



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

ECLAC CARIBBEAN AND PARTNERS
HIGHLIGHT 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ELAC2022 DIGITAL AGENDA

APPROVED BY CARIBBEAN AND LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES

CENSUS DATA

CENSUS DATA MANAGEMENT
DISCUSSED DURING ECLAC MEETING

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About us

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

International Days

1 December

World AIDS Day

2 December

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

3 December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

10 December

Human Rights Day

18 December

International Migrants Day


Upcoming Meetings

8 December

Dialogue on population impacts and policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean - Virtual

10 December

Training in Evidence-based Policy Planning for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean - Virtual


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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Aug 13


ECLAC collaborated with the High Commission of Canada and NGO, Feminitt, to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with a campaign to end child abuse in Trinidad and Tobago. See the campaign here: <https://www.facebook.com/eclaccaribbean>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Nov 23

#ECLAC recently hosted a panel on digital technologies for reactivation, with authorities from #Brazil, #Paraguay, #Ecuador, #CostaRica and #TrinidadandTobago, at the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in #LAC. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3pZLdq8>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Nov 16

United Nations and Decolonization: Past to Present
Check out the video to learn more about the United Nations' work on Decolonization: <http://bit.ly/3rd65ee>



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Preparation for census data management discussed during ECLAC meeting

Statistical disclosure control is an important consideration within the census process. There are also benefits to post-tabular perturbation, which include unbiasedness and the low level of perturbation that is necessary to protect the data. However, there are concerns about the loss of additivity of census tables and the possible public reaction to the publication of non-additive tables.

These were some of the areas discussed during an expert group meeting (EGM) convened by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to discuss a study entitled “Statistical disclosure control for Caribbean census tables”. This meeting took place online on 10 November 2020.

Statistical disclosure is a technique used in data-driven research to ensure that no person or organization is identifiable from the results of an analysis of survey or administrative data, or in the release of microdata.

In presenting an overview of the study, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean’s Population Affairs Officer, Francis Jones, explained that the research

was inspired by work that had been carried out over the past five years, to support Caribbean statistical offices in making their census data, available online through REDATAM. He explained that Caribbean statisticians face a challenge in the dissemination of disaggregated data due to the small size of national populations. He also explained that the study was primarily concerned with statistical disclosure control methods for tabular census data which would facilitate dissemination of more granular and disaggregated information.

Jones described current methods utilized by statistical offices in different countries. He described two types of methods: the perturbative and non-perturbative. Non-perturbative methods, also referred to as data reduction methods, are what statistical offices do almost by default, essentially choosing whether or not to publish data. Alternately, perturbative methods introduce a small amount of random variation, and therefore uncertainty about the true original data values, thereby enabling the publication of data which would otherwise remain unpublished.

The Deputy Director of the ECLAC

subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Dillon Alleyne, who chaired the EGM, said that the COVID-19 pandemic was likely to delay the 2020 round of censuses in some countries, but provides an opportunity to reconsider the approach to statistical disclosure control. He highlighted that Caribbean statistical offices were very aware of disclosure risks, and the need to protect the confidentiality of individual and household level microdata.

Alleyne indicated that over recent years, ECLAC worked with statistical offices in the Caribbean to make census data more available through the REDATAM (Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer) software. Through these collaborations, he noted that it became increasingly evident that better methods of statistical disclosure control, were needed to safely release detailed and disaggregated census tables. He suggested that Caribbean statistical offices not using specific methods of disclosure control had led to relatively strong restrictions on the availability of census data in many Caribbean countries. The study and EGM

from the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean sought to address this issue.

The study and the panelists' presentations during the EGM provided valuable information, which would be of great help to statistical offices in evaluating how they should approach the issue in the current census round. Meeting participants agreed that there is a need to educate users of census data in several areas, including those mentioned earlier, as part of the wider issue of statistical literacy, which statistical offices and international development partners are also seeking to address.

The study also reviews disclosure control methods that have been implemented in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand and argues that, if implemented in the subregion, these methods could facilitate the publication of more detailed and disaggregated census data, through published reports and online applications built using the REDATAM software. These methods are applicable not only to statistical offices in the Caribbean, but also to those in Latin America as well as to REDATAM users in other parts of the world.

