robin Rajack, highlighted the important role of private development, and the need to understand and engage with the private sector in order to address the roots of urban development crisis.

In turn, the representative of the Government of Aruba, Ms. Indra Zaandam, Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Spatial Development, Infrastructure and Environment of Aruba. In this regard, Ms. Zaandam addressed the specificity of small scale economies and cultures and the need for supporting guidance on how to promote affordable housing and ensure effective enforcement mechanisms.

Other critical areas addressed during the session included the analysis of governance structures, including regional level mechanisms for coordination and implementation of decentralization efforts; demographics; access to improved water sources; the incidence of crime and violence and its relation to specific urban sectors; impacts of migration on urban settlements; and challenges with data management at the local level.

The session was jointly organized with UN-Habitat and moderated by Dr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Caribbean, and was an important contribution to the ongoing debate on Planning for resilience in the Caribbean, the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG11 in the Caribbean. ■

State of Affairs

The Bahamas

PORT REDEVELOPMENT

- May -
Nassau's cruise port redevelopment is expected to lead to a significant increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) for The Bahamas by 2023. The president of Colina Financial Advisors Ltd (CFAL) Anthony Ferguson said, "The economic impact is going to be up to $18 billion or $20 billion." It was also announced that the bid to redevelop and manage the Port of Nassau, heralded as the world's busiest cruise port, was won by Global Ports Holding (GPH).

BOOST RESILLIENCE

- Apr -
Important steps have been taken to increase resilience to natural disasters. The government has secured a contingent credit line with the inter-American Development Bank and re-subscribed to disaster insurance through the Caribbean catastrophe risk insurance facility (CCRIF). The speedy establishment of a natural disaster fund will complement the financial tools currently available to respond to disasters effectively. Investing in physically resilient infrastructure, including through building code enforcement and coastal management, is equally critical.

Cuba

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BARBADOS

- Apr -
Newly appointed Cuban ambassador to Barbados, Sergio de Jesus Jorge Pastrana, announced that Cuba is offering six scholarships to Barbadians interested in studying medicine. Additionally, two scholarships are available for postgraduate studies. The two officials also discussed collaboration in the area of medical research into lifestyle diseases and the possibility of Cuban nurses being recruited to work in Barbados.

MOU WITH GOOGLE

- Apr -
The Cuban Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba SA (ETECSA) and the US company Google, signed a memorandum of understanding to begin the negotiation of a subsequent internet traffic exchange service agreement. The signing of this memorandum evidences that the interest of US companies in developing business with ETECSA is maintained. At present, there are more than ten US companies with agreements in force, for the benefit of both parties.

Jamaica

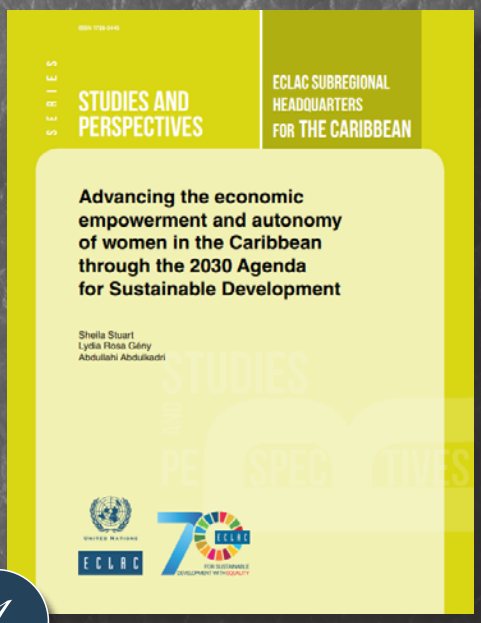
MOU WITH CHINA

- Apr -
Jamaica is poised to benefit from significant economic and infrastructural development initiatives under a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with China. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith, and Chinese ambassador to Jamaica, Tian Qi, signed the agreement under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on April 11. Jamaica is the fifth Caribbean nation to sign on to the BRI, following Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana and Barbados.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PILOT

