



Caribbean Youth Dialogues 2022

In preparation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

23 and 24 February 2022

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean is home to more than 11 million youth between the ages of 15 and 29. These young people have a central role to play in achieving sustainable development in the region. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an opportunity to galvanize action aimed at promoting greater inclusion of youth in all spheres. This roadmap recognizes in several of its goals the centrality of the full incorporation of youth as a necessary condition to move towards more egalitarian societies on a path of sustainable development. However, youth in the region face many challenges that need to be addressed in order to facilitate environments that enables youth to reach their maximum potential to contribute with the achievement of SDGs by 2030 leaving no one behind and a legacy for future youth generations.

After almost two years of multidimensional impacts (health, economic and social) of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region is slowly reopening and gradually rethinking its trajectory on the road to recovery. Despite the struggles, the subregion's GDP forecast is of 6.1% for 2022 (excluding Guyana with a 46% growth, as petroleum exports boost export receipts). This reflects the sustained investments in the slow reopening of the economic activities, coupled with contained inflation rates. There is a certain degree of diversity in numbers of economic growth between countries and territories in the Caribbean, but the recovery is certainly linked to both health and social support measures and resilience building efforts.

The [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Youth Forum](#) will be held on 19-20 April 2022, and will be guided by the theme for this year's UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development entitled "*Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.*" The Youth Forum will also review progress in the areas of **quality education (SDG4)**, **gender (SDG5)**, **life below water (SDG14)**, **life on land (SDG15)**, and **partnerships for the goals (SDG17)**.

The main goal of this [jointly organised series of Dialogue sessions](#) is to collect youth perspectives about the main discussion topics at this year's ECOSOC Youth Forum. The dialogue lasts for two days. The programme consists of several panels, whereby various Caribbean themes are examined via discussions and presentations with youth representatives, politicians and experts.



Key issues



SDG4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



SDG 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were the most pressing challenges for young people in your community before the COVID-19 pandemic in the frame of the selected themes?
2. How has COVID-19 impacted or further exacerbated the challenges identified?
3. How have children and young people been involved and how can they be meaningfully engaged to respond to the challenges identified and in the recovery process of the COVID-19 pandemic?
4. What are the recommendations to increase partnerships and accelerate action in these areas especially during the post-pandemic recovery and reconstruction process, and for achievement of the SDGs?



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME
(Trinidad and Tobago time, GMT-4)

Wednesday, 23 February

17.30 to 17.40

Opening words

- Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
- Franz George, Caribbean and Americas Regional Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- Kurba Marie Questelles, One Young World Caribbean

17.40 to 18.30

Quality and Inclusive Education in the Caribbean

Facilitator: Firhaana Bulbulia, Barbados Muslim Ladies Association

- Latoya Swaby-Anderson, National Education Officer, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean
- Bren Romney, Chief Education Officer, Department of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs and Education, Anguilla
- Monina Thompson, Youth Ambassador Programme, Cayman Islands
- Dawsher Charles, Survival Scholars, Trinidad and Tobago
- Amber Sybesma, 12th UNESCO Youth Forum Participant, Aruba

Debate with Youth

18.30 to 19.20

Gender perspectives in the recovery process post-COVID-19

Facilitator: Sapphire Alexander, Advisor to the Global Advisory Committee for the Caribbean region at FRIDA, The Young Feminist Fund; Global Advisory Committee for the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI)

- Isiuwa Iyehen, Senior Programme Specialist, UN Women MCO Caribbean
- Alian Ollivierre, Founding Director, I Am a Girl NGO, Barbados
- Ayesha Constable, Young People for Action on Climate Change, Jamaica
- Hakiem Lalmahomed, One Young World Caribbean; UNFPA Youth Advisory Group, Suriname
- Ashlee Burnett, Founding Director, Feminitt

Debate with Youth

19.20 to 19.30 h

Key conclusions, Franz George, Caribbean and Americas Regional Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council - Priorities of Caribbean Youth in SDGs 4 and 5



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CARIBBEAN
**REGIONAL
YOUTH
COUNCIL**



Thursday, 24 February

17.30 to 18.25

The role of youth in Caribbean blue futures – targeting SDG 14

Facilitator: Kobie Broomes, Barbados Youth Development Council

- Renee Atwell, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Corps
- Marie-Elise Maingot, Project Renaissance, Trinidad and Tobago
- Zana Kristen Wade, Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador, Belize
- Eddy Frank Vásquez, Country Director, Parley for the Oceans Dominican Republic

Debate with Youth

18.25 to 19.20

Life on Earth and Caribbean Youth Environmental Action

Facilitator: Shane John, Commonwealth Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago

- Fabien Monteils, Chief of Office, UNEP Haiti
- Ferdison Valmond, Kalinago Inspirators Youth Group, Dominica
- Laurent Cypria, Youth Forum, Martinique
- Afeefa Richardson, Guyana Youth and Environment Network

Debate with Youth

19.20 to 19.30 h

Closing remarks

- Jhannel Thomlinson, Caribbean Youth Environment Network
Key conclusions: Priorities of Caribbean Youth in SDGs 14 and 15
- Bernice Antoine, UNFPA Youth Advisor, Trinidad and Tobago
Wrap-up Days 1 and 2

The outcome of the sessions will be presented by a youth representative to the Regional Youth Special Event at the Sustainable Development Forum on 9 March 2022 and to the Caribbean breakout Session at the ECOSOC Youth Forum taking place online, on 19-20 April 2022.