



CAWI NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

International Women's Day 2026 (IWD 2026), under the theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls", calls for action to dismantle all barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak legal protections, and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls. As agents of change, Caribbean women celebrate progress, and raise awareness of the challenges ahead. As we mark Women's History Month, we spoke to Dona Regis-Propser, Secretary General & CEO, Caribbean Tourism Organization, Keithlin Caroo-Afrifa, Executive Director, Helen's Daughters, and Tamaisha Eytley Harvey, Director, FutureBARBADOS. Here's what they have to say about empowering women through shared resources, visibility, and support.



Dona Regis-Propser | Secretary General & CEO | Caribbean Tourism Organization

As a woman leader, what is one opportunity or hard-earned lesson that shaped your path and how can you pay it forward to lift other women in a visible, everyday way?

One of the most defining lessons of my journey has been the importance of setting a steady course and maintaining unwavering focus. In leadership, distractions, skepticism

and opposition are inevitable. What I have learned is that clarity of purpose is our strongest shield; when you know your "why," the "how" becomes a matter of persistence, not permission.

I pay this forward by being intentionally visible in my decision-making. I want other women to see that "sticking to it" is not about rigidity, but about having the confidence to occupy space and lead with conviction. Every day, I aim to lift others through direct, honest mentorship — helping women navigate the noise, silence external critics and trust their internal compass. By modeling this resilience, I hope to show that our seats at the table are not only occupied, but earned and defended.

What is one right you believe every woman and girl, especially in the Caribbean, must be able to fully exercise without barriers, and what leadership action would make the greatest difference in turning that right into reality?

I believe every Caribbean woman and girl must have the unencumbered right to contribute to the development of her nation and region in the way she chooses. For too long, societal expectations have funneled women's talents into narrow, "acceptable" paths. True progress demands that a woman's contribution be defined by her ambition and intellect, not by outdated gender norms.

The leadership action that would make the greatest difference is the intentional creation of an enabling environment. It is not enough to grant rights on paper; leaders must dismantle the structural and cultural barriers — from unequal access to financing to limited support systems — that make exercising those rights difficult. Our responsibility is to build an infrastructure of opportunity so that when a woman chooses to lead or innovate, the path is clear, welcoming and designed for her success.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

From your perspective as a leader, where do you see the greatest “justice gap” affecting women and girls today, and what is one action leaders (in government, business, or community) can take to close it?

In the Caribbean, the most significant “justice gap” is the disconnect between progressive laws and deeply ingrained patriarchal practices. We may have the right legislation, but cultural biases often function as a shadow system, preventing women from fully exercising their rights in the workplace and wider society. This is where potential is too often lost. Closing this gap requires leaders to move beyond policy into active education and advocacy.

We must ensure women understand which doors are open to them, while also sending a clear message to society: the region prospers when women thrive. When women’s justice is framed not as a special interest, but as essential to national development, we begin to shift culture. Leaders must consistently and visibly champion the idea that equality makes our societies more resilient, more innovative and ultimately stronger.



Keithlin Caroo-Afrifa | Executive Director | Helen's Daughters

As a woman leader, what is one opportunity or hard-earned lesson that shaped your path and how can you pay it forward?

One of the hardest lessons I’ve had to learn—and continue to learn—is that, as a Black Caribbean woman, not every room will open for you. Not every space was designed with you in mind. And so, for me, leadership has meant learning how to build my own door while still knocking on others. It has looked like long hours

beyond the job description, sending emails that may never get a response, showing up again and again, even when it feels like no one is watching.

There is a kind of quiet resilience in that—an understanding that it only takes one “yes” to shift everything. To pay that forward, I try to be the access I once needed. To respond. To make introductions. To say a woman’s name in rooms she is not in. To create spaces where we don’t just enter—but where we belong, fully and without apology.

What is one right every woman and girl must fully exercise, and what leadership action would make the greatest difference?

I believe every woman and girl must have the right to believe—deeply and unapologetically—that she belongs. That her voice is not an addition to the room, but a necessity within it. In the Caribbean, we sometimes see representation without transformation. Women are present, but not always empowered.

