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

**Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Fourth International  
Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:  
innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable Development  
Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

**Bali, Indonesia**  
**24 to 26 May 2023**

**PRE-RECORDED STATEMENT BY**  
**THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ECONOMIC**  
**COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE**  
**CARIBBEAN**



**Pacific regional seminar on the Implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the  
Eradication of Colonialism: “Innovative steps to ensure the attainment of the Sustainable  
Development Goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories”**

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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Dale Alexander**

**Chief, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre**

**Focal Point for the Associate Member Territories**

## Involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Reporting period: 2022-2023

Madam Chair,

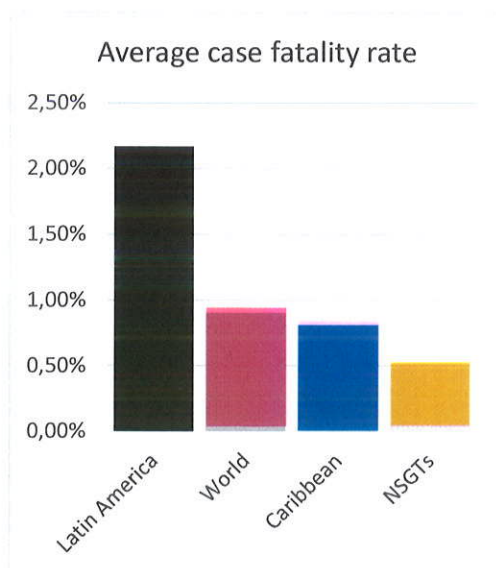
On behalf of Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, the Executive Secretary of our regional commission, I thank the Committee for once again inviting the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to participate in this year's Regional Seminar.

This year, ECLAC celebrates 75 years of contributing to the theory and practice of economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the years, our development focus has moved from the importance of industrialization to productive transformation with social equity, and within the last decade to the importance of equality. It is within that context that we situate our support for the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>.

The continuing longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy, the global implications of the invasion of Ukraine, and the ongoing impacts of climate change combined to create new and significant challenges for the Territories in the past year.

With your permission, I will briefly elaborate on some challenges and share some information on the ways in which ECLAC has engaged with the Territories since the Regional Seminar in 2022. A table noting which Territories were engaged in ECLAC activities is annexed to this statement.

