



JMCE-AADS-LACC conference 2020: EU Caribbean Relations Revisited

**Panel 3: Looking to the future of EU-Caribbean
relations: Uniting Efforts in the Caribbean to face
Climate Change:**

**Regional Climate Change Actions and The Role of the
Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in the Greater Caribbean**

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University (FIU), February, 2020

1 | Introduction

- ACS Focus.
- Impact of Climate Change on Membership.
- Towards a cohesive and comprehensive ACS policy on climate change.
- Resilience building: Financing climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Recommendations.



The ABC of the ACS

Established in 1994 to promote **consultation, cooperation and concerted action** in the Greater Caribbean (25 Member States and 10 Associate Members)+ (6 Founding Observers, 4 Observer Organisations and 28 Observers).

WHO ARE WE?

- The ACS is made up of countries of the Greater Caribbean.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Harness the capabilities of the Greater Caribbean to achieve sustained cultural, economic, social, scientific and technological advancement.
- Develop the potential of and protect the Caribbean Sea.

WHY AN ACS?

- To forge closer ties among the countries which are natural and logical neighbours.
- To foster closer collaboration with international bodies.

ACS Focal Areas' Relationship with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

COOPERATION & RESOURCE MOBILISATION

MOBILIZATION RECOURSES; BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

OSG

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- Caribbean Carnival Network Project
- Cooperation in Education, Science and Technology



CSC

CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION

- Coastal Erosion Project
- Coral Reef Restoration Project
- CSC Symposium
- CSC Database
- Establishment of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Zone
- Marine Litter - Robust Partnerships



TRADE

TRADE

- FOCAHIMECA
- TIM Project
- ACS Business Visa Travel Card
- Greater Caribbean Business Forum
- SIIMI
- Joint program to promote MSMEs
- Strengthening Trade Capacity Initiatives
- Establishment of Working Group to study tariff preferences



DRR

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- SIIOCS II (follow up Phase)
- COPS
- UNGGIM
- PITCA



TRAN

TRANSPORT

- Maps of Maritime Routes
- Ratification of the Air Transport Agreement
- Port and Maritime strategy



TOUR

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

- STZC
- Training Capacity Building Initiatives
- Regional Network of Artisans
- Community tourism Database



Towards a cohesive and comprehensive ACS Policy on Climate Change.

1. Resolution A/Res/73/229 *Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for Present and Future Generations*
2. Change: *Impacts of Global Warming at 1.5c*
3. Paris Agreement
4. Declaration on the Impact of Disasters in the Greater Caribbean – Margarita Island 2018

Towards a cohesive and comprehensive ACS Policy on Climate Change.

1. Not all Countries have signed on to all the agreements
2. Definition of the Caribbean Sea as a zone for sustainable development.
3. Some countries reversing their views on climate change.
4. The consolidated regional political pugnacity needed to fight the impact of climate change and its ravages on the Caribbean Sea remains muted and at best limited to individual countries and smaller blocs like CARICOM.

Why the Caribbean Sea is important?

90%

Semi-Enclosed Sea

90% of the Caribbean Sea is bordered by continental or Island landmasses

14%

Caribbean Sea is 14-27% of the Global Ocean Economy

Due to Fisheries, transportation, mining...

1%

1% of Global Ocean Area

Global Biodiversity Hotspot – 12,046 Marine Species

2nd Largest Barrier Reef in the world

115
Mil

People Live around the Caribbean Sea

The Reality

Climate Change

21 out of 64
Airports Inundated



149
Resorts Lost

187 B
Economic damage
2080

75%
Reefs At Risk

Other Damages to :

Roads

Fisheries

Agriculture

Transportation

Aquifers

ACS Focus



Directorate Disaster Risk
Reduction, Environment
and Caribbean Sea

Directorate Trade
and Sustainable
Development

Directorate Cooperation
and Resource
Mobilisation

Declaration of Managua

Mandates

- **Region's extreme vulnerability.**
- **Resilience building and Sustainability.**
- **South-South Cooperation.**
- **Reaffirmed our deep commitment to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.**

Plan of Action 2019-2021

Directorate Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and Caribbean Sea

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Caribbean Sea
 1. The Caribbean Sea as a Zone for Sustainable Development.
 2. Sandy Shorelines Project

Directorate Trade and Sustainable Development

- Strengthening Women and Artisans with SME's in the Tourism Sector



Showcasing the Sandy Shorelines Project





Showcasing the Artisan Project



Building Partnerships



Resolution 73/229



Resolution 73/229

Adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2018

Recognised that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems

Recognised that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism dependent region in the world relative to its size

Noted that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world

Resolution 73/229

Acknowledged the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport

Noted with deep concern that invasive alien species, such as the lionfish and the sargassum seaweed

Acknowledged the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals

Resolution 73/229

Noted the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area

Recalled the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work and its contribution to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea

Resolution 73/229

Welcomed the continued efforts of the States members and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources

Reaffirmed its support for the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components

Welcomed the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission

Called upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from:

- degradation as a result of pollution from ships.
- pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste.
- pollution from land based activities.

