



Dist.
LIMITED

12 January 2026

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

National capacity building workshop in strategic policy planning

Paramaribo, Suriname, 23–27 February 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is currently implementing a Development Account (DA) project titled “**Strengthened capacity to design and implement policies to enhance resilience in Caribbean SIDS.**” Under the 16th tranche of the Development Account, the objective of this DA16 project is to strengthen national capacities of Caribbean countries to design and implement policies and strategies for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building resilient economies. Six Caribbean countries, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Suriname will benefit from the project, which is expected to enhance the technical skills of decision-makers of the target countries in the development of policies and projects to promote sustainable development and build resilience to shocks, while strengthening national institutional capacity to facilitate greater synergy in the implementation of the SDGs and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS).

The midterm review of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a sobering account of the slow pace of achievement of the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts have negatively affected progress on SDG targets related to poverty, hunger, and climate action, while earlier gains recorded in promoting health and wellbeing, advancing quality education, and reducing inequalities are seriously threatened, if not reversed.¹ More recently, the higher tariff regime being pursued by the new United States administration is disrupting global financial markets and has introduced new uncertainties for global trade that could constitute barriers to trade in goods and services for Caribbean SIDS. These events have severe implications for foreign exchange reserves of nations. Furthermore, global crises and their impacts exacerbate the subregion’s existing vulnerabilities, which include susceptibility to the impacts of climate change, exposure to natural hazards and disasters, increasingly unsustainable public debt, and limited technical and institutional capacity to effectively manage development challenges.

Considering the global environment in which Caribbean SIDS operate, and noting that the timeline for the 2030 Agenda is now just five years away, there is an urgency to accelerate action in implementing the SDGs. This will require strengthening national and subnational capacity, accountability, and public institutions to deliver accelerated progress towards achieving the SDGs. In its call to action for the transformation required to fully achieve the global Goals and their targets in the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda, the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 underscores the need for capacity building at individual, institutional and network levels.² Capacity development is also prominently emphasised across thematic areas in ABAS, the Outcome Document of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4).

Due to the human capital limitations that Caribbean countries face, there have been notable national planning and implementation gaps hindering sustainable development and resilience building. These gaps are reflected in the weak alignment of national development goals and sectoral policies, weak evidence

¹ While this represents a global trend, developing countries and the poorest and most vulnerable in society have been the most affected, see The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023; Special edition. Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>.

² See Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, Global Sustainable Development Report 2023: Times of crisis, times of change: Science for accelerating transformations to sustainable development, (United Nations, New York, 2023). <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>.

base for development targets, and weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks for monitoring the achievement of national development goals.³

Therefore, in furtherance of Output 1.2 (OP1.2) of the DA16 project, which includes the conduct of a national capacity building workshop per target country on strategic policy planning to raise the skills level of policymakers in the drafting of evidence-informed national policies and sectoral strategies, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Government of Suriname and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, is organising this workshop to be held in Suriname during 23–27 February 2026.

Rationale

In its first VNR presented in 2022, the Government of Suriname highlighted its development priorities to be the restoration and preservation of economic stability and the improvement of inclusive growth and development, with specific reference to emerging offshore gas and oil industry. The Government duly acknowledged that prospects in the exploitation of its natural resources would require more skilled workers and investments in technical and vocational education and training. Furthermore, while noting the emphasis that it had laid over the years on strengthening the capacities within line-ministries and key government institutions, the Government also acknowledged that additional efforts will be needed to improve both institutional and human resources capacities both at the national and district levels.

More recently, in the 2025 VNR, the Government further highlighted that its national priorities revolve around poverty reduction, economic resilience, climate adaptation and human capital development. It also emphasised that institutional and capacity strengthening are needed to facilitate improved coordination and oversight of SDG implementation in Suriname. The Government further noted that capacity constraints negatively impact the regular collection, analysis and distribution of SDG-related data, and that addressing this challenge is critical for future evidence-based policymaking.

As such, and in view of the Government's national development priorities, the capacity building workshop in strategic policy planning is timely in strengthening the capacity of the Government to produce policies that will promote the sustainable development of Suriname and enhance its resilience to shocks.

Objective

The overall objective of the national workshop is to strengthen the skills level of senior officials and technical staff of the Government of Suriname in strategic policy planning. This will enhance national capacity in assessing development options and monitoring and evaluation, towards promoting national sustainable development and resilience building.

Participants

The training will target two main groups of participants:

Senior Government Officials

Senior government officials at the level of Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, and Director, are the most senior career professionals in the public service. They provide strategic direction and oversight

³ See The Caribbean Outlook: forging a people-centred approach to sustainable development post-COVID-19, (United Nations, Santiago, 2020). <https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/34d3c249-6dda-4b9c-971d-55bf9235994b/content>.

for their ministry/department and are tasked with implementing national development priorities within their respective sectoral mandates. Therefore, their improved knowledge of tools that could improve strategic planning and the alignment of sectoral objectives in contributing to national development goals will enhance efficiency and promote sustainable development.

Technical Staff of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

The efficiency with which technical staff with responsibilities for implementing government policies, programmes and initiatives operate will be greatly enhanced when they have improved skills in strategic planning and better understanding of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This will enable them to align activities at the MDA level with national development priorities. They will also be better positioned to report on their respective MDA's contribution to the attainment of national development goals, as well as international development goals such as the SDGs and ABAS.

Format

The national workshop will be delivered using presentations and breakout group discussions, and will provide an opportunity for ECLAC to illustrate the use of strategic planning tools. Modules to be covered during the training course include:

- Principles and Concepts of Strategic Policy Planning
- Steps in the Strategic Planning Process
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Tools of Strategic Planning
- Assessing Policy Options
- Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the workshop, a half-day official launch of the project in Suriname will take place on the morning of the first day, Monday 23rd February 2026, with the participation of senior government officials. The launch will provide a platform to engage policy makers on national priorities and gain insight from senior government officials on development challenges and opportunities in Suriname.

Expected outcome

At the conclusion of the workshop, senior government officials and technical officers in Suriname would have gained improved knowledge of, and skills in, strategic policy planning; monitoring and evaluation of national development goals; and aligning global development agendas, such as the SDGs and ABAS, with national development priorities.

Venue, date and language of instruction

The workshop will take place in Paramaribo, Suriname, during 23–27 February 2026 and will be conducted in English.

Required ICT facility for the workshops

Training participants are required to have a laptop with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, or other word processing and presentation applications such as Google Docs, Sheets and Slides, installed.

AGENDA

Training Workshop in Strategic Policy Planning

Monday 23 February 2026	
Morning session	Launch of DA16 Project in Suriname
Afternoon session	Start of Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Ice-breakers: Mentimeter on background preparation of course participants• Principles and Concepts of Strategic Policy Planning
Tuesday 24 February 2026	
Morning session	Steps in the Strategic Planning Process
Afternoon session	Conducting Stakeholder Consultation in National Planning
Wednesday 25 February 2026	
Morning session	Tools of Strategic Planning
Afternoon session	Assessing Policy Options
Thursday 26 February 2026	
Morning session	Group Breakout Session
Afternoon session	Group Presentation
Friday 27 February 2026	
Morning session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)• Group Exercise<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ M&E○ Group Presentation• Course Evaluation