



Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

“Accelerating the COVID-19 recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for youth”

REGIONAL SESSION ON THE CARIBBEAN
26 April 2023, 10:45 am to 12:15 pm (NY Time)
Hybrid Event

IDENTIFICATION	
SDG/theme or Region	Latin America and the Caribbean
Session title	REGIONAL REALITIES – CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FOR ACCELERATING COVID-19 RECOVERY AND REALIZING THE SDGS DECADE OF ACTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Caribbean children, adolescents and youth accelerating the COVID-19 recovery and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda with and for youth”
Session co-lead UN	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) UN Women Multi Country Office – Caribbean United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Suriname
Session co-lead Youth	Commonwealth Youth Council Caribbean Regional Youth Council
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>The situation of adolescents and youth in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Towards the 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum, a series of activities are being delivered to extend the dialogue with and for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean so as 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 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9</p>	

(Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

In the context of this year's process, it has been identified that in the context of the SDGs under review, there are issues to consider by LAC Youth such as:

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Water free of pollution, accessible to all and in sufficient quantity to sustain ecosystems is an essential part of the world we want to live in. Although there is an apparent abundance of water on the planet, it is not always available in the form and quality needed. Water scarcity caused by climate change and inadequate management, poor water quality and poor sanitation negatively impact the food security, livelihoods and educational opportunities of poor families around the world. In Latin America and the Caribbean, drought mainly affects the most populated areas and the most vulnerable countries, exacerbating water insecurity and reducing the capacity to produce food. By 2050, at least one in four people are likely to live in a country affected by chronic and recurrent freshwater scarcity. In addition, 1 in 4 people do not have access to safe drinking water in LAC (161 million people); Women and girls are in charge of collecting water in 80% of households without access to running water.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Energy is central to all the challenges and opportunities facing the world today and in the future. All activity in today's modern society requires energy to operate, which makes it essential to guarantee everyone access to cheap, reliable, sustainable and renewable energy for the eradication of poverty and for the generation of essential services to mitigate inequalities. Given the need for the Energy Transition, as a commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the mitigation of climate change, we need to promote a fair and popular transition, so that it is also linked to the fight for rights of socially marginalized populations. Therefore, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential to guarantee access to modern cooking fuels, electricity and energy services provided by efficient appliances. As well as increasing the participation of renewable energies in the energy matrix and its energy efficiency and guaranteeing the sustainable production of biomass. It is possible that 21.5% of the region's population does not consume safe food because they do not have access to modern and healthy technologies for cooking and refrigeration; In LAC, the consumption of renewable energy reached 29.5% of total consumption in 2018.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Investments in infrastructure (transportation, irrigation, energy, and information and communication technology) are critical to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. It has long been recognized that to increase productivity and income, and improve health and educational outcomes, investments in infrastructure are needed. The pace of growth and urbanization is also generating the need for new investments in sustainable infrastructure that will make it possible to create cities that are more resistant to climate change and boost economic growth and social stability. In addition to government funding and official development assistance, private sector funding is being promoted for countries that need financial, technological and technical support. LAC suffers from slow growth and high inequality; the female participation in the labour force fell from 51.4% in 2019 to 46.9%

in 2020; and the poverty rate increased by more than 3% in 2020, reaching 33.7%, with extreme poverty reaching 12.5% of the population.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Cities are hotbeds of ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity and social development, among many other things. At their best, cities have enabled people to progress socially and economically. However, there are many problems in ensuring that cities continue to be sources of employment and prosperity without putting pressure on land and resources. Problems common to all cities include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing, and deteriorating infrastructure. These problems can be overcome so that cities can continue to prosper and grow while making better use of resources and reducing pollution and poverty. A future in which cities provide access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more opportunities for all is desirable. 51.2% of girls, boys and adolescents who reside in urban areas in Latin America, live in homes classified as substandard housing; 27.4% of adolescents between the ages of 12 and 14, who live in urban homes with severe housing insecurity, do not attend school.

SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

For a sustainable development agenda to be effective, partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society are needed. These inclusive alliances 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. Very few countries in the region have allocated part of the investment in recovery to sectors that allow reducing the environmental footprint or protecting nature; the finance deficit for sustainable development reaches 2.6 billion dollars; and between now and 2030, 90 trillion dollars are needed for sustainable infrastructure.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

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 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.
2. Showcase the youth engagement processes in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum LAC Regional Table with the 2023 HLPF theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.
3. Follow up on regional youth consultation and local dialogues efforts towards the implementation and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and processes beyond such as the HLPF, SDG Summit, 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.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. LAC children, adolescents and youth recommendations and voices are shared with Member States, UN Agencies and forum participants.
2. Dialogue with Member States and national youth institutions regarding the ways they are including and planning to include young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the response to COVID 19 is conducted.
3. The preparatory regional youth consultation processes and its outcomes are presented.
4. Further articulation with Member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is promoted.
5. Position paper is available to participants with input from consultations, dialogues, and other processes conducted prior to Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2023 and ECOSOC Youth Forum 2023.

APPROACH USED TO GENERATE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In Latin America, the approach used was through conducting Children and Youth (C&Y) regional processes, conducted by LAC C&Y Caucus of MGCY, with help of agencies such as ECLAC, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and others, which included the involvement of children, adolescents and youth in online consultations, local dialogues and two main preparatory activities, which were the LAC C&Y Virtual Forum (March 31st) and in-person Forum (April 24th). Those activities allowed the participants to share their concerns, recommendations and contributions in the context of the SDGs under review. The outcome of those activities will feed into the Latin American regional breakout session of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

In the Caribbean, a series of Youth Dialogues will be held on 12-13 April 2023, 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 would be presented during the Regional Youth Forum at the Sustainable Development Forum in Santiago on 24 April.

