

QUESTIONNAIRE

Agency: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Report: Follow-up to the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.¹

Reporting period: January 2020 - March 2021

1. ECLAC Strategic Approaches in Supporting Caribbean SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway:

The Caribbean SIDS² face significant challenges that compromise their ability to achieve and sustain their sustainable development trajectories. These challenges include high debt levels which give rise to weak economic growth; financial constraints; declining export capacity; high unemployment (particularly among women and youth); and high vulnerabilities to environmental threats. Towards addressing these challenges, ECLAC maintained focused, programmatic and institutionalized services supporting the national and regional sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS.³ As the Secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), the ECLAC's subregional headquarters for the Caribbean ensured that ECLAC's work programme remained relevant in addressing the challenges and priorities for sustainable development for this subregion.

Selected amongst the services provided to the Caribbean SIDS and in the period under review were: the promotion of sound fiscal management and market diversification, wider application of information communication and technology (ICTs), human and institutional capacity building for the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Agenda 2030, enhancing the role of social development including in particular gender and vulnerable groups requirements; integration of disaster risk reduction and management measures into national planning; and strengthening the statistical capacity to support more effective evidence-based policymaking. In the period under review, ECLAC services to the Caribbean SIDS were adjusted to support member countries and the region in the management of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ This report is prepared in reference to General Assembly resolution 75/215 of 21 December 2020, entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

² Haiti is both a SIDS and LDC.

³ See also ECLAC's SAMOA Pathway 2020 Report, see link at: <https://sidsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ECLAC-SAMOA-Pathway-Report-Survey-2020.pdf>

These services were delivered through the following approaches: conducted research and analysis of the emerging issues and sustainable development challenges facing the Caribbean SIDS, coordinated and facilitated the Caribbean SIDS engagement at intergovernmental regional meetings and global conferences, including and in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway, provided technical assistance and advisory services upon request, training activities, seminars and workshops for knowledge-sharing, communication and outreach⁴ and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. In the delivery of these services, ECLAC worked closely with Caribbean development partners including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) family of institutions, other subregional intergovernmental organizations, international donor institutions.⁵ ECLAC further contributed as member of the UN-Country teams under the United Nations Resident Coordination system.

In 2021, ECLAC's services to the Caribbean SIDS will continue to be framed by the global platforms which advance the sustainable development agendas and including the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Agreement on Financing for Sustainable Development. These will be pursued in synergy with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and through the promotion of institutionalized, integrated, long-term sustainable development planning that is evidence-based and participatory in nature, with a view to supporting Caribbean policymakers in promoting sustainable growth and development for the countries of the subregion. ECLAC will also continue to be engaged in actively supporting the sustainable development aspirations of the Non-Self-Governing countries and other Territories in the Caribbean as associate members of the Commission.

2. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in the Caribbean SIDS

Introduction:

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of the Caribbean SIDS, given their greater exposure to external factors and the lack of diversity in their economies. ECLAC's in its 2020 *Caribbean Outlook: Forging a people-centered approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19* (ECLAC, 2020) an analysis and recommendations were made on approaches for the Caribbean subregion towards addressing the challenges of response, recovery

⁴ See ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, web site: <https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean>

⁵ To better address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of Caribbean SIDS, during the 37th Session of ECLAC the Caribbean First Strategy was launched. This strategic vision of ECLAC is aimed at giving a prominent place to the Caribbean subregion in the work of ECLAC. The Strategy also serves in supporting that the Caribbean voices are heard and channelled in regional and global fora, with a view to advancing the Caribbean agendas for sustainable development with equality, including the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, and strengthen their common positions to foster greater cooperation and solidarity among the wider region and beyond.

and resilience-building in the wake of the pandemic, including strategies to ensure that States' commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway are fulfilled. This 2020 publication detailed that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and inequalities in Caribbean society, including with regard to access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and education services, food insecurity, and the situation of women and girls given the significant increase in gender-based violence. It provided that the pandemic has also posed a considerable challenge to governments, already burdened by high levels of public debt and debt service payments, to provide support to struggling businesses and to the increasing numbers of unemployed, particularly those in the informal sector.

