



CUBA'S VACCINE

CUBA KICKS OFF COVID-19 VACCINE
EXPORTS WITH SHIPMENT TO VIETNAM

ECONOMIC GROWTH

ECLAC REVISES REGION'S
ECONOMIC GROWTH

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES & DATA

ECLAC WORKSHOP ON GEOSPATIAL
TECHNOLOGIES AND DATA IN
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

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About us

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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International Days

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

30 September

World Maritime Day

Upcoming Events

2 - 5 November

National accounts annual seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards SCN 2025 - Methodological update and new challenges in National Accounts measurements

26 - 28 October

Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

14 October

Urban October - Sustainable cities, housing and public transport: Visions from Latin America and Asia

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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Sep 20

The member countries of #CELAC unanimously approved the lines of action and proposals for a plan for self-sufficiency in health matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. More here: <https://bit.ly/3CuCv95>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Sept 10

Fiscal accounts have deteriorated in #Caribbean countries, with increases in both primary deficits and gross public debt, according to #ECLAC's #EconomicSurvey of #LatinAmerica and the #Caribbean 2021 report. Get more details of the report: <https://bit.ly/3zzlOrJ>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**
Posted Sept 2

Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena participated in the high-level opening session of the Regional Meeting on Climate Change and Gender Equity! See it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvlKt3N1OyI>



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CUBA KICKS OFF COVID-19 VACCINE EXPORTS WITH SHIPMENT TO VIETNAM

Cuba has recently exported its three-shot Abdala coronavirus vaccine, sending an initial shipment to Vietnam as part of a contract to supply five million doses to the Southeast Asian country. This is a remarkable advance for a small Caribbean country and a tribute to their use of domestic capital and knowledge creation to foster innovation.

Scientists in the island have developed three home-grown vaccines against COVID-19, all of which are waiting to receive official recognition from the World Health Organization (WHO).


State-run pharmaceutical corporation BioCubaFarma made the export announcement on social media, after saying that it had produced enough doses to meet a target to immunize more than 90 per cent of the local population by mid-November.

BioCubaFarma said it had the annual capacity to produce 100 million doses of the Abdala, Soberana 2 and Soberana Plus vaccines, which it said recently reduced by about 90 per cent the risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from the disease.

Hard-hit by the pandemic, and the American embargo, the Caribbean nation has seen vital exports, such as tourism, collapse and other foreign exchange earnings dwindle - creating shortages of food, medicine and other essential goods.

BioCubaFarma Corporate Vice President, Mayda Mauri, said that once domestic supply goals had been met, Cuba would also start supplying vaccines to countries including Iran and Venezuela. "There are very advanced conversations and exchanges on regulatory matters with Argentina and with other countries in various regions of the world", state media quoted Mauri as stating.

Iran is already producing the Soberana-2 vaccine. Vietnam, Argentina and Mexico have said they hope to produce the Cuban vaccines soon, while a number of other countries, including Iran and Venezuela, are using other Cuban drugs in their COVID-19 treatment protocols. ■