The meeting was attended by representatives of statistical offices from Caribbean member States and associate members as well as Canada and Germany. Also, in attendance were representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). ■



The Bahamas announces new facial biometric comparison technology

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the introduction of Simplified Arrival at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) in Nassau, The Bahamas.

Simplified Arrival is an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States. This process provides travelers with a touchless experience that further secures and streamlines international arrivals, while fulfilling a longstanding Congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-US citizens.

"CBP is excited to build on our partnership with the Government of the Bahamas while advancing the future of secure, touchless travel," said Clint Lamm, director of field operations, CBP Preclearance.

"Given today's health concerns, biometric facial comparison technology can play a key role in helping the travel industry address COVID-19 health and safety risks by implementing seamless processes. Combining Simplified Arrival with our Preclearance procedures will not only help us process passengers more efficiently, but it will allow us to better protect traveler and officer safety."

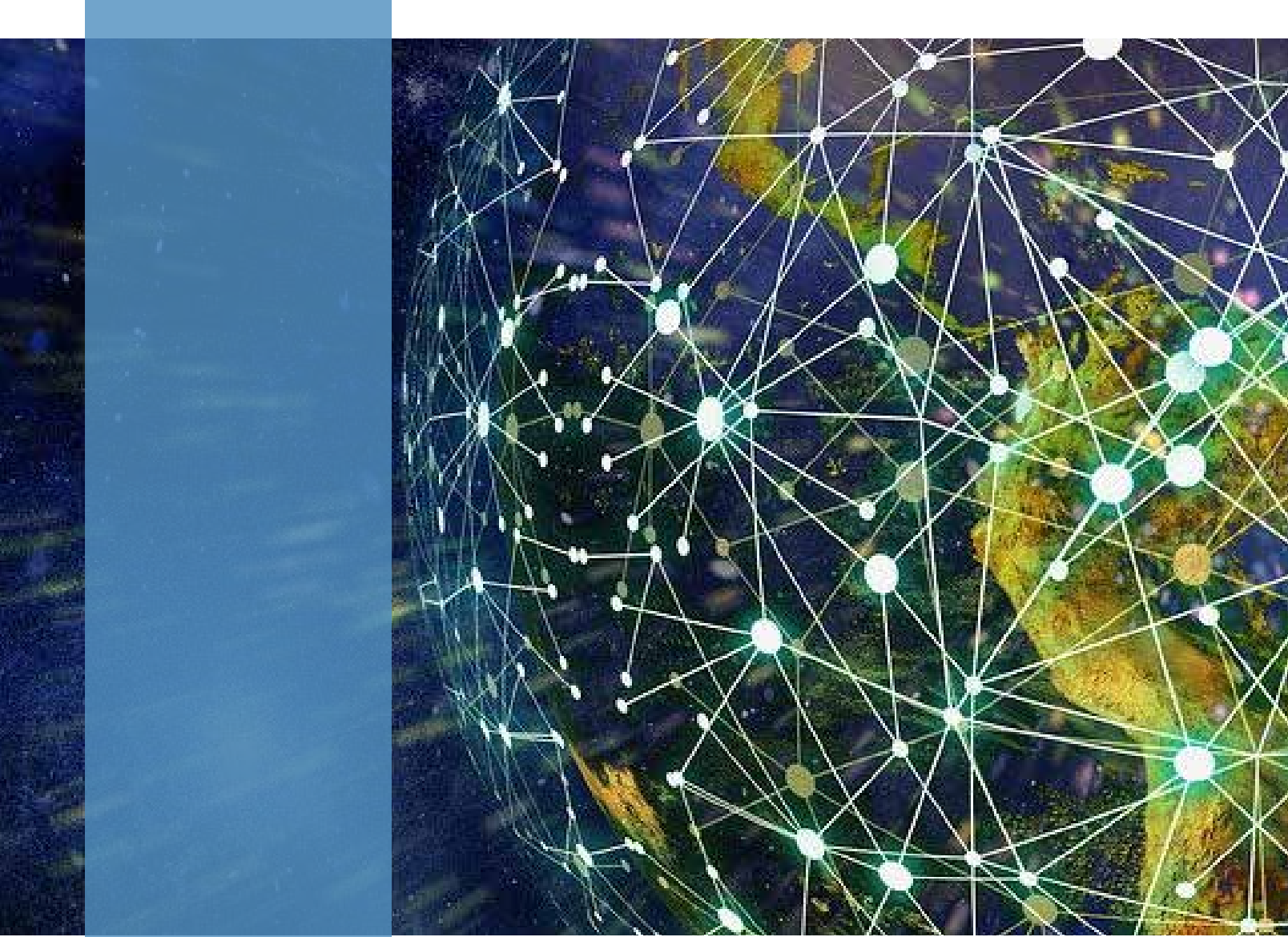
Simplified Arrival uses the biometric facial comparison process at a time and place where travelers are already required by law to verify their identity by presenting a travel document.