The following selected items provides on the programmatic work of ECLAC supporting the Caribbean SIDS for the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

a. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS:

ECLAC is supporting the Caribbean Sub-region in the development of proposals with respect to the UN Secretary General's Financing for development (FFD) in COVID-19 and beyond initiative.⁶ This FFD process is continuing into 2021. Under the six thematic working groups of FFD, ECLAC has made targeted contributions towards addressing the particular challenges and vulnerabilities of the Caribbean SIDS.⁷

b. Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF):

ECLAC is pursuing the establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF) whose mandate would be to address immediate liquidity, solvency, debt, economic restructuring, and resilience-building issues which are central to jump-starting growth in this region. The CRF is being proposed as a financing mechanism, to be set up as a trust fund and designed to be a vehicle for delivering much needed liquidity support to the Caribbean as well as attracting financing for climate adaptation and mitigation. The design of the CRF facilitates the aggregation of resources from different funding sources, and the utilization of those funds for multiple objectives including liquidity support, debt reduction, the provision of grant funding, and concessional financing. Moreover, once integrated as a key element of the subregion's resilience building strategy, the CRF would also seek to facilitate investment in green industries and sectors in the Caribbean to stimulate growth, diversification, and economic recovery during the COVID-19 era.

⁶ See link at: <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/financing-development>

⁷ The thematic working groups of the FDD are titled as: Global Liquidity and Financial Stability, Debt Vulnerability, Private Sector Creditors Engagement, External Finance and Inclusive Growth, Illicit Financial Flows and Recovering better for Sustainability.

c. High level meetings and events with focus on the Caribbean SIDS:

i. Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR):

ECLAC convened the 6th Meeting of the Caribbean Development Round (CDR) table on September 20, 2020 titled: **Securing Debt Sustainability and Resilience in the time of COVID-19.** This 6th meeting of the CDR provided a space for opened and frank discussions for taking stock of the progress of the Caribbean SIDS in persuading the international community to extend the financial support needed, middle income status notwithstanding, and to dialogue on those strategies that will take them from vulnerability to resilient development; from economic peril to recovery and dynamic growth. This event presented on the economic and financial impacts of the pandemic on the subregion, and consideration of strategies to build economic and environmental resilience to address the vulnerabilities of the SIDS. This 6th CDR meeting provided an opportunity to consider how to strengthen partnership for action that is responsive to the unique vulnerabilities of the Caribbean SIDS, and that can provide for tangible progress through the application of innovative problem-solving in these precarious times.⁸

ii. COVID-19 CARIBBEAN SIDS Finance Ministers Meeting, April 2020:

This regional meeting highlighted the liquidity, solvency and debt challenges facing Caribbean economies due to the fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and address how the financial needs and vulnerabilities of the Caribbean can be articulated by the Secretary General of the United Nations on behalf of the member States to secure much needed attention of the international financial community.

3. ECLAC's Subsidiary bodies, intergovernmental meetings, and technical support to the Caribbean SIDS

A: ECLAC's Subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings:

In the period under review, the following were delivered supporting the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development agendas:

i. Thirty-eight session of ECLAC (Costa Rica, October 2020)⁹:

During this event ECLAC made a comprehensive proposal (and which was endorsed by ECLAC's member countries) for a transformed paradigm of development in the region post-

⁸ Sixth meeting of the ECLAC CDR available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/sixth-meeting-caribbean-development-roundtable-securing-debt-sustainability-and-resilience>

⁹ All Caribbean States and Association member countries attended this thirty-eighth session of ECLAC

