

**Distr. RESTRICTED**

**PRS/2018/CRP.9**

**ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM**

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges**

**Saint George's, Grenada  
9 to 11 May 2018**

**STATEMENT BY**

**THE REPRESENTATIVE OF**

**THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

**AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Pacific Regional Seminar on the “Implementation of the Third International Decade for the  
Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the  
Non-Self-Governing Territories: social, economic and environmental challenges”**

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

St. George’s, Grenada  
9-11 May 2018

Dale Alexander  
Focal Point for the Associate Member Territories

**Provision of development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories  
by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Reporting Period: March 2017 to March 2018**

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Ms. Alicia Bárcena, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is grateful for your Committee's invitations to participate in these Regional Seminars, and welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this 2018 Pacific Regional Seminar in St. George's Grenada.

The latter half of 2017 was an especially challenging time for a number of the Territories. The Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, with natural disasters representing a major development challenge for all countries and territories. The hurricane season of 2017 was atypical, with two Category Five storms severely impacting the countries of the northern Caribbean in September. Eight months after, the Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico, continue to be in various stages of recovery, still suffering from the impacts of those storms. Moreover, the 2017 hurricane season was the third worst since 1970, and strongly demonstrated the effects and impacts of disaster in the Caribbean.

As part of its work in supporting sustainable development across the Caribbean, ECLAC is especially cognizant of the unique development challenges that the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories face<sup>1</sup>. In line with Resolution A/RES/72/92, which, *inter alia*, called on the United Nations system to assist the hurricane-affected Territories to "formulate appropriate programmes to support ... [their] recovery and rebuilding efforts," I will share with you, in the next several minutes, some of the support we provided since our last report to the Committee in 2017<sup>2</sup>.

In response to requests for technical assistance support from the Territories, ECLAC fielded Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA)<sup>3</sup> missions to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. ECLAC is the leading institution in disaster assessment in the region, and has conducted many such assessments throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Those analytical reports reflect standardized data collection and analysis on a sectoral basis, and provide an unbiased context for framing recovery and rebuilding efforts in a number of ways. For example, the reports support resource mobilization aimed at building back better, as well as recommending specific strategies to address urban planning and land use. Also, the reports facilitate consideration of rebuilding efforts which incorporate climate change adaptation and the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy within the context of resilience building. Finally, our assessments bring a people-centred approach with a rights-based perspective to bear on the recovery efforts, with emphasis placed on at-risk groups, including older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children.

Anguilla sustained significant damage to its environment and economy, resulting in major disruptions to their productive sectors. Total damages were estimated at US\$ 187.8 million, of which 76.5 per cent was in the private sector and 23.5 per cent in the public sector. Tourism, which is the primary productive sector and driving force of the economy, took the hardest hit at 54.8 per cent of damages. While the estimated damages of US\$ 102 million was severe, the longer-term impact of the losses to the sector is of greater concern.

In that regard, losses to the sector were estimated at another US\$ 100 million, rolling out to 2019 (US\$ 37.5 million in 2017, US\$ 62.3 million in 2018, and US\$ 0.3 million in 2019). Furthermore, it is expected that there will be significantly reduced tourist arrivals, which will have spill-over effects on the rest of the economy. Given the widespread effects of the hurricanes on the domestic economy, the economic projections of current revenues anticipate a decline of 14 per cent to US\$ 68.7 million, from a pre-hurricane target of US\$ 79.6 million.

---

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC (2011). Study on the vulnerability and resilience of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). (<http://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/38568>).

<sup>2</sup> The Annex details the support and coverage ECLAC provided to the Territories between 2017 and 2018.

<sup>3</sup> ECLAC (2014). Handbook for Disaster Assessment. (<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/36823-handbook-disaster-assessment>).

The most affected social sector was housing, and while Anguilla's housing infrastructure withstood Hurricane Irma much better than other islands, an estimated 1,759 dwellings were affected, with approximately 3 per cent destroyed, and another 5 per cent receiving significant structural damage. The most severely damaged houses were built with zinc roofs and tinder or plywood walls, and thus informed some of the recommendations proposed in the Assessment.

Altogether, the overall impact on economic activity was projected to be significant in light of the crippling blow Hurricane Irma dealt to the local tourism sector. Its contraction will have a knock-on effect in related subsectors, including wholesale and retail trade, transport and real estate business activities. However, this effect will be counteracted, to an extent, by an upsurge in construction activities, as the recovery progresses. That notwithstanding, Anguilla's medium-term debt sustainability is likely to remain in a considerably weakened position, and it is within this context that the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative<sup>4</sup> may be an attractive proposition in the short- to medium-term.

The British Virgin Islands were devastated by the two hurricanes. The DaLA estimated total costs at US\$ 2.3 billion, with damages accounting for US\$ 1.6 billion, revenue and other income losses totaling US\$ 444 million, and additional costs, such as debris removal, amounting to US\$ 198.2 million. Tourism, which was the main source of employment, was the most affected sector, accounting for 46.6 per cent of total costs. Hotel infrastructure was severely damaged and is not projected to be fully operational until 2019.

The most affected social sector was housing and public buildings. The overall cost to that sector was estimated at US\$ 680.2 million, with housing being most severely affected. While a significant number of public buildings, such as schools, health-care institutions, and public safety buildings (fire and police) sustained severe damages and losses, a total of 6,944 residential buildings were also affected. Of the affected residential buildings, 14 per cent received major damages and could not be repaired. Sixteen per cent had major damage which could be repaired, but were uninhabitable, while another 22 per cent had some damage, but could be safely occupied. The Assessment also estimated an additional cost of US\$ 65.9 million associated with the demolition of the most affected dwellings, clearing of debris, and the use of generators.