When travelers arrive at LPIA on an international flight, they will pause for a photo at the primary inspection point.

CBP's biometric facial comparison process will compare the new photo of the traveler to a small gallery of high-quality images that the traveler has already provided to the government, such as passport and visa photos. In addition, foreign travelers who have traveled to the US previously will no longer need to provide fingerprints, since their identity will be confirmed through the touchless facial comparison process.

Simplified Arrival pairs one of the industry's highest-ranked facial comparison algorithms (as assessed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) with trained CBP officers who are skilled at verifying the authenticity of travel documents. If a traveler cannot be matched to a photo on record using the Simplified Arrival process, the traveler will proceed through the traditional inspection process consistent with existing requirements for entry into the United States.

US travelers and those foreign nationals who are not required to provide biometrics who wish to opt out of the new biometric process may notify a CBP officer as they approach the primary inspection point. These travelers will be required to present a valid travel document for inspection by a CBP officer and they will be processed consistent with existing requirements for admission into the United States. ■



ELAC2022 DIGITAL AGENDA

approved by Caribbean and Latin
American countries



The Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022), has been approved by the countries that participated in the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held virtually from 23 to 26 November 2020.

[READ MORE](#)



eLAC2022 Digital Agenda

approved by Caribbean and Latin American countries

The Digital Agenda includes eight areas of action – along with a specific section on the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery, and also identifies 39 specific goals for implementation over the next two years. It is intended as a catalyst for regional cooperation on digital matters and a mechanism to promote policy design, capacity-building and political dialogue on the challenges and opportunities that the digital transformation creates for society and the economy.

The eight areas of action are: digital infrastructure; digital transformation and the digital economy; digital government;

inclusion and digital skills and other competencies; emerging technologies for sustainable development; trust and digital security; the regional digital market; and digital regional cooperation.

Sharing a Caribbean perspective at the Conference was the British Virgin Islands' (BVI) Junior Minister for Tourism, Sharie deCastro, who led a delegation on behalf of BVI Premier and Minister of Finance, Andrew Fahie. "For the Virgin Islands, we recognize that digital transformation must go farther than e-services; it must enable the collection of relevant and timely data that can be used

for management and policy decisions. It must be people-centered in order to genuinely impact the lives of the people of the Virgin Islands for the better," she said.

DeCastro explained that in March 2020, when BVI confirmed its first cases of COVID-19, the Government had to develop an immediate response plan to prevent community spread. She said further consideration was given to the economic impact of the measures taken to prevent the disease from spreading. At that time, it became evident that a post-COVID-19 environment would necessitate the digital transformation of Government



eLAC 2022
Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean



...digital transformation must go farther than e-services; it must enable the collection of relevant and timely data that can be used for management and policy decisions.

- Sharie deCastro, Junior Minister for Tourism,
British Virgin Islands' (BVI)



and the Territory, a top priority on the Government's agenda.

Also speaking was Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Public Administration and Digital Transformation, Allyson West, who informed that the pandemic has highlighted the relevance of digital technologies to make the economy work, and to provide services such as education and health. She said that considering the economic reactivation and recovery, digital technologies will play an even more important role.