COVID-19. These proposals were presented in the document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, which calls for a new future to be built in the region through a big push for sustainability based on the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development agendas. Further, this proposal also enlists the requirements for social and political compacts¹⁰ to ensure that the SDGs become State policies. At this 38th Session, ECLAC also presented the document *Caribbean Outlook: Forging a people-centered approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19* in which it offers perspectives and recommendations on how the subregion can address the challenges of response, recovery and resilience-building in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including strategies to ensure that Caribbean SIDS commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway are fulfilled.

ii. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC):

The 28th session of the CDCC was held on September 2020. This 28th session was developed to give deliberate attention and requiring to address the multi-dimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; the scale of the vulnerability of the small, heavily indebted, undiversified economies of the Caribbean and including exploration of opportunities to secure urgent relief.¹¹ The 28th Session of the CDCC adopted 4 Resolutions and which provided to ECLAC the mandates for supporting the priorities for the Caribbean SIDS. These resolutions were:

a. CDCC Resolution 102 (XXVIII): Response to the Impact of Covid-19.

This resolution noted the significant negative socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the countries of the Caribbean and that the COVID-19 impacts have exacerbated existing challenges faced by the heavily indebted middle-income countries of the subregion already suffering with high exposure to natural disasters and climate change.

b. CDCC Resolution 103 (XXVIII): Support for Disaster Risk Management in The Caribbean.

This resolution maintained that the Caribbean countries are among the world's most vulnerable to the impact of extreme weather events and experience some the highest rates of damage and loss relative to their Gross Domestic Product.¹² It recognized that with the advent of COVID-19, Caribbean countries will need to integrate specific health, sanitary and safety control measures into their DRM and DRR management plans to mitigate the spread of the disease.

c. CDCC 104 (XXVIII): Repositioning the CDCC - Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM) as the Caribbean

¹¹ CDCC 28th Session of the CDCC is available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/twenty-eighth-session-caribbean-development-and-cooperation-committee>.

¹² The impacts of the eruptions of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines, La Soufriere volcano, additionally will have to be factored into the vulnerabilities of the Caribbean SIDS

SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development.

This resolution provided for the recommendations taken at the Caribbean-SIDS regional mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway¹³ (the San Pedro Declaration). The San Pedro Declaration called for the revitalization of the CDCC-RCM, with a view to advancing political advocacy on SIDS issues at the regional level, facilitating SIDS-SIDS cooperation and spearheading implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, Agenda 2030 and other SIDS sustainable development agendas in a coherent and effective manner.

d. CDCC Resolution 105 (XXVIII) Support for the Work of ECLAC in the Caribbean.

This resolution, affirmed the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the ECLAC in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and the United Nations Development System, particularly the effort to strengthen the Multi-Country Offices of the Caribbean, funds and programmes, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations.

iii. Agenda 2030 and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

ECLAC work programme is aligned to respond to the challenge and to assist member countries in the implementation of 2020 Agenda and its SDGs.¹⁴ This service delivered through supporting the institutionalization of integrated, long-term sustainable development planning that is evidence-based and participatory. In the reporting year 2020, ECLAC supported the Caribbean countries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago for their first VNR. For the reporting year 2021, ECLAC is supporting Antigua and Barbuda in the preparation of its VNR.

iv. Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (Forum). Under the auspices of ECLAC. This forum serves as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.¹⁵

¹³ SAN PEDRO DECLARATION Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, San Pedro, Belize, (August 2018) available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20630San_Pedro_Declaration_final_version.pdf.

¹⁴ See more details at : ECLAC at <https://sdgs.un.org/un-system-sdg-implementation/economic-commission-latin-america-and-caribbean-eclac-24520>, cited April 19, 2021.

¹⁵ See link at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en/background>

At that fourth meeting of the Forum (March, 2021),^{16,17} representatives from the governments of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, from 20 United Nations agencies, funds and programs, intergovernmental organizations, financial institutions in the region, and the academic and private sectors reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to confronting the difficulties arising from the crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of building forward better.

