



2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum
**"Youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions:
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises"**

IDENTIFICATION	
Session title	"Caribbean children, adolescents and youth shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises"
Session focus	Caribbean
Session leads	ECLAC, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC), CARICOM Youth Ambassadors
Session organizers	UN Resident Coordinator Office for Trinidad and Tobago
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>Towards the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum, a series of activities are being delivered to extend the dialogue with and for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean to create further opportunities to gather their opinions, expertise and recommendations on the five SDGs under review at the next High-Level Political Forum, namely SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).</p> <p>In this year's process, it has been recognized that within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review, there are pertinent issues for Caribbean (LAC) youth to consider, including:</p> <p><u>SDG 1: No Poverty</u></p> <p>In the Caribbean, there was a temporary spike in poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic due to a reduction in economic activity although its magnitude is difficult to quantify precisely due to the lack of timely official statistics on poverty. However, poverty remains at elevated levels, and it is evident from the most recently available data that children continue to experience disproportionately higher levels of poverty than other age groups. This is because households with children are more likely to be poor and</p>	

households with many children are the most likely to be poor. A 2017 study on child poverty in the Eastern Caribbean showed that poverty rates among children were higher than the corresponding rates for adults in every one of 11 countries and territories analyzed. The average child poverty rate was 33% compared to 21% for adults (OECS and UNICEF, 2017).

Similar differentials are evident in other Caribbean countries outside of the OECS. In Belize, child poverty (for children aged 0-14) was 60% in 2018/19 compared to 45% for adults (aged 25-64) (SIB, 2021). In Jamaica, child poverty was 13.3% in 2019 compared to 10.2% for adults (PIOJ, 2022). These figures highlight the importance of poverty reduction measures which directly target families with children, such as child benefits, subsidised childcare, and subsidies for educational expenses.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

In the Caribbean, there has been particular concern with the increase in food and nutritional insecurity amid rising food prices. According to data from FAO and others (2023), a total of 7.2 million people faced hunger in 2022, representing nearly 17 percent of the regional total. Rising food prices are expected to increase malnutrition, with increases in undernutrition, overweight and obesity. In 2020, over 50% of the population of the Caribbean (13.9 million) could not afford to maintain a healthy diet. This number may have increased in the current conditions, with particular effects on children and adolescents, given the serious impact that malnutrition has on their comprehensive development and exercise of rights.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caribbean has been grappling with NCDs and water and food shortages. Food inflation in the region has affected the cost of a healthy diet, thereby making it less affordable, especially for the most vulnerable. These factors along with heavy reliance on importation of ultra-processed food and products, significantly limit access to healthy and nutritious home-grown foods which has resulted in close to a quarter of the population in the region being unable to afford a healthy diet. Furthermore, the prevalence of overweight children under 5 years of age in the subregion has been worsening.

SDG 13: Climate Action

In particular, Caribbean SIDS —due to their size and geographical location— are characterized by fragile natural environments; fresh-water scarcity; exposure to natural disasters (earthquakes and volcanic eruptions); and threats associated with the effects of climate change (higher intensity hurricanes, floods, landslides, and droughts) (ECLAC, 2022). The impacts of climate change are becoming more evident in the Caribbean subregion with more observed very hot days and nights in a year, rising sea levels and recent influxes of Sargassum blooms which have negatively impacted coastal communities and economies (Climate Studies Group Mona (Eds.), 2020). Such events negatively affect the social, economic and environmental welfare of Caribbean people and result in a “cumulative community vulnerability” which amplifies the effects of the events, increasing the vulnerabilities of the subregion to natural and external shocks (Mycoo and others 2022). Future projections for the region suggest more frequent and intense incidences of drought, and extreme hydroclimatic events and the urgency of addressing climate change is an imperative for all generations. Actions taken today - or not taken - will impact future generations to come. Caribbean governments have identified youth as a growing priority to be considered under the new SIDS programme of action.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The Caribbean has struggled for years with high levels of unemployment, particularly among women and youth, which has developed a strong correlation with increased crime and violence in local communities, perpetrated mainly by young men. Young men under the age of 30 were found most likely to be impacted

by or involved in violent crime. In 2020, 90% of the victims of deadly crime in the subregion were young men, as compared to 83% per cent globally (Fabre and others 2023).

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

For a sustainable development agenda to be effective, alliances are needed between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships are built on principles and values, a shared vision and common goals that put people and the planet first, and are needed at global, regional, national and local levels.

In the Caribbean, particular emphasis is being laid on South-South cooperation to enhance partnerships for the Goals.

