



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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**Economic Commission for Latin America  
and the Caribbean**

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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# Who we serve.

## **MEMBER COUNTRIES**

Antigua and Barbuda;  
The Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines;  
Suriname  
Trinidad and Tobago

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Anguilla  
Aruba  
Bermuda  
British Virgin Islands  
Cayman Islands  
Curaçao  
Guadeloupe  
Martinique  
Montserrat  
Puerto Rico  
Sint Maarten  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
United States Virgin Islands

# Where do we come from?

**1948**

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) is established to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of the region.

**1966**

The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is established in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

**1975**

ECLA creates the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC are assigned to the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

**1984**

ECLA modifies its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), officially acknowledging the widened role of the Commission.

# Where are we going?

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is to deepen the understanding of the development challenges facing the Caribbean, and to contribute to solutions by conducting research and analysis and providing sound policy advice and technical assistance to Caribbean governments, focused on growth with equity and recognition of the subregion's vulnerability.

# How do we get there?

## KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership.

ECLAC conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels. Operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

ECLAC also functions as the Secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Caribbean economies account for only a small proportion of global trade .

We in the Caribbean must **engage in** effective economic and trade diplomacy, which can result in beneficial bilateral and multilateral trade **relationships**.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic development and integration of the Caribbean are critical elements of the ECLAC mission, and are pursued through research and analysis, as well as the delivery of technical cooperation interventions to members States. Specific focus is also placed on the importance and performance of trade arrangements and agreements.

ECLAC conducts regular assessments of the economic situation in members States that facilitate trend analysis, performance monitoring and policy-setting. Technical cooperation to regional governments emphasises domestic capacity-building to improve economic resilience and build capacity in trade policy analysis and formulation, as well as implement trade agreements.

The Caribbean Development Roundtable and other symposia are used to exchange ideas on the special issues of economic development and integration that are particularly pertinent to the SIDS and Small Vulnerable Economies of the subregion.

Caribbean nations are amongst those most at risk from natural disasters and global climate change.

We need to **maximize** our subregion's potential for **renewable energy** use while mainstreaming disaster risk assessment into national policies

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER ASSESSMENT

In the area of sustainable development, focus is given to the economics of climate change as a precursor to strengthening the resilience of the Caribbean in adapting to, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Special emphasis is given to the sustainable and efficient use of the region's natural resources through renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, with special support being given to the area of biofuels.

ECLAC advocates the strengthening of the Green and Blue economies. To this end, priority is given to fostering an integrated approach to development of the tourism sector, and to the protection and conservation of water resources.

In the area of disasters, focus is given to disaster assessment, including training, and assessing disaster reduction policies and national institutions.

**Caribbean** countries have experienced far-reaching **social change** in the last decade that has reshaped patterns of vulnerability.

**Opportunities** exist **for** us in the Caribbean to unlock the potential of social capital whilst attaining our social **development** goals.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social development emphasizes three developmental pillars: the promotion of gender equality, population and development, and monitoring progress towards the attainment of the Internationally agreed Development Goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. ECLAC directly supports member States in improving social development goals through research and analysis, and the strengthening of technical and institutional capabilities for generating and compiling reliable social statistics in the Caribbean.

ECLAC also promotes social development goals through the provision of technical assistance to member States in the form of advisory services, training and support for the conduct of needs assessments, analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of public policies. To ensure continued relevance and alignment with global and regional development goals, expert group meetings and intergovernmental consultations are convened to guide research and to facilitate regional consensus building.

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Decision making in the **Caribbean** is often constrained by a lack of accessible **data** and statistical information.

We must ensure data and statistics are readily available to help **discover** development trends and inform the formulation of **evidence-based policies**.

## **STATISTICS**

ECLAC works closely with National Statistical Offices and other producers of data to ensure that accurate, timely and reliable data on the Caribbean are widely disseminated. **are** at the core of evidence-based decision-making.

To this end, statistics services and resources are provided that support the analysis of policy related development issues, foster evidence-based policies and programmes, and provide reliable indicators to inform the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

To achieve this outcome, priority is given to building the statistical capacity and expertise of Caribbean institutions and Governments. Regional and international organizations continuously partner with ECLAC to deliver technical assistance and cooperation to member States to ensure that subregional statistical systems are able to collect, process and report data and other indicators that are relevant, timely, accurate and that adhere to international standards.

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As ICT improves in the **Caribbean**, opportunities for **knowledge-based industries** arise, exposing the region to new competitive pressures.

Development of public policy in the region can **strengthen** the ICT industry in constructing a robust **technology ecosystem**.

## ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

ECLAC seeks to advance the establishment of information and communications technologies (ICT) as a key driver of social and economic growth in Caribbean countries. To that end, ECLAC contributes to building human and institutional capacity through the conduct of workshops and convening of expert group meetings, as well as the provision of technical advisory services to member States.

ECLAC's research in this area emphasizes the role of knowledge management, and considers how the use of standardized methodologies can enable the systematic collection, creation and sharing of information and experiences, both within and between organizations. In this work, ECLAC has placed specific emphasis on the application of ICT in the field of disaster risk management, which is seen as a crucial means of increasing resilience, protecting lives, and building sustainable economies.

## CONTACT US

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

