



UNITED NATIONS
CARIBBEAN



DECADE
OF
ACTION

Accelerating implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States

United Nations regional offer in priority areas

Panel objectives

1. Outline complementarity of ABAS and the UN Caribbean Multi Country Cooperation Framework
 2. Highlight key elements of the UN offer in regional priority areas
 - Climate
 - Digitalizaiton
 - Data
 - Food Systems
 3. Discuss how the UN system can support countries in acceleration of SDGs and implementation of ABAS
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UN system offer in:

- Climate change
 - Digitalization
 - Data
 - Food systems
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Climate

- **What is Climate Promise:** The UN's global programme to help countries create climate plans aligned with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with special focus on vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
 - **UN Support for NDC Preparation:** Ahead of the 2025 deadline for updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the UN system, led by UNDP's Climate Promise, is pushing for increased ambition and quality in climate plans, focusing on collective action and proven solutions.
 - **Ongoing UN System Collaboration:** Agencies like UNDP, UNEP, WMO, and ILO work together on climate actions, raising ambition through circular economy approaches, Early Warning Systems, and supporting just transitions, including for G20 countries.
 - **COP29 and New Climate Finance Goal:** COP29 in Azerbaijan will focus on establishing a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, targeting developing nations' needs through public and private financing, grants, loans, and investments. **COP30 Expectations:** At COP30 in Brazil, the focus will be on implementing the NCQG, operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, reviewing global climate action, and starting discussions on mid-century decarbonization and carbon markets (Article 6 of the Paris Agreement).
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Digitalization

- All countries, in every Ministry, at many levels, are implementing one or multiple initiatives related to digital transformation. But, are these being done in the most effective and efficient way? Are all countries speaking the same language? And most importantly, can each country achieve national objectives working in an isolated manner or a regional approach is required?
 - Twenty countries and territories met here in May to discuss and define the digital pathways to become Small Island DIGITAL States: SIDS 2.0.
 - Five digital pathways: infrastructure, governance, regulations, economy and people. Key findings: need for a people centered approach by design.
 - Areas for further discussion: AI, datacenters, cybersecurity, e-IDs and people.
 - Good practices: The DigiGov project (SLU), e-Governance Model in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago's iGovTT, Smart City Initiatives in Barbados, Robots helping the provision of health services in TT
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Data

- **UN’s Support for Caribbean Data Ecosystem:** The UN prioritizes data efforts through improving national statistical systems, capacity building, leveraging innovative technologies, promoting open data initiatives, and fostering data partnerships.
 - **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** The UN provides training, technical support, and resources to enhance the Caribbean’s statistical infrastructure and empower local institutions in effective data usage.
 - **Innovative Data Technologies:** The UN promotes using big data, geospatial info, and emerging tech to address development challenges, monitor progress, and advance the SDGs.
 - **Call for a Robust Caribbean Data Strategy:** The region needs a comprehensive data strategy that aligns with local priorities, incorporates human rights and gender equality, and ensures data collection leaves no one behind, especially marginalized groups.
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Food systems

- **Data on Food Insecurity:** Surveys conducted by CARICOM and WFP reveal that 43% of the Caribbean population remains food insecure, with affordability and logistics being key challenges. UN system, FAO and WFP in particular, offer logistical expertise to optimize supply chains and trade within the region.
 - **Linking Social Protection and Agriculture:** UN system promotes initiatives to link social protection with smallholder farming, aiming to enhance local food security, livelihoods, and resilience, as demonstrated by partnerships across the region.
 - **Financing and Disaster Risk Management:** UN system supports governments in adopting disaster risk financing strategies, including anticipatory actions and risk-layered approaches, while also exploring climate financing opportunities to strengthen food security infrastructure.
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Conclusions

- **Sustainable Development Goals / Agenda 2030** continue to be the overall top priority of global development cooperation. Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges in meeting several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to their vulnerability to external shocks, climate change, and limited resources
 - UN System has been responding to these challenges in partnership with Governments and funding partners. Since 2022, our partnership is framed by a unique multilateral agreement -- the UN Caribbean Multi-Country Cooperation Framework. Through a network of UN agencies and projects in all Caribbean SIDS, UN country teams are implementing a range of initiatives with a total budget of \$0.5billion USD.
 - A new chapter of cooperation opportunities opened with adoption of ABAS. The UN MSDCF and ABAS priorities are well aligned, both focusing on Economic Resilience and Diversification, Climate Action and Resilience, Social Inclusion and Equality, Sustainable Management of Resources, and Strengthening Institutions and Governance.
 - Engagement with the UN Regional Steering Committee, Joint National Steering Committees, project boards and UN result groups – best way to jointly set operational priorities and focus the UN vast technical resources on transformative and relevant interventions.
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