West outlined some actions that governments should take to leverage the opportunities

offered by eLAC2022. These include broadband infrastructure to improve and increase fixed and wireless network; legislation, such as Electronic Transactions Act, Cybercrime, Data Protection, possible E-Identity; provision of free public Wi-Fi, especially in high traffic areas; provision of physical amenities in underserved communities – computers, IT training, printing, scanning services and free Wi-Fi; and fiscal incentives for the information and communication technologies ICT sector, such as tax allowances.

For Trinidad and Tobago, West explained that in an effort to improve efficiency in providing these public services, "we will

implement a Digital Identity and an Interoperability project in 2021. In the first instance, the national Digital ID and interoperability platform will be used for government service delivery. However, in the long-term we envision that citizens will be able to use the Digital ID to transact with the private sector."

The virtual conference was organized by ECLAC and the Government of Ecuador. Countries represented include Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. ■



Latin America and the Caribbean Will Have Positive Growth in 2021, but It Will Not Be Enough?

In its annual presentation of the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the region, ECLAC forecasted an average contraction of -7.7% for 2020 – the largest in 120 years – and a rebound of 3.7% in 2021. This is due mainly to a statistical rebound that will be insufficient for recovering the economic activity levels seen prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

Presenting this latest flagship report on 16 December was ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, who stated: “The growth dynamic in 2021 is subject to high uncertainty related to the risk of renewed outbreaks of the pandemic, the agility with which vaccines are produced and distributed, and the capacity to maintain fiscal and monetary stimulus to support aggregate demand and productive sectors. Making progress on sustainable and inclusive growth necessitates a productive transformation towards environmentally sustainable sectors, which would favor job creation and technological innovation.”

According to the document, in circumstances of global contraction, LAC is the region in the developing world that has been hardest hit by the crisis stemming from COVID-19. In the decade prior to the pandemic, the

region was on a low-growth trajectory, and in 2020 it faced an unprecedented combination of negative supply and demand shocks. These impacts are together resulting in the worst economic performance experienced in the region in the last 120 years.

Although the significant fiscal and monetary efforts made by countries have served to mitigate the effects of the crisis, the pandemic’s economic and social consequences have been exacerbated by the structural problems that the region has suffered historically. In 2021, ECLAC foresees a positive GDP growth rate that will fundamentally reflect a statistical rebound, but the process of recovering pre-crisis levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be slow and is forecasted to continue until 2024.

The projections show that South America is seen contracting by -7.3% in 2020 and growing by 3.7% in 2021; growth in Central America is expected to shrink by -6.5% in the current period and expand by 3.8% next year; while the Caribbean is seen contracting by -7.9% in 2020 and growing by 4.2% in 2021.

The report emphasizes that to keep the region from perpetuating its low-growth dynamic, expansionary fiscal and monetary policies are needed along with environmental and industrial policies, all of which would enable the structural transformations that the region requires and would promote sustainable development.

The report also poses the need to prioritize spending on the economic and social reactivation and transformation, by fostering employment-intensive and environmentally sustainable investment in strategic sectors; to extend the basic income to people living in situations of poverty; provide financing to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); offer incentives for productive development, the digital revolution for sustainability and clean technologies; and universalize social protection systems.

Beyond national efforts, the region’s economic resuscitation and transformation will require financing and international cooperation, the report says. In this regard, it stresses the need for application of mechanisms such as the issuance and reallocation of the International Monetary Fund’s Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to

strengthen the reserves of the region's countries and regional agreements; the inclusion of vulnerable middle-income countries in the G20's debt moratorium initiative (DSSI); the conclusion and implementation of the debt for climate change adaptation swap in the case of the Caribbean, along with the creation of a resilience fund; and the capitalization of multilateral, regional and national credit institutions.

The region's weaknesses and structural gaps, its narrow fiscal space, high levels of inequality, limited coverage of and access to social protection, significant incidence of labour informality, productive heterogeneity and low productivity are all factors that are central to understanding the extent of the pandemic's effects on economies and the challenges faced in implementing policies to mitigate these effects.