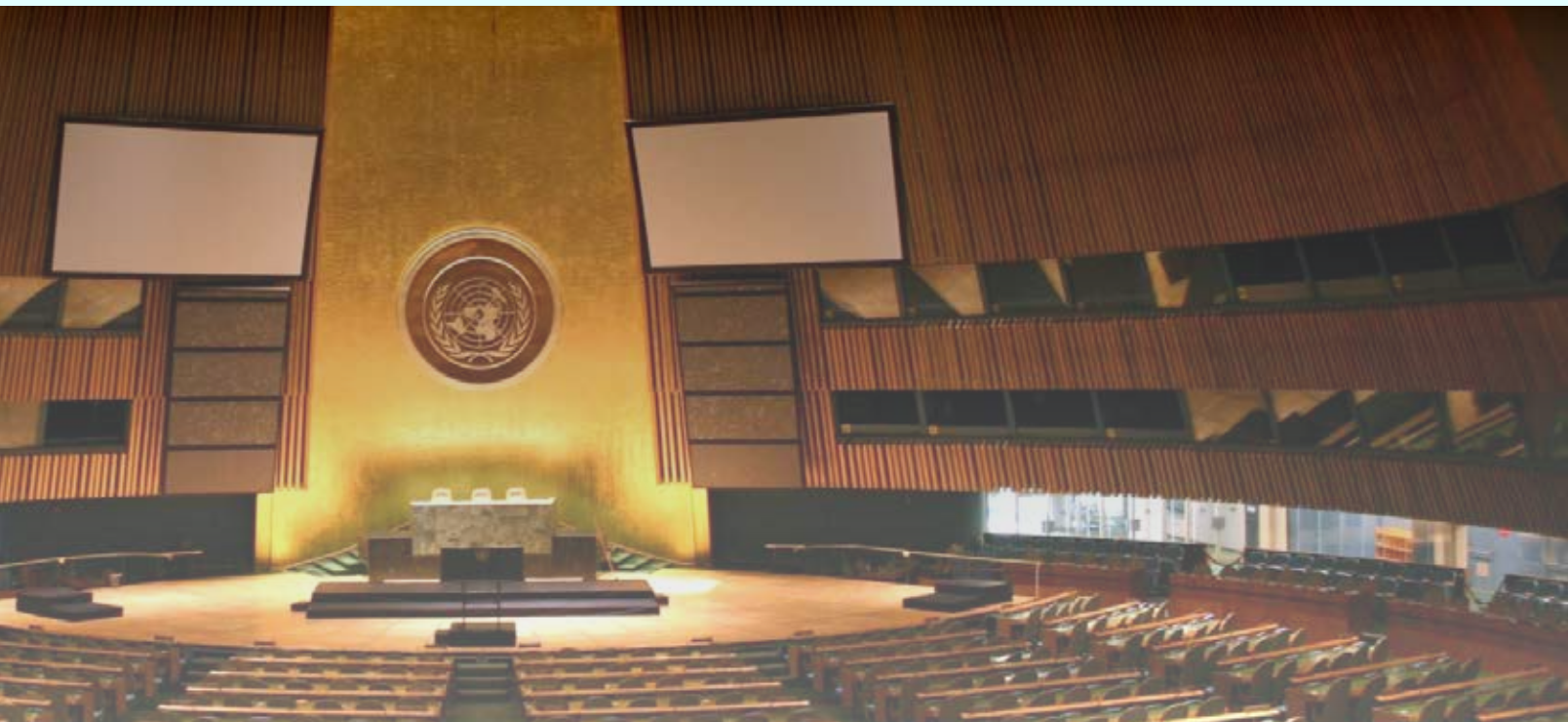
UN 76TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

The 76th UN General Assembly (GA) was held under the theme, 'Building Resilience through Hope' against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and global insecurity. The remarks at the opening ceremony signaled the urgency and ambition to end the pandemic and ensure an equitable and green recovery and accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The message of the GA was that as we work to end the pandemic everywhere and reboot the global economy, the choices we make will either secure human, economic and environmental health for generations to come, or reinforce old patterns that are destroying nature and driving social division.

An inclusive, sustainable and resilient COVID-19 recovery is critical to setting the world on course to create jobs, reduce inequalities and improve health and food security.

Secretary-General António Guterres described the COVID-19 pandemic as the most challenging period the world has seen since the Second World War, as the 75th session of the UNGA.



Passing on the gavel to the new Assembly president, Guterres saluted his predecessor: "Throughout this difficult and historic moment, we have all been fortunate to rely on the leadership of His Excellency, President Volkan Bozkir".

The UN chief credited the outgoing Turkish diplomat and politician for prioritizing a sustainable recovery, rooted in the 2030 Agenda, and supporting countries and communities as they rebuild economies shattered by the pandemic.

The SG said that under Bozkir's leadership, the Assembly had sought to "strengthen health systems, deliver COVID-19 testing, treatment and equipment, and contribute to the most ambitious vaccination campaign in history".

Moreover, he focused the UNGA's work in the areas of peace and security, disarmament, human rights, gender inequality and sustainable development. He also presided over the adoption of major resolutions on key issues - from peacebuilding to counterterrorism and preventing crimes

against humanity - addressing climate change and strategies to end human trafficking.