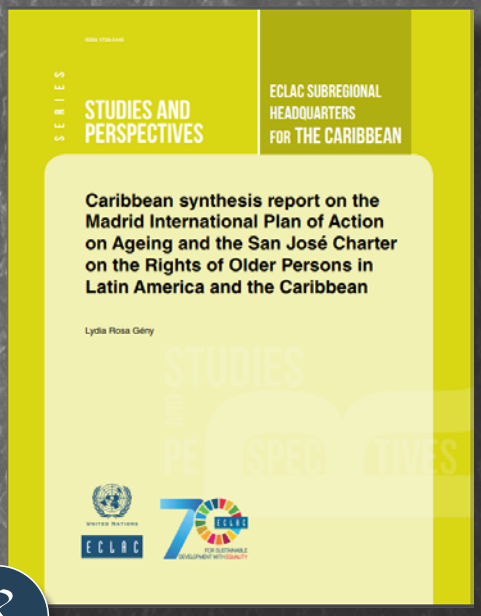
- May -
The innovative Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) mechanism is to be piloted in Jamaica as a means of stimulating uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the public sector through upfront financing, expertise, and greater accessibility. Support will be provided to design and implement the pilot programme in the health sector in partnership with the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), under the UNDP and PCJ-implemented 'Deployment of Renewable Energy and Improvement in Energy Efficiency Project' funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), PCJ and the Development Bank of Jamaica.

ECLAC Caribbean's Recent Publications



1.

Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



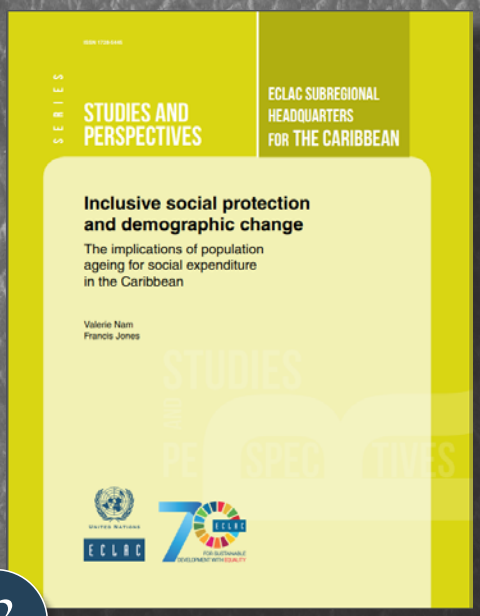
3.

Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

Available NOW!

Click on Cover to Download.

Hardcopies Available at ECLAC Caribbean while stocks last.



2.

Inclusive social protection and demographic change: The implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean

Diane's Corner

The Director's views and thoughts on:

Diane Quarless
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

17/5

19th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
"The ECLAC Port of Spain team remains enthusiastic and committed to providing targeted and substantive support to meet the specific needs of our constituents in the Caribbean. We have completed another year of initiatives in research, policy analysis, provision of technical assistance and building institutional capacity to advance the sustainable development process in the sub-region."

#DirectorsTake
http://vrb.al/directors-take

ECLAC CARIBBEAN REVIEWS **POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT** ISSUES

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was adopted by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in August 2013.

This document includes more than 100 priority actions covering themes including population policy and planning, children and youth, ageing, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, international migration, territorial inequality and indigenous peoples.

In the Consensus, Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirmed the principles of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action of 1994, and agreed to a series of priority actions intended to reinforce its further implementation in the region.

To inform the first five-year review of the implementation of the Consensus, ECLAC Caribbean recently published a study entitled 'Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the Caribbean: a review of the period 2013–2018'.The study provides evidence of the measures taken to implement the Consensus during the five years since its adoption, activities which represent a continuation of efforts to implement the ICPD Programme of Action since 1994.

Overall, despite the economic downfalls, the study recognizes measurable progress in the Caribbean, in areas such as universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, reducing under-five mortality and infant mortality, and continued progress in dropping adolescent fertility rates, despite wide variations across socio-economic groups. The number of AIDS-related deaths is also down although more needs to be done to end the epidemic and national HIV programmes need secure and continued funding.

The study also highlights recent progress in terms of greater subregional and international cooperation in dealing with migration and developing diaspora policies, as well as efforts to strengthen the protection for the rights of indigenous peoples, most notably in Guyana and Dominica. Policies and programmes have also been developed to protect the rights of older persons although, with limited funding, the reach and quality of services remains a problem.

These achievements and positive developments notwithstanding, several challenges remain. In this regard, persistent problems include youth unemployment, crime and violence, as well as prejudice and discrimination against LGTBI persons and persons living with HIV.

Climate change is another area in need of greater attention. Considering the high percentage of Caribbean populations living in low-lying coastal areas, increased impacts may be expected in face of climate change and consideration for well-planned relocation can be both a form of disaster risk reduction and a form of climate change adaptation. As a result, building greater resilience to climate related disasters and mitigating their impacts on the population must become an essential part of Caribbean development planning, otherwise hard-won gains are at permanent risk of being either blown or washed away, the study concludes.