Before the pandemic, the region already had low economic growth: 0.3% on average in the 2014-2019 period, with a 0.1% rate notched in 2019. With the arrival of the pandemic, this low economic growth was compounded by negative external shocks and the need to implement policies aimed at confinement, physical distancing and the suspension of productive activities. The health emergency thus precipitated the worst economic, social and productive crisis that the region has ever lived through. The contraction in economic activity has been accompanied by a significant rise in the unemployment rate, which is forecast at around 10.7% in 2020; a steep fall in labour participation; and a considerable increase in poverty and inequality.

The report emphasizes that to keep the region from perpetuating its low-growth dynamic, expansionary fiscal and monetary policies are needed along with environmental and industrial policies, all of which would enable the structural transformations that the region requires and would promote sustainable development. ■



Suriname sign open-air agreement to expand connectivity

Guyana and Suriname continue to fast-track cooperation in aviation and transportation. On 7 December, the two South American countries signed an "Open Air Agreement" that ended route, pricing and capacity restrictions between the two neighbouring countries.

Work on the open-air agreement started a few weeks previously when a presidential delegation from Guyana visited Suriname for its 45th independence anniversary.

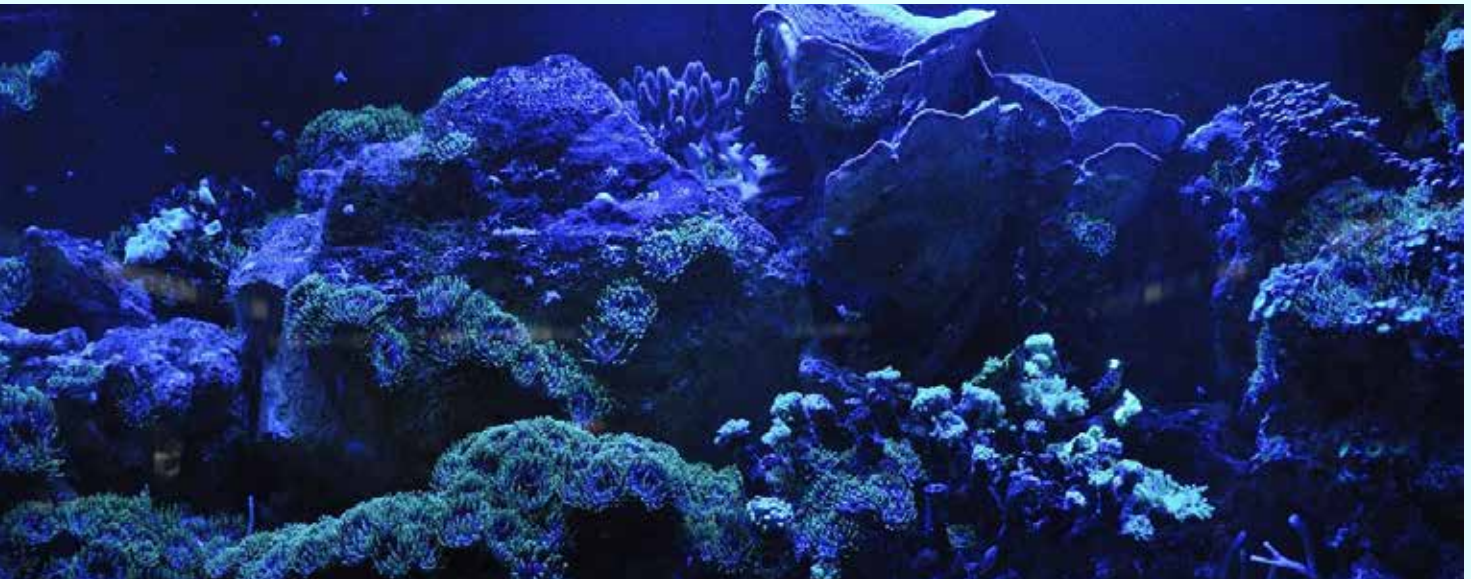
Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism, Albert Jubithana, signed the agreement on behalf of Suriname, while Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill signed on behalf of Guyana.

This agreement brings Guyana and Suriname closer to attract investments in aviation and tourism from carriers like Emirates, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and investors from the Middle East.