Before stepping down, President Bozkir made a series of recommendations that ranged from strengthening the Assembly to realigning "a serious mismatch in the way this Organization treats its employees and the world's highest political office". He also suggested a shift from focusing on procedures "at the cost of substance" to a "more streamlined, priority driven agenda" and to prioritize the UN as a single entity of respect, integrity and progress.

Newly sworn in General Assembly President, Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives, then opened the 76th session, noting that his country's flag is "flying at the highest peak today". He spoke of near-universal "collective anxiety" and hopelessness, not all of which is pandemic-related, saying: "the narrative must change", and that the GA "must play a part in this".

In addition to the General Debate, this year's meeting kicked off a series of international UN conferences in

2021, that are expected to highlight action and solutions to ignite the transformations needed to secure healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all.

One of these is the 2022 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development," which the Assembly will convene from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal and for which the Governments of Kenya and Portugal shall retain co-hosting responsibilities. ■



ECLAC revises region's
ECONOMIC GROWTH



In its most recent flagship report, the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021, ECLAC adjusted its economic growth forecast for the region this year upwards to 5.9 per cent. As expectations improve for a global recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, ECLAC had projected an expansion in the region's gross domestic product (GDP) of 5.2 per cent at the start of July. This is because the outlook is looking brighter amid the gradual reopening of economies around the region.

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ECLAC revises region's economic growth

ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena, in presenting the report entitled, "Labour dynamics and employment policies for sustainable and inclusive recovery beyond the COVID-19 crisis", warned however that a better performance this year would still not see countries in the region returning to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. In fact, longer term growth remained uncertain, given the uneven progress of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the entire region.

"There are important asymmetries between developed countries and middle-income nations, which includes the majority of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, both with regard to the vaccination dynamic as well as

the capacity to implement policies for the economic recovery", Bárcena stated.

"In order to maintain expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, the region's countries must complement domestic resources with greater access to international liquidity and with multilateral mechanisms that would facilitate debt management, if necessary. Multilateral initiatives are needed to face uncertainties about vaccination and developing countries' access to financing under adequate conditions".

The annual report shows that the structural problems that have limited the region's economic growth for decades were exacerbated by the pandemic and

will limit the economic recovery.

Before COVID-19, the region was already doing poorly: in the six-year period between 2014 and 2019, it grew at an average rate of 0.3 per cent, below the average of the six-year period that includes the First World War (0.9 per cent) and the Great Depression (1.3 per cent). In addition, it has seen a steady decline in investment, reaching one of its lowest levels in the last three decades in 2020 (17.9 per cent of GDP). Similarly, labor productivity is falling significantly.

Furthermore, in 2020, the pandemic sparked the biggest crisis that Latin America and the Caribbean's labor markets have experienced since 1950. On a global level, the region's labor



“ *Multilateral initiatives are needed to face uncertainties about vaccination and developing countries’ access to financing under adequate conditions.* ”

markets were the most affected by the crisis prompted by COVID-19 – with the number of employed persons falling 9.0 per cent in 2020 – and the recovery expected for 2021 will not be enough to attain pre-crisis levels.

The pandemic also led to a sharp decline in labor force participation, particularly among women. With the crisis, female participation reached 46.9 per cent in 2020, which represents a setback relative to levels seen in 2002. In 2021, this indicator is expected to recover, reaching an estimated 49.1 per cent, but that would still only be similar to 2008 levels.

ECLAC has proposed channeling investment into sectors that would promote a new development pattern that can boost competitiveness and employment and reduce environmental challenges. These will include: the

transition towards renewable energy; sustainable mobility in cities; the digital revolution, to make access to technology universal; the health-care manufacturing industry; the bioeconomy and ecosystem services; the care economy; the circular economy; and sustainable tourism.

The report stresses the need to bolster the capital of regional, subregional and national development banks with the aim of increasing lending capacity and the capacity to respond to the pandemic, and to establish a multilateral sovereign-debt restructuring mechanism to handle the obligations contracted with private creditors. It also mentions the importance of mitigating the procyclical inclination of rating agencies and the contributing to financial stability becoming a global public good, through the creation of a multilateral

credit rating agency.

