Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport: Preparing for the Future

16 to 17 April 2019

Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport- Preparing for the Future: Perspective from Caribbean SIDS

Presentation by

Willard Phillips
Economic Affairs Officer
UNECLAC, Trinidad and Tobago

This expert paper is reproduced by the UNCTAD secretariat in the form and language in which it has been received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UNCTAD.
Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport - Preparing for the Future: Perspectives from Caribbean SIDS

Presented by
Willard Phillips
UNECLAC
to the
UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting, Geneva
April 17th, 2019

Four Issues...

- Criticality of Transportation Infrastructure for SIDS
- Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure (mainly ports) handle large numbers of passengers relative to commercial cargo
- Impacts of natural events on transportation infrastructure
Transportation Infrastructure is Critical in SIDS

Indicator of Trade Openness: Total Value of Trade as a Percentage of GDP (2013)

Source: UNCTAD

Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
Most Caribbean Airports are Located on the Coast...

Critical for Cruisers – Large Share of Passengers
Cruise Passenger Arrivals to the Caribbean

Cruise Passenger Arrivals to the Caribbean - Selected Years (Millions)

Source: CTD

Impacts of Natural Events on Transportation Infrastructure
One of the most devastating hurricane seasons
Seventeen (17) named storms, six (6) of which affected 10 states
Damage and losses exceeding $15 Billion
Disruption of Trade and Passenger Flows
Destruction to tourism infrastructure, agricultural crops, roads and bridges, electricity and telecommunications
Loss of life – more than 200 deaths
Climate Change Implications

- Adaptation needed to threats from sea level rise
- Need to build in domestic and regional redundancy in transportation

Adaptation Efforts

UNCTAD’s Regional Initiative: - Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Source: Manioudi I.N. et al, 2017
Conclusions

- The peculiarities of the sub-region make transportation infrastructure extremely critical for Caribbean SIDS
- Strategies for reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience, and improving economic efficiency are necessary for sustaining economic and social gains.

THANK YOU