Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway: Small Island Developing States

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Five transmission channels of COVID-19 crisis will affect the regional economy

- A drop in trade with key trading partners
- A fall in commodity prices
- Disruption of global value chains
- Less demand for tourism services
- Decline in remittances
Impact of COVID-19 on Caribbean Tourism Sector

Visitor arrivals will fall by between 57% and 75% in 2020, leading to losses of tourism expenditure between US$22B and US$28B.

Direct tourism impact on GDP growth, 2020
(Percentage)

Visitor expenditure losses
(Per cent of exports of goods and services)

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Climate Change Vulnerability

- During 1990 - 2019, there were over 400 disasters in the Caribbean, **90.4%** from hydro-climatic phenomena.

- In 2019 Hurricane Dorian caused **US$3.4b** in the Bahamas; 1% of GDP.

- 2020 is forecast to be highly active with an estimated **16 named storms anticipated**.
High public debt and low growth
High debt service limits fiscal space for COVID response

Notes: 1. This chart illustrates the wide range of debt burdens that Caribbean SIDS face.
2. The high end of the shaded area is maximum debt service ratio, and the low end is the minimum, which remains at or just above zero.
3. Bahamas data is unavailable for 2017 and 2018 and Barbados data is unavailable after 2015.
Concessional financial support is an imperative for the Caribbean

The Caribbean (13 countries): net official development assistance received, 1960–2018
(Percentages of gross national income)

The Caribbean


a Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

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Five recommendations for financial support and increase fiscal space for Caribbean SIDS

1. ECLAC debt relief initiative for resilience
2. Debt and service stand still and access to concessional funding, eligibility criteria of IFIs
3. Stage contingency bonds: hurricane clause
4. Green and blue bonds
5. Liquidity support Special Drawing Rights (SDR) Issuance.
Warning signs just 10 years from Agenda 2030 and SAMOA Pathway

- Poverty and inequality
- Women’s empowerment
- Food security and access to ICT platforms
- Unemployment particularly for youth
- Strengthening health and sanitation

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Thank you