

A decade of action for a change of era

Fifth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for **Sustainable Development** in Latin America and the Caribbean



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
San José
7-9 March 2022

**Mrs. Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience,
Sustainable Development & Renewable Energy**

October 14, 2022

SUMMARY REPORT



The Fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and the Caribbean
Held in San Jose, Costa Rica
7 - 9 March 2022.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by 14 CDCC member Countries, namely:

- **Antigua and Barbuda**
- **Bahamas**
- **Barbados**
- **Belize**
- **Cuba**
- **Dominican Republic**
- **Grenada**
- **Guyana**
- **Jamaica**
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis**
- **Saint Lucia**
- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,**
- **Suriname**
- **Trinidad and Tobago;**
- and 7 associate members of CDCC, namely: **Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands**



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- ***Important issues to the Latin America and Caribbean region:***
 1. Innovative financing;
 2. Renewed international development cooperation;
 3. Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;
 4. Natural disasters and the asymmetry of climate change in the Caribbean;
 5. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 6. Education and gender equality;
 7. Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19); and
 8. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON LAC COUNTRIES

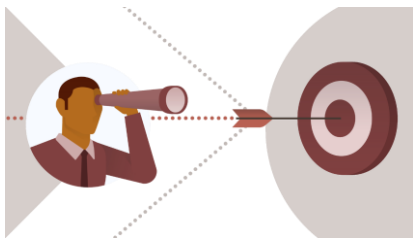
This IMPACT of the Pandemic resulted in:

- intensification of severe inequalities in the right to health,
- income concentration
- territorial gaps and access to public goods
- deepened asymmetries between developed and developing countries, affecting middle-income countries, which made up most of the LAC region.

WIDENING GAP – INCREASED INEQUALITIES



Of particular importance to the region was widening gap in access to COVID-19 vaccines and financial resources, as well as in capacities to implement economic recovery initiatives.




SPECIAL FOCUS

- Three impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region identified as “silent crisis” in the fifth report to the Forum demand specific focus and action by the Caribbean development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC):
 - (i) the loss of more than a year of classroom schooling for an entire generation of students;
 - (ii) the increase in gender-based violence and in the unequal gender distribution of care burdens; and
 - (iii) the exacerbation of the destruction of the ecosystem leading to loss of biodiversity.

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Caribbean representatives at the meeting took the opportunity to express their appreciation to the outgoing ECLAC Executive Secretary, **Ms. Alicia Barcena**, for her commitment to the sustainable development of the Caribbean, and to the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for the continued technical assistance provided to the subregion.





Caribbean countries highlighted their progress in the implementation of the SDGs, including the presentation of or preparation to present a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Progress of the Caribbean on the SDGs

