

CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL DISASTERS AND RECOVERY EFFORTS: TAPPING INTO TRADE FACILITATION AS AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TOOL

Virtual - 11h00-12h30 CET

18 NOVEMBER 2020

This event is being organized in the context of "Trade and Environment Week 2020". It will be held on Zoom.

Natural disasters are increasing in frequency and strength, causing humanitarian emergencies, loss of human life and significant economic damage, particularly in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Trade policy can play an important role in addressing some of these challenges and building resilience to climatic events. In particular, trade facilitation can support countries with immediate relief efforts following a disaster, as well as longer-term recovery efforts. This webinar will discuss the findings of a recent study published by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It will:

- Examine how the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement can be used to assist disaster relief and recovery efforts;
- Identify some of the trade facilitation challenges and best practices from recent recovery efforts in disaster-hit countries; and
- Highlight the multidimensional vulnerability of SIDS and how to enhance their climate and disaster resilience.

Panel:

- **H.E. Ambassador Chad Blackman**, Ambassador of Barbados to the UN, WTO and other International Organizations, Geneva
- **Dr. Andrea Wilkinson**, Research Associate: Global Challenges and SIDS, Newcastle University
- **H.E. Keva L. Bain**, Ambassador of The Bahamas to the UN and other International Organizations, Geneva
- **H.E. Mere Falemaka**, Ambassador of the Pacific Islands Forum to the UN, WTO and other International Organizations, Geneva
- **Dr. Jan Yves Remy**, Deputy Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, University of the West Indies

Moderator:

Dr. Brendan Vickers, Head, International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat

This event is organized by: Barbados, Newcastle University, Shridath Ramphal Centre, University of the West Indies and the Commonwealth Secretariat

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