This Forum included high-level agenda items with specific focus on the Caribbean SIDS implementation of the 2030 Agenda, selected amongst these were:

- Building Forward Better in the Caribbean Post COVID-19: Critical issues to keep the 2030 Agenda in sight, March 16, 2021¹⁸
- High-level meeting on the challenges faced by associate members¹⁹ of ECLAC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, March 15, 2021²⁰

v. Other regional meetings of the ECLAC subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings delivered in the period under review and with indication on the level of the Caribbean SIDS participation:

- Fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC in collaboration with UN-Women (Santiago de Chile, January 2020), 11 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Briefing of Ministers and high-level authorities of machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean (April 2020), 18 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Meeting on the role of Social Development Ministries in the Caribbean in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2020), 18 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Meeting of Ministers of Finance to discuss the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean (April 2020), 16 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Thirty-fifth session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC (August 2020), 22 Caribbean SIDS participated

¹⁶ The **thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**, Mexico City May 2016, the member States adopted **resolution 700 (XXXVI)**, Mexico Resolution, which established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to **follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, including the **Sustainable Development Goals** and targets, its means of implementation, and the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**. The Economic and Social Council subsequently endorsed the establishment of the Forum in its resolution 2016/12.

¹⁷ See link at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en/programme>

¹⁸ See event link at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/news/urgent-support-must-be-provided-caribbean-countries-so-they-can-advance-fulfilling-sdgs-context>

¹⁹ Caribbean Associate Members: Bermuda, Sint Maarten, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Martinique, Turks and Caicos Islands, Aruba, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

²⁰ See link at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en/programme/high-level-meeting-challenges-faced-associate-members-eclac-implementation-2030-agenda>

- Nineteen meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (August 2020), 25 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Twenty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of ECLAC (November 2020), 11 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC (November 2020), 15 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Population impacts and policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean (December 2020), 13 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Expert Group Meeting on the Evaluation of South-South Cooperation in the Caribbean in the context of the post-pandemic recovery (December,2020), 11 Caribbean SIDS participated
- Fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC (January 2021), 20 Caribbean SIDS participated.

B. Technical Assistance services:

ECLAC worked towards strengthening the Caribbean SIDS capacities to comprehensively assess their developmental challenges and progress towards the attainment of long-term strategic planning and conduct evidence-based policy analysis for sustainable development. This was delivered through a series of technical assistance initiatives, capacity building and workshops. Taking into context the specific challenges of the Caribbean SIDS, these technical services were targeted on the development of long-term national development plans and through the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and other developmental agendas. This support to Caribbean SIDS also involved national statistical capacity-building in the production and dissemination of official statistics to produce data for the SDGS and other reporting requirements.

Selected listing of ECLAC's technical assistance services provided to the Caribbean SIDS in the period under review are:

i. Antigua and Barbuda:

ECLAC undertook a technical mission to Antigua and Barbuda on 4-6 March 2020 to assess the country's progress in the implementation of the SDGs as well as plans for the nation's first Voluntary National Review to the HLPF. The mission also facilitated discussions on long-term development planning in the country and the implementation of ECLAC's Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap.

ii. Cuba:

ECLAC-Mexico with the support of UNDP and UN-RCO lead in the project on Integrated National Financial Framework for SDGs in Cuba" (2020 – 2022). This project is aimed to

evaluate and design a policy framework for SDG financing. Additionally, ECLAC Mexico in collaboration with UNDP (Cuba) and co-financing from the Government of Canada is conducting a study on the economic and financial assessment of the papaya value chain in Cuba. The study is expected to conclude in 2021.

iii. Dominican Republic

ECLAC-Mexico supported The Dominican Republic- Coffee Institute and the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism. This support is also in keeping with the strengthening and preparation the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for coffee in this Caribbean SIDS. Under this study, ECLAC launched in November 2020 a publication entitled “Strengthening the Value Chain in the Dominican Republic: Responding to Climate Change”.²¹

iv. Grenada:

Central Statistical Office of Grenada to support the preparation of a confidential microdata file from the Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey 2018 (a survey of violence against women), for dissemination to researchers.

