



#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW66Caribbean

 **THEMES:** CSW, women's empowerment, gender-responsive climate action, disaster risk management

 **DATES:** February 3, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 110 parliamentarians, ministers, representatives from multilateral and civil society organizations, and national gender machinery from 21 countries and 2 territories

 **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** CARICOM Secretariat, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean



This activity aligned with SDGs 5 and 17.



Caribbean Preparatory Meeting ahead of CSW66

This sensitization meeting convened ministers with responsibility for gender affairs, parliamentarians, heads of national gender machinery, and representatives from multilateral organizations, civil society and academia in preparation for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, from March 14 to 25, 2022. The dialogue focused on identifying the Caribbean region's priorities and needs with a view to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of vulnerability to climate and disasters.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome remarks by:

- Dr. **Hilary Brown**, Programme manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Ms. **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women MCO Caribbean

Technical Presentation "Framing the CSW negotiation":

- Ms. **Rahel Steinbach**, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Programme Specialist, UN Women
- Ms. **Carla Kraft**, Policy Specialist - Sustainable Development, UN Women
- Ms. **Branwen Millar**, Gender Advisor, UNDRR

Key Note:

- Dr. **Asha Kambon**, disaster risk management and gender equality expert

Panel "**Strategies to enhance adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive Disaster Risk Management in Caribbean SIDS**":

Panellists:

- Hon. **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate and Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors
- Ms. **Elizabeth Riley**, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
- Ms. **Joanna Edghill**, Co-founder and Director, Megapower Limited
- Ms. **Sarah Bailey**, Head of Programme - UN World Food Programme MCO Caribbean

Moderator:

- Ms. **Isiuwa Iyahun**, Programme Specialist - Economic Empowerment and Statistics, UN Women MCO Caribbean

The session promoted discussions that contributed to a unified subregional voice and advocacy positions, and it informed the development of a CARICOM statement ahead of CSW66, which for 2022 had the theme of "**Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental, and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.**" Meeting participants were further invited to reflect on strategies to amplify Caribbean women's leadership and experiences in international negotiating spaces on these topics.

The meeting's presentations and panels provided technical groundings in CSW proceedings and the linkages between climate change and disaster risk resilience and gender equality. In addition, there was a robust discussion on practices and policies to enhance adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive disaster risk management in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States.



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[STATEMENT](#)



KEY OUTCOMES

The following are some of the priority areas included in the CARICOM Statement that was informed by this meeting:

- Address gender imbalances while promoting prudent policy changes to encourage the reduction and management of climatic and disaster risks, which will also help advance general socio-economic growth.
- Promote gender-responsive action to climatic and disaster risk management and consider violence against women and children a major barrier that violates, impairs or nullifies the full enjoyment of their human rights, especially during times of disaster.
- Promote education and job opportunities for girls and women in technical fields and leadership roles, recognizing that women should be primary decision-makers in local, national and regional water boards and committees.
- Strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices and other relevant government institutions, NGOs, and women-led organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate regional comparable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and other characteristics relevant to the design and implementation of strategies and policies aimed at improving women's full and effective participation in decision-making spaces.
- Include rural, Indigenous, and tribal women and girls in decision-making in terms of climate action and disaster risk management, providing opportunities to lead climate management, monitoring and research positions at community and national levels.
- Allocate resources to promote gender-responsive social protection in emergency situations, including accessible healthcare facilities and services, comprehensive care systems that support universal access to childcare and the provision of cash transfers, to rural women and their communities.

The following are key resources on themes of women's leadership and gender-responsive climate change and disaster risk management in the region:

- [Gender-Responsive Resilience Building in the Caribbean: Understanding the Role of Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours, and Practices in Coordination Mechanisms for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UN Women & IISD, 2021)
- [Gender-Responsive Disaster Preparedness and Recovery in the Caribbean: Desk Review](#) (World Bank & GFDRR, 2021)
- [Primer on Gender-Responsive Disaster and Crisis Planning for the Caribbean](#) (ParlAmericas, 2021)
- [Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#) (ParlAmericas, 2019)

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