

ECLAC CARIBBEAN

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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 followups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this newsletter.

International Days

3 May

World Press Freedom Day

15 May

International Day of Families

21 May

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

22 May

International Day for Biological Diversity

Upcoming Events

28 May

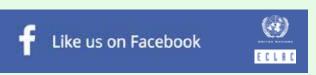
ECLAC participates in the session Innovation in water and sanitation management within the framework of the IV Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Housing and Habitat

31 May

Technical meeting on national accounts data requirements for the International Comparison Program (ICP), Cycle 2021 - the Caribbean

8 Jun

8 June 2021 - Preparing for the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF)







ECLAC launches the publication, 'Digital Technologies for a New Future' Download it and share it! https://bit.ly/3vXdP5V



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Do you want to know more about the #EscazúAgreement? Visit the official website: https://bit.ly/2N4upOU





TATT conducts digital inclusion survey in Trinidad and Tobago

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office (CSO), commenced a national Digital Inclusion Survey on 17 April 2021.

The survey aims to measure the digital divide, that is, the gap that exists between persons who have access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and those who do not.

Data will also be collected during the survey to assess factors necessary for the efficient use of ICTs, such as skill, motivation and trust. This initiative is one of many arising from Trinidad and Tobago's National ICT Plan 2018-2022 and TATT's Universal Service Framework for Telecommunications Services in Trinidad and Tobago and The Telecommunications (Universal Service) Regulations.

As part of the data collection exercise, approximately 6000 households will be surveyed from various communities in the country. All members from the selected households, ages five years and older, with the permission of a parent or quardian where applicable, will be eligible to participate in the survey.

The information collected from this survey, which will be conducted over a three month period, will be used to inform TATT's policies, towards improving ICT access in key geographic areas and to address issues affecting population groups at risk of being digitally excluded. The survey results will also form part of the national statistics of Trinidad and Tobago.



Photo: ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena

ECLAC Executive Secretary addresses UN Masterclass for Trinidad and Tobago Parliament

The United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) recently organized a Masterclass series on the High-Level Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the T&T Parliament, with key UN personnel sharing information and providing clarification on this important initiative.

Addressing the opening of the Masterclass was ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, who congratulated the Parliament for requesting the refresher on SDGs, noting the critical role Parliaments have in the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Bárcena said, "It is you who enact laws, adopt budgets, monitor accountability and play a strategic role in ensuring that your government effectively implements important global commitments such as these, at the national level."

The Executive Secretary identified that achievement of the SDGs were hindered by many challenges, including the lack of an institutional framework for coordinating SDG implementation; limited data for planning and monitoring progress in national development; capacity limitation in long-term development planning; and inadequate development financing. She described all of these as requiring an Act of Parliament for real progress to be achieved.

Explaining some of ECLAC's work, Bárcena said, "We are often described as the region's think tank; we support the sustainable development process in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) through the offering of a range of services and activities, such as research and data collection towards comprehensive multisectoral analysis; the provision of technical and policy advice to

governments; shaping regional and subregional perspectives on major global issues; training and assessment in damage and loss; and in the Caribbean, support for implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)."

Most recently, Bárcena stated, ECLAC has undertaken in-depth research on the multisectoral impact on LAC of COVID-19, and has issued a series of publications addressing these challenges. She invited the Parliament to review The Caribbean Outlook, an ECLAC flagship publication devoted uniquely to exploring the issues and challenges of principal concern to the countries of the subregion.

•See the following related article.



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hile ECLAC Executive Secretary addressed the Masterclass series, another presenter was ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director, Dillon Alleyne, who shared his perspective on decent work and economic growth: the post-pandemic reality.



ECLAC Caribbean participates in UN Masterclass for Trinidad and Tobago Parliament

The Hummingbird sat down for a virtual one-on-one Q&A session with him to discuss his presentation to the T&T Parliament.

Hummingbird: Mr. Alleyne, thank you for taking the time to have this virtual chat with us. We understand the Masterclass was well-received by the Members of Parliament. Can you share some background on why the Parliament was the center of attention in this initiative please?

Alleyne: Parliaments, in general, have a critical role to play in the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Parliaments enact laws, adopt budgets, and monitor accountability. They play a strategic role in ensuring that Governments effectively implement global commitments at the national level. In fact, many challenges in SDG achievement, such as a lack of an institutional mechanism for coordinating SDG implementation, the paucity of data for planning and monitoring progress in national development, capacity limitation in long-term development planning, and inadequate development financing, require an act of Parliament to be addressed.

Hummingbird: What are some of the key points you shared with the T&T Parliament?

Alleyne: My presentation was entitled, "Decent Work and Sustainable Economic Growth: the post-pandemic reality". The focus was on challenges arising from COVID-19 and other structural factors, such as the new economy, lack of sustainable economic growth, high unemployment and low labour productivity in the Caribbean in general, and Trinidad and Tobago in particular. I also spoke about the likely impacts of COVID-19 on the decent work agenda, including (1) employment creation; (2) supporting workers' rights; (3) improving social protection; and (4) the need for social dialogue among the stakeholders in the labor market.

Hummingbird: Speaking of the pandemic, how does COVID-19 affect the issue of decent work for the Caribbean and elsewhere?

Alleyne: The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a health shock, has imposed social, economic and environmental consequences on a global scale. In the Caribbean, it has exposed many

inequalities in a variety of areas. While the virus does not discriminate between rich and poor, the poorest and most marginalized members of society have been most significantly affected, due to the weakening of their coping strategies (UNDRR, 2020). I emphasized that while we must therefore address the immediate challenges to keep our citizens safe, and to support those in need, we must also look beyond COVID-19 as we contemplate what decent work means, given the vulnerability of our societies and what appears to be new challenges and opportunities for the world of work. I believe that these challenges will multiply in the post COVID-19 world.

Hummingbird: Before we go further, can you please explain the concept of decent work?

Alleyne: According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), decent work involves opportunities for work that are productive and delivers a fair income. There is security in the workplace and social protection for families. It means better prospects for personal development and social integration. It includes freedom for people to express

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