v. Haiti:

ECLAC services from both Mexico and head office provided technical cooperation to Ministry of Social Affairs and Works (MAST) of Haiti. ECLAC facilitated a two-weeks training course in Haiti and followed with supporting the preparation of the final document of the National Policy for Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS , decree June 2020). Additionally, an interagency agreement between ECLAC and World Food Program (WFP-Haiti) project was signed in June 2019 and was recently renewed (December 2020) with an extension until December 31, 2021. In the framework of ECLAC-WFP project, there are two outputs on the costing of the policy under different scenarios. The first document, Costing of Cash Transfer Mechanisms, was published in August 2020 (French and English edition)²². ECLAC continues to work on the second document on Costing of Non-Cash Transfer Mechanisms to be concluded in the first half of 2021 and with focus on the costing of three other mechanisms - essential health services packages, graduation programs, and school feeding programs. In the remainder of 2021, collaboration will continue with the counterparts in accompanying the implementation (a pilot phase) of the national and sub-national action plans and towards delivery of virtual training workshops for government officials at the central and sub-national levels.

²¹ Fortalecimiento de la cadena de valor de café en la República Dominicana: en respuesta al cambio climático, CEPAL, 2020, see link at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/46433-fortalecimiento-la-cadena-valor-cafe-la-republica-dominicana-respuesta-al-cambio>

²² Estimates of the cost of cash transfers under the National Policy on Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS) in Haiti. <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/46248-estimates-cost-cash-transfers-under-national-policy-social-protection-and>

vi. St. Lucia:

Department of Gender Relations of Saint Lucia in assessing the implementation of Gender Equality Frameworks and Practices in the country. The findings and recommendations are contained in a project report submitted to Department.

vii. Trinidad and Tobago

Study on the Economic implications of the ban on single-use plastics in the Caribbean: A case study of Trinidad and Tobago. This study examined the economic implications of a ban on single-use plastics proposed for implementation in Trinidad and Tobago in 2020. Applying a cross-section analysis, the potential direct impacts to the economy were assessed. A revised incentive framework, enhanced waste management infrastructure, public education and awareness raising initiatives were identified as important policy elements to be undertaken in the implementation of the ban.

- Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago and the UN-Regional Coordination office, ECLAC provided technical assistance in organizing a series of focus group discussions with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors to discuss Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the eight SDGs that the country intends to report on in their first VNR to the HLPF in July 2020. These focus group discussions were organized around the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda and took place between January and February 2020.

viii. Multi-country technical services:

Economic Surveys: ECLAC-Port of Spain- prepared in 2020 the Preliminary Overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2019 and Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2020 Facing the challenge of COVID-19.²³ The 2020 economic survey examined the economic performance of economies of the Caribbean in 2019 and the first half of 2020. It provided an overview of global, regional and subregional economic performance in the Caribbean, an analysis of the subregion's fiscal performance and debt burden, it examined monetary policy and their impacts and last but not least the COVID-19 lockdown measures implemented globally as well as in Caribbean countries and their impacts on the tourism and energy sectors. This study also included individual country briefs which give an overview of the economic situation for The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and a subregional assessment of the countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

²³ Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2020 - Facing the challenge of COVID-19, see link at https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46714/S2000888_en.pdf

ECLAC-Mexico office also elaborated in 2002 the economic survey of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This office also prepared the macroeconomic report on Central America and the Dominican Republic.

COVID-19 Assessment impact to the creative industries: Technical assistance was provided to Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada with respect to the impact of COVID-19 on Caribbean creative industries – specifically within the festivals subsector.

Cruise-ship and yachting industries: Consultations were held, and technical advice provided to several Ministries and agencies in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with respect to avenues for clustering of the cruise-ship and yachting industries.

Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): ECLAC supported the OECS-Commission in the development of a Green/Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan.²⁴ This plan was formally endorsed by the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability (COMES) in June 2020. ECLAC continued in 2021 in the advancement of the implementation of this plan and taking into consideration the need for a structured, responsible post Covid-19 Pandemic recovery and the sustainable development priorities of the OECS member countries.