"The agreement will improve production and economic growth between the two countries. Moreover, it will connect communities, create economic growth and contribute to sustainable development," Minister Jubithana said.

During brief remarks, Minister Edghill said the day was "fitting" for the occasion. "This agreement is truly a historical agreement and it is an unimpeded move to ensure that there is collaboration between both countries. Government is moving aggressively to improve land and air transportation between Guyana and Suriname and to the wider world.

The agreement ends restrictions on aircraft types, capacity, frequency, and pricing on passenger and cargo services. Emirates and Qatar Airways want to open a cargo service to these countries, and Surinam Airways is looking to expand its cargo service. ■



US plans to protect thousands of miles of coral reefs in the Caribbean

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced plans to protect thousands of miles of coral reefs in the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean.

NOAA said that increasing population growth rates, along with economic and industrial development, has resulted in "unprecedented pressure to coral reefs" and these pressures include impacts from climate change, unsustainable fishing and land-based pollution.

It said its Coral Reef Conservation Programme (CRCP) funds and equips reef conservation activities in the seven US states and jurisdictions containing coral reefs. It is currently conducting a study "to provide a quantitative

measure of how important the reefs are to the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) in monetary terms, and also to generate a reference point with which to compare possible alternative development/conservation plans. The assumption being that information on the Total Economic Value (TEV) of reefs should provide a basis for advocating the preservation of the coral reefs in USVI, establishing damage compensation, setting fees for permit applications or determining potential user fees for residents and tourists," NOAA said.

The study will focus on appraising the six main uses of coral reefs and adjacent habitats in selected sites on the USVI, assessing their value in: fisheries; tourism; recreation and culture; real

estate; shoreline protection; and education and research.

Based on the overall approach, NOAA said the study involves a wide range of research activities. These include an elaborate local resident survey aimed at estimating the local cultural and recreation attachment to the marine environment; an extensive tourist survey with the objective to get comprehensive insight into the importance of the marine environment for visitors to the USVI; and a thorough analysis of the coastal protection function of reefs, thereby revealing the role of coral reefs in avoiding storm damage to properties and infrastructure. ■



New CARICOM-EU project to address climate change and its health impacts in the Caribbean

International, regional, and government leaders recently announced the launch of a broad-based project to support actions to mitigate climate change and its serious health impacts in Caribbean nations. The EU/ CARIFORUM Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems Project – a joint project of the European Union and CARICOM that PAHO is coordinating – will advance public understanding of climate change effects and strengthen the ability of health systems to respond to climate-related health impacts.

“We are at a crucial point in time in the Americas when we must increase our solidarity and inter-governmental collaboration to address climate issues, which are arguably the health challenges of the century,” said PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne. “The Americas must embrace mechanisms for

countries to come together around climate change.”

“The project supports a cadre of new climate and health leaders. It promotes evidence for the frequently hidden health co-benefits of climate action and supports the implementation of health-related plans and resources for mitigation and adaptation for health.”

Etienne added that the EU/ CARIFORUM Climate Change and Health Project will also assist nations in the region to access funding for coping with climate change.

The virtual meeting on 7 December 2020, was attended by leading representatives of governments and organizations that are partners in the €6.85 million (USD \$8.28 million) project, including Etienne,

Secretary General of CARICOM Irwin LaRocque, Dominica’s Minister of Health, Dr. Irving McIntyre, and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States, Malgorzata Wasilewska.

Partners in the project also include Caribbean universities, and regional climate, public health and agricultural agencies and organizations.

The beneficiary countries are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. ■



Importance of Escazú Agreement highlighted at virtual second meeting

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day (10 December), senior representatives of United Nations organizations and other prominent persons from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), highlighted the importance of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean – known as the Escazú Agreement.

The Second Meeting of the Signatory Countries to the Escazú Agreement was held online under the auspices of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. During the meeting, Vice President of Costa Rica, Epsy Campbell, indicated that the Escazú Agreement is an example for the entire world since it shows that the LAC region has given exceptional importance to defending the human rights of environmental activists.