And so leadership must go beyond inclusion as optics. It must be about investment—in our skills, our confidence, our growth, and our leadership journeys. It also requires courage. The courage to advocate, to disrupt, to speak—even when it is uncomfortable, even when it is unpopular. Because systems do not change quietly. They change when women insist on being heard, and when leaders choose to stand with them, consistently and visibly.

Where do you see the greatest “justice gap” affecting women and girls, and what action can leaders take?

One of the greatest justice gaps is the quiet, persistent invisibility of women’s labor—especially care work. Across our region, women are carrying economies on their backs in ways that are rarely named, rarely measured, and rarely supported. We are raising children, caring for the elderly, holding families together—and then expected to show up in the workforce as though none of that exists. And too often, this becomes a silent barrier. It shapes hiring decisions, limits advancement, and narrows the scope of what women are able to pursue.

Closing this gap requires both recognition and redesign. Leaders must treat care work as essential—not incidental. This means policies that support childcare, flexible work, and equitable hiring, but also a deeper cultural shift: one that stops penalizing women for the very roles that sustain our societies. Because until we value the full reality of women’s lives, we will continue to build systems that only partially include them.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Tamaisha Eytel Harvey | Director | FutureBARBADOS

As a woman leader, what is one opportunity or hard-earned lesson that shaped your path and how can you pay it forward to lift other women in a visible, everyday way?

Small islands have a thing about them ; small islands, big personalities. And the painful truth I had to face early in my leadership journey is that sometimes, those big personalities - especially among women - translate into fear and threat. When resources feel scarce, and in the Caribbean they often do, competition can turn destructive.

And we can't ignore why: we are still navigating post-colonial, hierarchical gender structures that were never designed for us to win together. So women compete with women sometimes at great cost to each other.

What I try to hold onto now is a different mindset: competition and collaboration can exist at the same time. You can want the seat and still make room for someone else at the table. Disagreement does not have to mean damage. For me paying it forward is maintaining this awareness and checking my own behaviour regularly even when it hurts. I remind myself daily to hold my space without hardening, to see the full human in front of me, and to choose peace where I can. Honestly, the soft life is better. Sharing the glass of wine at the top beats losing sleep over battles that never needed to happen.



Developments News from Across the Caribbean

FORTIFYING ACCESS TO DATA & ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT IN HAITI

The Government of Haiti recently concluded the World Bank-financed Improving Haiti's [Public Financial Management and Statistical Information Project](#) (in its French acronym PAFGeFIS). Launched in 2017, the project faced various challenges throughout its implementation, particularly due to the country's unstable political, security and social environment.

Nonetheless, thanks to strong commitment from the government and support from development partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the project succeeded in building the groundwork for improved financial management and enhanced evidence-based decision making. [Read more.](#)



BRIDGING THE CARIBBEAN'S EDUCATION GAP THROUGH OUTCOMES AND JOBS

Across the Caribbean, countries are charting different development paths. Guyana, for example, sits among the world's fastest-growing economies, while other countries – like Haiti – face persistent human capital challenges in areas such as child nutrition, education, skills development and job access, compounded by the country's fragile context. What unites countries in the sub-region, however, is an emerging focus on outcomes—a growing instinct to link every dollar invested to the change it delivers.

Haiti's lack of access to quality, affordable education is one of the country's foremost human capital challenges. Parents pay an average of US\$140 per year, per child for private primary education, which makes up 80% of primary schools. Since many Haitians live below the poverty line, more than 250,000 children are not enrolled in school for financial reasons. And, even though most Haitian students attend school for 11.4 years by the time they are 18 years old, this is equivalent to only 6.3 years of effective education, taking into account the quality of learning. [Read more.](#)

BARBADOS MODERNIZES EARLY EDUCATION TO BUILD SKILLS FOR FUTURE JOBS, WITH WORLD BANK SUPPORT

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new program to lay the foundation for more and better jobs in Barbados by strengthening foundational learning skills in pre-primary and primary education and improving access to a climate-resilient and inclusive learning environment. The US\$50 million operation for the Barbados Education Sector Transformation program will be implemented by the Ministry of Education Transformation.

Barbados has long demonstrated a robust national commitment to boosting jobs by investing in education and maintaining high enrollment and attainment rates. The government consistently allocates approximately 4.9 percent of its Gross Domestic Product to the sector, a level of investment comparable to high-income countries and well above regional averages.

