



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

MEDIA RELEASE

November 4, 2017

Regional Parliamentarian Retreat on SDGs and Building Caribbean Resilience

November 8-9, 2017, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Parliamentarians from 15 Caribbean countries and representatives from a dozen development agencies will be meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad next week to address the challenges posed by climate change which affect their achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals. The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), are jointly hosting a **closed retreat** under three main themes:

1. Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience
2. Health Security Resilience
3. Resilience Budgeting

Experts from the UN and other development partners including the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) will conduct interactive sessions with parliamentarians on the thematic discussions.

Building resilience against natural disasters does not only include reducing vulnerabilities to hurricanes, but also to earthquakes, pests, drought, floods, fires and other hazards. Building resilience against manmade crises is also important for the region to achieve SDGs. These can include economic crises, crime, drugs, civil unrest and mass migration, which are increasingly interlinked. More resilient food systems include climate smart production, socially inclusive value chains, nutrition considerations, diversified production and diversified trade and preparedness for disaster events.

Members of the media are invited to attend **the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday November 8 at 8:00am in the Jade and Sapphire Rooms at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain**. All other sessions will be closed to the media, however arrangements can be made for one on one interviews with delegates and UN Agencies.

The hashtag #OneCaribbeanForResilience will be used for coverage of the event on the UN Caribbean and Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago social media platforms.

The media is also invited to attend a press conference at the *conclusion* of the retreat on Thursday November 9 at 2:00pm in the J. Hamilton Maurice Room at the Parliament, Tower D, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain. It will be broadcast live on the Parliament Channel, Parliament Radio 105.5FM and streamed on the Parliament's Youtube channel Parlview.

Background

Climate change is magnifying risks and vulnerabilities as well as the development impacts on Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and communities by undermining national development pathways, key socio-economic development sectors and community livelihoods.

[The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 as a successor to previous UN frameworks on disaster reduction. There is a strong emphasis on disaster risk management for both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. Health resilience is strongly promoted throughout. The [Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017](#) also gives great insight into how small states can rebuild after major disasters.

Accordingly, resilience has been identified as a cross-cutting issue to support action across various key development streams with a view to strengthen the ability of a country and community to address the challenges posed by climate change.

For further information please contact:

At the UN Caribbean Office:

Narissa Seegulam

UN Coordination Analyst

Tel: 1-868-623-7059 ext. 295; Fax: 868-623-1658; Mobile: 1-868-280-8632

Email: narissa.seegulam@one.un.org

At the FAO:

Shireen Cuthbert

Communications Consultant

Tel: 1-246-283-6572

Email: Shireen.Cuthbert@fao.org

At the TT Parliament:

Colleen Holder

Director, Corporate Communications and Productions

Tel: 1-868-624-7275, ext. 2358; Mobile: 1-868-729-2422

Email: cholder@ttparliament.org