Meanwhile, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, emphasized that the Escazú Agreement is the first of its kind in the world, since it not only protects human rights but also guarantees that all

people have the right to a healthy environment, to participate, and to access information and justice in environmental matters.

“The Escazú Agreement comes at a very opportune time because we can make a real commitment to change. It provides a cornerstone for environmental democracy, international cooperation and multilateralism and that must be at the center of efforts to build back better using a human rights-based approach,” Bachelet said.

The Youth Champion of Escazú from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nafesha Richardson, stressed the importance of young people’s participation in both the ratification of the Escazú Agreement as well as its future implementation. “Access to information is the biggest problem we have in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is very important for people to be able to access reliable information. We must work so that the Agreement is not only ratified but also applied,” she stated.

In her remarks, ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena pointed out

that, that would be the last meeting of the signatory countries to the Escazú Agreement, since numerous countries have already ratified it, and it should therefore enter into force soon. “We are on the brink of convening the first Conference of the Parties to the treaty,” she said.

“With this Agreement we are fighting against the culture of privilege, the culture of those who possess the information, who monopolize justice, those who are unwilling for there to be true participation or prior informed consent. We are democratizing the right to information, participation and justice. The Escazú Agreement is an essential instrument to avoid mortgaging the future, and to address the legitimate demands of many communities,” Bárcena added.

She said that the Agreement was a message which our region was sending out, saying that the future mattered, that future generations counted and that we didn’t want anything to be done about us, without us.

Furthermore, she insisted that the



COVID-19 pandemic should not lead to neglect of the environment or human rights. "Therefore, we must seriously face the fact that there will be no development or economic recovery if we do not consider sustainability."

She also explained that the Escazú Agreement was a cooperation agreement. While it was a treaty between States, it was above all a compact between each State and its societies, and its companies, since it enabled a dialogue instead of several monologues.

The Agreement promotes access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, and this significant meeting allowed the 24 countries that have signed on to continue discussing possibilities for cooperation and strategies for the Escazú Agreement's prompt entry into force and its effective implementation. ■



UN House turns orange for gender cause

The United Nations' House in Barbados was illuminated in an orange glow during this year's annual commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, from 25 November to 10 December.

Set among the tall palms and lush vegetation of Barbados' South Coast, the three-storied building is home to seven UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes covering Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Lighting UN House orange is in keeping with the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres' UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, to call national and global attention to the fact that no longer can we delay taking the necessary actions to eradicate gender-based violence (GBV).

In his opening remarks during the lighting ceremony, Resident Coordinator a.i., Aloys Kamuragiye, echoed Guterres' 2020 message, urging the international community to work to end the shadow pandemic of GBV once and for all. He noted that gender-based violence was a global human rights issue, which COVID-19 has further exposed as a global emergency requiring urgent action at all levels of society.

This year's 16 Days theme, "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!", calls for global action to bridge funding gaps. It also ensures

essential services for survivors of violence during the COVID-19 crisis, and focuses on prevention, and collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls.

The Barbados-based UN Women's work on preventing and ending violence against women and girls on the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, and through the global Generation Equality campaign amplifies the calls to action of the UNiTE Campaign.

In her remarks, UN Women Caribbean Representative a.i, Tonni Brodber, stated: "COVID-19 has not created the violence; what it has done is that it has exacerbated the risk factors that lead to violence. For example, frequent quarrelling – 81 per cent of women who experienced violence in the Caribbean indicate that they and their partners quarrelled frequently.

"COVID-19 has contracted our economies and created the environment for more arguments between partners. The issue is, how do we ensure that violence is never one of the options that we use to end an argument? We must hold ourselves to account for the ways in which we have normalized violence; the ways in which we have accepted violence and in the ways in which we have not been our brothers' and sisters' keepers. That is what prevention is about," she concluded. ■



Orange the World:
Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!

Canada



FEMINITT



ECLAC Caribbean and partners highlight 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean recently carried out a joint campaign, focusing on child abuse as a form of gender-based violence (GBV), which acknowledged the increased risk of mistreatment and violence against children in the context of COVID-19 school closures and movement restrictions.