Despite these achievements, the education sector faces critical challenges in translating high spending into learning outcomes. Foundational learning deficits in numeracy and literacy emerge as early as primary school, with 2023 data showing that 30 percent of students scored below acceptable levels in mathematics on end-of-primary national exams. [Read more.](#)



MODERNIZING CARIBBEAN WATER SYSTEMS FOR JOBS, RESILIENCE, AND GROWTH

Across the Caribbean, tourism, agriculture, and fisheries shape the rhythm of economic life. They support millions of livelihoods in the region. Tourism alone sustains more than 2.75 million jobs. Agriculture and fisheries provide employment for roughly 3 percent of the population and remain critical for food security, rural incomes, and coastal economies.

All of this economic activity depends on a fundamental resource: water. Hotels need it to serve guests, farmers rely on it for irrigation and livestock, and fisheries depend on clean coastal waters.

Yet, across much of the Caribbean, water – and the systems that deliver it – are increasingly under pressure. Water utilities face aging infrastructure, growing demand, and the intensifying impacts of climate change. Strengthening water security is therefore essential for protecting jobs, supporting businesses, and sustaining economic growth. [Read more.](#)

HAITI TO INTEGRATE MORE WOMEN IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR



This mid-January morning is noteworthy for Natacha Paul - a woman who is defying gender norms by working as a heavy equipment operator. Since construction began in the historic city of Cap Haitien, Natacha's role has been pivotal as she proudly maneuvers a backhoe loader, a heavy machine which consolidated the soil, before installing layers of asphalt for the new 6 Km Road.

"I was living in the Port au Prince when I heard that COAMCO, the firm contracted by the government, is recruiting women. After completing the selection process, I decide to move to the Northern region as I see it was an opportunity to work and contribute to the development of road infrastructure in my country," explained Natacha, reminding that she masters excavators, backhoe loaders and rollers.

In a country where men dominate the construction sector, Natacha is among a few women who level the playing field, despite bottlenecks characterized by social barriers, lack of access to training and gender discrimination. "I have learned to manage heavy machinery more than 15 years ago, but as of today, men are still reluctant to believe that we, as woman, can perform as well or even better than them. This has generated frustration and boycott", she remarked.

Poor record of women in formal jobs

A [Gender Assessment](#) published by the World Bank in 2023, found that gendered sectoral segregation is high in the labor market and women face higher unemployment rates and lower labor market attachment than men, facts which may be driven by structural phenomena and cultural and social norms. Women are found more commonly in services, retail, trade, and textile manufacturing jobs, with men dominating fields such as construction.

Two consecutive diagnostics led by the Haitian government, published in 2023, show very few women in the urban transport sector; likewise in the aeronautical sector where only 28 % of staff are women. These correlate with the [Census of Civil Servants coordinated by the Office of Management and Human Resources \(2014\)](#), which revealed that 33% of staff in public administration were women, but only 16% hold a strategic position which requires at least a bachelor's degree, while 40% are in positions requiring basic primary education. [Read more.](#)



RESTORING THE PRINCESS: A CASE STUDY OF AN AIRPORT'S INFRASTRUCTURE REINVENTION



Restoring Princess Juliana International Airport was an enormous undertaking, marked by seven years of complexity—leadership transitions, pandemic disruptions, and procurement learning curves. Yet Sint Maarten remained true to its motto: “Always Progressing.” When the terminal reopened in November 2024, it was not simply a return to pre-Irma capacity. The island emerged with a more resilient terminal, stronger institutions, improved financial and operational discipline, and thousands of jobs better protected against the next storm.

For a small island state facing intensifying climate risks, the reopening signaled more than recovery. Total passenger traffic climbed from 1.6 million in 2024 to approximately 1.8 million in 2025—evidence that connectivity, confidence, and economic momentum had returned.

To explore the full sphere of lessons behind this transformative journey, readers can access the complete [Princess Juliana International Airport Recovery and Reconstruction Case Study here](#).

HOW A STEM SCHOLARSHIP IS STRENGTHENING SAINT LUCIA'S ENERGY WORKFORCE



When Saint Lucia set out to expand its renewable energy sector, the challenge went beyond infrastructure and technology. A reliable, resilient energy system also requires people: trained technicians, engineers, and specialists who can build, maintain, and operate it.