In this context, ECLAC Caribbean's study highlights that addressing the inequalities linked to territorial development, particularly in view of climate change impacts, can serve as a preventative measure, through concrete programs and coordination mechanisms to address these risks. Further debate and public action are recommended in what concerns environmental migration and its impacts, notably through policies for planned resettlement and relocation, addressing vulnerable communities, forced relocation and the rights of affected communities.

Many Caribbean countries are currently making the effort to integrate the SDGs into national development planning, and this provides a further opportunity to place population matters at the heart of development planning. ■

BARBADIAN SINGER RIHANNA IS WORLD'S RICHEST FEMALE MUSICIAN

Fourteen years after breaking into the music industry, smashing records and creating history along the way, Barbadian singer and entrepreneur Rihanna has become the world's wealthiest female musician.

Forbes magazine has estimated the 31-year-old 'Work' singer's worth at US$600 million, surpassing that of even Madonna (US$570 million), referred to as the Queen of Pop since the 1980s; Canada's all-time best-selling artist Céline Dion ($450 million); and Beyoncé ($400 million).

But Rihanna's music is not the only source of her wealth. Although she first became famous as a singer, the pop icon has evolved into a style icon and businesswoman, and her worth includes revenues from her fashion and beauty lines that have now seen her featured in Forbes' 2019 ranking of the richest self-made female entrepreneurs and executives.

According to Forbes, the majority of her income comes from her partnership with LVMH, the French luxury goods company that owns the likes of Christian Dior, Givenchy and Louis Vuitton. Just last month, Rihanna launched her fashion label Fenty – a new Paris-based clothing house that will make high-end clothes, shoes, accessories and jewellery –, becoming the first black woman to create an original brand with LVMH.

The LVMH partnership is the latest of the star's business ventures, following on from lingerie label Savage X Fenty, co-owned with Los Angeles-based online fashion firm TechStyle Fashion Group and launched last year; and her cosmetics brand co-owned with LVMH, Fenty Beauty, which was founded in 2017 and racked up a reported US$100 million in sales in its first few weeks and generated an estimated US$570 million in revenue last year, after only 15 months in business.

Rihanna is 37th overall on Forbes' list of 80 richest self-made women, as measured by their net worth. Last year she made the magazine's list of the World's 100 Highest-Paid Entertainers, ranking at 84. ■

Pan-Fried Soft-Shell Crab with Brown Butter

Preparation time: 1 h 30 m

Serving: 4 servings

What you will need:

Ingredients:

4 whole fresh live soft-shell Crabs
Salt and freshly ground Pepper to taste
1 cup Cornstarch
1 tablespoon Old Bay seasoning
½ cup Clarified Butter (substitute vegetable oil)
½ tablespoon Red Pepper flakes
6 tablespoons Salted Butter
1 tablespoon fresh Lemon juice
1 tablespoon coarsely chopped flat-leaf Parsley

To clean soft-shell crabs:

Use a pair of kitchen scissors to cut off the front of the crab, about 1/2 inch behind the eyes and mouth. Squeeze out the stuff directly behind the cut you made. Lift one pointed end of the crab's outer shell; remove and discard the gills. Repeat on the other side. Turn the crab over and snip off the small flap called the apron. Wash crab and pat dry.

What you need to do:

1. Dry cleaned crabs with a paper towel. Season crab with salt and pepper, including under the flaps.
2. Add old bay seasoning to cornstarch and mix well.
3. Dredge crab in seasoned cornstarch.
4. In a large skillet, add clarified butter or oil over medium-high heat.
5. Fry the crabs until you achieve a light to medium brown hue and crisp on the bottom, about 3 minutes. Turn the crabs over and fry until just cooked through, 1 to 2 minutes longer, then remove crabs to a paper towel lined plate.
6. Wipe out the skillet and add 6 tablespoons of butter and cook over moderately high heat until it starts to brown, about 3 minutes. Add red pepper flakes and lemon juice and stir to blend with butter.
7. Drizzle the brown butter sauce over the crabs and around the plates. Sprinkle the parsley over the crabs and serve.

CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean,
1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

Telephone: 1 868 224 8000

MEDIA CONTACT
Tel.: 1 868 224 8075
E-mail: eclac-media-pos@eclac.org

Give us your feedback at:
http://vrb.al/hb-survey

SOCIAL MEDIA

eclac.org/portofspain