



## **ECLAC Community of Practice of Caribbean countries presenting their Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020**

**Date:** 15 January 2020

**Participants:** Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and ECLAC.

**Goal:** This community of practice is an informal space for exchange among peers and sharing of good practices with regards to SDG reporting in general and the VNR in particular; and aims to provide a space to communicate regularly with peers in preparation for VNRs.

### **Timeline of activities in support for VNR preparation:**

1. Monthly community of practice calls (see attachment)
2. Regional workshop organized by ECLAC (3-4 February 2020 in Santiago, Chile). There will be funding to allow the participation for one representative of each Caribbean countries presenting their VNRs at the HLPF 2020.
3. Forum of LAC countries on Sustainable Development in Havana, Cuba (28-31 March 2020);
4. HLPF 2020 in New York (7-16 July 2020)

### **Discussion**

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica shared the experience of Jamaica in the preparation of the data component of the VR. In order to produce the statistical indicators of the SDGs, we had a close look at first at what we could produce and what we could not produce, together with the Ministry of Planning. We had this collaboration in place before the 2030 Agenda was adopted, hence before we launched the SDG indicators. In resume, we were able to produce 29.6% of indicators, we had no data for 36.4%, and we had data, but did not produce 34% of indicators. Before producing the statistical annex, we organized a data workshop, provided training and undertook reassessment exercises. To provide you with an example, for SDG 10 we did not have half of the data to produce the indicators. But thanks to a review of our monthly and annual publications to produce data and statistics, we were able to produce the missing data. We also looked at NGO and proxy data and divided the report into different sections to match them with the different ministerial divisions. We had SDG focal points in various Ministries and kept close contact and facilitated regular meetings to produce the data in a joined effort.

ECLAC: Thank you very much for sharing this detailed and very honest overview. It is great to know that via great collaboration between different government entities and engaging other stakeholder, you were able to produce new SDG indicator data in various areas.

Trinidad and Tobago: Did you encounter challenges in collecting data?

Jamaica: Yes, we did, but we overcame this challenge by working together with the same committee we had in place before the adaptation of the 2030 Agenda, a joined collaboration with various Ministries, to proceed in the generation of data and statistics.



Trinidad and Tobago: How did you overcome the challenge of data absence?

Jamaica: For SDG Indicator 1.1, for example, we used data from the World Bank, as we did not have data on our own. We complemented this global poverty data with national data from Jamaica.

Trinidad and Tobago: Is this data official recognized as national data and included in the Statistical Annex?

Jamaica: Yes, we used this data as we did not produce this indicator ourselves. I don't know whether Trinidad and Tobago has national data on poverty, but in the case of Jamaica we were able to generate national data in regard to food poverty, an absolute poverty indicator, to complement the global data with national data.

Trinidad and Tobago: We also have national data on poverty in Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica: In sum, we use the data that is available. We have not updated some of our surveys and we will have to repeat them in the future.

Trinidad and Tobago: We are hoping to report on eight indicators for our upcoming VNR, while we have plans to generate additional ones in the future, but not right in time for the HLPF 2020. Have you just used the core indicators of the CARICOM in the case of Jamaica?

Jamaica: No, we have also used additional ones.

ECLAC: One issue that you are emphasizing is very important, that you also mention the activities that you are planning to take for a future VNR. The VNR reporting is a process rather than a final product, hence it is important to not only report the indicators that are currently being developed but also the ones that will be produced in the future.

Trinidad and Tobago: What do you do in case you do not have data?

ECLAC: We are seeing an evolution of VNRs per se. In the beginning, the countries were pioneering and now we are realizing that the VNR is a means in the end of itself, but more so a forward-looking milestone of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the way to 2030.

Jamaica: We are publishing Census Population and Housing Census data even if they are not complete or not updated. The Statistical Annex was a part of the VNRs and it showed what data we had available at the present point in time.

Trinidad and Tobago: Chat Question

Jamaica: We collaborate with various UN agencies and funds and other international organizations, such as the World Bank, to receive new data even before they are officially launched online. We use information from all different stakeholders we can get to generate our data. For example, our economic-social survey has pulled a lot of information from secondary sources, such as NGOs, private sector, and academia. This is a big part of how we engage multiple stakeholders. In order to assure quality, different ministers are engaged in an extensive review process of this secondary data. We generate a mix of quantitative and qualitative data and information. For our VNR, we used a substantial amount of qualitative data and information.



ECLAC: Closing of the call: Our VNR Workshop will take place on the 3-4 February 2020 at ECLAC in Santiago; it would be great if you could send us the names of the representatives of the workshop, which will evolve various interesting topics, such as Planning, Statistics, Civil Society, Private Sector etc. We will have our next call in March, where we will discuss another topic along with the upcoming Forum, which will take place in Cuba at the end of March. Please feel free to send any questions via email and we will be pleased to get back to you with further information.

**Next steps**

- Participants were invited to share with ECLAC the contacts of colleagues that are involved in the preparation of the VNR to invite them to the next call
- Participants were asked to confirm the names of the 2030 Agenda national focal points to invite to the upcoming Forum of LAC countries on Sustainable Development in Havana, Cuba (28-31 March 2020)
- Participants requested that next call take place in mid-January, with a focus on data
- Participants were reminded to fill out the survey (enclosed) to gather the expectations for the regional VNR workshop