For decades, that workforce has been overwhelmingly male.

Today, targeted efforts are beginning to widen access to these roles.

Shurpal Dorville, 36, is now employed as an electrical technician in the electrical department of the Government of Saint Lucia. Her role places her inside the country's public energy system, contributing directly to its operations and long-term resilience. “What this job means to me personally is that I was able to achieve this longstanding goal of working in a field that I was always passionate about,” she says.

Her journey reflects a broader effort under the [Saint Lucia Renewable Sector Development Project, supported by the World Bank](#), which recognizes that a successful energy transition depends as much on human capital as it does on physical assets. [Read more](#).



WHEN AN AMBULANCE CAN'T FIND YOU: INSIDE SINT MAARTEN'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY



It was close to midnight in Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, when Lauren's mother started struggling to breathe. Lauren called for an ambulance, gave her address, and waited by the door. Ten minutes passed. Then thirty. No signs of an ambulance. When her phone finally rang, the paramedics said they were outside, but when Lauren stepped out, the street was empty.

They were in the wrong place.

On the island, addresses aren't consistent across government systems—what's listed under one department, like the Kadastre, often doesn't match the records held by emergency services or the Civil Registry. For the ambulance crew, the location matched the address in their database. For Lauren, it didn't. Over the phone, she guided them turn by turn until they finally arrived. Thankfully, her mother survived. But for Lauren and her family, the memory remains terrifying.

Across Sint Maarten, a small island of just over 42,000 people, similar gaps appear in different forms. In 2018, the government experienced a significant cyberattack that crippled its systems, causing government buildings to shut down for over a week. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, services that relied on in-person interactions were halted, leaving citizens unable to access many government functions.

These moments all point to the same vulnerability: weak digital foundations - where data isn't shared, systems aren't secure, and public services can't adapt when the unexpected happens.

That is the reality Sint Maarten lives with today—and the one it's now determined to change.

In recent years, the government has begun laying the groundwork for a digital transformation, recognizing that resilience in a small island can't rely on physical infrastructure alone. It also depends on systems that work seamlessly behind the scenes—linking data, protecting information, and making life easier for citizens and businesses.

This commitment is taking shape through the Digital Government Transformation Project (DGTP), an effort to strengthen the country's digital foundations: connecting ministries, modernizing core systems, and creating tools for faster, safer, and more transparent public services.

At its heart, DGTP is about simplifying how government works every day—helping citizens access documents faster, allowing entrepreneurs to open businesses without endless paperwork, and creating digital foundations for more jobs and economic opportunities.

Already, fiber-optic lines link critical departments, replacing unreliable microwave connections. Thousands of paper records—from birth certificates to land titles—are being digitized. The new Address Registry will finally ensure that every home and business can be found on a single, unified map. And more than 400 civil servants have been trained in cybersecurity, building the first line of defense against future attacks.

“This isn't just about government efficiency—it's about giving citizens and businesses the tools to grow, create jobs, and compete in a digital world. Every new digital service, every skill gained, makes life a little easier and opens doors for innovation and new economic opportunities.” [Read more.](#)



CRITICAL MINERALS & ENERGY: POWERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Keynote Speech by IMF Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke at the Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meetings in Paraguay

It is a pleasure to join you today. This is an important discussion—critical minerals and energy: powering economic development.

Already, Latin America and the Caribbean are in a position of strength. The region has one of the cleanest electricity mixes in the world, with renewables accounting for about 69 percent of electricity generation.

At the same time, the region remains a major energy producer, with about 9.7 million barrels per day of oil production in 2024 and a sizeable hydrocarbon resource base.

The region is also central to critical minerals. Chile, Peru, and Mexico account for about 37 percent of global copper mine production. The broader lithium triangle—Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile—holds about half of global lithium resources.

These are strategic assets in a more fragmented global economy—and, as I'll explain, they create a real opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean. The region can harness this opportunity, capture more value at home, and become a more reliable hub in global supply chains. This will translate into faster productivity growth, better jobs, and stronger export earnings.

But to fully reap the benefits, a strong foundation of resilience, investment, and trusted partnerships will be essential. How can this be done? Let me highlight three points.