### COVID-19 response and recovery

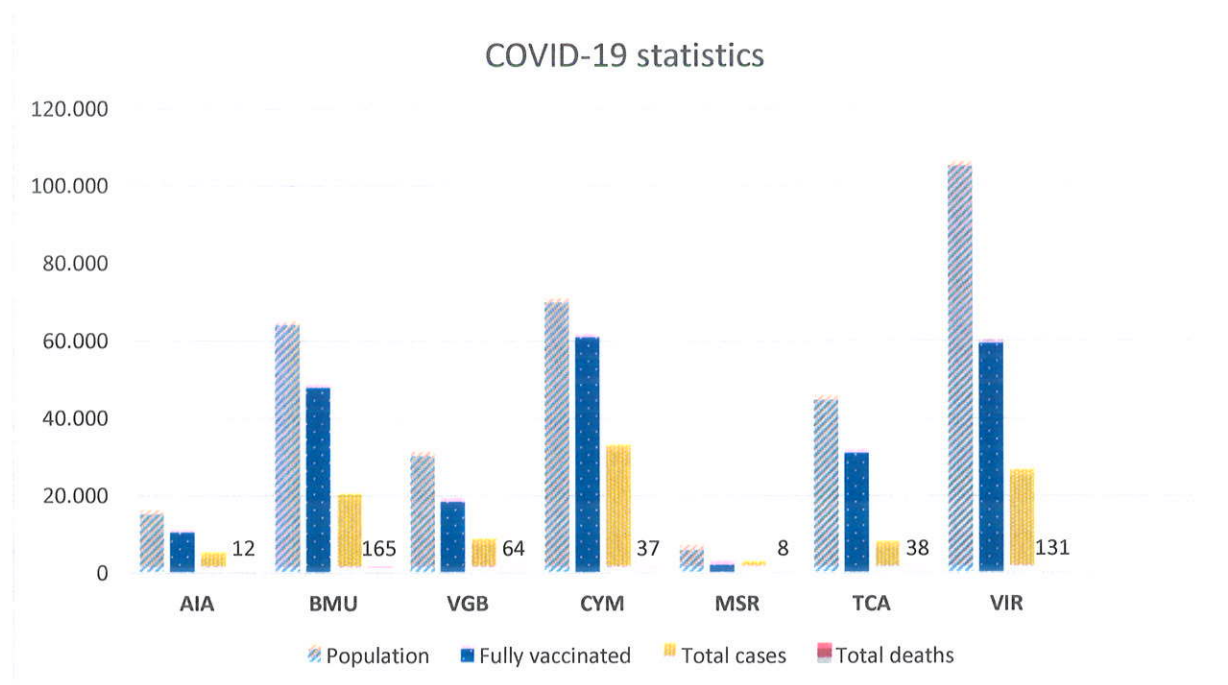


Average case fatality rate as of 19 May 2023.  
Source: WHO

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic varied significantly across the Caribbean, and across the Territories. However, the reported case fatality rates for all the Territories have remained lower than the means for the world, Latin America, and that of the Caribbean, at less than 0.5 per cent.

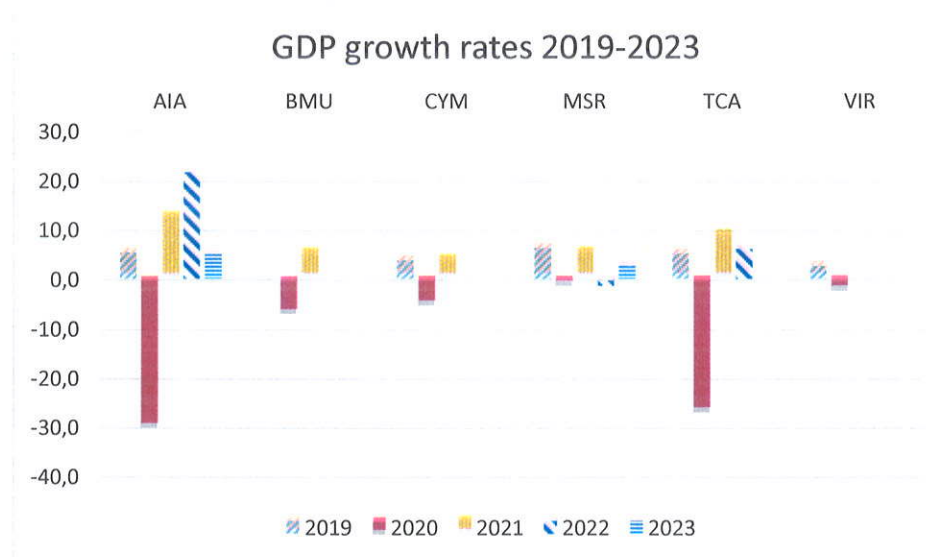
Indicative of an improved situation, all COVID-19-related entry restrictions for travel have been lifted across the Territories. This is important, because as noted at previous seminars, the impact of COVID-19 on the economies of the Territories was significant, with the economies most dependent on tourism suffering the most.