Called upon the Secretary General to report at the 75th Session on:

1. The implementation of the present resolution.
2. The three dimensions of sustainable development;
 - The possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.
 - Take into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

Priority Topics

Ocean Plastics Regional Research & Action



**5 of top 10 Per Capita
Household waste
in ACS**



Wastewater Treatment

**72% Wastewater not
treated before
environmental discharge**

Sargassum Use & Prediction



Climate Change and Women

- Women are affected differently and more severely by climate change and its impacts on agriculture, natural disasters, and climate change induced migrations because of social roles, discriminations and poverty.

Impact of Climate Change on Women

Number of Females in the ACS (2019):

- Full Members: 155,920,363 - Average: 48.46
- Associate Members: 831,106.00 - Average: 50.7

1. Climate change is not gender neutral.
2. Those who are already poor and marginalised experience the impacts of climate change most acutely and are in the greatest need of adaptation strategies.
3. They have the least capacity or opportunity to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate or to participate in national and international negotiations on tackling climate change issues

Impact of Climate Change on Women

4. They are also in the forefront when it comes to building back what they have lost.
5. They are associated with micro businesses, and in the formal sector when temporary unemployment may result from damages to formal production systems.
6. Within their own families they are expected to make provisions for emergencies, and during emergencies can be found managing shelters and caring for the sick and injured.

Impact of Climate Change on Women

CDEMA

- Women who may not experience direct impacts may lose income indirectly.
- They have to take time away from work to care for children when schools are closed because of damage or when they are being used as shelters.
- Increase the risks of girls dropping out of school to care for their younger siblings or to work to supplement the family income.
- Increased risk of them becoming the victims of sexual violence.

The Response is not the same when the face is black or indigenous



Climate Change and Migration

- In 2018 World Bank report, just over 143 million people – or 2.8 percent of these regions' population – could be internally displaced due to the effects of climate change by 2050.
- We must call for the explicit recognition of, and protections for, climate-displaced persons both in international law and the domestic law of countries.

Climate Change and Migration

- Hurricane damage can displace entire populations. The whole island of Barbuda (part of the island nation of Antigua & Barbuda)
- Hurricane Irma in 2017. A reported 130,000 Puerto Ricans (4% of the population) have left that US island territory in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, according to the US Census Bureau.
- In September 2019, the island of Abaco in the Bahamas was rendered virtually 'uninhabitable' due to category-five Hurricane Dorian which lingered above the island for hours unleashing torrential rain and storm surges.

Climate Change, De-risking and Blacklists

- Vulnerability and graduation to middle income status.
- Black-listing
- De-risking -“Financial exclusion” refers to reduced access to affordable financial services that customers face when service providers raise fees or stop providing services altogether.
- The removal of correspondent banking relations coincided with the commencement of the recovery of the Caribbean following the global crisis that witnessed the reversal of economic gains which these countries had achieved in the two previous decades.

Climate Change and Financing

- According to an ECLAC 2010 Study, the region has experienced approximately US\$135 billion in losses from a total of 165 extreme weather events, with most of the losses due to storms (60%) and floods (29%). Losses can be in the vicinity of 5 to over 30 percent of GDP on average.
- Current macroeconomic challenges – weak growth averaging 1.9% .
- Higher levels of debt (averaging about 80%), increased poverty levels (estimated at 28.9%, 2012), and diminishing government revenues.
- The Region have traditionally not access international climate finance at levels commensurate with their high vulnerabilities and exposure to climate change impacts.

Climate Change and Financing

- Scaling up Climate Investment in the ACS region.
- Capacity building
- Renewable energy
- The role of the private sector
- Catastrophic risk insurance

Recommendations

- The Caribbean needs focused attention on research to understand these issues, with targeted advocacy and capacity building to address complex and interlinked environmental-social-economic challenges centered around women's relationship with the environment. (CANARI)
- Women have to be part of the planning, resilience building, as well as the recovery process.
- Better pre disaster and post recovery statistics.
- Better coordinated policies – One voice at the international level.
- Do not pretend that climate change occurs in a vacuum. Economic, gender and racial disparities must be addressed.