First: Recognize That the Global Landscape Has Changed

Over the last two decades, global production and supply chains have become more concentrated. This raises concerns about chokepoints—where greater reliance on less substitutable goods meets higher risks of disruption. For example, across various critical minerals markets, the top three refining countries account, on average, for 86 percent of processing capacity.

The events of this decade, from the pandemic to wars, have shown that supply chains are not just a business logistics issue—they also have macroeconomic consequences. We have been reminded of this again in recent weeks with the conflict in the Middle East. When disruptions hit concentrated and hard-to-substitute sectors—especially energy and strategic inputs—the effects can quickly show up in inflation, output, investment, and confidence.

Geoeconomic fragmentation is also affecting trade and investment patterns in strategic sectors, including energy and critical mineral supply chains.

The opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean is therefore twofold: to reduce vulnerabilities at home through more resilient supply chains, and to become a trusted and reliable supplier abroad—especially of processed materials, not just raw inputs.

Second: Strengthen Value Chain Resilience Through Diversification, Not Closed Markets

IMF economic modeling suggests that targeted diversification can improve resilience while limiting efficiency losses—especially in sectors that are highly concentrated, upstream, and difficult to replace.

A practical example is Chile's response to the mid-2000s curtailment of pipeline gas imports from its then-dominant supplier. Chile diversified this critical input by developing LNG import capacity—Quintero (operating since 2009) and Mejillones (since 2010)—giving it access to the global LNG market and strengthening energy reliability. Closed markets, by contrast, increase concentration risk.



Integrated and competitive supply chains that are less vulnerable to shocks also build the region's credibility as a reliable supplier.

For Latin America and the Caribbean, deeper regional integration can be a powerful and practical tool for resilience. Lower trade costs and cross-border frictions can translate into a greater variety of suppliers for businesses, higher trade and investment, and better resource allocation.

Closing gaps in transport and customs infrastructure, reducing non-tariff barriers, and strengthening trade policy coordination within the region can also support regional value chains—for example, copper concentrate mined in one country, smelted and refined in another, and then turned into wire, tubing, or grid components in a third.

Resilience also depends on integration with the rest of the world. With deep and comprehensive trade agreements, firms can operate with greater predictability, as well as more sourcing and production options.

That is why the recent EU–Mercosur agreement is such a welcome development. It would bring together a market of 720 million people, covering nearly 21 percent of the world economy. Over time, it could help Mercosur exports to the European Union grow by almost 17 percent—according to economic modeling by the European Commission—while also encouraging more diversified and higher value-added exports.

Third: Create an Enabling Policy Environment for Investment

Why? Because resilience requires investment, and investment requires good policies. Businesses can manage commercial and technology risks, but policy uncertainty can be a significant source of risk. Long-term investment requires confidence: low and stable inflation, sustainable public finances, predictable tax systems, transparent regulations, and strong, credible institutions.

This is where the efforts of governments and the private sector are complements, not substitutes.

Governments create an environment for entrepreneurship, competition, and investment. The private sector brings capital, technology, execution capacity, and market discipline.

To maximize long-term private investment across linked value chains—from energy supply and mining, to processing and refining, to grids and infrastructure, and on to manufacturing—macroeconomic stability, predictable policy frameworks, and regulatory clarity are essential.

Conclusion

Latin America and the Caribbean have a unique opportunity to build more resilient supply chains and to become a trusted and reliable supplier to the rest of the world—of both processed and raw inputs. More resilient supply chains would mean fewer costly disruptions and more stable growth.

Through sound policy and investment decisions, countries can move up the value chain, ensuring better jobs, higher standards of living, and long-term prosperity.

IDB GROUP OPENS MIAMI OFFICE TO FOSTER PRIVATE-SECTOR-LED DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group) today opened a new office in Miami — its first presence in the United States outside Washington, D.C., and the first of a multilateral development bank in the city — to advance private-sector-led development and strengthen the IDB Group's role in connecting global investors with opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean.



The office brings the IDB Group closer to where investment decisions are made. Miami is a major financial and corporate hub, home to more than 1,600 multinational companies and over 60 international banks, with a growing venture capital and technology ecosystem.

“Miami is where investors are, where decisions are made, and where deals are structured,” said IDB Group President Ilan Goldfajn. “By being here, we can bring investment into Latin America and the Caribbean and also bring opportunities from the region to global investors – scaling private-sector-led development on both sides.”