<sup>1</sup> Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

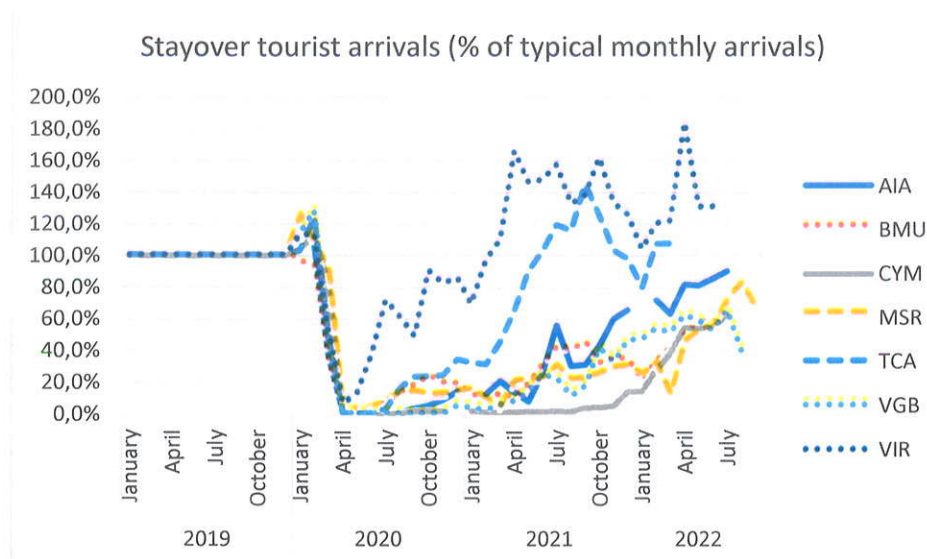


COVID-19 statistics for the NSGTs as of 19 May 2023  
 Source: WHO

For the Territories where data on economic growth is available, all have seen some measure of growth since 2020. Unsurprisingly, it is the countries that recorded the largest losses in 2020 that have also recorded the largest gains since then. For the remaining countries, growth has been modest.



Source: ECLAC, from published country data



Source: Caribbean Tourism Organization

Stayover tourist arrivals have begun to increase for all Territories as restrictions have been reduced and lifted, with some seeing higher-than-average arrivals both in 2021 and 2022. However, as of the middle of 2022, tourist arrivals had not yet fully recovered in most Territories.

Given its continued impacts on the sustainable development of the Territories, the implementation of strategies for resilient recovery from COVID-19 will remain high on the agenda for the region and for ECLAC. For example, as part of our ongoing research and other activities related to socioeconomic issues and sustainable development, most of the Territories were covered in research on the ageing Caribbean and in a policy brief on improving broadband quality and affordability in the Caribbean. The Territories were also active participants in meetings organized by ECLAC, including the Fifteenth Regional Conference on Women.

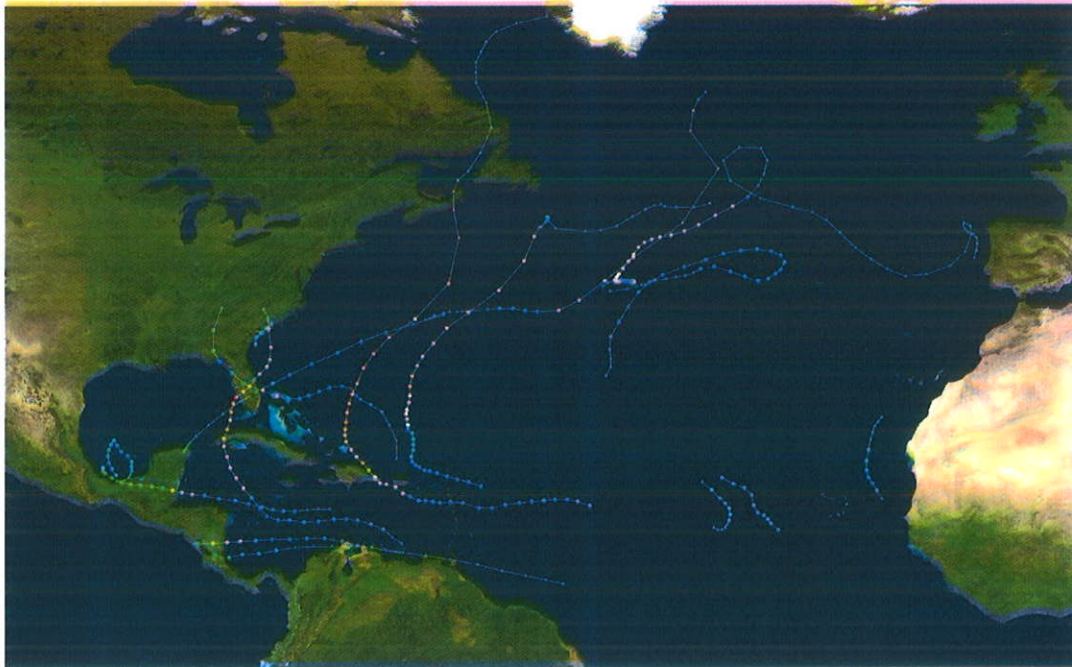
### Resilience and adaptation

Contrary to expectations, 2022 was, thankfully, a fairly average hurricane season, with 2023 expected to be slightly below average. In 2022, several Territories marked five years since Hurricanes Irma and Maria. While the impacts continue to be felt, significant progress has been made in the rebuilding process across the affected Territories, which to a large extent was informed by the comprehensive Damage and Loss Assessments which ECLAC conducted in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the attendant recommendations. Thankfully, some funding for resilience and adaptation remains available, such as through the RESEMBID Programme<sup>2</sup>. However, prospects for future funding are uncertain.