2017: Belize, Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten

2018: The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica

2019: Guyana and Saint Lucia

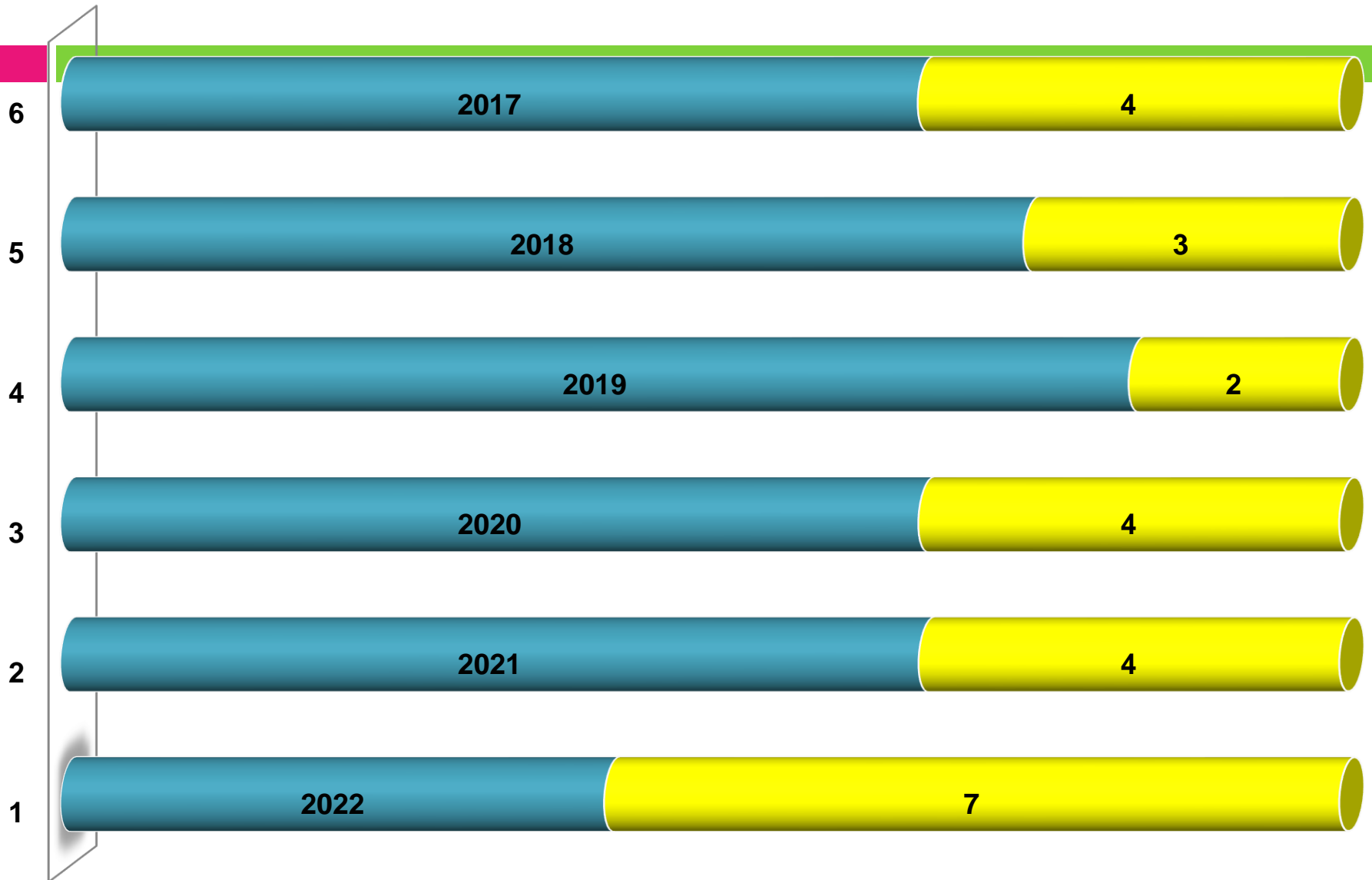
2020: Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and
Trinidad and Tobago

2021: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas (2nd), Cuba,
and Dominican Republic

2022: Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica (2nd), Suriname,
Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten

PROGRESSION OF CARIBBEAN VNR REPORTING

■ Year ■ No. of Countries



OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES RAISED...



- Putting people at the center of development and recovery
- Need for innovative financing solutions
- Recovery from the impacts of COVID-19
- Attainment of food security
- Implementation of sustainable development strategies to preserve rainforest and reduce carbon emissions
- Tangible support for learning and capacity-building in online learning modes
- Creation of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.
- Comprehensive response to natural hazards and disasters

RECOVERY DIAGNOSIS



With respect to recovery, attention of the meeting was drawn to the importance of social protection in supporting citizens and the new risk of digital inequality resulting from digital divide. These issues pose challenges and opportunities for the Caribbean at the same time.

IN SUMMARY



Distinguished delegates, these issues discussed at the first meeting of the Forum are still very relevant to the Caribbean as we recover from the pandemic and build resilience to existing and new vulnerabilities.



THANK YOU!