The opening comes as the IDB Group scales up its role as a private-sector multilateral development bank. The institution successfully closed its \$3.5 billion subscription process for the recapitalization of IDB Invest, supporting its new originate-to-share business model, and finalized the replenishment of IDB Lab with a more scalable and sustainable business model and new leadership.

The Miami office will deepen engagement with investors and partners, strengthen co-financing and mobilization, and support the structuring of projects across key sectors. It will also support IDB Invest and IDB Lab in expanding business development and bringing investment into Latin America and the Caribbean.

CANADA BACKS ONE CARIBBEAN TO ADVANCE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT AND PRIVATE-SECTOR GROWTH

Canada is expanding its support for resilience and business development in the Caribbean through its partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group).

The government of Canada’s previously announced commitment of 10 million Canadian dollars to the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) of the Caribbean Community Resilience Fund (CCRF) through the IDB Group’s ONE Caribbean program was formalized through signature of the corresponding administrative arrangement in February.

The contribution will reinforce the ONE Caribbean Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the IDB Group’s main regional platform for advancing resilient development. ONE Caribbean addresses shared challenges, including resilience, disaster-risk management, citizen security, private-sector development, and food security, while strengthening institutions and promoting digital transformation.

Resources will finance technical assistance and help prepare resilient projects for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and investments across sectors such as sustainable energy, transport, sustainable agriculture, and blue economy industries. Announced at the 48th Regular Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), this contribution underlines Canada’s sustained commitment to practical, private-sector-led solutions across the region. [Read more.](#)

IDB PROJECTS LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN TO GROW 2.1% IN 2026, AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

Latin American and Caribbean economies are projected to grow by an average of 2.1% in 2026, broadly in line with its long-run average, according to the Inter-American Development Bank’s (IDB) new macroeconomic report. The analysis underscores the resilience of the region’s economies and finds that accelerating inclusive growth will demand sound macroeconomic frameworks and bold structural reforms, alongside efforts to harness opportunities in technology and commodities, amid growing global risks.

The projection reflects a gradual slowdown compared to the region’s 2.2% growth in 2025. [Read more.](#)



CARICOM TRADE MINISTERS COORDINATE REGIONAL POSITIONS AHEAD OF WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

CARICOM Ministers of Trade finalised regional preparations for the Fourteenth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon, when they met on Wednesday, 25 March, for the 125th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED-Trade).

The meeting, chaired by Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, consolidated CARICOM approaches on issues before the Ministerial Conference.

These included the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions, a proposal for a Committee on Digital Trade, incorporation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement (IFDA) into the WTO's legal architecture, and fisheries subsidies, and WTO reform.

In her opening remarks, Minister Johnson Smith noted that the meeting was convened in keeping with the guidance of Ministers at the Sixty-First Regular Meeting of the COTED in November 2025, which mandated preparatory engagement ahead of the WTO Ministerial meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to let you know about upcoming CAWI events taking place over the coming weeks. These events are designed to foster professional networking opportunities, support Caribbean businesses, and build community and meaningful dialogue.

Caribbean Connect: Networking Edition at Vortex Restaurant & Lounge Wednesday, April 2, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Please join us at our third edition of the **CAWI Caribbean Connect Series**, which will be held at Vortex Restaurant and Lounge. The Caribbean Connect series aims to strengthen connections among CAWI members while also supporting Caribbean businesses in the DMV area. This edition will focus on networking. Come connect with people from the Caribbean and build lasting professional relationships based on shared interests. Structured one-on-one speed-networking sessions will also be available to facilitate meaningful exchanges. Connection and vibes are on us; drinks and food on you - every dollar supports a Caribbean-owned business.

Caribbean Leaders' Open Dialogue (CLOD): From Policy to Paychecks: Strengthening the Business Climate for Jobs in the Caribbean Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (ET) | World Bank Headquarters | MC-13-400 & online

The **Caribbean Leaders' Open Dialogue (CLOD)** will take place during the WBG-IMF Spring Meetings. This flagship CAWI event, organized in partnership with the Office of the Executive Director for Canada, Ireland, and the Caribbean, will convene Caribbean policymakers, regional institutions, and development partners for a high-level discussion on strengthening the business climate for jobs in the Caribbean. A light lunch will be served. Additional details will be shared in due course.