<sup>2</sup> The Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme (RESEMBID). Retrieved from <https://resembid.org/programme-overview/> and <https://www.gov.tc/eud/resembid> on 19 May 2023. Beneficiary Territories include Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.



### 2022 Atlantic Tropical Cyclones



Source: Tracking data is from the National Hurricane Center's Atlantic hurricane database

The impacts of climate change and unsustainable development are being keenly felt across the Territories. The high production of waste, and associated illegal dumping, is a threat to human health and the marine environment across the Territories. Sargassum blooms remain a challenge for several islands. In July last year, a state of emergency was declared in the United States Virgin Islands to mitigate the impact of unusually high amounts of Sargassum seaweed, which also had a negative impact on water production. Additionally, solutions to the problem remain scarce. For example, Territories that have attempted to use the seaweed as fertilizer, have found high levels of heavy metals in vegetables grown in Sargassum-enriched soil.

Deforestation, in particular of mangroves, is another threat to the environment and marine ecosystem in several Territories. The discovery of coral diseases that threaten coral reefs and the surrounding biodiversity in some Territories is also of great concern. Increased temperatures in the Territories have also been linked to an increased incidence of tropical diseases, including Dengue fever.

Within this context, ECLAC has continued to include the Territories in the research we conducted related to climate change, sustainability, and resilience. In particular, a policy brief from 2022 on resilient and affordable housing in the Caribbean included information on all seven Territories. The Territories have also remained active participants in intergovernmental and capacity-building meetings in the region. Of note is the involvement of several of them in the events of the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition (OPCC), including at UNFCCC COP 27 and the first OPCC Parliamentary Summit, which took place in April this year.

## 2030 Agenda

Madam Chair,

ECLAC remains committed to actively supporting and promoting the sustainable development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and is proud to count them among its Associate Members. To that end, we especially note the support we gave to the British Virgin Islands in the drafting of their National Sustainable Development Plan which was launched in 2023. This strategy underwent extensive public consultation and emphasizes resilience throughout. In addition, the Territories remained engaged and have participated in the wide variety of intergovernmental and technical meetings, capacity-building efforts, and studies conducted by ECLAC over the past year to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the focus of our activities continues to emphasize sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission to deepen the understanding of the development challenges facing the Caribbean, including the Territories, and to contribute to solutions, remains resolute.

Unfortunately, in the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to conduct activities with the Territories, due to lack of access to funding. This is unfortunate, given the unprecedented challenges faced by the Territories due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, and the numerous requests we have received from the Territories for support. This is highly concerning to the Member States of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), which at its Twenty-ninth Session in 2022, adopted resolution 111 (XXIX) on support for the Associate Members of ECLAC, which, *inter alia*, requested the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions in support of the Associate Members, and called on ECLAC to consider annual deployment of resources for technical assistance in the design and implementation of policies.

Overall, this resolution now provides the foundation for a broadened mandate for informing the way in which ECLAC engages with the Territories and other Associate Members of ECLAC. This, together with strengthened and streamlined resolutions from the Main Bodies of the United Nations to specifically enable access to resources for delivering technical assistance and support to the Territories could create an effective framework for delivering support to the Territories.

CDCC resolution 111 (XXIX) also called on the Commission to expand its collection of data on key sectors of the Territories. To that end, ECLAC is exploring an initiative to establish a robust data base of economic data from the Territories. This would enable enhanced and more specific inclusion of their development experience in our publications, and thus directly contribute to strengthening government decision-making and guiding policy formulation.

Ultimately, ECLAC fully embraces the opportunity to continue our support of, and engagement with, the Territories to address the aforementioned challenges and promote their sustainable development aspirations in building a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future.

