



Workshop

Promoting Sustained Recovery through Economic Diversification

February 7-8, 2023

Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre (LESC)

Bridgetown, Barbados

Programme

Main venue: Frangipani Room

February 7th, Tuesday:

09:00-09:30 Registration

09:30-10:00 Opening Session

- Chair and Welcome Remarks
Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD (5min)
- Keynote Address
Hon. Ryan R. Straughn, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados (10 min)
Mr. Xinhua Huang, Deputy Chief of Mission, on behalf of **H.E. Yan Xiusheng**, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Barbados (10 min)

10:00-10:15 Group Photo and Coffee break

10:15-12:15 Session 1: Global Macroeconomic Situation and Implication on Barbados

Moderator:

Matthew Wilson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, the Mission of Barbados to the UN Geneva

Panelists:

Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, DGDS, UNCTAD

The Hon. Sandra Husbands, M. P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Business Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Barbados

Daniel Titelman (virtual), Director of the Economic Development Division, UN-ECLAC

Juan Carlos Moreno Brid (virtual), Professor, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Questions for discussion

- What has been the global growth performance since 2020 when Covid-19 pandemic shocked the world?
- What are the scenarios of the world economy in 2023 and what are the key challenges and risks?
- What is the macroeconomic situation in Barbados? What are the key challenges for macroeconomic policy making in the country?
- What impact of global challenges and uncertainties might be on the Barbados' economy?

12:30-13:30 Working Lunch Tiffany Dining Room

13:30-15:30 Session 2: Digital Transformation in Developing Countries and Lessons for SIDS

Moderator:

Sylvester Cadette, Programme Officer, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union

Panelists:

Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS/UNCTAD

Winston Moore, Vice President, University of West Indies

Tishka Hope Francis, Head of SIDS Subprogramme, UN-OHRLLS

Bineswaree Aruna Bolaky (virtual), Economic Affairs Officer, UN-ECA

Questions for discussion

- What are the opportunities and challenges in the digital era for SIDS?
- What are the key challenges for digital transformation in the developing countries? What are the policy priorities in this regard?
- How to evaluate the progress of Barbados in harnessing the opportunities of digital economy and technologies? What are key challenges ahead for Barbados?
- What are the lessons that SIDs like Barbados learn from digital transformation policies and experiences of other developing countries?

- What can be the mid-term policy priority for the government of Barbados in order to accelerate digital transformation?

Main venue: Frangipani Room

February 8th, Wednesday:

10:00-12:00 Session 3: Regional Integration and Industrialization Strategy for Caribbean Region

Moderator:

Alicia Nicholls, Research Fellow, Shridath Ramphal Centre, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Panelists:

Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS/UNCTAD

Malcolm Spence, Senior coordinator, CARICOM Single Market and Trade (CSMT)

Olayinka Bandele, Chief, Inclusive Industrialization Section, UN-ECA

Questions for discussion:

- What is the state of play of regional integration in the Caribbean Region?
- What are the key challenges for SIDS, particularly Barbados, in promoting and diversifying manufacturing products?
- What lessons of Singapore's industrialization could offer for SIDS?
- How can regional integration opportunities be used to promote and diversify manufacturing sector in Barbados?
- What can Barbados learn from the experience of MERCOSUR economies and how can CARICOM better exploit trade opportunities with continental Latin American countries?

12:00-13:30 Working Lunch Tiffany Dining Room

13:30-15:30 Session 4: Harnessing South-South Trade and Investment Opportunities for Barbados

Moderator:

Jan Yves Remy, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

Panelists:

Dawei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, DGDS, UNCTAD

Antonio Alleyne, Lecturer, University of West Indies, Barbados

Chantal Ononaiwu, Director External Trade, CARICOM Secretariat

Valentina Delich, Director of the Latin America Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO),
Argentina

Questions for discussion:

- What is state of play of Barbados' external economic relations? What is the state of play of South-South economic cooperation and integration in general?
- What are the potential benefits for Barbados to diversify its economic cooperation?
- What are the key challenges for Barbados to diversify its exports markets and FDI sources, particularly through South-South cooperation?
- What policy strategies might be for Barbados to harness the emerging opportunities from South-South Cooperation?
- How ongoing global trends (COVID-19 fallouts on international trade, mega-agreements, etc.) can impact on Barbados external relationships and growth opportunities?

15:30-15:45 Workshop Survey

15:45-16:00 Closing of Workshop

- Closing remarks
Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, DGDS, UNCTAD
Patrick McCaskie, Director Research and Planning EAD, Ministry of Finance,
Economic Affairs and Investment, Barbados