Subregional Strategy for the Central American Integration System (SICA) and including the Dominica Republic and Haiti as member of this intergovernmental group. ECLAC supported the preparation of the 2030 sustainable energy strategy for the SICA countries. This sub-regional strategy was approved in June 2020 by the Ministers of SICA countries (8 countries). Under this SICA Sustainable Development strategy, ECLAC-Mexico further prepared the sectoral plan of the energy sector and with consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this strategy, the Dominican Republic was supported in the installation of a geospatial information platform on biomass resources and Cuba-Division of Natural Resources was supported of the production of bioethanol in the sugar industry and a database of energy efficiency indicators.

²⁴ The three main components of this support are: Aligning public policy, public finance and public investment to the SAP; Identifying opportunities and barriers to accessing public and private financial sources and markets; and outlining an investment strategy for attracting inward investment flows for greening sectors.

4. Caribbean SIDS Regional Capacity building, workshops, and seminars:

- i. SDG indicators: Training workshop was held on the construction of SDG Indicators based on population and housing census data processed using the REDATAM software, September 2020
- ii. Agenda 2030 and its SDGs: Training in Evidence-based Policy Planning for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, December 2020
- iii. Workshop on “Leaving No One Behind in the Caribbean: Building resilience through universal social protection”, October 2020.
- iv. Report of the seminar on sustainable development and disaster risk management: financing and planning for disaster risk management in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States, November 2020
- v. Damage and Loss Assessment: ECLAC POS conducted an online training course on ECLAC’s Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology (DaLA) in January/February 2020

5. The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement)

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), adopted on 4 March 2018, specifically refers to the MSI, BPOA and SAMOA Pathway in its preamble (see seventh preambular paragraph).²⁵ Furthermore, in its article 11.2 on cooperation, Parties commit to giving particular consideration to SIDS from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Escazú Agreement supports the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a whole, focusing on peaceful, prosperous, inclusive societies and safe communities on their paths toward sustainable development. The Agreement will enter into force on 22 April 2021. It currently has 12 Parties and 24 signatories, of which 5 Parties and 11 signatories are Caribbean SIDS.

In support for the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, ECLAC and the Organisation

²⁵ The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), see link at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>

of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) established on 2020 an Enhanced Programme of Action on the Escazú Agreement in the Eastern Caribbean. The Programme of Action is to be a framework for enhanced cooperation and understanding to assist OECS Member States achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development through the Escazú Agreement. As part of the programme, ECLAC and the OECS have committed to facilitate policy formulation, technical cooperation, training and capacity-building and strategic advocacy and awareness, elaborate joint studies, publications, reports and analytical work, provide technical assistance to Member States and organize joint activities in support of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda including green recovery.

6. Publications and other outreach materials.

The list following provides on the published work of ECLAC specifically addressing the sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS.

A. Communication and outreach.

- i. ECLAC development and implementation of a vibrant, new communication and outreach strategy has greatly enhanced the visibility of the work and major achievements of the subregional headquarters and with specific focus on the Caribbean SIDS challenges, urgencies and priorities for sustainable development. The strategy leverages the full potential of traditional and new media, including social and online media, in addition to print and television. Link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/headquarters-and-offices/eclac-caribbean/about-us>
- ii. Focus Magazine- This magazine is intended to keep member Governments of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and cooperating agencies informed of progress in the implementation of the CDCC programme. It shares information on a range of topics, including economic development and integration, trade, social development, sustainable development, disaster assessment, knowledge management, information and communications technologies (ICTs) for development and statistics, link: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/type/focus-magazine>.
- iii. The Hummingbird - this newsletter offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. In addition to this, sneak previews of the most salient upcoming events are provided, 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 State affairs, cultural activities

and landmark occurrences in the Caribbean subregion. See link at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/type/hummingbird>

- iv. Social Media- The official Facebook page of the subregional headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.facebook.com/eclaccaribbean>

B. The list following provides on the published work of ECLAC specifically addressing the sustainable development priorities of the Caribbean SIDS.