“We must expand the toolbox of innovative instruments for improving access to financing and include middle-income countries in all initiatives involving debt relief and access to concessional liquidity. GDP must not be the sole criteria for evaluating countries’ development level and needs. We must move from graduation to gradation”, Bárcena ended. ■



Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) are considered to be vulnerable to external shocks that stem from climate change impacts, and the increase in frequency and magnitude of natural disasters (ECLAC, 2011).

Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

of geospatial technologies and data in DRM, in addition to other areas.



SECOND CRUISE PIER READY IN SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

applications in DRM.

Geospatial technologies comprise of the following components: computer hardware, data collection hardware, computer software, data and databases, personnel, and applications. These components work together to analyze data to inform decision-makers and other stakeholders. These technologies also allow for information to be uploaded and shared globally to all agencies involved in disaster risk management.

Geospatial technologies and data in disaster risk management provide integrated data storage, access, and data retrieval capabilities, support for a systematic approach to data collection and management, the facilitation of data sharing and access to reduce the overall costs of data collection and management, and provides data and information to support the analysis of the impacts of disasters. ■

The second cruise pier at Saint Kitts and Nevis' popular Port Zante is ready. The new pier is completed and will be operationalized soon, according to Tuffida Stewart, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Saint Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority. "Pier two is ready and is available for vessels to berth for the upcoming season," she said.

The plan is for additional cruise ships to add Saint Kitts to their itineraries with the launch of the second port. Dredging work was undertaken to allow for an added layer of protection for oasis-class ships, which is the largest type, that have frequently called on the island.

The news comes as Saint Kitts relaunches its cruise industry for major ships, since the onset of the pandemic. The island has set up a number of strong health and safety protocols to prepare for its arrival, including the establishment of a "bubble" system at the port.

"As the first ship arrives at Port Zante, the area will become a bubble and we are working with the COVID-19 Task Force, UDC (Urban Development Corporation), tour operators, and the retail operators at Port Zante to finalize the logistics of this bubble", said Saint Kitts and Nevis Tourism Minister, Lindsay Grant. ■



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TOURISM GROWTH CONTINUES WITH HIGH AUGUST 2021 FIGURES

Reports by tourism stakeholders of increased tourist traffic in August, have been confirmed by the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism. Recently released statistics from the Ministry show that stayover air arrivals for August 2021, totaled almost 19 thousand visitors to the destination, an increase over August 2018, which previously held the record of “best” August with close to 18 thousand visitors.

The United States and United Kingdom markets remain the source for the majority of the visitors. Both markets combined brought a total of 92 per cent of the total visitors arriving in August 2021. The US market continues to dominate as the main source market with 52.5 percent of the total visitor arrivals while the UK, Antigua and Barbuda’s second-largest source market contributed 39.5 percent of the total visitor arrivals.

Speaking on the growth, Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, attributed this to Antigua and Barbuda’s strong airlift performance for August from the UK market.

“The month of August saw a record number of seats available from the UK. The all-time high capacity out of the UK for August, along with the fact that the flights were operating from and to the two main airports, London Heathrow and London Gatwick, not only made it more convenient for travel from and to London; but it also allowed for more convenient connections from and to cities in Europe”.

According to the Ministry, the record number of seats available from and to London Gatwick and London Heathrow resulted in the most passengers traveling out of the UK to Antigua and Barbuda in any August. The ministry highlighted that, previously the “best” August

on record in respect of visitor arrivals from the UK was August 2017 when 4,956 persons visited its shores. In August 2021, there were a total of 7,429 visitors or a 49.8 per cent increase over the number of visitors in 2017.

Earlier this year, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority released new advertising within all its source markets for Antigua and Barbuda’s ‘Your Space In The Sun’ campaign, which highlights the twin-island’s beaches, outdoor attractions, and airy accommodation.

The Tourism Authority alongside the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association and the Ministry of Tourism, have also strongly promoted the message of safety amongst industry partners and visitors through its ‘Sun, Sea, Safe’ campaign. ■

SALISES 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE V I R T U A L

ECLAC CARIBBEAN ASSISTS WITH 22ND SALISES CONFERENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc worldwide, especially in small island developing States (SIDS). Economies have contracted, health systems have been overwhelmed and social life has been drastically disrupted.