As a consequence of the suspension of tourism operations, together with the severely damaged and destroyed housing stock, the Territory was likely to experience further spill-over effects throughout the economy, particularly on the social sector over the medium-term.

The Turks and Caicos Islands, were also impacted by both Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the span of two weeks, however, damage was comparatively less than other impacted countries and territories. The total costs were estimated at US\$ 520 million, with damages accounting for US\$ 289.6 million. The productive sectors, social sector and infrastructure accounted for 44.1, 43.7, and 11.6 per cent, respectively, of the damages. Losses amounted to US\$ 230.4 million, with 85 per cent in the productive sectors.

This was not the first DaLA conducted by ECLAC for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Following the passage of Hurricanes Hannah and Ike in 2008, our recommendations from that DaLA focused on enhancing both preparedness and resilience. Some of the specific measures that proved effective during the 2017 hurricane season included the strengthened building code and the upgraded quality of housing. That notwithstanding, there will be some setback to their economic development and social well-being, with long-term impacts to the economy, society, and the environment, as plans for national development need to be realigned to incorporate the process of reconstruction. Ultimately, given the level of impact, it is expected that the negative effects will last for a shorter period than other Territories.

The recommendations advanced by ECLAC in these assessments are based on the analyses of sectoral experts. They are critical to a progressive national strategy that places resilience at the core of a comprehensive strategy for sustainable post-disaster reconstruction, reducing vulnerabilities, improving risk mitigation, and

---

<sup>4</sup> ECLAC (2016) Proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps: a strategy for growth and economic transformation of Caribbean economies. (LC/CAR/L.492). (<https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/40253>).

promoting multisectoral collaboration during the disaster risk management process. Altogether, given their limited fiscal space, the impacted Territories have received from ECLAC a framework for contextualizing resource mobilization and technical advice from the international community.

In this regard, Anguilla used their assessment as a critical component of its documentation to guide discussions with the Administering Power in the aftermath of the hurricane. As a result, they received a pledge for GBP 60 million in humanitarian aid to be delivered primarily as capital reconstruction grants. The assessments for the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands are in various stages of review and adoption.

With regards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Caribbean and the development objective of leaving no one behind, ECLAC has been active in helping the region to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A recent survey of the capacity of national statistical offices to produce SDG indicators revealed that among Caribbean countries, the British Virgin Islands was the only Non-Self-Governing Territory that was well placed to produce 50 per cent or more of the SDG indicators from existing data<sup>5</sup>. Moreover, together with its recovery development plan to build a better, stronger, greener and more resilient country, the British Virgin Islands, with the support of ECLAC, is well positioned to transform that plan into a long-term National Development Plan based on evidence-based policy planning, and aligned with the SDGs.

The implementation of CDCC resolution 85(XXV) continues to directly inform the work that ECLAC engages with and on behalf of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and our other Associate Members. We continue to expand the coverage of our interventions, technical assistance, research and flagship publications to more fully support the development aspirations of the Territories.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

---

<sup>5</sup> ECLAC (2018). Mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean. (LC/CAR/TS.2017/19). (<https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/43362>).

Annex

Coverage of Non-Self-Governing Territories  
in the Strategic Interventions of the Commission  
(2017-2018)

Date	Title/Event (Symbol)	Data on NSGT / Participating NSGT <sup>6</sup>							
		A	B	B	C	M	T	U	
		N	E	V	A	O	C	V	
		G	R	I	Y	N	I	I	
<b>Intergovernmental Meetings</b>									
19 May 2017	Eighteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Apr 2018	Twenty-Seventh Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Technical Meetings</b>									
14-16 Feb 2017	Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 Dec 2017	Expert Group Meeting on planning for the 2020 Round of Censuses in the Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Apr 2018	Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Capacity Building</b>									
24-27 Jan 2017	Planning for Disaster Risk Management & Disaster Assessment Methodology in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 May 2017	Workshop to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals implementation in the Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14-16 Nov 2017	Workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC PLUS and WITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13-14 Dec 2017	Subregional workshop on implementing evidence-based policy planning for Sustainable Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26-30 Mar 2018	British Virgin Islands national workshop on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Technical Assistance</b>									
Oct 2017	Damage and Loss Assessment: Hurricane Irma - Anguilla	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov 2017	Damage and Loss Assessment: Hurricanes Irma and Maria – British Virgin Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov 2017	Damage and Loss Assessment: Hurricanes Irma and Maria – Turks and Caicos Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>6</sup> ANG: Anguilla; BER: Bermuda; BVI: British Virgin Islands; CAY: Cayman Islands; MON: Montserrat; TCI: Turks and Caicos Islands; UVI: United States Virgin Islands.

Date	Title/Event (Symbol)	Data on NSGT / Participating NSGT <sup>6</sup>
		A B B C M T U N E V A O C V G R I Y N I I
<b>Publications</b>		
Mar 2017	Strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
May 2017	Assessing the opportunities for enhanced integration of the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jun 2017	Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis (LC/CAR/TS.2017/5)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (LC/CAR/TS.2017/8)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	Economic Survey of the Caribbean, 2017 (LC/CAR/TS.2017/9)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the rights of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	Disability, human rights, and public policy in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	Monitoring trade agreements: Improving export performance and promoting industrialization in the goods-producing economies of the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/13)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Mar 2018	Planning for the 2020 round of population censuses in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/16)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Jan 2018	A global value change analysis of offshore medical universities in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/17)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Feb 2018	Caribbean Development Report (LC/CAR/TS.2017/18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Mar 2018	Mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/TS.2017/19)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>