Madam Chair,

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

## Annex

### Strategic engagement with the Non-Self-Governing Territories by ECLAC

(2022-2023)

Date	Title/Event	Data on NSGT/NSGT participated						
		AIA	BMU	VGB	CYM	MSR	TCA	VIR
Intergovernmental meetings								
20 April 2023	<a href="#">Parliamentary Summit on Climate Change and Just Transition</a>			X		X		
3-4 April 2023	First meeting of the 29th Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) Bureau					X		
7-11 November 2022	<a href="#">XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>	X						
10 November 2022	<a href="#">Side event at UNFCCC COP 27 and Joint Statement of Latin American and Caribbean Parliamentarians</a>			X		X	X	
14 October 2022	<a href="#">Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</a>			X		X		
12-13 October 2022	<a href="#">Seventh meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable</a>			X		X		
24-25 August 2022	<a href="#">Twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</a>					X		
28-30 June 2022	<a href="#">Fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>		X			X		
22-23 Jun 2022	<a href="#">Special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean</a>	X		X	X	X		
Technical meetings								
15-16 December 2022	<a href="#">Seminar on measuring digital inclusion in the Caribbean</a>			X		X		



Date	Title/Event	Data on NSGT/NSGT participated						
		AIA	BMU	VGB	CYM	MSR	TCA	VIR
3 November 2022	<a href="#">Expert group meeting on the importance of time-use surveys in guiding social policies</a>	X		X	X	X	X	
19 October 2022	<a href="#">Expert group meeting on the ageing Caribbean: 20 years of the Madrid Plan of Action</a>	X	X	X	X	X		X
19 October 2022	<a href="#">Expert group meeting to review a study on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development: lessons from the Caribbean's energy transition</a>						X	
6 October 2022	<a href="#">Expert group meeting to review a study on policy considerations for sustainable transportation in three Caribbean small island developing States: options for improving land transportation efficiency in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Jamaica</a>			X				
5 October 2022	<a href="#">Expert group meeting to review a study on digital inclusion in Caribbean digital transformation frameworks and initiatives; A review</a>	X		X				
<b>Capacity-building</b>								
27-28 March 2023	<a href="#">Workshop on Measuring the Digital Society for Digital Inclusion, 27–28 March 2023</a>					X		
28-30 November 2022	<a href="#">Workshop on census data dissemination using REDATAM</a>				X	X		
<b>Publications</b>								
March 24, 2023	<a href="#">The importance of time-use surveys in guiding social policies: the gendered impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work in the Caribbean</a>	X		X	X		X	
February 27, 2023	<a href="#">Policy considerations for sustainable transportation in three Caribbean small island developing States: options for improving land transportation efficiency. Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Jamaica</a>			X				
February 6, 2023	<a href="#">The ageing Caribbean: 20 years of the Madrid Plan of Action</a>	X	X	X	X	X		X

Date	Title/Event	Data on NSGT/NSGT participated						
		AIA	BMU	VGB	CYM	MSR	TCA	VIR
January 31, 2023	<a href="#">Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2022</a>	X				X		
January 17, 2023	<a href="#">Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2021–2022</a>	X				X		
January 16, 2023	<a href="#">Statistical literacy: an enabler of statistical capacity development in the Caribbean</a>		X			X		
January 10, 2023	<a href="#">Digital inclusion in Caribbean digital transformation frameworks and initiatives: a review</a>	X		X				
January 2, 2023	<a href="#">Improving broadband quality and affordability in the Caribbean: Policies to advance digital inclusion in the subregion. Policy Brief</a>	X	X	X	X	X		
December 29, 2022	<a href="#">Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development: Lessons from the Caribbean’s energy transition</a>						X	
December 2022	<a href="#">FOCUS magazine, Issue 4, 2022: Digital Divides and Inclusion in the Caribbean “New Normal”</a>	X	X	X	X	X		
November 2022	<a href="#">The Hummingbird Vol. 9 No. 11</a>				X			X
October 2022	<a href="#">The Hummingbird Vol. 9 No. 10</a>			X				
September 21, 2022	<a href="#">Addressing gender disparities in education and employment: A necessary step for achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean</a>	X		X	X	X	X	
September 14, 2022	<a href="#">Resilient and affordable housing in the Caribbean: Policy recommendations towards a transformative, green and inclusive recovery strategy. Policy Brief</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
September 14, 2022	<a href="#">Policy imperatives for the timely production and dissemination of quality and relevant statistics in the Caribbean. Policy Brief</a>			X		X		
September 2022	<a href="#">The Hummingbird Vol. 9 No. 9</a>				X			
August 2022	<a href="#">The Hummingbird Vol. 9 No. 8</a>			X				
June 2022	<a href="#">The Hummingbird Vol. 9 No. 6</a>							X
May 13, 2022	<a href="#">Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2020–2021</a>	X				X		