Sustainable Development:

- i. Caribbean SIDS Ocean Governance YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/PtU5MVUa7XQ>, April 2021
- ii. Building a better future: actions to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fourth report on the progress and regional challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, March 2021
- iii. The outlook for oceans, seas and marine resources in Latin America and the Caribbean: Conservation, sustainable development, and climate change mitigation, December 2020
- iv. Caribbean in Brief: an information document for Caribbean Small Island Developing States December 2020
- v. Report of the expert group meeting on addressing non-communicable diseases in the Caribbean in fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway. December 2020 |
- vi. Economic implications of the ban on single-use plastics in the Caribbean: A case study of Trinidad and Tobago, November 2020
- vii. The Caribbean Outlook: Forging a people-centered approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19, October 2020 |
- viii. Report of the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, August 2020 |
- ix. Policy Brief: Planning for resilience: an integrated approach to tackle climate change in the Caribbean, July 2020

- x. Health and the economy: A convergence needed to address COVID-19 and retake the path of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2020 |
- xi. Preventing the COVID-19 crisis from becoming a food crisis: Urgent measures against hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2020 |
- xii. Proposal for a revitalized Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee - Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development (CDCC-RCM): Repositioning CDCC-RCM as the mechanism for sustainable development in Caribbean small island developing..., January 2020 |
- xiii. Synthesis of the Caribbean subregion midterm review report of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, January 2020 |

Disaster Management:

- i. Report of the seminar on sustainable development and disaster risk management: financing and planning for disaster risk management in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States, December 2020 |
- ii. The use of technology and innovative approaches in disaster and risk management: a characterization of Caribbean countries' experiences, September 2020
- iii. Evaluation report of the e-learning course on Damage and Loss Assessment Methodology and planning for disaster risk reduction : Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) online platform, July 2020 |
- iv. The enhancement of resilience to disasters and climate change in the Caribbean through the modernization of the energy sector, January 2020 |

Trade and Economic Development:

- i. Financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, March 2021|
- ii. Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2020, February 2021|
- iii. Report of the expert group meeting on navigating transfer pricing risk in the oil and gas sector: lessons and policy advice for Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, December 2020

- iv. Report of the expert group meeting to discuss a study on the case for financing: Caribbean resilience building in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, December 2020|
- v. Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2020: Main conditioning factors of fiscal and monetary policies in the post-COVID-19 era, October 2020
- vi. Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2019–2020, June 2020
- vii. Report on the economic impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Latin America and the Caribbean, May 2020 |
- viii. Promoting debt sustainability to facilitate financing sustainable development in selected Caribbean countries: A scenario analysis of the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative, January 2020 |
- ix. A preliminary review of policy responses to enhance SME access to trade financing in the Caribbean, January 2020 |
- x. Industrial upgrading and diversification to address competitiveness challenges in the Caribbean: The case of tourism, January 2020 |
- xi. Preliminary Balance of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2019 , January 2020 |

Statistics, Social Development and Gender:

- i. Report of the expert group meeting on statistical disclosure control for Caribbean census tables, December 2020|
- ii. Report of the expert group meeting: a study on a gender perspective on environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean, December 2020|
- iii. Creating an enabling environment for e-government and the protection of privacy rights in the Caribbean: A review of data protection legislation for alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation, November 2020
- iv. Evaluation report of the workshop on Leaving No One Behind in the Caribbean: building resilience through universal social protection, October 2020

- v. Report of the expert group meeting on creating an enabling environment for e-government in the Caribbean: a review of data protection legislation for alignment with the general data protection regulation, September 2020
- vi. Advancing gender equality in environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean, March 2021 |
- vii. Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, February 2020 |
- viii. A review of Caribbean national statistical legislation in relation to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, January 2020 |