OVERALL STRUCTURE AND FLOW

Session for the Caribbean, moderated by Everton Rattray, Vice Chairman Commonwealth Youth Council

Time	Activity	Presenters
5 mins	Welcome and introduction	Everton Rattray, Vice Chairman, Commonwealth Youth Council (Moderator in person)
20 mins	Presentation of the outcomes of the Caribbean Dialogue Sessions	<p>SDG 6, Ensure universal and equitable access to clean water and hygiene for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jhannel Tomlinson, Senior Member, Climate Change and Gender Working Groups, Caribbean Youth Environment Network (online) <p>SDG 7, Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jevanic Henry, UN SGs Youth Advisor on Climate Change (in person) <p>SDG 9, Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daniel Campbell, Civil Environmental Engineer, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (online) <p>SDG 11, Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Samantha S. Rampersad, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group (YAG) - Trinidad and Tobago & Vice President, Trinidad Youth Council (online)
15 mins	Discussions	Moderated by Te Hilla Maloney, Vice Chairperson (Training & Development) and Research Lead (Policy & Advocacy), Caribbean Regional Youth Council (in person) and Franz George, Independent Youth Consultant (online)

<p>45 mins</p>	<p>The way forward</p> <p>This segment would focus on participants' recommendations and inputs (using 3/4 guidance discussion questions)</p>	<p>Facilitated by Everton Rattray, Vice Chairman, Commonwealth Youth Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shamar Wedderburn, Vice-Chairperson, Policy and Advocacy, Caribbean Regional Youth Council (online) • Khadijah Usher, Doctoral Candidate in Socio-Environmental Energy Science, Belize (online) • Renelle Sarjeant, Urban Planner, Design Consultant and Researcher, Trinidad and Tobago (online)
<p>5 mins</p>	<p>Conclusions</p>	<p>Te Hilla Maloney, Vice Chairperson (Training & Development) and Research Lead (Policy & Advocacy), Caribbean Regional Youth Council (in person) (Co-Moderator in person)</p>

SESSION 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 that children, adolescents and youth have been making within their territories? Why is it important for Member states to actively include youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to accelerate the COVID-19 recovery?

NAMES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

Moderator:

- **Everton Rattray**, Vice Chairman, Commonwealth Youth Council

Co-moderator:

- **Tehilla Maloney**, Vice Chairperson (Training & Development) and Research Lead (Policy & Advocacy), Caribbean Regional Youth Council

Speakers:

- **Jhannel Tomlinson**, Senior Member, Climate Change and Gender Working Groups, Caribbean Youth Environment Network
- **Jevanic Henry**, UN SGs Youth Advisor on Climate Change
- **Daniel Campbell**, Civil Environmental Engineer, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- **Samantha S. Rampersad**, UNFPA Youth Advisory Group (YAG) - Trinidad and Tobago; Vice President, Trinidad Youth Council
- **Franz George**, Independent Youth Consultant and past Caribbean and Americas Regional Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- **Shamar Wedderburn**, Vice-Chairperson, Policy and Advocacy, Caribbean Regional Youth Council
- **Khadijah Usher**, Doctoral Candidate in Socio-Environmental Energy Science, Belize
- **Renelle Sarjeant**, Urban Planner, Design Consultant and Researcher, Trinidad and Tobago

OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

The following preparatory activities have taken place:

1. Informative session on 1 February at 10:00 a.m. Lima time, with the objective of sharing with the youth of the region the scope of the prioritized SDGs. [LINK](#)
2. Two trainings on SDGs under review, March 1st & March 10th.
3. Virtual consultations for Latin American and Caribbean Youth on the road to the 6th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the Twelfth ECOSOC Youth Forum, available from 20 December to 15 March 2023 and gather the opinions and recommendations of the region's youth. <http://bit.ly/3WhUGsQ>
4. Local Dialogues: The youth of LAC carried out dialogues in their communities to collect the voices of children and youth on the SDGs under review and to be able to contribute to the declaration that is sought to be presented at ECOSOC and the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries [LINK](#)
5. Latin American and Caribbean Youth Virtual Forum 2030: Road to the 6th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the 12th ECOSOC Youth Forum, held on 31 March 2023
6. In-person LAC Youth Forum ahead of 6th Session of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the 12th ECOSOC Youth Forum, to be held on 24 April 2023 [Link](#).
7. Even though the preparatory processes of the Latin American region are still ongoing, we are pleased to share that the youth of the region have managed to see the involvement of youth from

16 countries across the region in the online consultation process, the registration of local dialogues from 11 countries across the region, along with youth participation in online sessions. We have seen the involvement in the review of SDG 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

8. In the Caribbean, a series of Youth Dialogues will be held on 12-13 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 24 April.

SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY

- [Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2022](https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/48519-social-panorama-latin-america-and-caribbean-2022-transforming-education-basis): Transforming Education as a basis for sustainable development: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/48519-social-panorama-latin-america-and-caribbean-2022-transforming-education-basis>
- [Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021](https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47719-social-panorama-latin-america-2021): <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47719-social-panorama-latin-america-2021>
- [Las juventudes latinoamericanas y caribeñas y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: una mirada desde el sistema de las Naciones Unidas](https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47112): <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47112>
- Towards transformation of the development model in Latin America and the Caribbean: production, inclusion and sustainability (2022)
- [Inclusión laboral de las personas jóvenes en América Latina y el Caribe en tiempos de crisis: desafíos de igualdad para las políticas públicas](https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47893): <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/47893>
- [Jóvenes y familias Políticas para apoyar trayectorias de inclusión \(2021\)](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47646/S2100688_es.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y): https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47646/S2100688_es.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- Sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (forthcoming)