OBJECTIVES OF SESSION

1. Provide space for young people of the LAC region to express their recommendations, insights and expertise on pressing needs and issues, especially those related to SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17
2. Showcase the youth engagement processes in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum Latin America Regional Roundtable with the 2024 HLPF theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises".
3. Follow up on regional youth consultation and local dialogue efforts towards the implementation and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and processes beyond such as the HLPF, the Summit of the Future, and others.
4. Reflect on the role and progress of National Youth Policies as potential SDGs accelerators during the Decade of Action, highlighting the role of youth and youth authorities and organizations, as other potential partners within the mechanisms for strengthening of youth participation.
5. Strengthen the functioning of an interactive platform between youth and Member States and youth institutions, generating spaces for articulation and including links with youth authority representatives, cooperation and meaningful youth engagement in the revision, implementation and follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

Session for the Caribbean will be moderated by:
TeHilla Maloney, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) & Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations’ Major Group for Children and Youth and **Samantha Rampersad**, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

Time	Activity	Presenters
5 mins	Welcome and introduction	TeHilla Maloney , Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) & Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations’ Major Group for Children and Youth Samantha Rampersad , CARICOM Youth Ambassador

<p>25 mins</p>	<p>PANEL: The Caribbean youth perspective on shaping sustainable and innovative solutions: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises</p>	<p>Various youth speakers will briefly present the main outcomes and recommendations from the Caribbean preparatory process for the EYF (Caribbean Youth Dialogue Sessions & the Regional Children and Youth Forum)</p> <p><i>SDG 1, No Poverty</i> Speaker: Lenz Wendy Civil, Founder, HART'S Community, Haiti</p> <p><i>SDG 2, Zero Hunger</i> Speaker: Nahjae Nunes, Commonwealth Youth Council, Jamaica</p> <p><i>SDG 13, Climate Action</i> Speaker: Amber Turner, Founder Miss Sustainability, Bahamas</p> <p><i>SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</i> Speaker: Tyrell Giles, National Peace Program, Office of the Attorney General, Barbados</p> <p><i>Recommendations from the Regional Children & Youth Forum as part of the LAC's Forum of Countries on Sustainable Development</i> Speaker: Shane John, President, Trinidad Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago</p>
<p>20 mins</p>	<p>Discussions</p>	<p>Moderated by Samantha Rampersad, CARICOM Youth Ambassador</p> <p>During this session, participants (UN agencies, National Youth Councils, and Youth NGOs) at the Regional Breakout session would be invited to share their perspective on the previous panel on the outcomes of the Caribbean Youth Dialogues and contribute further key recommendations.</p>
<p>50 mins</p>	<p>The way forward</p>	<p>Moderated by TeHilla Maloney, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) & Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations' Major Group for Children and Youth & Shane John, President, Trinidad Youth Council</p> <p>This segment would be an interactive session and would focus on participants' recommendations and inputs (using guidance discussion questions)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. How should States, cooperation agencies, private sector and/or civil society involve children, adolescents and youth as allies to promote the progress and implementation of the SDGs under review? How have they been including youth and have you seen any significant change along the years?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. In what ways do young people in the Caribbean want to be included in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs under review? iii. Why is it important for Member states to actively include youth in the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of crises?
5 mins	Conclusions	<p>TeHilla Maloney, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) & Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations’ Major Group for Children and Youth</p> <p>Samantha Rampersad, CARICOM Youth Ambassador</p>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the main regional difficulties or ongoing challenges that youth identify regarding the SDGs under review?
- What are the main recommendations from youth in order to advance the implementation of the SDGs under review at the local, national and regional level, considering the identified challenges?
- How do you consider that States, cooperation agencies, private sector and/or civil society should involve children, adolescents and youth as allies to promote the progress and implementation of the SDGs under review? How have they been including youth and have you seen any significant change along the years?
- In what ways do young people in the LAC region want to be included in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs under review?
- What are the main contributions and good practices that children, adolescents and youth have been making within their territories?
- Why is it important for Member States to actively include youth in the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of crises?

NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderators
TeHilla Maloney, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) & Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations’ Major Group for Children and Youth
Samantha Rampersad, CARICOM Youth Ambassador

Speakers
Lenz Wendy Civil, Founder, HART’S Community, Haiti
Tyrell Giles, National Peace Program, Office of the Attorney General, Barbados
Shane John, President, Trinidad Youth Council, Trinidad and Tobago
Chelsea Antoine, Caribbean Global Focal Point for the United Nations’ Major Group for Children and Youth

Amber Turner, Founder Miss Sustainability, Bahamas
Nahjae Nunes, Commonwealth Youth Council, Jamaica

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

In the Caribbean, a series of Youth Dialogues will be held on 3 and 4 April, where young people of the subregion would engage policy makers and experts in examining themes aligned with the SDGs under review via discussions and presentations. The outcomes of the Caribbean Youth Dialogues will be presented at a segment of the Sustainable Development Forum in Santiago on 15 April.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- F. Jones, “Population and development in the Caribbean (2018–2023): accelerating implementation of the Montevideo Consensus”, Studies and Perspectives series-ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, No. 124 (LC/TS.2024/2-LC/CAR/TS.2024/1), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2024.
- FAO, IFAD, PAHO, UNICEF & WFP. 2023. Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2023: Statistics and trends. Santiago. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8514en>
- L. Walker and S. Clauzel, “Progress in implementation of the Samoa Pathway: Caribbean regional synthesis report”, Studies and Perspectives series-ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, No. 121 (LC/TS.2023/166- LC/CAR/TS.2023/7), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2023.
- ECLAC (2022), “The Caribbean Outlook, Recovery and Resilience Repositioning the Caribbean Post COVID 19”. Twenty-ninth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).
- Climate Studies Group Mona (Eds.). (2020), “The State of the Caribbean Climate”. Produced for the CDB.
- Fabre, A.S., N. Florquin, A. Karp, and M. Schroeder (2023), Weapons Compass - The Caribbean Firearms Study. CARICOM IMPACS and Small Arms Survey, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.