



DA12 project Kick-off webinar:

Introduction to climate change and disaster statistics in the Caribbean

9 March 2021, 11:00h-14:00 (Santiago time / UTC-3)

Opening remarks

Mr. Rolando Ocampo, Statistics Division Director, ECLAC

TIME: 5 Min

FORMAL SALUTATION

- Dear members of the Caribbean community
- Distinguished panelists and colleagues from the UNSD, ECLAC, CARICOM and Statistical organizations

As the Director of the Statistics Division at the ECLAC, I am honored to greet you all on this occasion. Today, we are here to officially kick-start The “**Caribbean relevant climate change and disasters indicators for evidence-based sustainable development policies**” project.

Despite its low contributions to global warming, the Caribbean region is exceptionally vulnerable to the negative consequences of climate change, particularly the small island developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean that have continuously been impacted by hazardous events.

We are experiencing the urgency for high quality and timely statistics and indicators to respond with evidence-based policymaking to climate change and disasters effectively. A strong focus has been placed on measuring greenhouse gas emissions and other drivers of climate change. However, quality indicators in areas such as impacts, mitigation and adaptation are crucial for addressing climate change in the Caribbean.

By nature, production and use of climate change and disaster statistics and indicators depend on a strong inter-institutional collaboration between various entities that develop, produce, prepare, disseminate and use this information.

This webinar brings together actors from National Statistical Offices, Disaster Risk Reduction/Management authorities and the Environment and Climate Change Ministries from various Caribbean countries. Therefore, it offers a valuable opportunity for participants to engage in rich discussions that can unfold in potential future collaborations.

The webinar inaugurates an initiative that aims to build together a community of experts and knowledge sharing space to help overcome the statistical and institutional challenges in the Caribbean region to produce and use climate change and disasters indicators.

During the three-days of intense teamwork in this event, you will have the opportunity to:

- Improve your knowledge about the opportunities and challenges related to climate change and disasters indicators production in the Caribbean
- Learn about the latest available evidence on measuring climate change and disasters in the Caribbean, and
- Explore the links between statistical production and policymaking related to climate change adaptation and resilience

I can assure you that you are in the best hands. Rayen Quiroga, leader of our environment and climate change statistics unit at the ECLAC and her team have vast experience building statistical capacity in the region.

Equally, Diane Quarless, Abdullahi Abdulkadri and their team at the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters are well known for their excellent work on sustainable development indicators.

With their experience and the support and advice from Reena Shah, Chief of Environment Statistics Section at UNSD and Dr Philomen Harrison, Director of the Statistics Programme at CARICOM,

We will offer you the most significant expertise on climate change and disasters indicators in this webinar and the activities to come under the project.

I want to thank our panellists in advance for their contributions and for sharing their experiences, and our ECLAC team for putting together a comprehensive agenda and insightful activities for this event.

I invite you all to actively participate in the planned activities of this webinar. Your contributions are valuable to the community and us and count to advance the production of quality climate change and disasters indicators and statistics in the Caribbean region.

I wish you a very productive webinar. Thank you very much for your attention!