Pre COVID-19, SIDS struggled with weak economies, high levels of poverty; inequality and debt, and dependence on overseas development assistance (ODA); large informal sectors; and the impact of climate change. The virus has exposed deeply-rooted structural problems and heightened existing vulnerabilities in SIDS.

Notwithstanding, the crisis provides an opportune moment to re-think and re-shape our economic, political, cultural and social systems. In these unprecedentedly precarious times, we are compelled to be exceptionally agile and inventive in re-imagining development, during and post COVID-19.

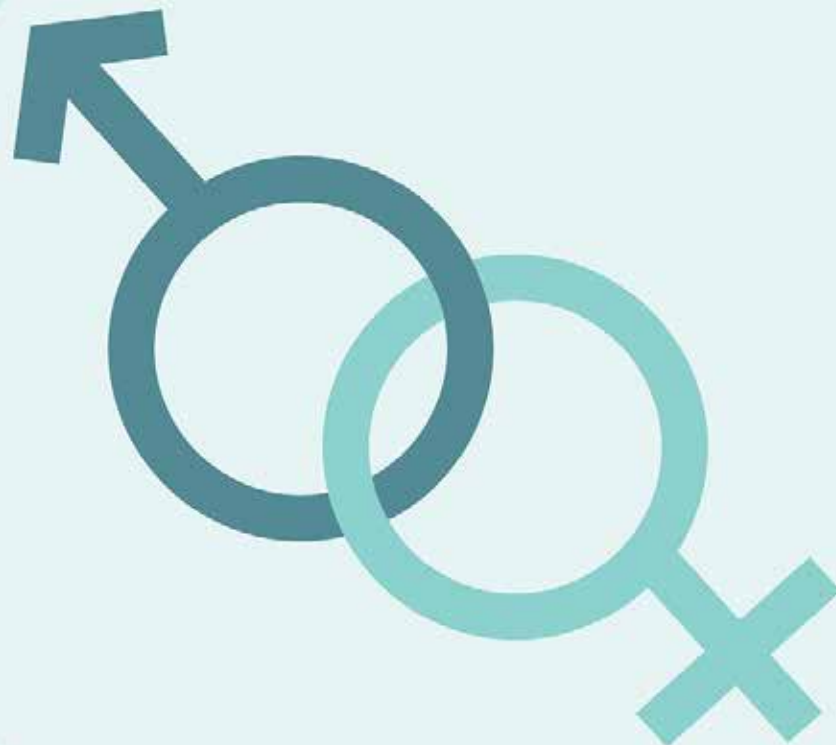
In this vein, ECLAC Caribbean is collaborating with Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies of The University of the West Indies, in organizing the 22nd Annual SALISES Conference during 28-30 September 2021.

The conference, with the theme Re-imagining Development for small island developing States (SIDS): Post-Pandemic Transformations, will be held virtually. The Conference will provide a platform to address the concerns mentioned above, along with related development challenges facing SIDS.

ECLAC aims to use the opportunity of the broader audience that the Conference will attract, to showcase the activities and outcomes of the Development Account (DA) 11th Tranche project, on "Strengthening institutional frameworks in the Caribbean for an integrative approach to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda".

ECLAC Caribbean is organizing three plenary sessions at the Conference that focus on the DA11 project. There are also several opportunities for presenters to share research or studies that have recently been completed, during the Conference.

Look out for more details on this Conference in next month's issue of the Hummingbird. ■



MINISTERS AND SENIOR AUTHORITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GENDER DEBATE

Ministers of Women's Affairs and authorities from agencies for women's advancement, representatives of international entities, scholars and union leaders, as well as members of women's and feminist organizations, will participate in the 61st Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held virtually at the end of this month.

This meeting is being organized by ECLAC, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Conference, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, will convene the meeting, with the support of María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN Women; and Mónica Zalaquett, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 61st Meeting will be focused on furthering preparations for the 15th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Argentina in 2022, and it will feature a high-level panel on the centrality of the care society for driving a transformative recovery with gender equality and sustainability.

In addition, participants will report on the progress of the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on aspects related to the functioning of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, among other matters.

There will also be a side event, entitled, 'The burden of unpaid care work on Caribbean women in the time of COVID-19', which the Hummingbird will report on in the next issue.