The joint campaign, from 25 November to 10 December 2020, marked the observance of the 16 Days of Activism, which is an annual international campaign that calls for the elimination of all forms of GBV, including child abuse. The global theme for this year's activation was, "Orange the World - Fund, Prevent, Respond, Collect!".

Since 1991, the campaign has run each year from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on 25 November, to Human Rights Day, on 10 December. Since its launch, over 6,000 organizations in approximately 187 countries have participated in the campaign.

ECLAC partnered with the High Commission of Canada in Trinidad and Tobago, and retained the consulting services of local non-

government organization (NGO), Feminit, to develop campaign content. The campaign was primarily virtual, with animated videos and graphic artworks running on national television, in newspapers, and on social media. The campaign sought to promote a brighter future free of violence for girls and boys in Trinidad and Tobago and to provide guidance for parents and communities to reduce the incidence of violence.

The campaign recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed children to new protection risks and increased the risk of child abuse. This year's 16 Days signaled a brighter future, where organizations may receive adequate funding to prevent GBV and assist survivors, and governments put concrete policies and actions in place to prevent violence and ensure continuity of services for GBV survivors during COVID-19 lockdowns.

GBV refers to any violent or harmful act against a person because of their gender and the expectations of their role in a society or culture. Children are not spared from GBV, and often are exposed to it from an early age, witnessing it first-hand when their

caretaker, most commonly their mother, is abused.

In Trinidad and Tobago, from 2015 to 2018, there were over 14,000 cases of child abuse reported to the Children's Authority. However, actual figures could be higher as a result of underreporting. Research shows that close family members are most likely to be responsible for child abuse. The measures implemented this year to manage the spread of COVID-19 have exacerbated many social issues, including rising unemployment, poverty and food insecurity, through forced stay-at-home orders, and school closures. The elevated stress levels caused by these circumstances have engendered conditions for increased domestic violence, including child abuse.

A panel discussion on child abuse response and prevention in Trinidad and Tobago was also held on 8 December 2020. This panel was organized by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in conjunction with UNICEF and Feminit, as part of the UN country team's activities for the 16 Days and sponsored by the Spotlight Initiative and the European Union (EU). ■

How to report child abuse:



• Childline - (868) 800-4321 (Toll-Free) or 131
& My ChildLine smartphone app

• Trinidad and Tobago Police Service - 999

• National Family Services - (868) 627-1163 ext 2005; 2032; 2053; 2046

• Children's Authority Trinidad and Tobago
Call the Hotline - (868) 800-2014, (868) 627-0748, (868) 623-4455
Email a report - Registry@ttchildren.org



Canada



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What is Emotional / Mental Abuse?

Emotional and mental abuse is a way to control another person by using emotions to criticize, embarrass, shame, blame, or otherwise manipulate another person.



Some examples of emotional or mental abuse include:

- Name-calling and verbal abuse.
- Bullying and intimidation.
- Humiliating or constantly criticising.



Shaming, blaming, invalidating your feelings, opinions and needs, using your fears, values, or compassion to control you or the situation.



Canada



FEMINITT



It takes a village...

to create a brighter future for children.
If you see or hear something, be sure to say something.
Intervene; call, seek advice, report it.



Their well-being and safety depends on us all.



Hotline Info: ChildLine - 800-4321 (Toll-Free) or 131
Children's Authority Trinidad and Tobago
- 800-2014, (868) 627-0748, (868) 623-4455



Canada



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Baked Ham

What you will need:

- 1 (12 pound) bone-in ham, rump portion
- ½ cup whole cloves
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 cups water, or as needed

How to Make it:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Place ham in a roasting pan, and press whole cloves into the top at 1 to 2 inch intervals. Pack the top with a layer of brown sugar.
3. Pour enough water into the bottom of the roasting pan to come to a 1 inch depth. Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil or a lid.
4. Bake for 4 1/2 to 5 hours in the preheated oven (about 22 minutes per pound), or until the internal temperature of the ham has reached 160 degrees F (72 degrees C).
5. Make sure the meat thermometer is not touching the bone.
6. Let stand for about 20 minutes before carving.



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