Participants will include Ministers of Women's Affairs and authorities from mechanisms for women's advancement, international officials, scholars, union leaders and other representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries. ■



MARTINIQUE NAMED UNESCO WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The French Caribbean island of Martinique has joined UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program. It's the second major UNESCO recognition for Martinique, whose Yole Sailboat was also added to the organization's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. A yole is a light, fast, shallow-draught boat with a tapered shape, which can sail with one or two sails.

"We are thrilled and very proud of the Martinique Biosphere Reserve Association, and of our people, for achieving this success and putting Martinique once again on UNESCO's radar and, raising our island's profile as an internationally desirable destination," said Bénédicte di Géronimo, Martinique's Tourism Commissioner.

In a statement, Martinique officials said the recognition "rewards the island's longstanding commitment to sustainable economic and social development while preserving their local natural

and cultural wealth, which is a key element required by UNESCO".

The entire island of Martinique, including its marine exclusive economic zone, is included in the 12,169,368-acre biosphere reserve.

It is the 12th biosphere reserve along the volcanic arc of the Caribbean, and one of just 35 biodiversity hotspots in the world. UNESCO Biosphere reserves now cover more than 5 per cent of the Earth's landmass.

"UNESCO biosphere reserves are central to education, research and awareness-raising work, to foster innovative sustainable development practices and combat the loss of biodiversity. The network supports local and indigenous communities and Member States' understanding, and the protection of the natural environment", UNESCO said. ■



ECLAC FAMILY: ADA BORN ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

ECLAC Caribbean's newest mom, Lika Doehl Diouf and her husband, Eirik, welcomed their bundle of joy, a baby girl, to the world in September.

She was born on the International Day of Peace, which Lika believes is a good omen. She says, "I also suspect that my daughter will be very tired of the Earth, Wind & Fire bop by the time she's all grown up, as I plan to sing it to her a lot!"

Mum, Dad and baby are presenting basking in their increased family, and the Hummingbird wishes them well for a bright future! ■

Dominican snacks everyone should try... at least once!

If you want to have the ultimate Dominican cuisine experience, there are a few treats the island offers that are considered must-haves and they should be on your list of foods to try. These snacks are traditional, and available in other islands. They are a nostalgic experience for Dominicans who live abroad when they have these amazing treats.

So, if you have a trip booked to the nature island of the Caribbean, don't forget to ask for a taste of these sweet and savoury mouth-watering Dominican goodies as soon as you get here.

Lime squash. This is the island's lemonade. Dominicans believe there is no drink as refreshing as this beverage particularly if you have a drink to 'wash down a' fig (boiled green bananas) and codfish or breadfruit and codfish. You make it with freshly squeezed local lime, sweetened to taste with brown sugar, a dash of vanilla essence (for those who like it), lots of ice and the ultimate lime squash is done.

Accras. These are a lighter version of bakes. They can be flavoured using codfish, or one of your choice. They are usually fried dried and crisp, and well-seasoned.

Black pudding. Made from the blood of the animal (pig or cow), well – seasoned, we call it Boudin (in creole), a favourite for most.

Souse. This is boiled pig feet, which is then cleaned and placed in a bath of seasoned water. Souse is a favourite particularly on a Saturday or a Sunday morning. Often paired with a cucumber salad and stone-oven baked hot bread.

Franchine. This treat is similar to souse but it is cooked cow's skin. Boudin, Souse and Franchine are usually purchased as a trio.

Coconut tablet. Getting into the sweets, Dominicans love coconut tablets. The snack is grated coconut boiled in brown sugar and spices until thick and then placed in mounds to crystalize. At the end they resemble coconut cookies. In other parts of the Caribbean, they are known as coconut drops.

Coconut cheese. Another Dominican favourite is coconut cheese. In some other islands it's called coconut fudge. Once in Dominica, you can't miss this sweet treat that's sold by roadside vendors and in some bread and cake shops. Coconut cheese is a rich, creamy treat made with coconut milk, condensed milk, sugar and spices brought to a boil, add some butter and beat this mixture for your life. Then spread on a pan, cut into squares and left to cool. ■

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SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean>

